

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

2nd March - 7th March



1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is also known by
- (a) Washington Convention
 - (b) Bonn Convention
 - (c) New York Convention
 - (d) Vienna Convention

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.
 - It is also known as the Washington Convention.
2. Consider the following statements regarding Ulsoor lake:
1. It derives its name from the name of the locality it is situated, namely, Halasuru.
 2. It is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- 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:

- Ulsoor lake is also known as Halasuru Lake and located in Bangalore, Karnataka. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It derives its name from the name of the locality it is situated, namely, Halasuru. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
3. Consider the following statements regarding Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD):
1. BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms in decomposing organic matter in water.
 2. Lower the BOD lower the amount of dissolved oxygen in water.
- 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:

- **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)** is the amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms in the biological process of metabolizing organic matter in water. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Greater the BOD lower the amount of dissolved oxygen in water. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

4. Consider the following statements regarding high energy materials:

1. They are compounds which store chemical energy.
2. Such materials can be stimulated by mechanical, thermal or electrical devices.

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

- **High energy materials** are compounds which store chemical energy.
- Such materials, on stimulation by mechanical, thermal or electrical devices, undergo rapid decomposition giving out heat, light, sound and large volumes of gases.
- The amount of energy released varies with the properties of the material such as composition, structure, density, heat of formation and decomposition, etc.
- **Examples:**
 - Propellants used in rockets,
 - Pyrotechnics used in festivities,
 - Explosives used for military purposes,
 - Blasting chemicals used in construction activities, etc.

5. Consider the following Statement about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) or Clean India Mission

1. Its objectives included eliminating open defecation through the construction of household-owned and community-owned toilets.
2. It aims to establish an accountable mechanism of monitoring toilet use.
3. It is operated under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) or Clean India Mission was a nation-wide campaign from 2014 to 2019 to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of cities, towns, and rural areas.
- Its objectives included eliminating open defecation through the construction of household-owned and community-owned toilets and establishing an accountable mechanism of monitoring toilet use. **Hence, Statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The mission had two thrusts:
 - Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ("gramin" or "rural"), which operated under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
 - The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation was a ministry of the Government of India formed in 2011.
 - From May 2019, the ministry has been merged with the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
 - Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ("urban"), under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

6. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Supercomputer</i>	<i>Places(installed at)</i>
1. PARAM Shivay	IISER-Pune
2. Pratyush	IITM-Pune
3. PARAM Brahma	IIT-BHU, Varanasi

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Supercomputers Built under NSM (National Supercomputing Mission):

- PARAM Shivay installed in IIT-BHU, Varanasi
- Pratyush at IITM Pune
- PARAM Brahma, installed in IISER-Pune

7. Freedom in the World 2020 Report is published by

- (a) Reporters Without Borders
- (b) Freedom House
- (c) World Economic Freedom

(d) United Nation

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Recently the **Freedom in the World 2020** report was released by **Freedom House**, a U.S. based watchdog, which has been tracking global political and civil liberties for almost half a century.

- The report has ranked India at the **83rd position**.

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

8. Land Ports Authority of India functions under which ministry

- (a) Ministry of Shipping
- (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (d) Ministry of Home Ministry

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Land Ports Authority of India:

- The Land Ports Authority of India is a statutory body established under the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010.
- Under the act, it has powers to undertake joint ventures to discharge its functions.
- It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

9. Global Coalition for Biodiversity launched on World Wildlife Day by which of the following institutions?

- (a) European Commission
- (b) United Nation Environment Programme
- (c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- (d) World Bank

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The European Commission (EC) launched the 'United for Biodiversity' coalition made up of zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks, and natural history and science museums from around the world, on World Wildlife Day 2020. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

10. Which of the following state has not become kerosene free state as per the recent Parliamentary committee report on the performance of the PM Ujjwala Yojana?

- (a) Sikkim

- (b) Haryana
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Parliamentary committee has released a report on the performance of the PM Ujjwala Yojana.
 - States have become kerosene free, namely Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

11. Consider the following statements regarding RaIDER - X:

1. RaIDER-X has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. RaIDER-X has the capability to detect 20 explosives within a distance of about 2 metres.

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:

- RaIDER-X has been **co-developed by HEMRL, Pune and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- RaIDER-X has the capability to detect 20 explosives within a distance of about 2 metres. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

12. With reference to Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT), consider the following statements:

1. This initiative has been taken by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. It aims to facilitate a database on energy efficiency.
3. It will showcase the capacity building and new initiatives taken up by the Government across the sectors in the increase energy efficiency domain.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT)** initiative has been taken by the BEE with the **World Resources Institute (WRI)**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It aims **to facilitate a database on energy efficiency**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct.**
- It will also showcase the capacity building and new initiatives taken up by the Government across the sectors in the increase energy efficiency domain. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct.**

13. In the context of AYUSH Grid, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring onboard all AYUSH facilities including hospitals and laboratories and to promote traditional systems of healthcare.
2. The Ministry of AYUSH is collaborating with the Ministry of Science and Technology for the digitisation of the AYUSH sector.

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:

- AYUSH Grid aims to bring onboard all AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) facilities including hospitals and laboratories and to promote traditional systems of healthcare. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Ministry of AYUSH is collaborating with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** for the digitisation of the AYUSH sector. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct.**

14. Which of the following are part of the committee to elect the members of the Central Information Commission (CIC)?

1. Prime Minister
2. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha
3. Union Home Minister
4. Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister

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: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioner's.
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the:
 - Prime Minister as Chairperson
 - Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
 - A Union Cabinet Minister

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

15. Consider the following statements:

1. Ekam Fest aims to establish PwD owned micro skill training Centers throughout the country for skill training of PwDs.
2. NHFDC Swavalamban Kendra (NSK) aims to promote entrepreneurship and knowledge among the Divyangjan community.

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:

- **Ekam Fest** aims to promote entrepreneurship and knowledge among the Divyangjan community. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **NHFDC Swavalamban Kendra (NSK):** To establish PwD owned micro skill training Centers throughout the country for skill training of PwDs. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

16. Which of the following is/are regional centres of Lalit Kala Akademi?

1. Bhubaneswar
2. Chennai
3. Kolkata
4. Lucknow

Select the correct answer using code given below

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Lalit Kala Akademi was set up by the Government of India as an autonomous body, on 5th August, 1954.
- The Akademi is headquartered in New Delhi with regional centers at Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Garhi (Delhi), Kolkata, Lucknow and Shimla.

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

17. Which of the following is/are sites of Indus Valley civilisation?

1. Dholavira
2. Rakhigarhi
3. Surkotada
4. Mehrgarh

Select the correct answer using code given below

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Important sites of the Indus Valley civilisation

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Harappa | 5. Rakhigarhi |
| 2. Mohenjo-daro | 6. Ropar |
| 3. Dholavira | 7. Surkotada |
| 4. Lothal | 8. Mehrgarh |

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

18. With reference to 'Cryptocurrency', consider the following statements:

1. Cryptocurrencies have an **extra layer of security** in the form of encryption algorithms.
2. Cryptocurrencies work on the principle of Blockchain technology.

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:

- Cryptocurrencies have an **extra layer of security** in the form of encryption algorithms. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- Cryptographic methods are used to make the currency as well as the network on which they are being traded, secure.
- Cryptocurrencies work on the principle of Blockchain technology.

Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

19. The Nano Mission is under the aegis of

- (a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (d) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Nano Mission was launched in 2007 by the Ministry of Science and Technology. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**
- It is steered by a Nano Mission Council chaired by an eminent scientist.
- It is an “umbrella capacity-building programme”.
- **Objectives**
 - Basic research promotion
 - Infrastructure development
 - Nano applications and technology development
 - Human Resource development
 - International collaboration

20. The theme of World Wildlife Day 2020 was?

- (a) Sustaining all life on earth
- (b) Life below Water: for People and Planet
- (c) Big Cats
- (d) Listen to the young voices

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- World Wildlife Day was celebrated on March 3.
- Theme: “Sustaining all life on earth”. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Right to information is key to governance. In this light discuss the challenges faced by CIC in effective implementation of RTI. Also suggest measures to strengthen CIC. (250 Words)

Q2. Global economy is witnessing a slowdown and the threat of Coronavirus is fueling the fire. Assess the threats and opportunity for India. (250 Words)