

MAX IAS

SANGRAM 4

AIOFLT-24-4 Solutions

Upcoming sangram

	DATE	TIMING
SANGRAM 5	5TH MAY 2024	9:30 to 11:30AM
SANGRAM 6	12TH MAY 2024	9:30 to 11:30AM
SANGRAM 7	19TH MAY 2024	9:30 to 11:30AM
SANGRAM 8	26TH MAY 2024	9:30 to 11:30AM
SANGRAM 9	2ND JUNE 2024	9:30 to 11:30AM

For sangram registration visit www.maxias.in

1. Ans d

Explanation:

Mudflats, or otherwise known as tidal flats, are coastal wetlands that form when mud is left behind by tides or rivers. They're found in sheltered regions such as bayous, lagoons, estuaries, and bays.

Maintaining these mudflats is vital in preventing coastal erosion. However, mudflats worldwide are threatened from

- predicted sea level rises
- scouring because for shipping purposes
- chemical pollution
- land claims for development

Tidal flats, normally support a large population of **wildlife** and they are an important habitat that enables tens of millions of migratory shorebirds to migrate from their breeding sites within the northern hemisphere to their non-breeding sites within the southern hemisphere.

2. Ans: d

Explanation:

Carbon is the **fourth most abundant element** in the Universe after Hydrogen, Helium, and Oxygen.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Most of Earth's carbon—about 65,500 billion metric tons is stored in rocks. The rest is in the ocean, atmosphere, plants, soil, and fossil fuels.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Carbon dioxide causes about 20 percent of Earth's greenhouse effect; water vapor accounts for about 50 percent; and clouds account for 25 percent. The rest is caused by small particles (aerosols) and minor greenhouse gases like methane.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

3. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative is one of several initiatives launched by the UNFCCC secretariat to increase climate action by engaging non-party stakeholders (sub-national governments, companies, organizations, and individuals). It was launched in 2015 based on a mandate to promote the voluntary use of carbon market mechanisms recognized under the Convention.

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports organizations to act now in order to achieve a climate-neutral world by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

Hence, option d is correct

4. Ans: a

Explanation:

Locusts are short-horned grasshoppers with highly migratory habits, marked polymorphism, and voracious feeding behavior. They are capable of forming swarms (adult congregation) and hopper bands (nymphal congregation). They cause great devastation to natural and cultivated vegetation.

Only four species, viz. Desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*), Bombay Locust (*Nomadacris succincta*), and Tree locust (*Anacridium spp.*), are found in India. The desert locust is the most important pest species in India and the intercontinental context.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

Desert Locusts are usually found only in the semi-arid and arid deserts of Africa, the Near East, and South-West Asia that receive less than 200 mm of rain annually.

Hence statement 3 is correct.

The invasion area of desert locusts covers about 30 million sq km, which includes the whole or parts of nearly 64 countries. These include North West and East African countries, the Arabian Peninsula, the Southern Republic of USSR, Iran, Afghanistan, and the Indian subcontinent.

Locusts do not attack people or animals. There is no evidence to suggest that they carry diseases that could harm humans.

Hence statement 1 is incorrect

The Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is responsible for monitoring, surveying, and controlling Desert Locusts in Scheduled Desert Areas, **mainly in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.**

5. Ans: c

Explanation:

Wild Life Protection Act Section 36A. Declaration and management of a conservation reserve.—
(1) The State Government may, after having consultations with the local communities, **declare any area owned by the Government**, particularly the areas adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries and those areas that link one protected area with another, as a conservation reserve for protecting landscapes, seascapes, flora and fauna, and their habitat Provided that where the conservation reserve includes any land owned by the Central Government, its prior concurrence shall be obtained before making such declaration.

Hence statement 1 is correct.

Wild Life Protection Act Section 36B. Conservation Reserve Management Committee.—(1) The State Government shall constitute a conservation reserve management committee to advise **the Chief Wild Life Warden to conserve, manage, and maintain the conservation reserve.**

(2) The committee shall consist of a representative of the forest or Wild Life Department, who shall be the Member-Secretary of the Committee, one representative of each Village Panchayat in whose jurisdiction the reserve is located, three representatives of non-governmental organizations working in the field of wildlife conservation and one representative each from the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

(3) The Committee shall regulate its own procedure including the quorum.

Hence statement 2 is correct.

6. Ans: b

Explanation:

European Parliament votes in favor of the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) which is designed to help Europe manufacture **at least 40% of its annual deployment needs of strategic technology products**, including PV modules, batteries, and heat pumps.

7. Ans: b

Explanation:

Sheet, Rill, Gully, Slip, stream bank erosion – **Water-induced erosion**

Saltation, Surface creep, Suspension - wind erosion

Hence, option b is correct.

8. Ans: c

Explanation:

Savannas (tropical grasslands) are characterized by a wide diversity of animals, such as Zebras, Giraffes, Gazelles, and antelope, and the presence of termite mounds.

Hence, option c is correct.

9. Ans: a

Explanation:

Mangrove species are included in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Three mangrove species are listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

- *Sonneratia griffithii*: Critically endangered (CR) and found in India and Southeast Asia
- *Bruguiera hainesii*: Critically endangered (CR) and found in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, and Papua New Guinea
- *Heritiera fomes*: Endangered (EN)

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Shrimp culture is the greatest threat to mangroves, contributing 38% of habitat loss, with other aquaculture accounting for another 14%. To prevent disease, shrimp farmers add artificial feeds with chemical additives and antibiotics.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Indian Ocean has the largest mangrove tracts in the world and the Indo-Malayan region is the global center for mangrove diversity.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

10. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Central Government, by a notification dated 20.2.2009, has set up '**National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

The Prime Minister is ex-officio Chairperson of the Authority, and it has as its members, the Union Ministers Concerned and the Chief Ministers of states through which Ganga flows, viz., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, among others.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

11. Ans: a

Explanation:

The State Emblem is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath. In the original, four lions are mounted back to back on a circular abacus, which itself rests on a bell-shaped lotus. The frieze of the abacus has sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull, and a lion separated by intervening Dharma Chakras.

The profile of **the Lion Capital shows three lions mounted on the abacus with a Dharma Chakra in the center.**

Hence statement 1 is correct

A bull on the right and a galloping horse on the left, and outlines of Dharma Chakras on the extreme right and left were **adopted as the State Emblem of India on January 26, 1950. The bell-shaped lotus was omitted.**

Hence statements 2 and 3 are incorrect.

The motto Satyameva Jayate, which means 'Truth Alone Triumphs', written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital is part of the State Emblem of India

12. Ans: b

Explanation:

The Charter Act 1833 which was enacted by the British Parliament provided for the establishment of a Law Commission for the consolidation and codification of Indian Laws

The First Law Commission, consisting of Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay as the First Law Member and three other members, produced a draft of the Penal Code in 1837, a Limitation Law in 1842, and a Scheme of Pleadings and Procedure in 1848.

The Indian Code of Civil Procedure, the Indian Contract Act, the Indian Evidence Act, and the Transfer of Property Act. etc. are products of the labour of the first four Law Commissions.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body and is constituted by a notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, and Department of Legal Affairs with a definite term of reference to carry out research in the field of law

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Though **the Constitution stipulated the continuation of pre-Constitutional Laws (article 372) until they were amended or repealed**, there had been demands in Parliament and outside for establishing a Central Law Commission to recommend revision and updating of the inherited laws to serve the fast-changing needs of the spirited country.

The Central Government established the First Law Commission in 1955, with the then Attorney-General of India, Mr. M. C. Setalvad, as its Chairman. Since then, twenty-two Law Commissions have been appointed, each with a three-year term and a definite term of reference.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Article 372 in the Constitution of India

372. Continuance in force of existing laws and their adaptation

(1) Notwithstanding the repeal by this Constitution of the enactments referred to in Article 395 but subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, all the laws in force in the territory of India immediately before the commencement of this Constitution shall continue in force therein until altered or repealed or amended by a competent legislature or other competent authority.

13. Ans. d

Explanation:

SVAMITVA, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was Nation-wide launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2021 after the successful completion of the pilot phase of the scheme (2020-2021) in 9 states. The scheme is a reformative step towards the establishment of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited ("Abadi") areas, by mapping land parcels using drone technology and providing a 'Record of Rights' to village household owners with the issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners. **The Scheme is implemented with the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Revenue Department, State Panchayati Raj Department and Survey of India.**

Hence option d is correct

14. Ans: b

Explanation:

Citizenship defined in part two of the Constitution includes only natural persons but not Juristic persons like a corporation or a company.

Hence statement 1 is incorrect

If a territory becomes a part of India, the persons of the territory are Deemed to be citizens of India.

Hence option 2 is correct.

The Citizenship Act 1955 Lays down the following modes of acquiring citizenship birth, descent, registration, naturalization, special provisions as to citizenship of persons covered by the Assam Accord, and incorporation of territory.

15. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Bill of Rights of the US Constitution, the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen 1789 (France), the Nehru Report of 1928, **the Irish Constitution of 1935**, the post-war constitutions of Japan and Burma, and **the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948** influenced part 3 of the Indian Constitution, which deals with Fundamental rights.

Nehru Report (Motilal Nehru, 1928) on Fundamental rights

1. All government powers and authority, legislative, executive, and judicial, are derived from the people, and they shall be exercised in the Commonwealth of India through the organizations established by or under, and through due process of, this constitution.
2. No person shall be deprived of his liberty, nor shall his dwelling or property be entered, sequestered, or confiscated, save in accordance with law. All titles to private and personal property lawfully acquired and enjoyed at the establishment of the Commonwealth are hereby guaranteed.
3. Freedom of conscience and the free profession and practice of religion are, subject to public order or morality, hereby guaranteed to every person.
4. The right of free expression of opinion, as well as the right to assemble peaceably and without arms, and to form associations or unions, is hereby guaranteed for purposes not opposed to public order or morality.
5. All citizens in the Commonwealth of India have the right to free elementary education without any distinction of caste or creed in the matter of admission into any educational institutions, maintained or aided by the state, and such right shall be enforceable as soon as due arrangements shall have been made by the competent authority. Provided that adequate provisions shall be made by the State for imparting public instruction in primary schools to the children of members of minorities of considerable strength in the population through the medium of their own language and in such script as is vogue among them. Explanation:- This provision will not prevent the State from making the teaching of the language of the Commonwealth obligatory in the said schools.
6. All citizens are equal to the law and possess equal civic rights.
7. There shall be no penal law whether substantive or procedural of a discriminative nature.
8. No person shall be punished for any act which was not punishable under the law at the time it was committed.
9. No corporal punishment or other punishment involving torture of any kind shall be lawful.
10. Every citizen shall have the right to a writ of habeas corpus, Such right may be suspended in case of war or rebellion by an Act of the central legislature, or, if the legislature is not in session by the Governor-General-in-Council, and in such case he shall report the suspension to the legislature, at the earliest possible opportunity for such action as it may deem fit.

11. There shall be no state religion for the Commonwealth of India or for any province in the Commonwealth, nor shall the state either directly or indirectly endow any religion or give any preference or impose any disability on account of religious belief or religious status.
 12. No person attending any school receiving state aid or other public money shall be compelled to attend the religious instruction that may be given in the school.
 13. No person shall by reason of his religion, caste, or creed be prejudiced in any way in regard to public employment, office of power or honour, and the exercise of any trade or calling.
 14. All citizens have an equal right to access to, and use, public roads, public wells, and all other places of public resort.
 15. Freedom of combination and association to maintain and improve labour and economic conditions is guaranteed to everyone and to all occupations. All agreements and measures tending to restrict or obstruct such freedom are illegal.
 16. No breach of contract of service or abetment thereof shall be made a criminal offense.
 17. Parliament shall make suitable laws for maintaining the health and fitness for work of all citizens, securing a living wage for every worker, protecting motherhood, protecting the welfare of children, and addressing the economic consequences of old age, infirmity, and unemployment. Parliament shall also make laws to ensure fair rent and fixity and permanence of tenure for agricultural tenants.
 18. Every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in accordance with regulations made in that behalf.
 19. Men and women shall have equal rights as citizens
- Hence, option d is correct**

16 Ans. a

Explanation:

The duty of the Prime Minister under Article 78 to communicate to the president all the decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the union or not enforceable in a court of law, these are structural duties embedded in the fundamental constitutional principles and deviation from the same would amount to a violation of the Constitution molality

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The Constitution does not prescribe the minimum strength of the Council of Ministers in respect of the Parliament until other ministers are appointed even the Prime Minister alone is considered as Council of Ministers. The Constitution has put a cap on the number of Council of Ministers, as per articles 75 and 164 not more than 15% of the members of the House of the People and state legislative assembly can be inducted into the Council of Ministers of the center and States as the case may be

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

The Constitution does not lay down any timeline for the appointment of the Council of Ministers in respect of both Parliament and state legislature

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

17 Ans. c

Explanation

Article 139 in the Constitution of India

139. Conferment on the Supreme Court of powers to issue certain writs

Parliament may by law confer on the Supreme Court power to issue directions, orders, or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warrant to and certiorari, or any of them, for any purposes other than those mentioned in clause (2) of article 32.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Article 139A in the Constitution of India

139A. Transfer of certain cases

(1) Where **cases involving the same or substantially the same questions of law are pending before the Supreme Court and one or more High Courts** or before two or more High Courts and the Supreme Court is satisfied on its own motion or an application made by the Attorney-General of India or by a party to any such case that such questions are substantial questions of general importance, the Supreme Court may withdraw the case or cases pending before the High Court or the High Courts and dispose of all the cases itself.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Article 140 in the Constitution of India

140. Ancillary powers of the Supreme Court

Parliament may by law make provision for conferring upon the Supreme Court such supplemental powers not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Constitution as may appear to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of enabling the court more effectively to exercise the jurisdiction conferred upon it by or under this Constitution.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

18. Ans: d

Explanation:

Article 76 provides that the president appoint a person as **Attorney General** of India who has qualifications equivalent to the judge of the Supreme Court, and he holds the office during the pleasure of the president

The Attorney General has the right to speak and **take part in the proceedings of either house of Parliament, in any joint sitting of the two houses, and in any committee of the parliament** of which he may be named a member, but he is not entitled to vote.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The government of India created the offices of Solicitor General of India and additional Solicitor General of India to help the Attorney General in the discharge of his duties.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

The attorney general has to advise the Government of India on legal matters and appear on behalf of the Government of India in all cases. He may be required to appear in any High Court on behalf of the Government of India.

The appointment of attorney general is not political but he has to be a person who agrees with the policy of the party in power and hands when a new political party comes to power the previous Attorney General resigns and a new one acceptable to the new ministry is appointed. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

19. Ans d

Explanation:

District Councils and Regional Councils shall have the power to make laws with respect to

- (a) the allotment, occupation or use, or the setting apart, of land, other than any land which is a reserved forest for the purposes of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes or for any other purpose likely to promote the interests of the inhabitants of any village or town;
- (b) the management of any forest not being a reserved forest;
- (c) the use of any canal or watercourse for the purpose of agriculture;
- (d) **the regulation of the practice of jhum or other forms of shifting cultivation;**
- (e) the establishment of village or town committees or councils and their powers;
- (f) any other matter relating to village or town administration, including village or town police and public health and sanitation;
- (g) the appointment or succession of Chiefs or Headmen;
- (h) the inheritance of property;
- (i) Marriage and divorce
- (j) social customs.

Hence, option d is correct.

20 Ans. b

1 and 2 are correct

Explanation:

The Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is removable from his office by a resolution of Lok Sabha passed by a majority of all the then members of the House.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

At least fourteen days' notice has to be given of the intention to move such a resolution. A member wishing to give notice of a resolution for the removal of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is required to do so in writing to the Secretary-General

At the sitting of Lok Sabha, **while any resolution for the removal of the Speaker** or the Deputy Speaker from his office is under consideration, the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, as the case may be, **cannot preside even though he is present in the House**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Speaker has the right to speak and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of Lok Sabha while **any resolution for his removal from office is under consideration in the House and is entitled to vote only in the first instance on such resolution** or any other matter during such proceedings but not in the case of an equality of votes

Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

21. Ans: a

Explanation

Ashtadhyayi by Panini and **Mahabhashya** by Patanjali deal with **Sanskrit grammar**.

Prakritaprakasha by Vararuchi deals with **Prakrit grammar**.

Tolkappiyam deals with **Tamil grammar**.

Nidanakatha deals with the life story of Buddha.

Hence option a is correct.

22. Ans: a

Explanation:

Worshipping of Bodhisattva is the special feature of Mahayana.

The universe of great vehicles/Mahayana has numerous important Bodhisattvas are -

Avalokiteshvara/Padmapani (the lotus bearer) characteristic is **compassion**.

Hence statement 1 is correct

Manjusri - stimulates understanding, depicted with the naked sword in one hand to destroy error and falsehood and on the other hand holding a book describing ten **Paramitas**.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

Vajrapani - like Lord Indra he holds a thunderbolt, is the **foe of sin and evil**

Hence statement 3 is incorrect

Maitreya- is the future Buddha

Ksitigarbha- Guardian of purgatories

23. Ans: b

Explanation:

As per Indian History, the sites **Mehrgarh, Lahuradeva, and Koldihwa** - located in the Indian subcontinent are reputed as the **earliest centers of agriculture**.

Mehrgarh:- It is a site located in the Bolan valley in the northern part of the Kachi plain, near the point where the river emerges from the hills through the Bolan pass. The Bolan valley was an important link between the Indus Plain and the mountainous valley of north Baluchistan. Mehrgarh excavations have found traces of grains, barley, wheat and seeds of ber and dates.

Koldihwa:- It is a site located in the Allahabad district, Uttar Pradesh, and is an important excavation site, located on the northern fringes of the Vindhya on the banks of the Iron Age. Remains of rice and impressions of rice husk embedded in pieces of burnt clay were found at the Neolithic level. The examination of rice imprints on pottery suggests people were familiar with wild rice and cultivated rice.

Lahuradeva: It is an early agricultural settlement that spread into the central Ganga plain, located in Sant Kabir Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh. It has traces of rice husk marks.

Hence, option b is correct.

24. Ans: b

Explanation:

The Universe is eternal. Its existence is divided into an infinite number of cycles, each consisting of a period of improvement (utsarpini) and one of decline (avasarpini). Each period contains twenty-four Tirthankaras. This statement is associated with **Jainism**.

Hence option b is correct

25. Ans: c

Explanation:

KOSALA:- It is bounded by the Sadanira [Gandak] on the east, the Gomati on the west, the Sarpika or Syandika [Sai] on the south, and the Nepal hills to the north. Prasenajit, king of Kosala, was the Buddha's contemporary and is frequently mentioned in Pali text.

ANGA:- Present day Bhagalpur and Monghyr district of Bihar. Its capital Champa was one of the greatest cities of the 6th century. It was an important commercial center on the trade route of the time.

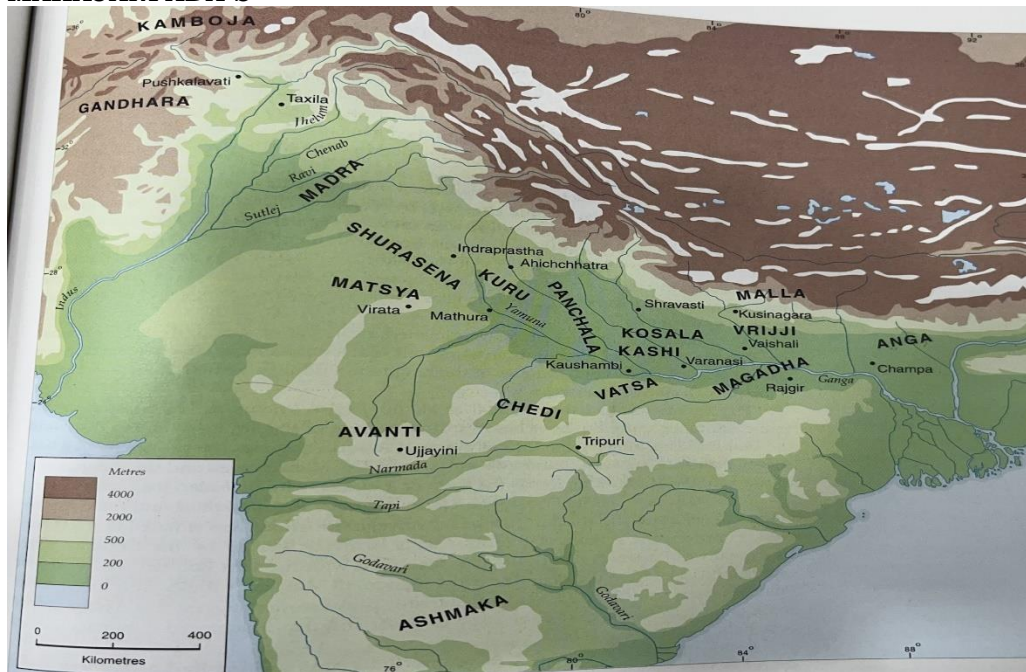
CHEDI:- It is situated in the eastern part of **Bundelkhand in central India**. Its capital was Sotthivatinagara, probably the same as the Shuktimat or Suktisahvaya of the Mahabharata.

Hence, option c is correct.

VATSA:- Also known as Vamsa, located in the south of Ganga, was noted for its fine cotton textiles. Its capital was Kaushambi, identified with the Kosam village on the right bank of Yamuna.

THE 16

MAHAJANPADA'S



26. Ans: b

Explanation:

In ancient India, artificial caves were excavated for religious purposes, caves excavated at Nagarjuna and Barabar hills by Mauryans were donated to Ajivika monks

Hence statement 1 is correct

Later caves in Deccan at Bhaja, Karli, were mostly Chaityas (chaitya is a place of worship) and Viharas (the dwelling place of the monks)

Early Artificial caves were slavish imitations of carpentry, indicating that the art of building in stone is not fully developed

Hence statement 2 is correct

Kailashnath temple is not the earliest rock-cut temple, it was excavated on the instructions of the Rashtrakuta emperor Krsna I in the 8th Century (A.D. 756 -773). Prior to the Kailashnath temple, in the 7th century, the Pallava kings excavated seventeen rock-cut temples at Mamallapuram carved from hillocks of granite These temples are called Rathas.

Hence statement 3 is incorrect

27. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Doctrine of Anekantavada and Syadavada belongs to **Jainism**. They both emphasize the relativity of all knowledge.

The Jain doctrine of **Anekantavada** [Doctrine of manifold nature of reality] holds that reality is very complex and has multiple aspects.

The doctrine of **Syadavada** [Doctrine of Maybe] emphasizes that every judgment we make is relative to particular aspects of the object we are judging and the point of view from which we judge it. No judgment is true without qualification. The essential point behind Syadavada and Anekantavada is that reality cannot be grasped in its entirety and complexity.

28. Ans: b

Explanation:

- In the first phase (2nd/1st century BCE), the Ajanta paintings belonged to the **Satvahana period**, but later, in the second phase, they corresponded to the **Vakataka period**.
Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The technique used in the Ajanta paintings was fresco secco and this type of fresco is different from true fresco (fresco buon)
Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- In Ajanta's painting, there are many scenes of everyday life in cities and villages.
Hence statement 3 is correct.

29. Ans: a

Explanation:

Sangam poems contain several incidental references to material culture, often as part of the poem's setting or in similes and allusions. There are also references to farming (Rice and Barley are mentioned), Cattle rearing, and fishing. **There are also several references to Iron. Kuruntokai 16 refers to Iron-tipped arrows.**

Hence statement 1 is correct

In Sangam literature, Purananuru 116 refers to the proud horses and iron weapons of the kings who came to fight.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets. There is mention of the Arashar (kings), Vaishiyar (traders), and Velalar (Farmers). **The Brahmanas are also mentioned, some of them closely associated with the courts of kings and patronized by ruling elites.**

Hence statement 3 is incorrect

30. Ans: a

Explanation:

During the Vijaynagar Empire, a curious system of Land tenure, known as the Visabadi system, arose in certain districts like Cuddapah and Nellore. According to the Visabadi system, there have been many villages since Vijaynagar rule, where landholders settled among themselves the exact proportion of the rent on tax that each was to pay to the chief or state officials. Such villages were called Visabadi, or the "one-sixteenth" villages.

Hence option a is correct

31. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Chambal rises 15 km southwest of Mhow in the highlands of **the Janapao hills**(700m) in the Vindhya range in Madhya Pradesh and follows a northwesterly course through the Malwa plateau. It has some important tributaries: banas, sindh, betwa, dhasan, and ken.

The Son River springs from the **Amarkantak plateau**. Its important tributaries are: johilla, gopat, rihand, kanhar, koel.

The Damodar River rises in the hills of **the Chotanagpur plateau**. It is also known as the '**sorrow of Bengal**'. Its important tributaries are: barakar, bokaro, konar, haharo, jamunia, ghari, guaia, khadia and bhera.

The Ghaghra River originates near the **Gurla Mandhata Peak**, south of Manasarovar in Tibet. Its important tributaries are: sarla, sarju, rapti.

Hence, option d is correct.

32. Ans: b

Explanation:

Rohi: The eastern part of the Thar desert up to the Aravali range is a semi-arid plain known as the Rajasthan Bagar. It runs in a northeast to south-west direction from the edge of the Aravalli in the east to the 20cm isohyet (line joining places of equal rainfall) in the west. It is drained by a number of short seasonal streams originating from the Aravalli and supports agriculture in some patches of fertile tracts called rohi.

Kayals: the backwater of malabar coast. the backwaters or Kayal were formed by the action of waves and shore currents creating low barrier islands across the mouths of the many rivers flowing down from the western ghats range.

Dhrian: The western part of Marushtali is covered by shifting sand dunes locally known as dhrian.

Reh or kallar: comprises barren saline efflorescences of drier areas in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Reh areas have spread in recent times with increases in irrigation.

Hence option b is correct.

33. Ans: c

Explanation:

- **Sub-tropical moist pine forests:** these forests also occur at the same height as the wet hills forests in the western Himalayas. some [parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Naga Hills, and Khasi Hills of Meghalaya are also covered by such forests. Chir or chil is the most dominant tree which forms pure stands.
- **Subtropical dry evergreen forests occur in a restricted area and are found in the Bhabar, the Shiwalliks, and the western Himalayas. The annual rainfall is 50cm—100cm. This is a low, practically scrub forest with small evergreen stunted trees and grasses. Olive, acacia modesta,** and pistacia are the most predominant species. Considerable tracts are covered by draft creeping palm nanorods.
- **Subtropical broad-leaved hill forests:** these forests are found in the eastern Himalayas. Where the mean annual rainfall is 75cm-125cm. Evergreen oaks and chestnuts predominate and climbers and epiphytes are common.
- **Tropical thorn forests:** In areas of low rainfall (less than 75cm), low humidity (less than 50 percent), and high temperature (25 degrees -30 degrees Celsius), there is not much scope for thick forests, and only tropical thorn forests are found. These forests

are found in the northwestern part of the country, including Rajasthan, southwestern Punjab, western Haryana, etc. Important species are khair, reunjha, neem, babul, thor, etc.

34. Ans: a

Explanation:

- **Red soils:** Most red soils have come into existence due to the weathering of ancient crystalline and metamorphic rocks. The parents rocks are acid granites and gneisses, quartzitic and felspathic. These soils are generally red, often grading into brown, chocolate, yellow, grey, or even black. The red color is due more to the wide diffusion rather than a high percentage of iron content.
- **Laterite and lateritic soils:** It is probably the end product of decomposition found in regions with heavy rainfall, more than 200cm. Such climate conditions promote soil leaching, whereby lime and silica are leached away, leaving behind soil rich in oxides of iron and aluminum compounds.
- **Black soils:** these soils have been formed due to the solidification of lava spread over large areas during volcanic activity in the Deccan plateau, thousands of years ago.
- **Peaty and marshy soils:** peaty soils originate in humid regions as a result of the

35. Ans: c

Explanation:

As per the 2011 census, there are no notified scheduled tribes in Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Puducherry

Hence option c is correct.

36. Ans: a

Explanation:

The southern point of the Peninsular Plateau is formed by the **Nilgiri hills, where the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet**. The **Cardamom Hills** lying beyond may be regarded as a continuation of the **Western Ghats**.

Hence, statement 1 is correct, and statement 2 is incorrect.

37. Ans: b

Explanation:

Countries that share borders with the Black Sea are: **Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania**

Greece and Serbia do not share borders with the Black Sea.

38. Ans: b

Explanation:

The Strait of Hormuz:- A channel linking the Persian Gulf (west) with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea (southeast). The strait separates Iran (north) from the Arabian Peninsula (south). It contains the **islands of Qeshm (Qishm)**, Hormuz, and **Hengām (Henjām)** and is of great strategic and economic importance, especially as oil tankers collecting from various ports on the Persian Gulf must pass through the strait.

Hence, option b is correct.

The Straits of Tiran:- It is a narrow sea passage between the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas, connecting the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea.

Access to Jordan's only seaport of Aqaba and to Israel's only Red Sea seaport of Eilat is through the Gulf of Aqaba, which gives the Straits of Tiran strategic importance

The Strait of Malacca:- It is a narrow stretch of water connecting the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) and the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean). It is between the Malay Peninsula (Peninsular Malaysia) to the northeast and the Indonesian island of Sumatra to the southwest.

The Strait of Gibraltar:- It is a channel connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean, lying between southernmost Spain and northwesternmost Africa

39. Ans: c

Explanation:

Doklam (or Zhonglan or Donglong) is a disputed area between **China and Bhutan** just like **Jakarlung and Pasamlung. It is an area with a plateau and a valley that lies on the Bhutan-China border, near India.**

Hence option c is correct

Doklam's geographical position makes it a strategically important area. **It is located between Tibet's Chumbi Valley to the North, Bhutan's Ha Valley to the East, and India's Sikkim State to the West.**

40. Ans a

Explanation.

The ranges in the order of north to south are Karakoram, Ladhak, Zaskar, and Pirpanjal.

Hence option a is correct.

41. Ans: a

Explanation:

Kabir was undoubtedly the greatest of the religious reformers who followed the trail of Ramananda and made the Bhakti Movement more meaningful and responsive to the needs of the people.

His poems, particularly Dohas had a great appeal for the common people. The most important of his works are **Bijak, Sabads, Sakhis, Mangal, Basant, Holi, and Rekhtal** etc.

42. Ans: c

Explanation:

MUHAMMAD SHAH [1719 – 1748]

During the Reign of Muhammad Shah, the invasion of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali took place.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Nadir Shah's Invasion [1739]

The most important event of the Reign of Muhammad Shah was the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739. Nadir Shah occupied Delhi for 57 days

Invasions of Ahmad Shah Abdali

Ahmad Shah Abdali was an important general of Nadir Shah. After Nadir Shah's murder in 1747, Ahmad Shah Abdali became their leader. Abdali led 7 expeditions against India between 1748 and 1767.

The Third Battle of Panipat was fought on 14 January 1761 between the Maratha Empire and the Durrani Empire of Afghanistan. Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas in it.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

43. Ans: a

Explanation:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1919

- The Government of India Act of 1919 made many changes in the administration of India. Formerly, the Secretary of State for India was paid out of Indian revenue. The **new act provided that he would be paid out of British revenues in the future.**

Hence statement 1 is correct.

- The Act of 1919 established a **bicameral legislature in the center** in place of the Imperial Council, which consisted of one House. The two Houses were the Central Legislature Assembly and the Council of State.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

- The Governor-General was given the power to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the chambers. He was also to have the right to address the members of the two Houses.
- The new Act provided for two lists of subjects: the Central List and the Provincial List.
- The Central subjects were; Defence, Foreign and Political Relations, Public debt, Tariffs and customs, Post and Telegraphs, Civil and Criminal Law, major ports, etc.
- The Provincial subjects were Local Self-Government, Land revenue administration, Famine Relief, Forests, and Cooperative societies etc.
- The Act of 1919 introduced dyarchy in the province. Under this system, the subjects to be dealt with by the Provincial Government were divided into two parts: **Transferred and Reserved subjects.** The Reserved subjects were dealt with by the Governor with the help of the Executive Council and the Transferred subjects were dealt with by the Governor with the help of his minister.
- **Reserve subject** includes Administration of Justice, Police, Irrigation and Canals, Drainage and Embankments, Water storage and water Power, Land revenue administration, Land improvement and agriculture loans, Famine relief, Control of newspaper and Printing press, **Prison and Reformatories**, etc.

Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

44. Ans: c

Explanation:

BATTLE OF SWALLEY HOLE [1612]

- In 1612, Sir Thomas Best, with the East India Company's ships, landed at Swally Hole (near Surat). **The Portuguese, strongly armed, attacked the East India Company's ships. The English**, however, defeated them with heavy casualties, leading them to the trading facilities.

- **“The Battle of Swalley Hole”** ranks as one of the decisive battles of India. It secured a foothold for the English in India, raised them in the eyes of the Indians, and sounded the death knell of the Portuguese. The Portuguese thenceforward lost step by step their possession in India. ‘
- The victory of Swally Hole was followed by the arrival of the Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe during the reign of Jahangir [1615-1619]. He reached the Mughal court and obtained Farman from Prince Khuram (Shah Jahan)authorizing the English to trade in peace at Surat.
- Roe’s embassy marks a distinct stage in the company's development on the Indian mainland. Factories were established at Surat, Agra, Ahmedabad, and Broach, all under the authority of the chief factor at Surat.

45. Ans: a

Explanation:

- The nature of peasant movements after 1857 Princes, chiefs and landlords having been crushed or co-opted, peasants emerged as the main force in agrarian movements. **They now fought directly for their own demands, centered almost wholly on economic issues**, against their immediate enemies, foreign planters and indigenous zamindars and moneylenders.

Hence statement 1 is correct

- Their struggle was directed towards specific and limited objectives and the redressal of particular grievances. They did not make colonialism their target, nor **was their objective the ending of the system of their subordination and exploitation.**

Hence statements 2 and 3 are incorrect.

46. Ans: c

Explanation:

The Gujarat Sabha, of which Gandhi was the president of the Kheda Satyagraha, was later joined by Vallabhbhai Patel and Indulal Yagnik in touring the villages and urging the peasants to stand firm in the face of increasing government repression.

Ambalal Sarabhai, one of the town's leading mill owners, was a friend of Gandhi and had just made a generous donation to save the Sabarmati ashram from extinction.

Hence option c is correct.

47. Ans: b

Explanation:

A rubber tree is a quick-growing tall tree acquiring 20-30 metres height. **It begins to yield latex in 5-7 years after planting. It requires hot and humid climate with temperature of 25degree to 35degree Celsius and annual rainfall of over 200cm.** The rainfall should be well distributed throughout the year. Dry spells and low temperatures are harmful. Daily rainfall followed by strong sun is very useful. **Deep well well-drained loamy soils on the hill slopes at elevations ranging from 300 to 450 metres above means sea level provides the best conditions for its growth.** The yield declines at higher elevations and no rubber plantations are found above 700 metres elevation.

48. Ans: a

Explanation:

On 21st March and 21 September, all parts of the world have equal days and nights(Equinoxes)

Hence statement 1 is correct.

On June 21st northern hemisphere will have longest day and shortest night(Summer solstice) / 22nd December Winter Solstice Southern hemisphere will have longest day and shortest night .

Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

49. Ans b

Explanation:

Tectonic Plateau- is formed by earth movement

Volcanic Plateau—Molten lava spreads over the earth; hence, the Deccan plateau is an example of a volcanic plateau.

Dissected Plateau is formed by weathering

50. Ans b

Explanation:

Doldrums are **equatorial** low-pressure belts 5 degree north and south of the equator, It is a **zone of wind convergence**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect, and statement 2 is correct.

51. Ans: a

Explanation:

Demand deposits are Fiduciary money proper.

Fiduciary money functions as money on the basis of the trust of the persons who make payments rather than on the basis of the authority of the government. Thus, despite the fact that demand deposits and cheques through which they are operated are not legal tender, they function as money on the basis of the trust commanded by those who draw cheques on them. They are money as they are generally acceptable as a medium of payment.

Paper currency or coins are fiat money, which means that currency notes and metallic coins serve as money on the basis of the fiat (i.e. order) of the Government. In other words, on the authority of the government, no one can refuse to accept them in payment for the transaction made. That is why they are called legal tender.

52. Ans: b

Explanation:

The salient features of the World Trade Organization are:

- **Non-Discrimination:** All trading partners will be granted the most favoured nation (MFN) that is, each member state of the World Trade Organization will treat every other member state equally as the most favoured nation doing trade. **Foreign goods, services, trademarks, patents, and copyrights shall be given the same treatment as is given to nationals of a country.**

Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

- **Free trade:** The World Trade Organization has to work for **progressive liberalization of trade through a reduction in tariffs.**

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

- **Stability in the trading system:** Under World Trade Organization agreements member states are committed not to raise tariff and non-tariff trade barriers arbitrarily.
- **Promotion of fair competition:** The World Trade Organization's multilateral trading system provides for transparent, fair, and undistorted competition among the various countries.
- **Market access Commitment:** World trade organization agreements that seek to establish multilateral trading system countries to undertake market access commitment on a reciprocity basis.

53. Ans c

Explanation:

Bank credit to the commercial or private sector:

The private sector also borrows from the banking system when its own resources are less than its total expenditure. **This also adds to the money supply with the public because when**

banks lend, they create credit or deposits. Bank deposits are a part of the money supply in the economy.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

However the central bank can influence the credit supply by the banks to the private sector by charging liquidity with the banks through making changes in cash reserve ratio.

As banks lend more to the private sector, it **affects government borrowing from the banking sector.**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

54 Ans: b

Explanation:

Keynes explained that **inflation arises when there occurs an inflationary gap in the economy, which occurs when aggregate demands for goods and services exceed aggregate supply at the full employment level of output.** In such a situation, the rise in price level is the natural consequence.

Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Aggregate demand is the sum of consumer spending on consumer goods and services, **government spending on goods and services** and net investment being contemplated by the entrepreneurs. **(C+I+G)**

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

55. Ans b

Explanation:

A government expenditure multiplier is also called a Fiscal multiplier, according to this, an increase in government expenditure generates an amount of income larger than the original increase in government expenditure.

A fiscal multiplier for capital expenditures by the government is much stronger than a fiscal multiplier for current or revenue expenditures.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

TAX BUOYANCY

Financial Year	Direct tax-GDP ratio	Buoyancy factor
2018-19	6.02%	1.29
2019-20	5.23%	-1.21
2020-21	4.78%	-*
2021-22	5.97%	2.52
2022-23	6.11%	1.18

*As both GDP growth rate were negative, tax buoyancy has not been computed for FY 2020-21

Revenue buoyancy represents the percentage increase in revenue that would arise from a given percentage increase in income. In India, the tax buoyancy has been on average around 1.2 which implies that a one percent increase in GDP leads to an additional 1.2 percent increase in government revenue.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

56. Ans d

Explanation:

The Nominal Exchange Rate measures the rate at which the currencies of the two countries are exchanged, **Real Exchange Rate** measures the rate at which **domestic goods can be exchanged for foreign goods.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The **Real Exchange Rate** is used as a measure of **international competitiveness**. A rise in the real exchange rate indicates foreign goods have become more expensive relative to domestic goods of a country. This means the competitiveness of our goods has increased relative to that of the USA.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

57. Ans: b

Explanation:

- **Exchange rate stability:** exchange rate stability, is necessary for the orderly development of the international economy and rapid growth of world trade.
- **Promotes capital movement:** A fixed exchange rate system would attract foreign capital investments.

- **Promotes capital outflow:** A stable exchange rate **ensures that such capital outflow will not occur, unlike a flexible exchange rate, which encourage the flight of capital.**

Hence statement 3 is incorrect

- **Serves as an anchor against inflation:** fixed exchange rate system forces the governments to, achieve price a stability by taking effective anti-inflationary measures. This is because in the case of fixed exchange rate, inflation will cause balance of payments deficits and result in loss of international reserves. Therefore, this forces the government to adopt measures to check inflationary pressures in the economy.

58. Ans: a

Explanation:

RKVY Soil Health and Fertility - Soil Health Card

Soil health cards can be downloaded by the farmers from the SHC portal or through an SMS link received on mobile. **It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters**, namely N, P, K, S (Macro-nutrients); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro-nutrients); and pH, EC, OC. Based on this, the SHC will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendments required for the farm.

The key objectives of the scheme are as follows:

- To promote soil test-based nutrient management across the country
- To issue soil health cards to all farmers across the country
- Strengthen the functioning of soil testing laboratories and associated infrastructure
- Capacity building of district and state-level staff for the promotion of nutrient management practices
- To diagnose soil fertility-related constraints with standardized procedures for sampling uniformly across states; and analyze and design fertilizer recommendations.

The scheme targets to provide the following benefits:

- Provide free/affordable access to soil test
- Provide farmers with timely and accurate soil analysis results
- Facilitate customized soil nutrient recommendations based on test results
- Enable farmers to optimize their fertilizer use and minimize input costs, and hence avoid under- or over-application of fertiliser

The scheme is applicable to all farmers in India.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

59. Ans: b

Explanation

World Economic Outlook:

It presents **International Monetary Fund** staff economists' analyses of global economic developments in the near and medium term.

The Global Financial Stability Report provides an assessment of the global financial system and markets and addresses emerging market financing in a global context. It focuses on current market conditions, highlighting systemic issues that could pose a risk to financial stability and sustained market access by emerging market borrowers is also published by the International Monetary Fund.

Hence, option b is correct.

60 . Ans c

Explanation:

Bonds are broadly similar to debentures. They are issued by **companies, financial institutions, municipalities or government companies** and are **normally not secured by any assets of the company (unsecured).**

Types of bonds

- Regular Income Bonds provide a stable source of income at regular, predetermined intervals
- Tax-Saving Bonds offer tax exemption up to a specified amount of investment, depending on the scheme and the Government notification.

Examples are:

- Infrastructure Bonds under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- NABARD/ NHAI/REC Bonds under Section 54EC of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- RBI Tax Relief Bonds

Hence, statements 1 and 2 both are correct.

61. Ans: b

Explanation:

CHAPTER V. Of the Constitution of India deals with **COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA**

Article 148. Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Article 149. Duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Article 150. Form of accounts of the Union and of the States.

Article 150. Audit reports.

Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.—

ARTICLE 148. (1) There shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be **appointed by the President** by warrant under his hand and seal and shall only be **removed from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.**
(2) Every person appointed to be the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India shall, before he enters upon his office, make and subscribe before the President,
(3) The salary and other conditions of service of the Comptroller and Auditor-General shall be such as may be determined by Parliament by law and, until they are so determined, shall be as specified in the Second Schedule: Provided that neither the salary of a Comptroller and Auditor-General nor his rights in respect of leave of absence, pension or age of retirement shall be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
(6) The administrative expenses of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of persons serving in that office, shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.

Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

The Constitution of India does not discuss the term of office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

According to Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971

The Comptroller and Auditor-General shall be paid a salary equal to that of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

As regards his term of Office, **the Act provided that he shall hold Office for a term of six years from the date on which he assumes such Office** or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

The Act also made detailed provisions for pension as well as for other conditions of service of the Comptroller and Auditor-General

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

62. Ans: c

Explanation:

The rule of law includes the concepts of Natural justice, equity, individual honour, and fair play. The closest equivalent of the Rule of law is the ancient Indian secular concept of Dharma.

Rule of law is to be understood as opposed to the arbitrary rule of a person or party. Thus, the Rule of law is an essential prerequisite for democracy.

According to Dicey the Rule of law embraces four separate features.

First, no one should be punished except for breaches of law.

Second, there should be equal subjection to the law or 'equality before law.'

third, when the law is broken, there must be a certainty of punishment.

finally, the rights and liberties of the individuals should be embodied in the ordinary law of the land this would ensure that when individual rights are violated citizens can seek redressal through the courts.

The essential characteristics of the rule of law are :

1. The supremacy of law, which means that **all persons (individuals and government) are subject to law.**

Hence statement 1 is correct

2. A concept of justice that emphasizes interpersonal adjudication, law based on standards, and the importance of procedures.
3. Restrictions on the exercise of discretionary power.
4. The doctrine of judicial precedent.
5. **The common law methodology.**

Hence statement 2 is correct

6. **Legislation should be prospective and not retrospective**

Hence statement 3 is incorrect

7. An independent judiciary.
8. The exercise by the parliament of the legislative power and restrictions on the exercise of legislative power by the executive.
9. **An underlying moral basis for all law.**

Hence statement 4 is correct

63. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Estimate Committee

The Estimate Committee consists of 30 members of the Lok Sabha. Unlike the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings, the members of the Rajya Sabha are not associated with it. The Committee acts as the '**Continuous Economy Committee**' and its criticisms and suggestions act as a deterrent to extravagance in public expenditure. It makes a detailed examination of the annual budget estimate in order to:-

- Report what economics, improvements in organizations, efficiency, or administration reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates, may be effected;
- Suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration;
- Examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates; and

- Suggest the form in which the estimate shall be presented to the Parliament.

Hence, option a is correct.

64. Ans: c

Explanation:

NATURAL RIGHTS

Natural rights were those which were enjoyed by the individuals in the state of nature. Natural rights were the ideal rights and they existed before the state came into existence.

MORAL RIGHTS

Moral rights are those rights that are recognized by the moral sense of the people. Their existence is due to custom, long usage, and the force of public opinion. There is no sanction of the state to enforce them.

LEGAL RIGHTS

Legal rights are “a privilege or immunity enjoyed by a citizen against any of his fellow citizens, granted by the sovereign power of the state and upheld by that state”. Legal rights are recognized by the state and the police and the court ensure their enforcement. Legal rights are embodied in the law of the country. There are three kinds of Legal rights: Civil rights, Polity rights, and Economic rights.

Hence, statement c is correct.

65 Ans. b

Explanation:

There is **no express provision in the constitution** regarding the individual responsibility of a minister to parliament for anything done or not done in his department.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

A no-confidence motion needs no set out grounds on which it is based, unlike a censure motion. A motion of no-confidence, once admitted, has to be taken up within ten days of the leave being granted

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

66. Ans: a

Explanation:

Major players in the Government Security market include commercial banks and Primary dealers, as well as institutional investors like insurance companies. Primary dealers play an important role as market makers in the G-Secs market. A market maker provides firm two-way quotes in the market, i.e., both buy and sell executable quotes for the concerned securities. Other participants include **co-operative banks, regional rural banks**, mutual funds, provident and pension funds.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are allowed to participate in the G-Secs market within the quantitative limits prescribed from time to time. **Corporates also buy/ sell the G-Secs to manage their overall portfolio.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect, and statement 3 is correct.

67. Ans d

Explanation:

Deficit spending by the government could activate a depressed economy by **creating income and employment** much more than the original amount of deficit financing through the process of multiplier .

68. Ans: b

Explanation:

Sovereign Gold Bonds SGBs

- Investors **have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

- The Bond is issued by the Reserve Bank on behalf of the Government of India.
- **Nationalised Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks, Post Offices**, Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd. (SHCIL) are authorized agencies selling the SGBs

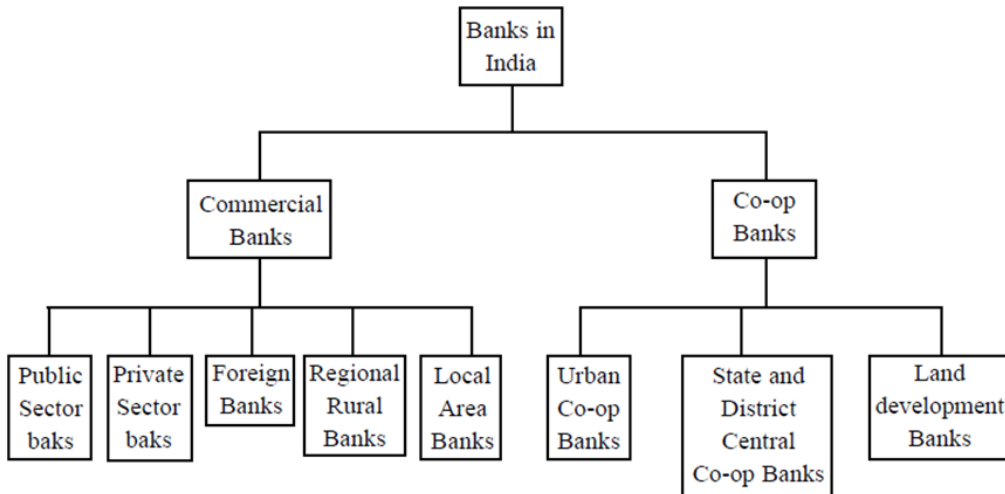
Hence, statement 2 is correct

- SGBs have the **risk of capital loss** if the market price declines.

Hence, statement 3 is correct

69. Ans: c

Explanation:



70. Ans: c

Explanation:

Categorization of risks:

Credit risk: Credit risk is the possibility of losses associated with a decrease in the borrower's credit quality, i.e., the inability (or unwillingness) to repay.

Market risk: Market risk includes liquidity risk, interest rate risk, foreign exchange (forex) risk, commodity price risk, and equity price risk. It arises due to the progressive deregulation of the financial system.

Operational risk: Operational risk arises **due to inadequate or failed internal processes, people, and systems or external systems**. Operational risk also includes legal risk i.e. fines, penalties resulting from supervisory actions

Hence, option c is correct.

71. Ans b

Explanation:

Public provision means that they are financed through the budget and can be used without any direct payment. Public goods may be produced by the government or the private sector. **When goods are produced directly by the government it is called public production.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect, and statement 2 is correct.

72. Ans c

Explanation:

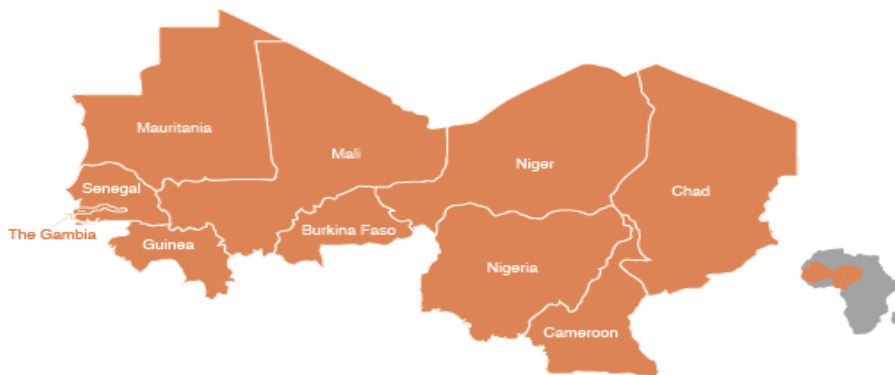
The Sahel, the vast semi-arid region of **Africa** separating the Sahara Desert to the north and tropical savannas to the south, is as much a land of opportunities as it is of challenges. Although it has abundant human and natural resources and offers tremendous potential for rapid growth, deep-rooted challenges—environmental, political, and security—may affect the prosperity and peace of the Sahel.

Hence, option c is correct.

For this reason, the United Nations has developed a unique support plan targeting 10 countries to scale up efforts to accelerate prosperity and sustainable peace in the region. The support plan highlights the enormous opportunities in the Sahel and its vast assets in natural resources, energy, tourism, and culture.

Target countries:

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.



It is aimed at mobilizing public resources and triggering private investments in the 10 countries in support of ongoing efforts and initiatives by governments, international and regional organizations, and other partners. It is built around the following six priority areas:

- Cross-border cooperation
- Prevention and sustaining peace
- Inclusive growth
- Climate action
- Renewable energy
- Women and youth empowerment

73. Ans: b

Explanation:

Indonesia is home to some of the world's biggest nickel reserves and mined half of the global supply in 2022.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

The top 5 Nickel producing countries are **Indonesia, Australia, Brazil, Russia, and the Philippines**

Uses of nickel

- Nickel resists corrosion and is used to plate other metals to protect them. It is, however, mainly used in making alloys such as stainless steel.
- Nichrome is an alloy of nickel and chromium with small amounts of silicon, manganese, and iron. It resists corrosion, even when red hot, so is used in toasters and electric ovens.
- A copper-nickel alloy is commonly used in desalination plants, which convert seawater into fresh water.
- Nickel steel is used for armour plating.
- Other alloys of nickel are used in boat propeller shafts and turbine blades.
- **Nickel is used in batteries**, including rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries and nickel-metal hydride batteries used in hybrid vehicles.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- **Nickel is an essential element for some beans, such as the navy bean that is used for baked beans**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Finely divided nickel is used as a catalyst for hydrogenating vegetable oils. Adding nickel to glass gives it a green color.

Some nickel compounds can cause cancer if the dust is inhaled, and some people are allergic to contact with the metal.

74. Ans: c

Explanation:

In September 2021, **leaders of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced the creation of an enhanced trilateral security partnership called "AUKUS."** AUKUS is intended to strengthen each government's ability to support security and defense

interests, building on longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties. It will promote deeper information and technology sharing and foster deeper integration of security and defense-related science, technology, industrial bases, and supply chains.

Hence, option c is correct.

75. Ans.d

Explanation:

The synthetic opioid **fentanyl** was first synthesized in Belgium around 1960. With effects similar to those of morphine but a potency of 100 times higher, it became widely used in surgeries and the treatment of chronic painful diseases. Meanwhile, in the United States, unregulated and unprescribed fentanyl became a highly **addictive and dangerous illegal drug**—one that is 50 times stronger than heroin, with even a 2-milligram dose proving to be lethal to most people.

In 2022, more than 70,000 people died in the U.S. of synthetic drug overdose

Hence, option d is correct.

76. Ans: c

Explanation:

Greenhouse gases are those gases which contribute to the greenhouse effect. There are six greenhouse gases as follows:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- Methane (CH₄)
- Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF₆)

77. Ans: b

Explanation:

There are six Air Quality Index categories: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each category is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts (known as health breakpoints).

Air Quality sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved from eight pollutants
(PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, **CO**, **O3**, NH3, and Pb)

Hence, option b is correct.

78. Ans: a

Explanation:

THE WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972

Section 2 [(37) “wildlife” includes any **animal, aquatic or land vegetation** that forms part of any habitat

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Section 2 [(36) “wild animal” means any **animal specified in Schedules I to IV** and found wild in nature;]

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

79. Ans: a

Explanation:

Declaration of National Parks (Section 35 WPA 1972)

An area, whether within a sanctuary or not, can be notified by the state government to be constituted as a National Park, by reason of its ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, or zoological association or importance, needed for the purpose of protecting & propagating or developing wildlife therein or its environment.

Hence statement 1 is correct

The first National Park in India was created and named the Hailey National Park, now called the Corbett National Park, in Uttarakhand.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

80. Ans a

The scheduled species under Indian Wildlife (Protection Act), 1972 Lammergeier, Monal pheasants, Osprey, and Western Tragopan belong to **Birds**

Hence, option a is correct.

81. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value

The Ramsar Convention definition for wetlands includes marshes, floodplains, rivers and lakes, mangroves, coral reefs, and other marine areas no deeper than 6 meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as waste-water treatment ponds and reservoirs.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Vembanad Kol Wetland, Kerala is the largest RAMSAR wetland site in India

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect

82. Ans: b

Explanation:

The Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). At the request of developing countries, the center promotes the accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development

Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is a mechanism developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development

Hence statement 2 is correct.

83. Ans: b

Explanation:

Pampas - South America

Velds - Africa

Steppes - central Europe and Asia

Prairies – United States / Canada

Hence, option b is correct.

84. Ans a

Explanation:

NASA, The Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer (SPHEREx) mission is planned to last two years and is targeted for launch in 2024. The mission will survey the sky in optical and near-infrared light which, though not visible to the human eye, serves as a powerful tool for answering cosmic questions.

Astronomers will use the mission to gather data on more than 300 million galaxies, as well as more than 100 million stars in our own Milky Way.

Hence, option a is correct

85 . Ans: a

Explanation:

Fibre optics technology has since been widely used in telecommunication, medical science, laser technology, and sensing.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Optical fibers carry digital information, across large distances **almost at the speed of light.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

86. Ans: a

Explanation:

A genetically modified organism (GMO) or living modified organism (LMO) is any organism whose genetic material has been modified using laboratory-based transfer of genetic material from another organism.

GM technology involves **direct manipulation of DNA instead of using controlled pollination to alter the desired characteristics.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The USA, Brazil, Argentina, India, and Canada are the five top GM-growing countries, together accounting for approximately 90% of the world's GM cultivation area.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Soybean, maize, cotton, and canola with herbicide tolerance and insect resistance are the major GM crops grown around the world.

Mass production of GM technology-based human insulin, vaccines, growth hormones, and other drugs has greatly facilitated the availability and access to life-saving pharmaceuticals.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

87 Ans: b

Explanation:

WHO recommends the RTS, S/AS01 malaria vaccine be used for the prevention of P. falciparum malaria in children living in regions with moderate to high transmission as defined by WHO.

88. Ans: b

Explanation:

Astra is a state-of-the-art BVR air-to-air missile with a range of over 100 km designed to engage and destroy highly maneuverable supersonic aerial targets.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect

It is capable of operating in all-weather, day and night.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and other DRDO laboratories.

The Astra-1 is meant to carry a 15-kilogram pre-fragmented high explosive warhead that is ignited by a radio proximity fuse.

The missile's Electronic Counter-Countermeasure (ECCM) capabilities allow for unrestricted operation in an Electronic Counter-Countermeasure (ECM) environment.

The Astra Mark 1, which also finished testing, has a maximum head-on launch range of 100 kilometers, and a speed of 4.5 Mach.

Astra II missile is known to have a dual pulse solid rocket motor giving it a longer range. It is expected to have an AESA radar seeker.

Astra missiles have a smokeless propulsion system.

Hence, statement 3 is correct

89. Ans: b

Explanation:

TAN COUNT OF CRUDE OIL

The TAN count of oil is a measure of **how corrosive it is**. TAN stands for “Total Acid Number.”

The ideal oil is light and sweet with a low TAN count while the harder-to-process oil is heavy and sour with a high TAN count.

Hence, statement b is correct.

SWEETNESS OF CRUDE OIL

The amount of sulfur it contains makes a particular crude sweet or sour

Sweet crude has very low levels of sulfur, less than 1%.

Sour crude has as much as 1-2% of sulfur.

90. Ans: b

Explanation:

Aspartame can be used as an ingredient in beverages (such as diet sodas, light or low-sugar juices and flavored waters), dairy products (such as light yogurt and low-fat flavored milk), nutrition bars, desserts (such as sugar-free puddings and gelatins, light ice cream and popsicles), chewing gum, sauces, syrups and condiments.

Hence statement 3 is correct

Aspartame is also found in several types of low-calorie tabletop sweeteners. **Aspartame is not well-suited for use in foods that require baking for a long time because prolonged exposure to high temperatures can cause it to lose its sweetness.**

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

Aspartame consists of two amino acids—aspartic acid and phenylalanine. When ingested, aspartame is broken down into these amino acids for use in protein synthesis and metabolism.

In addition to aspartic acid and phenylalanine, **aspartame digestion also yields a small amount of methanol**, a compound that is naturally found in foods like fruits and vegetables and their juices.

Hence statement 1 is correct

91. Ans: a

Explanation:

Under Indian Councils Act, 1861, the Governor-General could promulgate Ordinances in case of Emergency which could remain in force for not more than six months.

The Government of India Act, 1935 provided for promulgation of Ordinances by the Governor-General in his discretion or in exercise of his individual judgement. The Governor-General was, however, required to obtain previous instructions from the Crown in certain cases. The Governor-General also had the power to issue Ordinances even when the Legislature was in session.

Under article 123, the President can exercise his legislative powers of promulgating ordinance in accordance with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

As per the prevailing position, while the satisfaction of the President or of the Governor as to the existence of circumstances necessitating issuing of an Ordinance can not be examined by the Court, it is competent for the Court to inquire whether in exercise of his Constitutional power, the President or the Governor had exceeded the limits imposed by the Constitution upon the exercise of that power or not.

92. Ans: a

Explanation:

Vote on Account: The Vote on Account is a grant made in advance by the parliament, in respect of the estimated expenditure for a part of new financial year, pending the completion of procedure relating to the voting on the Demand for Grants and the passing of the Appropriation Act.

Excess Grants: If the total expenditure under a Grant exceeds the provision allowed through its original Grant and Supplementary Grant, then, the excess requires regularization by obtaining the Excess Grant from the Parliament under Article 115 of the Constitution of India. It will have to go through the whole process as in the case of the Annual Budget, i.e.

Demand for Grants: Are estimates of expenditure in Budget which required to be voted by Lok Sabha in the form of demand for grants through presentation of Demands for Grants and passing of Appropriation Bills.

93. Ans: b

Explanation:

Head man - Patil

Tenancy tenure -Upari

Government official engaged in revenue collection - Mamlatdar

94. Ans: a

Explanation:

In post Mughal India the 12 states of Sikh confederacy were known as **Misls**

95. Ans: a

Explanation:

The international LPI of world bank is a summary indicator of logistics sector performance, combining data on six core performance components into a single aggregate measure.

The six core components are:

- The efficiency of customs and border clearance
- The quality of trade and transport infrastructure
- The ease of arranging competitively priced shipments
- The competence and quality of logistics services,
- The ability to track and trace consignments
- The frequency with which shipments reach consignees within scheduled or expected delivery times,

96. Ans: b

Explanation:

Later vedic period- Ratnahavimshi (ceremony of jewel offering) was a part of rajasuya sacrifice. It involves the Rajan going on successive days to the homes of certain people-the ratnins (literally jewels) and offering certain oblations to gods.

97. Ans: c

Explanation:

Most of the social economic rights of the people are enumerated in **Directive Principles of State Policy**

98. Ans: b

Explanation:

Banks covered by Deposit Insurance Scheme

(I) **All commercial banks including the branches of foreign banks functioning in India, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks.**

Hence statement 1 and 2 are correct

(II) Co-operative Banks

DICGC insures all bank deposits, such as saving, fixed, current, recurring, etc. **except the following types of deposits.**

- Deposits of foreign Governments;
- Deposits of Central/State Governments;
- **Inter-bank deposits**
- Deposits of the State Land Development Banks with the State co-operative banks;
- Any amount due on account of and deposit received outside India
- Any amount which has been specifically exempted by the corporation with the previous approval of the RBI.

Hence statement 3 is incorrect

99.Ans: c

In economics, a public good refers to a commodity or service that is made available to all members of a society. Typically, these services are administered by governments and paid for collectively through taxation.

Examples of public goods include law enforcement, national defense, and the rule of law. Public goods also refer to more basic goods, such as access to clean air and drinking water.

The two main criteria that distinguish a public good are that it must be non-rivalrous and non-excludable. Non-rivalrous means that the goods do not dwindle in supply as more people consume them; non-excludability means that the good is available to all citizens.

Hence 1 and 3 are correct

100.Ans: a

Explanation:

High powered money includes currency notes and coins issued by government and Reserve Bank of India

Hence statement 1 is correct

Money supply - currency held by the **public + demand deposits** with the bank

High powered money - currency held by the public+ cash reserves of currency with the banks

Hence statement 2 is incorrect

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