

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

13th January - 18th January



BusinessLine



1. With reference to 'Saksham', consider the following statements:
1. It is a flagship Fuel Conservation mega campaign program.
 2. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Saksham** is a flagship Fuel Conservation mega campaign program aimed to create public awareness about fuel conservation by organising activities such as Cycle Day, Cyclothons. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

2. Which of the following beaches has/have been selected for 'Blue Flag' certification?
1. Miramar
 2. Radhanagar
 3. Rushikonda
 4. Kappad

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The 'Blue Flag' is an annual certification conferred on beaches as an indication of high environmental and quality standards.
- The certification is awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).**
- The following beaches have been selected for Blue Flag Certification-
 - Shivrajpur (Gujarat)
 - Bhogave (Maharashtra),
 - Ghoghla (Diu)
 - **Miramar (Goa)**
 - Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka)
 - **Kappad (Kerala)**
 - Eden (Puducherry)
 - Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu)
 - **Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh)**
 - Golden (Odisha)
 - **Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)**

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

3. The theme of the Raisina Dialogue 2020 is
- (a) The New Normal: Multilateralism with Multipolarity
 - (b) Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms
 - (c) Navigating the Alpha Century
 - (d) Asia: Regional and Global Connectivity

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Raisina Dialogue** is named after, “**Raisina Hills**”, which is the seat of Government of India and Rashtrapati bhavan.
- It is designed on the lines of Shangri-La dialogue.
- It aims at exploring opportunities of Asian integration.
- The theme of the Raisina Dialogue year (2020) is “**Navigating the Alpha Century**”. Hence, Option (c) is correct.

4. With reference to ‘Levels and Trends in Child Mortality’ report, consider the following statements:

1. The majority of child mortality cases in India are attributable to deaths during the neonatal period.
2. The risk of dying before age 5 for girls is significantly higher than global patterns in Southern Asia and Western Asia countries.

Which of the above statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Levels and Trends in Child Mortality Report

- On average, boys are expected to have a higher probability of dying before reaching age-5 than girls. But this trend was not reflected in India.
- The risk of dying before age 5 for girls is significantly higher than global patterns in Southern Asia and Western Asia countries. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct.**
- Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttarakhand showed the largest gender gaps in under-5 mortality.
- Half of all under-5 deaths in 2018 occurred in five countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia.
- The majority of child mortality cases in India are attributable to deaths during the neonatal period. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**

- The major causes of neonatal mortality are preterm birth, intrapartum related events, and neonatal infection.

5. In the Mahayana Buddhism, the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara was also known as:

- (a) Vajrapani
- (b) Manjusri
- (c) Padmapani
- (d) Maitreya

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Avalokiteśvara is a bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all Buddhas. He is one of the more widely revered bodhisattvas in mainstream Mahayana Buddhism. In Sanskrit, Avalokiteśvara is also referred to as Padmapāni (“Holder of the Lotus”) or Lokeśvara (“Lord of the World”).
Hence, Option (c) is correct.

6. With reference to ‘Henley Passport Index 2020’, consider the following statements:

1. There is no developed country to which Indian passport holders have visa-free access.
 2. Singapore is at the top position.
- Which of the above statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Henley Passport Index 2020** is a global ranking of countries according to travel freedom for their citizens.
- The ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.
- The Index lists the world’s passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- There is no major or developed country to which Indian passport holders have visa-free access. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Japan tops the Index; Citizens of Japan can travel to 191 Destinations

without visa). **Hence, Statement 2 is not Correct.**

7. In light of the recent detection of the first ever case of H9N2 infection in Maharashtra, consider the following statements:

1. Unlike other influenza viruses, the H9N2 does not infect birds.
2. It affects the respiratory system.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The H9N2 virus is a subtype of Influenza A viruses, commonly called bird flu viruses.
- They are capable of infecting humans as well as birds like ducks, pigeons and common poultry birds.
- The Maharashtra case is the first case of human infection in India.
Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- The H9N2 virus affects the respiratory system of the patient. It is spread through water, dust, air droplets, etc.
- Some of the symptoms are fever, breathlessness, cough, etc.
- The WHO had warned that the viruses are already circulating through the poultry and hence sporadic cases in humans are expected. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements about koala:

1. It is native to the North American Continent.
2. It is listed as critically endangered on IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
3. Koalas were revered by Indigenous people and not hunted by them.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) None of the Above

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The **koala** is an arboreal herbivorous marsupial native to Australia.
Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.

- Koalas are listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Koalas were hunted by Indigenous Australians and depicted in myths and cave art for millennia. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

9. Which of the following Desert is not in Australia?

- (a) Great Sandy Desert
- (b) Strzelecki Desert
- (c) Pedirka Desert
- (d) Ordos Desert

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Listed from greatest size to smallest, these are Australia's ten deserts:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Great Victoria Desert (348,750sq.km) | • Little Sandy Desert (111,500sq.km) |
| • Great Sandy Desert (267,250sq.km) | • Strzelecki Desert (80,250sq.km) |
| • Tanami Desert (184,500sq.km) | • Sturt Stony Desert (29,750sq.km) |
| • Simpson Desert (176,500sq.km) | • Tirari Desert (15,250 sq.km) |
| • Gibson Desert (156,000sq.km) | • Pedirka Desert (1250sq. km) |

Ordos Desert: Also known as the Mu Us Desert, the Ordos Desert is located in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region of China.

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

10. World Economic Situation and Prospects Report is released by

- (a) World Bank
- (b) World Trade Organisation
- (c) United Nation
- (d) International Monetary Fund

Answer : (c)

Explanation :

- World Economic Situation and Prospects Report is released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the five United Nations Regional Economic Commissions have jointly released the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2020 (WESP).

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

11. Consider the following statements about Kolkata Port Trust:

1. It is the oldest operating port in India, and was constructed by the British East India Company.
2. It is the only riverine Major Port in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Kolkata Port Trust** is the oldest operating port in India, and was constructed by the British East India Company. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Kolkata Port is the **only riverine Major Port in India**, situated 232 kms up-stream from the Sandheads. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

12. Consider the following statements regarding Goods & Services Tax Council:

1. Goods & Services Tax Council is a Statutory body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
2. The GST Council dictates tax rate, tax exemption, tax laws, and tax deadlines.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Goods & Services Tax Council is a **constitutional** body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The GST Council dictates tax rate, tax exemption, the due date of forms, tax laws, and tax deadlines, keeping in mind special rates and provisions for some states. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

13. Consider the following statements with respect to Kaziranga National Park:

1. It was declared as a National Park and Tiger Reserve in 1974.
2. It is the oldest park in Assam along the river Brahmaputra on the

South and the Karbi Anglong hills on the North.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Kaziranga National Park was declared as a **National Park in 1974** and as a **tiger reserve in 2006**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- It is the oldest park in Assam along the river **Brahmaputra on the North** and the **Karbi Anglong hills on the South**. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct**.

14. NEON recently seen in the news is related to:

- (a) Environment Conservation
- (b) Satellite launch
- (c) Artificial Intelligence
- (d) Government Scheme

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- NEONs, being called the **world's first artificial humans**, have been **created by Samsung's Star Labs**.
- NEONs are computationally created virtual humans — the word derives from **NEO (new) + humaN**. Hence, **Option (c) is correct**.

15. Consider the following statements about National Investigation Agency:

1. It has power to enter any state without permission from the state government to investigate and arrest people.
2. National Investigation Agency is the only truly federal agency in the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act** governs the functioning of

India's premier counter-terror agency.

- It was passed in 2008 in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks and was amended in 2019.
- The Act makes the National Investigation Agency the only truly federal agency in the country.
- It gives the NIA powers
 - To take suo motu cognisance of terror activities in any part of India register a case
 - To enter any state without permission from the state government to investigate and arrest people.

Hence, Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.

16. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is published by
- (a) Ministry of Human Resources
 - (b) NITI Aayog
 - (c) UNESCO
 - (d) NGO Pratham

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

NGO Pratham released its annual report, Annual Status of Education Report, 2019.

17. Consider the following statements about the Bru or Reang community:
1. Bru or Reang community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam.
 2. While many Brus of Assam and Tripura are Christianity, the Brus of Mizoram converted to Hindu over the years.
 3. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- While many Brus of Assam and Tripura are Hindu, the Brus of Mizoram converted to Christianity over the years. **Hence, Statement 2 is not**

correct.

- In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

Hence, Statement 3 is correct.

18. With reference to Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP), consider the following statements:

1. It provides for a uniform licensing system that will cover all hydrocarbons.
2. It operates on a revenue sharing model where the government will receive a share of the gross revenue from the sale of oil, and gas, etc.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- HELP was approved by the government in **March 2016** replacing New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- **Uniform licensing:** It provides for a uniform licensing system that will cover all hydrocarbons such as oil, gas, and coal bed methane.
- **Revenue Sharing Model:** The government will receive a share of the gross revenue from the sale of oil, and gas, etc and will not be concerned with the cost incurred.

19. On 21st June, the Sun

- (a) does not set below the horizon at the Arctic Circle
- (b) does not set below the horizon at the Antarctic Circle
- (c) shines vertically overhead at noon on the Equator
- (d) shines vertically overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- On 21st June, during the Summer Solstice, the Northern hemisphere witnesses its longest day of the year.
- As the Arctic Circle falls in the Northern Hemisphere, the Sun does not set below the horizon during Summer Solstice.

Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

20. With reference to India's satellite launch vehicle, consider the following statements:

1. PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring

whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites.

2. Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.
3. GSLV MK III is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors; and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 3 only

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- GSLV is designed mainly to deliver Indian National Satellite system, or INSAT, which is a series of multipurpose geo-stationary satellites launched by ISRO to fulfil the needs of telecommunications, broadcasting, meteorology, and search and rescue operations. It places satellites to the highly elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The satellites in geosynchronous orbits appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- GSLV-Mk III is a four generation, three stage launch vehicle with four liquid strap-ons. The indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), which is a flight proven, forms the third stage of GSLV Mk III. It is capable of lifting 4-5 tonne satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GEO). The rocket has three-stages with two solid motor strap-ons (S200), a liquid propellant core stage (L110) and a cryogenic stage (C-25). **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. What is bushfire? Is it a regular phenomenon or a manifestation of climate change? (250 Words, 15 Marks)

Q2. Explain Bru Refugee Crisis. Suggest measures to promote socio-ethnic harmony in Northeastern India. (250 Words, 15 Marks)