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CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. Consider the following statements:

1. Krishna River rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats.
2. Ghataprabha River is a left-bank tributary of the Krishna River.
3. Krishna flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- The Krishna River rises from a spring near Mahabaleshwar. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Ghataprabha River is an right-bank tributary of the Krishna river. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Krishna flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and finally drains into the Bay of Bengal. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

2. Which of the following is/are tributaries of River Kaveri?

1. Amravati
2. Bhavani
3. Hemavati
4. Kabini

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- The Kaveri rises in the **Brahmagiri range** of the Western Ghats and it reaches the Bay of Bengal in Tamil Nadu.
- Its **main tributaries** are **Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati and Kabini.** **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- Its basin drains parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

3. Which of the following is/are range(s) of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary?
1. Sulthan Bathery
 2. Muthanga
 3. Kurichiat
 4. Tholpetty

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1973, is an animal sanctuary in Wayanad, Kerala, India.
- It has **four ranges** namely-**Sulthan Bathery, Muthanga, Kurichiat and Tholpetty. Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- It is contiguous to the protected areas of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka on the north-east and Mudumalai of Tamil nadu on the south – east.
- Rich in biodiversity, the sanctuary is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- Important animals living in the area are- Gaur, Sambar, Spotted deer, Barking deer, Wild boar, Sloth bear, Nilgiri langur, Bonnet macaque.

4. Which of the following cities has been chosen for DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories?
1. Bengaluru
 2. Mumbai
 3. Chennai
 4. Kolkata
 5. Mysore

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) are located in five cities viz, **Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- Each lab will work on a key advanced technology of importance to the development of futuristic defence systems viz, Artificial intelligence, Quantum technologies, Cognitive technologies, Asymmetric technologies and Smart materials.

5. The theme of the Indian Science congress 2020 is

- a) Science & Technology: Rural Development
- b) Science for shaping the future of India
- c) Science and Humanity
- d) Innovations in Science and Technology for inclusive development

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- The **theme** of Indian Science Congress for 2020 is “**Science & Technology: Rural Development**”. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- Indian Science Congress is a major focal point for scientists, researchers and academicians interested in various aspects of scientific discoveries and technologies.

6. Consider the following statements about Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818:

1. The victory pillar was erected by the congress to honor Mahar.
2. It was one of the last battles of the Second Anglo-Maratha War.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- A battle was fought in Bhima Koregaon between the Peshwa forces and the British on January 1, 1818.
- The victory pillar was erected by the East India Company in memory of Dalit (Mahar) soldiers who fought. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was one of the last battles of the **Third Anglo-Maratha War**, which ended the Peshwa domination. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

7. With reference to 'Indian State of Forest Report', consider the following statements:

1. West Bengal has the largest area of wetlands within the country.
2. About 28.40% of forest cover in India is prone to fire.

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:

- **Wetlands and Mangroves**
 - Amongst the States, Gujarat has the largest area of wetlands within the country followed by West Bengal. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - About **21.40%** of forest cover in India is prone to fires. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

8. Consider the following statements with respect to **Patola Saree**:

1. Patola is a double ikat woven sari usually found in Eastern part of India.
2. It has received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in 2019.
3. It is widely used by common people due to its low cost.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- **Patola Saree**
 - Patola is a double ikat woven sari, usually made from silk, made in Patan, **Gujarat, India. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It has received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in **2013. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
 - They are **highly expensive** and were once worn only by royal aristocratic families. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

9. Which among the following institution is not related with Savitribai Phule?

- a) Mahila Seva Mandal
- b) Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha
- c) Satyashodhak Samaj
- d) Home Rule League

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- Home Rule League is related with Annie Besant. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- Savitribai Phule played a vital role in improving women's rights in the country that is why she is regarded as “**Mother of Indian Feminism**”.
- In 1852, Savitribai Phule started the **Mahila Seva Mandal** to raise awareness about women’s rights.
- Savitribai Phule set up “**Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Child-killing Prohibition Home)**” in 1853.
- She along with her husband also founded **Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth-seekers' Society)** in **1873**.

10. Consider the following statements about **Zonal Council** :

- 1. Zonal Council is Constitutional Body.
- 2. Prime Minister acts as the chairperson.

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 Zonal Councils are the **statutory** (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Home Minister acts as chairperson. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

11. Consider the following statements with respect to ‘MANI’ app:

- 1. It was launched to aid visually impaired persons in identifying denomination of currency notes.
- 2. It also authenticates a note as either genuine or counterfeit.

Select the correct options:

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

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- RBI launched a mobile app to help visually-impaired people to identify the denomination of currency notes. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The central bank also said the app does not authenticate a note as either genuine or counterfeit. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

12. Consider the following statements regarding hydrogen fuel cell.

1. Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) use hydrogen, and an oxidant to create electricity by an electrochemical process.
2. Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) can also store energy like a battery-electricity vehicle.
3. Hydrogen fuel cells produce much smaller quantities of greenhouse gases.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- At the heart of the fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) is a device that uses a source of fuel, such as hydrogen, and an oxidant to create electricity by an electrochemical process. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Put simply, the fuel cell combines hydrogen and oxygen to generate electric current, **water** being the **only byproduct**. Like conventional batteries under the bonnets of automobiles, hydrogen fuel cells too convert chemical energy into electrical energy. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- While the fuel cells generate electricity through an electrochemical process, unlike a battery-electricity vehicle, it does not store energy and,

instead, relies on a constant supply of fuel and oxygen. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

13. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index is released by
- Ministry of Finance
 - NITI Aayog
 - Prime Minister's Office
 - Ministry of Rural Development

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- NITI Aayog has recently released the **second edition** of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index** in December 2019. **Hence, Option (b) is correct.**
- First Edition was launched in 2018.

14. Consider the following statements with reference to Chandrayaan 3:
- Chandrayaan-3 will likely attempt another soft-landing on the lunar surface.
 - Chandrayaan-3 will have a rover, a lander and an orbiter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- Chandrayaan-3 is the successor to the Chandrayaan-2 mission and it will likely attempt another soft-landing on the lunar surface. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Chandrayaan-3 will have a rover and a lander, but not an orbiter.
 - Since Chandrayaan-2's orbiter had a life of seven years, it would be used for the third lunar mission as well. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

15. Regarding Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), which of the following statements is incorrect?

- a) Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a four-star rank at par with the three service chiefs.
- b) CDS will have tenure of three years or till they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
- c) The CDS will also serve as the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC) which comprises the three service chiefs.
- d) The CDS will not be eligible to hold any government post after demitting office.

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- The Indian government has appointed General (Gen) Bipin Rawat the first **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**.
- **Tenure of CDS:**
 - The military service chiefs have tenure of three years or till they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
 - If a service chief is appointed to the post of CDS, the upper age limit is 65 years.
 - However, **the tenure of the CDS has not been fixed yet.**

Hence, Option (b) is not correct. All other statements are correct.

16. The strategically important Strait of Hormuz is located between which of the following?

- a) Java and Indian Ocean
- b) Andaman Sea and South China Sea
- c) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- d) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- **Strait of Hormuz** lay between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
Hence, Option (d) is correct.
- Other Straits:
 - Sunda Strait joins Java Sea & Indian Ocean.
 - Bab-el-Mandeb Strait joins Red Sea & Gulf of Aden
 - Malacca Strait joins Andaman Sea & South China Sea

17. With reference to Poshan Abhiyan, consider the following statements:

1. POSHAN is a mission under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with vision to address malnutrition.

2. It is aimed at reducing the level of anaemia by 3% by 2022.
3. Its target beneficiary includes only pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- POSHAN (**Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition**) is a **multi-ministerial** convergence mission with **vision to address malnutrition** with a targeted approach by 2022. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is aimed at improving nutritional outcomes by:
 - Reducing the level of stunting, undernutrition and low birth weight by 2% each, and anaemia by 3%, and
 - Reducing the level of stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022.

Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

- **Target Beneficiary:**
 - Pregnant Women
 - Lactating Mothers
 - Children

Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.

18. Which one of the following best describes the term “Merchant Discount Rate” sometimes seen in news?

- a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.
- b) The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services.
- c) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards.
- d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards.

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- Merchant Discount Rate is a fee charged from a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from customers through credit and debit cards in their establishments. Hence, Option (c) is correct.

19. Which of the following items will appear in India's current account?
1. Trade of goods
 2. Services
 3. Remittances
 4. Interests and Dividends
 5. Foreign aid

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

- The current account measures the **flow of goods, services, and investments into and out of the country.**
- A nation's current account maintains a record of the country's transactions with other nations, that includes net income, including interest and dividends, and transfers, like foreign aid. It comprises of following components:
 - Trade of goods,
 - Services, and
 - Net earnings on overseas investments and net transfer of payments over a period of time, such as remittances.

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

20. Consider the following statements with respect to Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana:

1. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. Under the Yojana, Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each by 2019.

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:

- Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana was **launched by the Prime Minister of India** on October, 2014 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under the Yojana, **Members of Parliament (MPs)** are responsible for developing the **socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each** by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

Mains Questions:

1. The world today can be compared with the world at the time of World War II. Critically examine in the context of US-Iran tension. (250 words)
2. The Chief of Defence Staff could finally bring about unison among the armed forces. In the light of the above statement, examine the need for a Chief of Defence Staff in India. (150 words)

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