

2019



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

18<sup>th</sup> November- 23<sup>rd</sup> November



BusinessLine



1. In context of the 250<sup>th</sup> session of the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. Rajya Sabha can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List.
2. Rajya Sabha can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states.
3. Delhi and Puducherry are the only Union Territories to have representation in Rajya Sabha.

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:**

- **Special Powers of Rajya Sabha:**
  - It can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List (Article 249). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
  - It can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (Article 312). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Out of the nine union territories, only **Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir** have representation in Rajya Sabha. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

2. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), which of the following statements is **incorrect**?

- (a) PMMVY covers all pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for first live birth without exceptions.
- (b) It is centrally sponsored scheme being executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- (c) Benefits under PMMVY include cash incentive of Rs 5,000 in three instalments on fulfilling certain conditions.
- (d) The eligible beneficiaries would also receive the incentive given under the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) for institutional delivery.

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- PMMVY is a maternity benefit (DBT) scheme where cash incentives are provided to pregnant women in their bank account or post office account directly.

- Benefits under PMMVY include **cash incentive of Rs 5,000 in three instalments** on fulfilling the following conditions:
  - Early registration of pregnancy.
  - Antenatal check-up.
  - Registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- **Targeted Beneficiary:** All pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for first live birth **except:**
  - Those in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking; or
  - Those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.

**Hence, Option (a) is not correct. All other options are correct.**

3. Which one of the following is India's largest inland salt water lake?
- (a) Chilika Lake
  - (b) Pulicat Lake
  - (c) Sambhar Lake
  - (d) Vembanad Lake

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Sambhar Lake is **India's largest inland saline water body** - spread over Jaipur, Nagaur and Ajmer in Rajasthan.
- It has been designated as a **Ramsar Site** (recognised wetland of international importance). **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**
- Chilka Lake is **India's largest coastal salt-water lake** and falls in the category of **brackish water lakes**.

4. Consider the following places in Gujarat:

1. Rani ki Vav
2. Modhera Sun Temple
3. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park

Which of the above is/are included in **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Although all the three places are heritage sites, only Rani ki Vav and Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park are included in UNESCO World Heritage Sites. **Hence, Option (b) is correct.**

5. Consider the following statements regarding recently launched NISHTHA programme:
1. NISHTHA is an Integrated Teacher Training Programme to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
  2. The initiative is launched under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

Which of the following 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:**

- The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement.
- The aim is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The initiative is under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
  - **Samagra Shiksha** is an overarching programme for the school education sector.
  - It has been prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
  - It subsumes the three schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

6. With reference to ‘Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)’, consider the following statements:
1. It is a voluntary agreement among nations to check the trade of Conflict Diamonds.
  2. India is one of the founder members of KPCS.

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:**

- **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** is a **binding agreement** that imposes extensive requirements through the national legislations of nations to check the flow of conflict diamonds in economy. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **India** is one of the **founder members** of KPCS and is the Chair of the Kimberley Process for the year 2019. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The KPCS works on principle of consensus and all the decisions are taken unanimously by all members.

7. Which of the following countries border the West Bank territory?

1. Syria
2. Lebanon
3. Jordan
4. Egypt

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The West Bank- a landlocked territory in West Asia.
- It is sandwiched between **Israel** and **Jordan**. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**
- Israel took control of West Bank back during the Six Day War of 1967, and has occupied it ever since.
- Post-1967, Israel started to build settlements for its Jewish community in the newly-occupied Palestinian territories, including in the West Bank.

8. Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor passes through?

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Punjab
3. Rajasthan
4. Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor passes through-**Uttar Pradesh**, Haryana, **Rajasthan**, **Madhya Pradesh**, Gujarat, Maharashtra. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

**Five Industrial Corridors in India:**

S.No.	Industrial corridors	States
1.	Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)	Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra.
2.	Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC)	Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal
3.	Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC)	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala
4.	East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) with Vizag Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) as Phase-1	West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
5.	Bengaluru Mumbai Industrial Corridor (BMIC)	Karnataka, Maharashtra

## 9. Consider the following statements:

- India is the largest producer and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest exporter of fish in the world.
- The fisheries and aquaculture production contribute over 5% to the GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer and 4<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of fish in the world. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The fisheries and aquaculture production contribute around 1% to India's

GDP and over 5% to the agricultural GDP. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

10. Which of the following states were annexed through Doctrine of Lapse?

1. Satara
2. Jaipur
3. Baghat
4. Udaipur
5. Nagpur

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Doctrine of Lapse** was an annexation policy followed widely by **Lord Dalhousie** when he was **India's Governor - General** from 1848 to 1856.
- According to this, any dependent princely state where the ruler did not have a legal male heir, the right of ruling over the State reverted or lapsed to the East India Company.
  - As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom.
  - The adopted son would **only inherit** his foster father's **personal property and estates**.
  - The adopted son would also not be entitled to any pension that his father had been receiving or to any of his father's titles.
  - This challenged the Indian ruler's long-held authority to appoint an heir of their choice.
- By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of:
  - **Satara (1848)**
  - Jaipur, and Sambalpur (1849)
  - **Baghat (1850)**
  - **Udaipur (1852)**
  - Jhansi (1853)
  - **Nagpur (1854)**
- **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

## MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Discuss the relevance of Rajya Sabha in strengthening Indian federalism and parliamentary democracy. (250 words)

Q2. Examine the strategic importance of West Bank, and reasons for dispute in the region. Also discuss how change of US's stance on the issue will impact the region and the world at large. (250 words)



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