

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

17th February - 22nd February



1. With reference to Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), consider the following statements:
1. Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services and the officers of the Supreme Court.
 2. The aggrieved public servant can approach the Supreme Court directly against an order of the CAT.

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:

- The jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.
- However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Originally, appeals against the orders of the CAT could be made only in the Supreme Court and not in the high courts.
- However, in the Chandra Kumar case (1997), the Supreme Court laid down that appeals against the orders of the CAT shall lie before the division bench of the concerned high court. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

2. In the context of Long Term Repo Operations (LTRO), consider the following statements:
1. RBI will conduct term repos of one-year and two-year tenors under LTRO.
 2. Total funds to be injected is up to Rs 10,00,000 crores.
 3. Interest rate will be at the prevailing policy repo rate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Under Long Term Repo Operations, RBI will conduct term **repos of one-year and three-year tenors** of appropriate sizes for up to a total **amount**

of Rs 1 lakh crore at the policy repo rate. Hence, Option (c) is correct.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Law Commission of India:
1. The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India.
 2. The Commission is reconstituted every five years.
 3. It works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.

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 only

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Law Commission of India is an **executive, non-statutory body** and **non-permanent** established by the Government of India from time to time. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Commission was **originally constituted in 1955** and is **reconstituted every three years**. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It works as an **advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice**. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Marginal Standing Facility?

1. Marginal standing facility is a window for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India in an emergency situation when interbank liquidity dries up completely.
2. Banks borrow from the central bank by pledging government securities at a rate lower than the repo rate.

Choose the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Marginal standing facility is a window for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in an emergency situation when interbank liquidity dries up completely. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a penal rate at which banks can borrow money from the RBI when

they are completely exhausted of all borrowing assistance.

- The Marginal Standing facility allows banks to borrow money with an interest rate **above the repo rate** and can be termed as the Marginal standing facility rate. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

5. Regarding the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and 3 other Members.
- (b) At least one member should be a woman.
- (c) The members hold office for a term of 5 years.
- (d) The members are not eligible for appointment for more than two terms.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and 3 other Members who are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
 - At least one member should be a woman.
 - The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the other Members hold office **for a term of 3 years.**
 - The members are not eligible for appointment for more than two terms.
- Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

6. Consider the following statements about Research and Development in India:

1. India's investment in R&D has shown a consistent increasing trend over the years.
2. NITI Aayog has proposed a Research and Development(R&D) fund to stimulate investment in R&D.

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:

- According to a 2019 report by the Economic Advisory Council (EAC), India's investment in R&D has shown a consistent increasing trend over the years.
 - However, it is still a fraction of India's GDP as it has remained

constant at around 0.6% to 0.7% of India's GDP. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- The Department of Science and Technology is planning a Research and Development(R&D) fund to stimulate investment in R&D. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

7. Which of the following states has never come under the President's rule in India?

1. Telangana
2. Uttarakhand
3. Chhattisgarh
4. Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct code:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Chhattisgarh and Telangana are the only states where the president's rule has not been imposed so far.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Aditya-L1 Mission:

1. It would be placed into a point in space known as the L1 Lagrange point.
2. It will be ISRO's first space-based astronomy mission.
3. It is meant to observe only the solar corona.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is preparing for its first scientific expedition to **study the Sun, Aditya-L1.**

- It would be placed into a point in space known as the **L1 Lagrange point. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Objectives:** Aditya L1 will study
 - The Sun's **corona** (Visible and Near infrared rays)
 - Sun's **photosphere** (soft and hard X-ray)

- **Chromosphere** (Ultra Violet)
- Solar emissions,
- Solar winds and flares,
- **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)**

Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.

Aditya L1 will be ISRO's **2nd space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat**, which was launched in 2015. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

9. The word 'Cyrtodactylus' sometimes mentioned in media in reference to
- (a) Fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
 - (b) An exoplanet
 - (c) A new species of lizard
 - (d) A kind of disease

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

A new species of lizard, the urban bent-toed gecko (*Cyrtodactylus urbanus*) was discovered in Guwahati, Assam.

10. Increase in absolute and per capita real GNP do not connote a higher level of economic development, if
- (a) Industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.
 - (b) Agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.
 - (c) Poverty and unemployment increase.
 - (d) Imports grow faster than exports.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Rise in absolute GNP and per capita GNP is an economy that does not connote a higher level of economic development, if there is high poverty and unemployment, and the same is on an increasing trend.

11. Who was the Chief Justice of India when Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was introduced to the Indian judicial system?
- (a) M. Hidayatullah
 - (b) M. Ahmadi
 - (c) P. N. Bhagwati
 - (d) S. Anand

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

PN Bhagwati was Chief Justice of India during July 1985–Dec 1986. During his tenure as CJI, PIL was introduced to the Indian judicial system. **Hence,**

Option (c) is correct.

12. Worldwide Education for Future Index is published by

- (a) The Economist Intelligence Unit
- (b) World Bank
- (c) International Monetary Fund
- (d) Asian Development Bank

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Worldwide Education for Future Index is published by The Economist Intelligence Unit. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

13. With reference to ‘Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)’, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- 2. It aims to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas to bridge rural-urban divide.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is a scheme launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in 2016. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The scheme aims to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas to bridge the rural-urban divide. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- The scheme also aims to include the development of economic activities and skill development.

14. With reference to ‘Korku Tribe’, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Korku are primarily cultivators.
- 2. The Korku regard their dead as Gods.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- The Korku mostly reside in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and adjoining Melghat region of Maharashtra.
- The Korku are primarily cultivators. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Korku is one of the 196 languages termed endangered by UNESCO.
 - It is closely associated with the Munda family language.
- A few groups have been more successful in preserving their language, especially the Potharia Korku (from the Vindhya mountains).
- The community has a distinct cultural heritage. The traditional healing methods are still widely practiced among them.
- The Korku regard their dead as Gods. To commemorate the dead they install a memorial pillar which is called Munda. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

15. SUTRA PIC programme aims to

- (a) take preventive measures against coronavirus.
- (b) include vedic mathematics in the curriculum.
- (c) vaccinate cattle Foot-and-mouth disease.
- (d) research on indigenous cows.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has unveiled a programme **SUTRA PIC or Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows** to research on 'indigenous' cows. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

16. Consider the following statements regarding the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor(EDFC):

1. The EDFC is being built with loans from the Asian Development Bank.
2. It covers Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
3. This corridor will also pass through Jhansi, which is the origin point of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and which will serve as a junction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor(EDFC)** is being built with loans from the World Bank. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It covers **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.** **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This corridor will also pass through Dadri, which is the origin point of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and which will serve as a junction. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

17. With reference to the State of India's Bird 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The four species of bustards in India have all suffered continuous population decline.
2. Indian vultures have experienced catastrophic population declines starting in the early 1990's.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **State of India's Birds 2020** is an assessment of the long-term trend, current trend, distribution range size, and the overall conservation status of 867 Indian bird species.
- The four species of bustards in India have all suffered continuous population decline. Four species of bustards are:
 - Great Indian Bustard
 - Lesser Indian Bustard
 - Lesser Florican
 - Bengal Florican**Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The report points out that the Indian vultures have experienced catastrophic population declines starting in the early 1990's.
 - The decline is mostly attributed to inadvertent poisoning by the livestock anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac.**Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

18. Consider the following statements regarding Madhav National Park

1. Madhav National Park is a part of the Ranthambhore-Kuno-Madhav Tiger Reserve.

2. It is a part of the upper Satpura Hills.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Madhav National Park is situated in Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhav National Park is a part of the Ranthambhore-Kuno-Madhav (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) Tiger Corridor of Central India & Eastern Ghats landscape. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a part of the upper Vindhyan hills. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

19. Consider the following statements with reference to Kala Kumbh:

1. It is organised by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
2. The objective is to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Textiles organised the 'Kala Kumbh - Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition' in various parts of the country between 14th - 23rd February, 2020.
- It was in partnership with the Export **Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The objective is to promote **Geographical Indication (GI)** crafts and heritage of India. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

20. Consider the following statements about Doppler Effect

1. A decrease (or increase) in the frequency of sound, light, or other waves observed as the source and observer move towards (or away from) each other.
2. The effect causes the sudden change in pitch noticeable in a passing siren, as well as the red shift seen by astronomers.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Doppler Effect

- An increase (or decrease) in the frequency of sound, light, or other waves as the source and observer move towards (or away from) each other.

Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- The effect causes the sudden change in pitch noticeable in a passing siren, as well as the red shift seen by astronomers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

MAINS QUESTIONS

1. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has tagged India a developed nation. Critically examine the impact on the Indian Economy. (250 Words)
2. The Administrative Tribunal was started with the view of a substitutional role, but now it remains merely a supplementary role. Analyse. (250 Words)

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