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drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. In India which of the following silk types has largest contribution in the total production:
- Mulberry
 - Tasar
 - Muga
 - Eri

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Mulberry accounts for the majority of the total natural silk produced in India.

2. Consider the following statements about Cord Blood
- Cord blood is the blood from the baby that is left in the umbilical cord and placenta after birth.
 - It contains special cells called hematopoietic stem cells that can be used to treat some types of diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Cord blood (short for umbilical cord blood) is the blood from the baby that is left in the umbilical cord and placenta after birth. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It contains special cells called hematopoietic stem cells that can be used to treat some types of diseases.
- **Hematopoietic stem cells** can mature into different types of blood cells in the body. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements
- The Red Blood Cells (RBCs) are also known as Leukocytes and contain the iron-rich protein called haemoglobin that gives blood its red colour.
 - The White Blood Cells (WBCs) are also known as Erythrocytes and are the colourless blood cells as it is devoid of haemoglobin.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Red Blood Cells (RBCs) are also known as **Erythrocytes**. RBCs contain the iron-rich protein called **haemoglobin** that gives blood its **red colour**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The White Blood Cells (WBCs) are also known as **Erythrocytes Leukocytes** and are the **colourless** blood cells as it is **devoid of haemoglobin**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

4. Sahyadri Megha is a new variety of which of the following crops?

- (a) Paddy
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Sugarcane
- (d) Maize

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences(UAHS), Shivamogga, Karnataka has developed 'Sahyadri Megha', a new red variety of paddy. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

5. Which of the following is the fastest supercomputer in the world

- (a) Summit
- (b) Sierra
- (c) Sunway TaihuLight
- (d) Tianhe-2

Answer: (a)

Explanation

As of now, the fastest supercomputer on the TOP500 supercomputer list is the Summit, in the United States, with a LINPACK benchmark score of 143.5 PFLOPS, followed by Sierra, by around 48.860 PFLOPS. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

6. Consider the following statements regarding Kyasanur Forest Disease:

1. It is caused by protozoa.
2. It was first identified in 1957 in a sick bat from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka

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:

- **Kyasanur Forest Disease** is caused by **Kyasanur Forest disease Virus (KFDV)**, a member of the virus family **Flaviviridae**. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was **first identified in 1957** in a sick monkey from the **Kyasanur Forest** in **Karnataka**. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

7. Consider the following statements about Ramganga River

1. The River rises from **Dudhatoli ranges** in the **Garhwal district** of **Uttarakhand**.
2. It is a **right-bank tributary** of the **Ganga**.
3. **Ramganga** flows by the **Corbett National Park**.
4. **Kalagarh Dam** is an **embankment dam** on the **Ramganga River**.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Ramganga** river rises from **Dudhatoli ranges** in the **Garhwal district** of **Uttarakhand**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a **left-bank tributary** of the **Ganga**. It enters the **Ganga Plain** near **Kalagarh**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Ramganga** flows by the **Corbett National Park** near **Ramnagar** of **Nainital district**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The **Ramganga Dam**, also known as the **Kalagarh Dam**, is an **embankment dam** on the **Ramganga River**. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements about Nidhi Companies

1. It works on the principle of **mutual benefits** that are regulated by the **Ministry of Finance**.
2. **Nidhi Companies** do not come under the definition of **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** and hence they are exempted from regulations of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

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:

- Nidhi Company is a **company registered under the Companies Act, 2013.**
- It works on the principle of mutual benefits that are regulated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Nidhi Company is a class of Non-Banking Financial Company(NBFC) and Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has powers to issue directives for them related to their deposit acceptance activities. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

9. Which of the following countries are observers of the Indian Ocean Commission?

1. India
2. China
3. European Union
4. Mauritius

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Indian Ocean Commission was created in 1982 and was institutionalized in 1984 by the Victoria Agreement.
- Secretariat: Mauritius
- It consists of
 - Madagascar
 - Comoros
 - La Réunion (French overseas territory)
 - Mauritius
 - Seychelles
- The Commission has five observers — India, China, European Union (EU), Malta and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF).

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

10. BhoomiRashi Portal works under which of the following ministries

- (a) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development

- (c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (d) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The BhoomiRashi Portal is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**
- The portal intends to expedite the process of land acquisition for National Highways.

11. With reference to 'National Creche Scheme', consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. NITI Aayog conducts the third party evaluation of the scheme.

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 Creche Scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented with effect from 2017.
- **NITI Aayog** conducts the third party evaluation of the scheme. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

12. Which of the following countries is/are part(s) of Hindu Kush Himalayan Range?

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan
4. China

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Hindu Kush Himalayan Range (HKH)** is part of the “Third Pole” as it forms the largest area of permanent ice cover outside of the North and South Poles.
- It has significant implications for climate.
 - It contains vast cryospheric zones and is also the world’s largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region.
- **Generally, areas covered under HKH Region:**
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - China
 - India
 - Myanmar
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
- **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

13. With reference to the ‘Red Panda’, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as critically endangered under IUCN Red List.
2. It is the state animal of Sikkim.

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 red panda is a **small reddish-brown arboreal mammal**.
- The only living member of the **genus Ailurus**.
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Endangered. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **CITES: Appendix II**
 - **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I**
- **Habitat: India, Nepal, Bhutan Myanmar and southern China**
 - India: Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and northern Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It is also the state animal of **Sikkim. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

14. Mount Lepethymnus is located in which of the following island

- (a) Island of Lesbos
- (b) Katchatheevu Island
- (c) Island of Anguilla
- (d) Island of Honshu

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Lesbos (also called Mitilini) is a greek island.
- The principal peak here is Mount Lepethymnus (3,176 feet). **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**
- It is the largest island after Crete and Euboea in the Aegean Sea.

15. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. Its mission ensures that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- TRAFFIC is a leading **non-governmental organisation** working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It specializes in investigating and analysing wildlife trade trends, patterns, impacts and drivers to provide the leading knowledge base on trade in wild animals and **plants. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

16. With reference to Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE), consider the following statements:

1. The GRACE satellites were launched by the ISRO in 2002.
2. Its aim is to monitor changes in water and snow stores on the continents.

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 Gravity Recovery And Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellites were **launched by the US in 2002. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Aim:** To monitor changes in water and snow stores on the continents. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

17. Regarding the National Biopharma Mission (NBM), which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) NBM is implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- (b) It aims at accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.
- (c) The mission is 50% co-funded by the Asian Development Bank Loan.
- (d) Under this Mission, the Government has launched Innovate in India (i3) programme.

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is an **industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development** in the country.
 - The mission was **approved in 2017** at a total cost of Rs 1500 crore and is **50% co-funded by the World Bank loan. Hence, Option (c) is not correct.**
- All other statements are correct.

18. Consider the following statements regarding Foreigners Tribunals:

1. Foreigners Tribunals are statutory bodies constituted by the Central government.
2. It has powers of a civil court while trying a suit under Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Foreigners Tribunals are **quasi-judicial bodies**, constituted by the Central government. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It has powers of a civil court while trying a suit under **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

19. Which of the following curves shows the relationship between taxation and government revenue?
- (a) Phillips Curve
 - (b) Kuznets Curve
 - (c) Laffer Curve
 - (d) Lorenz Curve

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Laffer curve** is a graphical relationship between taxation and government revenue. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**
- **Phillips curve** is an economic concept developed by A. W. Phillips stated that **inflation and unemployment have a stable and inverse relationship.**
- **Kuznets curve** graphs the hypothesis that as an economy develops, **market forces first increase and then decrease economic inequality.**
- **Lorenz curve** is a graphical representation of the **distribution of income or of wealth.**

20. Katchatheevu Island, sometimes seen in the news, is an area of concern between India and which of the following countries?
- (a) Pakistan
 - (b) Sri Lanka
 - (c) Myanmar
 - (d) China

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Katchatheevu Island is an uninhabited off-shore island in the Palk Strait.
- It was part of the Ramnad Kingdom of India.
- During the British rule, it was administered jointly by India and Sri Lanka.

MAINS QUESTIONS

1. India has a rich and complex history in silk production and its silk trade. Sericulture has huge potential in India. Discuss the importance and challenges faced by it. Also mention the policy initiatives recently taken by the Government of India for development of the silk industry. (250 Words)
2. Gender discrimination at workplace remains a persistent problem in India. Despite of having many policies and schemes, women continue to face discrimination at work place. Comment. (250 Words)