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drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. Which of the following states is/are part of Western Freight Corridor?

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Haryana
3. Punjab
4. Gujarat
5. Maharashtra

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

Western Freight Corridor

- It is a 1,504-km long corridor which begins at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh and stretches till the country's largest container port — Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, near Mumbai passing through-
 - **Uttar Pradesh**
 - **Haryana**
 - **Rajasthan**
 - **Gujarat**
 - **Maharashtra**

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

2. Consider the following pairs:

Tropical Cyclone

1. Ursula
2. Sarai
3. Hagibis

Country

- Fiji
Philippines
Japan

Which of the following above pairs is/are correct?

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

Tropical Cyclone

Country

1. Ursula
2. Sarai
3. Hagibis

- Philippines
- Fiji
- Japan

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

3. With reference to 'Kalaripayattu', consider the following statements:
1. It is a dance form which originated in Tamil Nadu.
 2. It is considered as the father of modern Kung - Fu.

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- (b)

Explanation:

Kalaripayattu

- Kalaripayattu is a **martial art which** originated in **Kerala** during 3rd century B.C. to the 2nd century A.D. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The place where this martial art is practiced is called 'Kalari'.
 - It is a Malayalam word that signifies a kind of gymnasium.
 - Kalari literally means 'threshing floor' or 'battlefield'.
 - The word Kalari first appears in the Tamil Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.
- It is considered to be one of the oldest fighting systems in existence.
- It is also considered as the father of **modern Kung - Fu. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

4. With reference to 'GST Council'; consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body under Article 279A.
 2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.

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:

GST Council

- It is a **constitutional body** under **Article 279A**. It makes recommendations to the Union and State Governments on the issues related to Goods and Service Tax and was introduced by the **Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- 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 2 is not correct**.

5. Consider the following statements about Ajanta Caves:
1. Ajanta Caves are a series of Buddhist rock-cut caves in the Sahyadri ranges along the Waghora River.
 2. Fresco paintings are striking features of these caves.

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:

- Ajanta Caves are a series of 30 Buddhist rock-cut caves carved in the period between the 3rd century B.C. to 7th century A.D. in the Sahyadri ranges (Western Ghats) along the **Waghora River**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- **Fresco paintings** are the striking feature of these paintings. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.

6. With reference to Pulicat Lake, consider the following statements:
1. It is the largest brackish water ecosystem in the country.
 2. It is located on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

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:

- Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water ecosystem in the country after the Chilika lake in Odisha. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It is located on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with over 96% of it in Andhra Pradesh and 4% in Tamil Nadu. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The annual Flamingo Festival will be organised at **Pulicat lake** and **Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary** in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.
7. Consider the following statements in the context of Good Governance Index (GGI), 2019:
1. The Good Governance Index (GGI) has been launched by the NITI Aayog.
 2. It enables the members of Parliament to recommend developmental work in their constituencies based on locally felt needs.
 3. Tamil Nadu has bagged the top position in GGI- Big States Category.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- The Good Governance Index (GGI) has been launched by the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Good Governance Index is a uniform tool across States to assess the status of governance and impact of various interventions taken up by the State Governments and UTs. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Tamil Nadu** has bagged the top position followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka in the big states category. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements regarding locust invasion:
1. Locusts are active in the winter season.
 2. They can migrate over relatively large distances in a short span of time.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- A locust, known as **tiddis** locally, is a large, mainly tropical grasshopper with strong powers of flight.
- Locusts are generally seen during the months of June and July as the insects are active from summer to the rainy season. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Locusts have a high capacity to multiply, form groups, migrate over relatively large distances (they can fly up to 150 km per day). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Recently, the **migratory insect - locust** has swarmed the northern parts of Gujarat and wreaked havoc on standing crops of castor, cumin, jatropha, cotton, potatoes, and fodder grass.

9. Which of the following countries form part of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
1. Iran
 2. Venezuela
 3. Qatar
 4. Kuwait
 5. Saudi Arabia

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** is a permanent, intergovernmental organisation, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- It is a cartel that aims to manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market.
- **Member Countries:**
 - Algeria
 - Angola
 - Congo
 - Ecuador

- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Libya
- Nigeria
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
- Venezuela
- Ecuador has announced to leave OPEC in 2020.

10. Consider the following statements about Saptamatrikas:

1. Saptamatrikas are seven mother goddesses which are an embodiment of the female principle of prakriti.
2. The earliest evidence of Saptamatrika cult has been discovered in Karnataka.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- **Saptamatrikas** are seven mother goddesses which are an embodiment of the female principle of prakriti, the counterpart of purusha.
- They are:
 - Brahmani
 - Maheshwari
 - Kaumari
 - Vaishnavi
 - Varahi
 - Indrani
 - Yami

Hence, Statement 1 is correct.

- The **Epigraphy** branch of the Archaeological Survey of India has discovered the earliest evidence of Saptamatrika cult in chebrolu village in Guntur, **Andhra Pradesh. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

11. With reference to Rohtang Pass, consider the following statements:

1. Rohtang Pass is present on the Pir Panjal Range of Himalayas.
2. It connects the Kullu Valley with Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh.
3. Atal tunnel under Rohtang Pass is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 m.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- Rohtang Pass (elevation 3,978 m) is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is present on the **Pir Panjal Range** of Himalayas. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It connects the **Kullu Valley with Lahaul and Spiti Valleys** of Himachal Pradesh. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The 8.8-km-long Atal tunnel under Rohtang Pass is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 m. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

12. Regarding the UDAY scheme, which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?

1. UDAY Scheme was launched by Union Power Ministry for financial turnaround and revival package for state Discoms.
2. The scheme is optional for the states to join.
3. 50% of the discoms' debt is taken over by their respective state governments by issuing sovereign bonds to pay back the lenders.
4. Remaining 50% of debt will be issued by discoms in the form of bonds.

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- UDAY Scheme was launched by **Union Power Ministry** for financial turnaround and revival package for state Discoms. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme is optional for the states to join. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- **Components of the scheme:**
 - Takeover of 75% of the discoms' debt by their respective state governments by issuing sovereign bonds to pay back the lenders. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**
 - Remaining 25% of debt will be issued by discoms in the form of bonds. **Hence, Statement 4 is not correct.**

13. Which of the following is the objective of the SATAT framework?
- a) To make student assessment more meaningful, effective and linked to 'Learning Outcomes'.
 - b) To adopt reflective policies and practices to enhance the environmental quality of the campus.
 - c) To sensitise and motivate the faculty to adopt learner centred approaches and ICT integrated learning.
 - d) To continuously monitor and identify quality journals across disciplines.

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- **SATAT- Framework** for Eco-Friendly and Sustainable Campus development in Higher Educational Institutions encourages universities to:
 - adopt reflective policies and practices to enhance the environmental quality of the campus and
 - adopt sustainable green and sustainable methods in its future.

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

14. Regulatory Consistency Assessment Programme (RCAP) was established in 2011 by?
- a) International Monetary Fund
 - b) Basel Committee on Banking Supervision
 - c) World Trade Organisation
 - d) World Bank

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- Basel Committee on Banking Supervision established Regulatory Consistency Assessment Programme (RCAP) in 2011.
- Through the RCAP the Committee seeks to ensure full, timely and consistent implementation of the Basel III framework, and thus to contribute to global financial stability.

15. With reference to Financial Stability and Development Council, consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted by the Government of India in 2015.
2. Its Chairperson is the RBI Governor.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** is apex level body constituted by the Government of India in **December 2010**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Its Chairperson is the **Union Finance Minister**. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct.**

16. Consider the following statements with respect to the Annular Solar Eclipse:

1. Annular eclipse occurs when the sun is covered in such a manner that only a small ring-like sliver of light is seen from the sun's disc.
2. It happens when the moon is closest to the Earth.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- Annular Solar Eclipse occurs when the sun is covered in such a manner that only a small ring-like sliver of light is seen from the sun's disc. This ring is known as the **ring of fire**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- An annular eclipse happens when the moon is farthest from Earth. As the moon is farther away from Earth, it seems smaller and is unable to block the entire view of the sun, because of which the ring-like structure could be observed. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

17. In the light of growing importance of Indian Ocean Regions, consider the following statements:

1. The first ever International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) is being conducted over the period of 2015-2020.
2. It will reveal new information on the Indian Ocean which is fundamental for future sustainable development and expansion of the Indian Ocean's blue economy.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- **The International Indian Ocean Expedition** during years 1962-1965 was one of the greatest international, interdisciplinary oceanographic research efforts to explore Indian Ocean. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) for the period of 2015-2020.
 - It is a major global scientific program which will reveal new information on the Indian Ocean, which is fundamental for future sustainable development and expansion of the Indian Ocean's blue economy. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

18. In the context of recently launched SnowEx Programme, consider the following statements:

1. SnowEx Programme has been launched by ISRO to understand how much water is contained in each winter's snowfall.
2. The geographical focus of SnowEx is the Himalayas.

Choose 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- (d)

Explanation:

- NASA has launched a seasonal campaign- part of a five-year programme called SnowEx, which was initiated in 2016-17.
 - The aim is to better understand how much water is contained in each winter's snowfall and how much will be available when it melts in the spring. **Hence Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The geographical focus of SnowEx is **North America. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

19. Which of the criteria are necessary for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

1. Pre-agricultural level of technology
2. A declining or stagnant population.
3. Low level of literacy
4. Social backwardness

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- 75 tribal groups have been categorised by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as PVTGs.
- PVTGs reside in 18 States and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The criteria for identifying PVTGs are:
 - i. Pre-agricultural level of technology
 - ii. Low level of literacy
 - iii. Economic backwardness
 - iv. A declining or stagnant population

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

20. With reference to Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT) scheme was launched by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to combat environmental degradation.
2. It aims to promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society and to mobilise people's participation for conservation of the environment.

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:

- Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT) is a central sector scheme of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- It aims to promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society and to mobilise people's participation for conservation of the environment. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.

MAINS QUESTION:

Q1. What are the criteria necessary for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)? Discuss various issues faced by them. Also mention government measures to tackle their issues.

Q2. Plastics have become persistent polluters of the ocean resulting in the death of many marine animals. In the context of the above statement, discuss the problem and magnitude of the plastic pollution. Also suggest measures to combat plastic pollution.



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