

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

24th February - 29th February



1. With reference to 'Kawal Tiger Reserve', consider the following statements:

1. The reserve is a catchment area for the rivers Godavari and Kadam.
2. It was declared as a Tiger Reserve in 2012.

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:

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in Adilabad district in Telangana state.
- It was declared as a Tiger Reserve in 2012. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The reserve is a catchment area for the rivers Godavari and Kadam. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

2. The phenomenon of red snow is caused by

- (a) Algae
- (b) Fungi
- (c) Bacteria
- (d) Virus

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The phenomenon of red snow is caused by algae species- Chlamydomonas Chlamydomonas nivalis. The red pigment keeps the algae warm in a glacial climate. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

3. 1000 Springs Initiative is launched by

- (a) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Science and Technology

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The 1000 Springs Initiative is launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**
- It is an online portal on GIS-based spring Atlas with the hydrological and chemical properties of the springs mentioned.
- It is an integrated solution around natural springs.

- The initiative aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in difficult and inaccessible parts of rural areas in the country.

4. Which of the following animals is/are included during CMS COP13 in Appendix I?

1. Urial
2. Great Indian Bustard
3. Bengal Florican
4. Little Bustard

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The following species has been included in Appendix I in CMS COP13 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - Asian Elephant
 - Jaguar
 - **Great Indian Bustard**
 - **Bengal Florican**
 - **Little Bustard**
 - Antipodean Albatross
 - Oceanic White-tip Shark
- 3 species added to Appendix II:
 - **Urial**
 - Smooth Hammerhead Shark
 - Tope Shark

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

5. The term '2020 CD3' sometimes mentioned in the news recently is related to

- (a) Exoplanets
- (b) Cryptocurrency
- (c) Cyber attacks
- (d) Mini moon

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Astronomers have observed a small object orbiting Earth. They have dubbed it as a “mini-moon” or the planet’s “second moon”. It has been named - 2020 CD3. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**
- It was discovered by the NASA- funded Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona.

6. With reference to 'Mission Purvodaya'; consider the following statements:

1. It aims to develop Eastern India as an integrated steel hub.
2. Bhubaneswar is to be developed as the epicenter of Mission Purvodaya.

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:

- The Mission Purvodaya was launched in January 2020 which aims to develop Eastern India as an integrated steel hub. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The city of Kalinga Nagar is to be developed as the epicenter of Mission Purvodaya. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

7. With reference to 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVK)', consider the following statements:

1. The first Krishi Vigyan Kendra was established in 1974 at Puducherry.
2. The KVK scheme is 100% financed by the Government of India.

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:

- Krsihi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) are agricultural extension centres created by ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research) and its affiliated institutions at district level.
- The first KVK was established in 1974 at **Puducherry. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The KVK scheme is **100% financed by the Government of India. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

8. Sendai Framework is related with

- (a) Disaster Management
- (b) Environmental Conservation

- (c) Human Rights
- (d) Industrial Revolution

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Sendai Framework** was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from March 14 to 18, 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

9. Consider the following statements about Indian Council of Agricultural Research

1. It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.
2. It is an implementing agency of the National Livestock Mission.

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:

- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** is an autonomous organisation under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **The National Livestock Mission** is being implemented as a sub scheme of White Revolution - Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana from April 2019.
- The National Livestock Mission is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- NABARD is the subsidy channelizing agency under Entrepreneurship Development & Employment Generation (EDEG) component of National Livestock Mission. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

10. India has signed which of the following defence cooperation with USA

1. General Security Of Military Information Agreement
2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
3. Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement

4. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement

Select the correct code:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

India has signed three of the four foundational agreements for defence cooperation with US:

- 1. General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**
 - GSOMIA allows militaries to share the intelligence.
- 2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**
 - LEMOA allows both countries to have access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment.
- 3. Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)**
 - India signed COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018.
 - It is an India specific version of CISMOA.
 - It provides a legal framework for the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India to facilitate interoperability between their forces.
- 4. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**
 - BECA will allow India and US militaries to share geospatial and satellite data with each other.
 - **India has not signed BECA yet.**

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

11. Which one of the following is the best description of '45006 VAJRA', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Offshore patrol vessel
- (b) Exoplanet
- (c) Meteor
- (d) Satellite

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The sixth offshore patrol vessel 'Yard 45006 VAJRA' was launched by the Union Shipping Minister in Chennai.

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

12. Consider the following statements about Invest India

1. Invest India is the official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors in India.
2. It is set up as a non-profit venture under the NITI Aayog.

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:

- Invest India is the **official** Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the **first point of reference for investors** in India. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is set up as a **non-profit** venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industries. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

13. Consider the following pairs:

Tiger Reserves	State
1. Pakke Tiger Reserve	Assam
2. Kawal Tiger Reserve	Telangana
3. Nameri Tiger Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh
4. Orang Tiger Reserve	Assam

Which of the following pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Tiger Reserves	State
1. Pakke Tiger Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Kawal Tiger Reserve	Telangana
3. Nameri Tiger Reserve	Assam
4. Orang Tiger Reserve	Assam

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

14. Consider the following statements with reference to Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System:

1. It is a forecast service system for small vessels operating in Indian coastal waters.
2. It warns users about potential zones where vessel overturning can take place.

Which of the given statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System** is an innovative impact-based advisory and forecast service system for small vessels operating in Indian coastal waters. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It warns users about potential zones where vessel overturning can take place. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

15. With reference to National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), consider the following statements:

1. It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Science & Technology.
2. It develops advanced numerical weather prediction systems over India and neighbouring regions.

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:

- The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) is a **Centre of Excellence in Weather and Climate Modelling** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The mission of the Centre is to continuously develop advanced numerical weather prediction systems, with increased reliability and accuracy over India and neighbouring regions. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

16. Consider the following statements regarding InSights Mission:

1. It is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface.
2. It aims to understand the formation of rocky planets in the early days of the solar system.
3. The InSight mission is part of NASA's Discovery Program and is supported by ISRO.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) lander** is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The aim of the mission:
 - Listen for quakes and tremors to understand the interior of the planet.
 - Understand the formation of rocky planets in the early days of the solar system. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The InSight mission is part of **NASA's Discovery Program** and is being supported by a **number of European partners. Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

17. In the context of eCourt Integrated Mission Mode Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It aims to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society.

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:

- The eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project is monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.

- However, it is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims at ensuring digital interconnectivity between all courts from the taluk level to the apex court. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

18. Regarding the National Technical Textiles Mission, which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) The Mission will aim at taking domestic market size to \$40 billion-\$50 billion by 2024.
- (b) A Mission Directorate in the Ministry of Textiles headed by an eminent expert in the related field will be made operational.
- (c) This component will promote fundamental research at fibre level aiming at path breaking technological products.
- (d) It would have a five-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to set up a National Technical Textiles Mission with a view to position the country as a global leader in Technical Textiles.
- The Mission would have a **four-year implementation period** from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24. **Hence, Statement (d) is not correct.**
All other statements are correct.

19. Consider the following statements in the context of Project Monitoring Group (PMG):

1. It is a one-stop facilitation destination for investors at all stages of the investment process.
2. It expedites resolution of issues and removal of regulatory bottlenecks in projects, with investments upward of ₹50 crores in India.
3. The issues taken up by PMG are only at the Union Level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Project Monitoring Group (PMG)** works under the administrative control of the Prime Minister's Office in order to create a **one-stop**

facilitation destination for investors at all stages of the investment process, including issue resolution. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- It expedites resolution of issues and removal of regulatory bottlenecks in projects, with investments upward of ₹500 crores in India. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The issues taken up by PMG are **both at Union and State-Level. Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

20. With reference to SPICe+, consider the following statements:

1. SPICe+ is an integrated Web Form that aims to save time and cost for Starting a Business in India.
2. Registration for Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees' state Insurance Corporation (ESIC) will not be mandatory for all new companies to be incorporated through SPICe+.

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:

- SPICe+ would be an integrated Web Form that aims to save time and cost for Starting a Business in India and would be applicable for all new company incorporations. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Registration for Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees' state Insurance Corporation (ESIC) **shall be mandatory** for all new companies to be incorporated through SPICe+. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Discuss the various issues in the Indian agriculture. What needs to be done to improve agriculture productivity and increase farmers' income? (250 Words)

Q2. To eliminate poverty, we should measure it properly. In this context discuss the need and challenges in the measurement of poverty. (250 Words)