

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

3rd February - 8th February



1. Consider the following statements with reference to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation:

1. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the third largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations and European Union.
2. India is not a member of the OIC.

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 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the **second largest intergovernmental organization** after the **United Nations** with a membership of 57 states. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- India is not a member of the OIC. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

2. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Use of coats of mail and helmets by Aryans is evident in the Rigvedic Age while the same is not evident in the Indus Valley Civilization. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The vedic age marks the advent of iron, whereas Indus Valley Civilization was part of the Chalcolithic age and not aware of iron. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- There is no clear evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of horses, whereas Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

3. The recently launched scheme SATHI is related with
- Science and Technology
 - Women Empowerment
 - Environment
 - Pension

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Department of Science & Technology (DST) , Ministry of Earth Sciences, has launched a unique scheme called Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI). **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

4. Consider the following statements with reference to Guru Ravidas:
1. Guru Ravidas was a 10th century saint and reformer of the Bhakti movement in North India.
 2. Ramananda was one of the disciples of the bhakti saint-poet Ravidas and a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet Kabir.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Guru Ravidas was a 14th century saint and reformer of the Bhakti movement in North India. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Ravidas was one of the disciples of the bhakti saint-poet Ramananda and a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet Kabir. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

5. Consider the following pairs:

Mountains

1. Mount Elbrus
2. Denali
3. Mount Aconcagua
4. Vinson Massif
5. Mount Kosciuszko

Continent

- Europe
Antarctica
South America
Australia
North America

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The World's Highest Mountains by Continent
 - Africa: Kilimanjaro
 - Europe: Mount Elbrus
 - North America: Denali
 - South America: Mount Aconcagua
 - Asia: Mount Everest
 - Antarctica: Vinson Massif
 - Australia: Mount Kosciuszko
 - Australia/Oceania: Jaya Peak (Mount Carstensz)
- Hence, Option (a) is correct.

6. The Union government has proposed to develop five archaeological sites as “iconic sites”. Which of the following are part of this initiative?

- 1. Ratnagiri
- 2. Hastinapur
- 3. Sivasagar
- 4. Rakhigarhi
- 5. Dholavira

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Union Budget (2020-21) has proposed to develop **Rakhigarhi** as an **iconic site**.
- 4 other archaeological sites will also be developed as iconic sites:
 - **Hastinapur** (Uttar Pradesh),
 - **Shivsagar** (Assam),
 - **Dholavira** (Gujarat)
 - **Adichanallur** in (Tamil Nadu)

7. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarkantak
3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Arasavalli Sun Temple is considered as one of India's oldest Sun temples. It is dedicated to Lord Sri Suryanarayana Swamy. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
- Amarkantak is famous for temples dedicated to different Hindu deities such as Shiva, Sita-Ram and Radha-Krishna. **Hence, 2 is not correct.**
- Omkareshwar is Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

8. With reference to 'Amrabad Tiger Reserve' consider the following statements:

1. Amrabad Tiger Reserve lies in the Nilgiri hills.
2. NH-565 which passes through the core area of it.

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:

- Amrabad Tiger Reserve lies in the Nallamala hills of Telangana. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was earlier part of Nagarjunasagar – Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) but, post-bifurcation, the northern part of the reserve is vested with Telangana and renamed as Amrabad Tiger Reserve.
- Chenchu tribals live in the Amrabad forests.
- NH-565 which passes through the core area of it. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

9. With reference to 'Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme', consider the following statements:

1. The ICDS scheme was launched in 1985.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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 ICDS scheme was launched in 1975. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The aim of the scheme is to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition.
- Beneficiaries include children in the age group of six months to six years, and pregnant women and lactating mothers
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

10. With reference to Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. SHC provides the status of the soil with respect to micronutrients only.
2. Farmers can opt for soil tests only once in a cycle of two years.

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:

- SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. It contains the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely N, P, K (Macronutrients); S (Secondary- nutrient); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micronutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters). **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is made available once in a cycle of 3 years, which indicates the status of soil health of a farmer's holding for that particular period. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

11. In which of the following parts of India Corals are found?

1. Gulf of Mannar and Palk bay
2. Gulf of Kutch
3. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
4. Lakshadweep islands

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, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Corals are made up of polyps.
- Coral reefs are formed of colonies of coral polyps held together by calcium carbonate.
- Corals form a symbiotic (mutualistic) relationship with certain zooxanthellae (photosynthesis algae) living in their tissues.
- They are known as “Rainforests of the Seas”.
- Major reef formations in India:
 - Gulf of Mannar and Palk bay
 - Gulf of Kutch
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 - Lakshadweep islands

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

12. Portal Santusht is under the aegis of :

- (a) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** has launched ‘Santusht portal’ to monitor the implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

13. The theme for World Wetlands Day 2020 is:

- (a) Wetlands and Biodiversity
- (b) Wetlands and Climate Change
- (c) Wetlands for a sustainable urban future
- (d) Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- World Wetland Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February; This day marks the date of the adoption of the convention on wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar Iran.
- The theme for 2020 is 'Wetlands and Biodiversity'. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

14. Consider the following statements:

1. The Dihing River originates in the Western Himalayas.
2. It creates a number of oxbow lakes.

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:

- Dihing River is a large **left bank tributary** of the Brahmaputra River in Upper Assam.
- The river originates in the **Eastern Himalayas** (the Patkai Hills) in Arunachal Pradesh. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It flows through **Tinsukia and Dibrugarh Districts** in Assam to its confluence with the Brahmaputra at Dihingmukh.
- It creates a number of **oxbow lakes** in the area. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - An oxbow lake is a lake that starts out as a curve, or meander, in a river.
 - A meander is a curve in a river.
 - It is formed in the middle and lower course of a river.
 - The U-shaped lake forms along the side of the river as the river finds a different, shorter, course.
 - Water does not flow into or out of oxbow lakes hence they often become swamps or bogs, and dry up as their water evaporates.

15. Consider the following pairs:

Project

Dam

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1. Bhakra Dam | Sutlej |
| 2. Pong and Pandoh Dam | Ravi |
| 3. Ranjit Sagar Dam | Beas |
| 4. Shahpurkandi Project | Chenab |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Project	Dam
1. Bhakra Dam	Sutlej
2. Pong and Pandoh Dam	Beas
3. Ranjit Sagar Dam (Thein Dam)	Ravi
4. Shahpurkandi Project	Ravi

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

16. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Karanj', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Scorpene class Submarine
- (d) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- INS Karanj is the third scorpene submarine of the first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines for the Indian Navy.
- It is part of Project-75 and was launched in January 2018.
 - 'Project-75' is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Scorpene Class attack submarines.
 - Six Scorpene submarines are:
 - INS Kalvari
 - INSKhanderi
 - INS Karanj
 - INS Vela
 - INS Vagir
 - INS Vagsheer

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

17. In the context of Motion of Thanks, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Motion of Thanks follows the address of the President of India to the Lok Sabha.
- 2. It is adopted at the commencement of the first session of a new Lok

Sabha and first session of every year.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- Motion of Thanks is a motion in Indian Parliament which follows the address of the President of India to the joint sitting of Lok-Sabha and Rajya-Sabha. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is adopted at the commencement of the first session of a new Lok Sabha and first session of every year. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

18. In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?

- (a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.
- (b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
- (c) It is endemic to a particular region of India.
- (d) Both (b) and (c) stated above are correct in this context.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Schedules of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

- There are six schedules of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which give varying degrees of protection:
 - **Schedule I and part II of Schedule II:** Species listed are provide absolute protection and offences under these categories are prescribed the highest penalties.
 - **Schedule III and Schedule IV:** Animals are protected but penalties for offences are less.
 - **Schedule V:** Includes the animals which may be hunted.
 - **Schedule VI:** contains the plants, which are prohibited from cultivation and planting.
- Tiger is enlisted in Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Thus, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under this schedule, it will enjoy the same level of protection as that of the tiger.

Hence, Option (a) is correct.

19. Consider the following statements about Blue Dot Network (BDN):
1. The Network will classify the infrastructure projects.
 2. It will select infrastructure projects from the list given by member countries.
 3. The Network will directly invest in projects.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Network will classify the market driven nominated infrastructure projects which will be based on the transparency and financial sustainability in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- No list of infrastructure projects will be given by member countries. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Network will not itself directly invest in projects. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

20. Consider the following statements about Indian Digital Heritage (IDH) Project:

1. India Digital Heritage (IDH) Project aims to extend the power of digital technologies to monuments, art, architecture and all forms of cultural and historical knowledge.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture to increase tourism.

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:

- India Digital Heritage (IDH) Project aims to extend the power of digital technologies to monuments, art, architecture and all forms of cultural and historical knowledge. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- India Digital Heritage is an initiative by the **Department of Science and Technology** in the areas of technology and humanities for digital documentation and interpretation of our tangible and intangible heritage. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

MAINS QUESTIONS:

1. As per the first Advance Estimates of the National Statistical Office (NSO), the country's economic growth is likely to hit an 11-year low in the current financial year. How far labour reforms can revive the recent ongoing economic slowdown. (250 Words)
2. We are witnessing a victory over life threatening disease but a defeat over lifestyle disease. Comment. (250 Words)



drishti