

2019



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

16<sup>th</sup> December- 21<sup>st</sup> December



BusinessLine



1. With reference to 'Houbara Bustard', consider the following statements:
  1. It is native to temperate regions.
  2. It is a vulnerable species in IUCN red list.
  3. It is found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

### **Houbara Bustard**

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, Semi arid regions of North Africa and Asia (**Pakistan**).

**IUCN Status:** Vulnerable

2. Which of the following is/are tributarie(s) of Godavari?
  1. Purna
  2. Pranhita
  3. Manjira
  4. Indravati
  5. Feni

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3, 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

### **The Godavari Basin**

- Godavari is the second largest river after the Ganga and the longest of Peninsular India.
- It is also known as the 'Dakshin Ganga'.
- It rises from the Trimbakeshwar hills slopes of the Western Ghats in Nasik district of Maharashtra.
- It flows east draining the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha ultimately emptying into the Bay of Bengal through its extensive network of tributaries.

- Major left bank tributaries of Godavari are **Purna, Pranhita, Indravati** and **Sabari** rivers whereas its right bank tributaries **Manjira** and **Manair** rivers. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**
- **Feni River**- It is a transboundary river originates in South Tripura district and enters Bangladesh.

3. In the context of Indian economy, 'Open Market Operations' refers to:
- a) borrowing by scheduled banks from the RBI
  - b) lending by commercial banks to industry and trade
  - c) purchase and sale of government securities by the RBI
  - d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Open market operation (OMO) is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by Reserve Bank of India. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

4. With reference to 'Rhino', consider the following statements:
1. Greater one-horned is in critically endangered IUCN Red List.
  2. Asian Rhino Range Countries include Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

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: (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Rhino**

- There are **three species** of rhino in Asia — **Greater one-horned rhinoceros (Indian rhinoceros), Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros.**
- **Javan and Sumatran Rhino** are **critically endangered** and the **Greater one-horned** is **vulnerable** in the IUCN Red List. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- They are spread across **India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia and Malaysia**

**in Asia.** These countries are also known as **Asian Rhino Range Countries.** Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct.**

5. With reference to 'EChO Network', consider the following statements:

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to impart skills in Anganwadi workers to tackle the cardiac emergencies.

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: (d)**

**Explanation:**

#### **EChO Network**

- It aims to develop a national network to catalyse a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology, and technology. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is under the aegis of **Ministry of Commerce & Industry.** Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct.**

6. In the context of Global Gender Gap Index, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Global Gender Gap Index is released annually by the World Economic Forum.
2. India is currently ranked at 108<sup>th</sup> place.
3. The largest gender disparity is observed in political empowerment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Global Gender Gap Index is **published annually** by the World Economic Forum since 2006. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- The Report benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity in **four dimensions**:
    - Economic Participation and Opportunity
    - Educational Attainment
    - Health and Survival
    - Political Empowerment.
  - India has slipped to the **112<sup>th</sup> spot** amongst 153 countries from its 108<sup>th</sup> position in the last edition. India was ranked relatively higher **at 98<sup>th</sup> place in 2006 report. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
  - The largest gender disparity is in political empowerment. Only 25% of the 35,127 seats in parliaments around the world are occupied by women, and only 21% of the 3,343 ministers are women. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
7. The Inner Line Permit (ILP) system is applicable in which of the following states?
1. Arunachal Pradesh
  2. Nagaland
  3. Manipur
  4. Mizoram
  5. Assam

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 4
- b) 2, 3 and 5
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d) 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is a **special permit** that is required by “outsiders” from other regions of India to enter the states of **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.**
    - Recently **Manipur** has also been included under the ILP regime.
  - An ILP is **issued by the state government** concerned. It can be obtained after applying either online or physically.
  - It states the dates of travel and also specifies the particular areas in the state which the ILP holder can travel to.
- Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

8. Which of the following is/are part of the recently launched National Broadband Mission?

1. Development of a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) to measure the availability of digital communications infrastructure.
2. Creation of a digital fiber map of the Digital Communications network and infrastructure.
3. Expansion of digital infrastructure including Right of Way (RoW) approval required for laying of optical fibre cable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Telecom Minister has launched the National Broadband Mission (NBM) under National Digital Communications Policy, 2018.
- Some of the **objectives** of the mission are-
  - Develop a **Broadband Readiness Index (BRI)** to measure the availability of digital communications infrastructure and conducive policy ecosystem within a State/UT. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
  - Creation of a **digital fiber map** of the Digital Communications network and infrastructure, including Optical Fiber Cables and Towers, across the country. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
  - The centre will work with states and UTs for having consistent policies pertaining to expansion of digital infrastructure including **Right of Way (RoW) approval** required for laying of optical fibre cable. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

9. Consider the following statement with reference to Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:
1. Every decision of the GST Council shall be taken by a majority of not less than three-fourth of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.
  2. The vote of the Centre shall have a weightage of one half of the total votes cast while the states will have the remaining half.

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:**

- GST Council is a **constitutional body** under **Article 279A**. It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Services Tax and was introduced by the **Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016**.
- Every decision of the GST Council shall be taken at a meeting by a **majority of not less than three-fourth of the weighted votes of the members present and voting**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- The vote of the Central Government shall have a **weightage of one third of the total votes cast**, and the votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-third of the total votes cast, in that meeting. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct**.

10. Which of the following “Four Foundational Agreements” of the USA has been signed by India?

1. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)
2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
3. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
4. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**“Four Foundational Agreements” between the US and its Partners**

- **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**
  - GSOMIA allows militaries to share the intelligence gathered by them.
  - Signed by India in 2002.
- **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**
  - LEMOA allows both countries to have access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment.
  - Signed by India in 2016.
- **Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)**



- COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) is the India specific version of CISMOA.
- Valid for 10 years, COMCASA aims to provide a legal framework for the transfer of highly sensitive communication security equipment from the US to India that will streamline and facilitate interoperability between their armed forces.
- Signed by India in 2018.
- **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**
  - BECA will allow India and US to share geospatial and satellite data with each other.
  - India has not signed BECA yet.

**Hence, Option (b) is correct.**

### **MAINS QUESTIONS:**

Q1. Discuss the India-US relations in the context of various military agreements signed between the two countries. *(250 words)*

Q2. Rather than emphasising on capital punishment, there needs to be an overhaul of the criminal justice administration. In the light of the above statement, discuss POCSO (Amendment) Bill 2019. *(150 words)*



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