

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

20th January - 25th January



BusinessLine



1. With reference to 'Irrawaddy Dolphins', consider the following statements:

1. They are found in the Mahakam river only.
2. These are listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

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:

- Irrawaddy Dolphins are aquatic mammals found in coastal areas in South and South-East Asia.
- **The rivers in which they reside are:**
 - **The Irrawaddy (Myanmar)**
 - **The Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo)**
 - **The Mekong (China)**

Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.

- It is listed as critically **Endangered** in the IUCN Red List. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Dolphin distribution in Chilika is considered to be the highest single lagoon population.

2. Which of the following is/are threats for migratory raptor- Steppe Eagle?

1. Habitat loss
2. Electrocution during flight
3. Sand mining
4. Contamination in food sources

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Steppe Eagle is a migratory raptor whose population has declined at an alarming rate.
- **IUCN Red List Status:** Endangered
- It breeds in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia during the winter season.
- **Major Threats**
 - Habitat loss

- Electrocutation during flight
- Contamination in food sources due to herbicides/pesticides/veterinary drugs.

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

3. Which of the following is/are application(s) of Xenobot?

1. Detect radioactive contamination
2. Gather microplastic in the oceans
3. Scrape out plaque from arteries

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Xenobots have been made by repurposing of living cells scraped from frog embryos and created into a living, programmable organism. These are named after the species of aquatic frog *Xenopus laevis*.
- These can be used to -
 - 1) Detect radioactive contamination
 - 2) Gather microplastic in the oceans
 - 3) Scrape off plaque from arteries

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

4. The World Employment and Social Outlook report has been released by

- (a) International Labor Organization
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) World Bank
- (d) New Development Bank

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The **World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020 (WESO)** report has been released by the **International Labor Organization**.
Hence, Option (a) is correct.
- The report analyses key labour market issues, unemployment, labour underutilisation, working poverty, income inequality, labour income share and factors that exclude people from decent work.

5. Consider the following statements about Democracy Index 2020:

1. It categorises India under flawed democracy.
2. India ranks first in Asian and Australasia region.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- Democracy Index is published by the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- It places India at 51st place among 165 independent states and two territories.
- India's overall score fell from 7.23 to 6.9, on a scale of 0-10, within a year (2018-2019) — the country's lowest since 2006.
- In Asia and Australasia region, **India ranks eighth**, behind Taiwan and Timor-Leste. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It categorises India under “**flawed democracies**”, countries that hold free and fair elections and where basic civil liberties are respected, but have significant weaknesses in aspects of democracy, such as problems in governance, an underdeveloped political culture and low levels of political participation. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

6. The word ‘Vyom Mitra’ is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to

- (a) fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
- (b) an early human species
- (c) a humanoid developed by the ISRO
- (d) a geological period in the history of Indian subcontinent

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Vyom mitra is a spacefaring humanoid robot developed by ISRO Inertial Systems Unit, Thiruvananthapuram. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**
- It will ride to space in the first test flight of Gaganyaan.

7. Which of the following constitute(s) Freedom of Speech and Expression?

1. Freedom of commercial advertisements
2. Freedom of silence
3. Right to demonstration
4. Right to strike
5. Right to telecast

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Freedom of Speech and Expression** implies that every citizen has the right to express his views, opinions, beliefs and convictions freely by word of mouth, writing, printing, picturing or in any other manner.
- **The Supreme Court held that the freedom of speech and expression** includes the following:
 - Right to propagate one's views as well as views of others.
 - Freedom of the press.
 - **Freedom of commercial advertisements.**
 - Right against tapping of telephonic conversation.
 - **Right to telecast** i.e. Government has no monopoly on electronic media.
 - Right against bandh called by a political party or organisation.
 - Right to know about government activities.
 - **Freedom of silence.**
 - Right against imposition of pre-censorship on a newspaper.
 - **Right to demonstration or picketing but not right to strike.**

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

8. Consider the following statements about submarine-launched ballistic missile, K-4:

1. K-4 is an indigenously developed underwater missile.
2. It will give India the standoff capability to launch nuclear weapons submerged in Indian waters.
3. These submarines can stay underwater indefinitely without the adversary detecting it.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- K-4 is one of the two underwater missiles that have been developed by India for its submarine force.

- The other one is the over 700-kilometre strike range BO-5.

Hence, Statement 1 is correct.

- It will give India the **stand off capability to launch nuclear weapons** submerged in Indian waters. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- These submarines can stay underwater indefinitely without the adversary detecting it because they are powered by nuclear reactors. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

9. With reference to PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It has been designed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) team with the help of National Informatics Center (NIC).
2. It is an integrating and interactive platform, aimed at addressing the common man's grievances.
3. It is a three-tier system including Prime Minister, Union Government Secretaries and Chief Ministers of all states.
4. It involves monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Central government only.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- It was launched in **March, 2015** and has been designed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) team with the help of **National Informatics Center (NIC)**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an integrating and interactive platform, aimed at **addressing the common man's grievances**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It is a **three-tier system**:
 - PMO
 - Union Government Secretaries
 - Chief Secretaries of the States**Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- It helps in simultaneously **monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects** of the Government of India, as well as projects flagged by various State governments. **Hence, Statement 4 is not correct.**

10. Which of the following countries are part of Thirty Metre Telescopes (TMT), one of the largest telescopes in the world?

1. India
2. United States
3. China
4. Japan
5. Australia

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The TMT or Thirty Metre Telescope, one of the largest telescopes in the world, is a \$2 billion joint venture (JV) project involving five countries:
 - India
 - Canada
 - United States
 - China
 - Japan

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

11. Consider the following statements with reference to Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

1. Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
2. It is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees that are fixed between 6% and 8% respectively.

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:

- **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)** is the **usage and licensing fee** that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- It is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees that are fixed between 3-5% and 8% respectively.

12. Which of the following reports is/are released by the World Economic Forum?

1. Global Gender Gap Index
2. Ease of doing Business
3. Global Social Mobility Report
4. Global Competitiveness Report

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) releases-
 - Global Social Mobility Report
 - Global Competitiveness Report
 - Global Gender Gap Index
- Ease of Doing Business Report is published by the World Bank.

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

13. Consider the following statements with reference to BrahMos missile:

1. BrahMos missile is a supersonic cruise missile.
2. BrahMos is a joint venture between India and France.
3. It is a three-stage air to surface missile with a flight range of around 3000 km.
4. It operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle i.e. it does not require further guidance after launch.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- BrahMos missile is a **supersonic cruise missile** which features Indian propulsion system, airframe, power supply, and other major indigenous components. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is a two-stage (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid

ramjet in second) air to surface missile with a flight range of around 300 km. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

- It operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

14. Consider the following statements with reference to Government e-Marketplace (GeM):

1. GeM is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments / Organizations /Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
2. It was launched in 2016 to bring transparency and efficiency in the government buying process.
3. It operates under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
4. The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a one-stop **National Public Procurement Portal** to facilitate online procurement of common use **Goods & Services** required by various Central and **State** Government Departments or Organizations or Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It was **launched in 2016** to bring transparency and efficiency in the government buying process. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It operates under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is **mandatory** for goods and services available on GeM. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

15. With reference to the core inflation, consider the following statements:

1. Core inflation excludes changes in the prices of food and fuel prices.
2. Headline inflation is more volatile than core inflation.

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:

- Core inflation is the change in the costs of goods and services but does not include those from the food and energy sectors. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It excludes these items because their prices are much more volatile.
- Unlike core inflation, headline inflation also takes into account changes in the price of food and energy.
- Since food and energy prices are highly volatile, headline inflation may not give an accurate picture of how an economy is behaving. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
2. Whenever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.

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:

- Under Article 179 of the Indian Constitution, a member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Assembly shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the Assembly. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Under Article 179 of the Indian Constitution, whenever the Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the Assembly after the dissolution. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

17. Which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution of India contains provisions regarding anti-defection?

- (a) Second Schedule
- (b) Fifth Schedule
- (c) Eighth Schedule

(d) Tenth Schedule

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985. It contains provisions regarding anti-defection.

18. 'National Start-up Advisory Council' will be chaired by

- (a) NITI Aayog, Chairman
- (b) Minister for Commerce & Industry
- (c) Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (d) Cabinet Secretary

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **The National Start-up Advisory Council** will be chaired by the Minister for Commerce & Industry.
- It will suggest measures to foster a culture of innovation amongst citizens and students in particular.
- It will support creative and innovative ideas through incubation and research and development to transform them into valuable products.

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

19. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Manipuri is one of the eight classical dances of India.
- The dance is associated with rituals and traditional festivals, there are legendary references to the dances of Shiva and Parvati and other gods and goddesses.
- The dance form traces its origin to the festival of **Lai Haraoba** where many dances were performed. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The male dancers play the Pung and Kartal while dancing. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- The dance gained prominence with the rise of Vaishnavism in the 15th century.
 - Krishna became the central theme of this dance form. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

20. During the Indian Freedom Struggle, who of the following raised an army called 'Free Indian Legion'?

- (e) Lala Hardayal
- (f) Rashbehari Bose
- (g) Subash Chandra Bose
- (h) V. D. Savarkar

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Free Indian Legion was an infantry regiment formed by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with the help of German Government to fight against the British.
- The legion is also known as "Tiger Legion". **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Critically examine the ideas of Subhash Chandra Bose on socialism. How is it different from Nehruvian socialism? (250 Words)

Q2. Anti-defection law is a necessary evil. Examine the statement in the context of Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu case. (250 words)

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