

1. Ans: c

Explanation:

Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that "all are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the Law.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights, it set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.
- The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948.

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to equal protection of the law.

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution

- The underlying principle of **Article 14 is that all persons and things similarly circumstanced should be treated alike, both in privileges conferred and liabilities imposed.**
- Amongst equals, the law should be equal and should be equally administered.
- The like should be treated alike. What is prohibited is discrimination between persons who are substantially in similar circumstances or conditions.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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Article 14 applies to “any person” and is not limited to citizens alone.

Both individual and juristic persons are entitled to the benefit of Article 14.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

2. Ans: b

Explanation:

Part II (Article 5-9) of the Constitution of India deals with citizenship

Article 5: Citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution

Article 6: Rights of citizenship of certain persons who have migrated to India from Pakistan

Article 7: Rights of citizenship of certain migrants to Pakistan

Article 8: Rights of citizenship of certain persons of Indian origin residing outside India

Article 9: Persons voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign State not to be citizens

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

According to the Constitution of India (Article 9), no person shall be a citizen of India if he has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of any foreign State.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

3. Ans: d

Explanation:

Transformative Constitutionalism

One of the key functions of constitutionalism is to keep in bounds the exercise of powers by organs of the State. However, in its modern form, constitutionalism goes beyond its classical function by obligating constitutional functionaries in the exercise of their powers to attain the transformation of society so as to make positive changes in the life of every citizen.

The phrase “transformative constitutionalism” is widely traceable to the work of US **Professor Karl E. Klare**. According to him, transformative constitutionalism refers to:

“A long-term project of constitutional enactment, interpretation, and enforcement committed to transforming a country’s political and social institutions and power relationships in a democratic, participatory, and egalitarian direction. Transformative constitutionalism connotes an enterprise of inducing large-scale social change through nonviolent political processes grounded in law”.

In the context of India, **transformative constitutionalism implies social revolution.**

Constitutional morality

English historian, George Grote is widely associated with the evolution of the principle of **constitutional morality**, which implies showing respect to the authority and paramountcy of the Constitution.

Hence, option d is correct.

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4. Ans: b

Explanation:

Article 338B. National Commission for Backward Classes—(1) There shall be a Commission for the ***socially and educationally backward classes*** to be known as the National Commission for Backward Classes.

Statement 1 is correct.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members and **the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members so appointed shall be such as the President may, by rule, determine.**

Statement 2 is incorrect.

(3) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

(4) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

(5) It shall be the duty of the Commission—

(a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such Safeguards;

Statement 3 is incorrect.

5. Ans: b

Explanation:

Subject to the procedure laid down in Article 368, the Indian Constitution vests power upon the ordinary legislature of the Union, i.e. Parliament, and there is no separate body for amending the Constitution.

The State Legislatures cannot initiate any Bill or proposal for amendment of the constitution.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Constitutional Amendment Bills are to be passed by the parliament in the same way as ordinary Bills. They may be initiated in either House and may be amended like other Bills, subject to the majority required by Article 368.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Previous sanction of the President is not required for introducing in Parliament any Bill for amendment of the Constitution.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

6. Ans: a

Explanation:

Upon the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee, Part IV-A and Article 51A dealing with Fundamental Duties were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976.

51A. Fundamental duties— It shall be the duty of **every citizen** of India—

- (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- (f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- (g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- (h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- (i) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;]
- (k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years **(inserted by 86th Amendment Act, 2002)**.

Fundamental Duties and their enforcement

Provisions as to fundamental duties cannot be enforced by writs. They can be promoted only by constitutional methods. But they can be used to interpret ambiguous statutes.

Article 51-A is confined to the citizens, unlike some of the articles relating to fundamental rights (e.g. Article 21) which extend to all persons.

Though Fundamental Duties are directed at the inculcation of normal civic behaviour, it cannot be concluded that they are correlative (having a mutual relationship) of Fundamental Rights under Part III.

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

7. Ans: b

Explanation:

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The goal of the Indian polity is socialism which was ensured by inserting the word 'socialist' in the Preamble, by the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976. It has been inserted to spell out expressly the high ideals of socialism.

It is to be noted, however, that the 'socialism' envisaged by the Indian Constitution is **not the usual scheme of State socialism which involves 'nationalisation' of all means of production, and the abolition of private property.**

As the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi explained- "We have always said that we have our own band of socialism. We will nationalise the sectors where we feel the necessity. Just nationalisation is not our type of socialism."

Though the word 'Socialism' is vague, our Supreme Court has observed that its principal aim is **to eliminate inequality of income and status and standards of life**, and to provide a decent standard of life to the working people.

The Indian Constitution, therefore, **does not seek to abolish private property altogether** but **seeks to put it under restraints** so that it may be used in the interests of the nation, which includes the upliftment of the poor.

Instead of a total nationalisation of all property and industry, it envisages a 'mixed economy', but aims at offering 'equal opportunity' to all, and the abolition of 'vested interests'.

Hence, option b is correct.

8. Ans: c

Explanation:

Article 32- Remedies for enforcement of rights conferred by this Part.

Article 32(2): The Supreme Court shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part (Fundamental Rights).

Article 226- Power of High Courts to issue certain writs.

Relationship of Articles 32 and 226

The power of the High Courts to issue writs is not in derogation of the analogous power of the Supreme Court under Article 32(2). The result is that an **order under Article 32 will supersede the orders of the High Court previously passed.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

An application under Article 32 can always be made directly to the Supreme Court as Article 32 is itself a fundamental right and not contingent on going to the High Court under Article 226 first.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

It is substantive and not a procedural right.

Substantive right is a right, as life, liberty, or property, recognized for its own sake and as part of the natural legal order of society.

Procedural rights are the rights that are protected by procedural law, which is the set of rules that govern how courts conduct business and how cases proceed

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

9. Ans: b

Explanation:

Article 124(C)- Power of Parliament to make law —Parliament may, by law, regulate the procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice of India and other Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices and other Judges of the High Courts and empower the Commission to lay down by regulations the procedure for the discharge of its functions, the manner of selection of persons for appointment and such other matters as may be considered necessary by it.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Article 126: Appointment of acting Chief Justice—When the office of Chief Justice of India is vacant or when the Chief Justice is, by reason of absence or otherwise, unable to perform the duties of his office, the duties of the office shall be performed by such one of the other Judges of the Court as the President may appoint for the purpose.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Article 131(A): Exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in regard to questions as to constitutional validity of Central laws.

Article 131(a) was repealed by the Constitution (Forty-third Amendment) Act, 1977. This implies that questions regarding the constitutional validity of central laws is not the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

10. Ans: c

Explanation:

The writ of Habeas Corpus has been considered to be the bulwark of personal liberty. Its objective is the speedy release by judicial decree of a person who is illegally restrained.

It is a procedural writ.

This writ is directed at enquiring the circumstances in which the person was detained. It is primarily designed to secure a person from unlawful restraint mainly of the State and in certain cases, even by private parties.

An application for a writ of habeas corpus can be made by any person on behalf of the detenu including a stranger as well as by the detenu himself.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

While dealing with an application for a writ of habeas corpus under Articles 32 and 226 of the constitution, the Supreme Court and High Courts may not require the production of the body of a person detained by the State in all cases (Kanu Sanyal vs. District Magistrate, Darjeeling, (1973)).

The habeas corpus jurisdiction of the courts comes into play to determine the well-being of a person, to conduct enquiry in cases of persons going missing from police custody and the deaths of persons in police custody.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

11. Ans: a

Explanation:

A cloudburst refers to a sudden downpour within a radius of a few kilometres. The area affected by a cloudburst typically does not exceed 20-30 sq km. The downpour is always short lived but is capable of causing heavy loss of life and property and leading to untold miseries to human beings, animals, etc. **Over 100 mm of rain in an hour is the basic criteria for a cloud to be called a cloudburst.**

Hence, option a is correct.

12. Ans: a

Explanation:

Shipki La

The Uttarakhand boundary is demarcated by the watershed between the Satluj on one hand, and the Kali, the Alaknanda, and the Bhagirathi on the other. This boundary crosses the Satluj near **the Shipki La on the Himachal-Tibet border.**

Hence, 1st pair is incorrectly matched.

Talu-Pass

The 1,140 km long boundary between India and China runs from the eastern limit of Bhutan to a point near **Talu-Pass** at the trijunction of India (**Arunachal Pradesh**), Tibet and Myanmar.

Hence, 2nd pair is correctly matched.

Karakoram Pass

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The 2,152 km long sector of the Sino-Indian border separates **the Union Territory of Ladakh of India from the Sinkiang province of China**. The boundary in the western sector runs along the Muztaghata range and the Aghil Mountain across **the Karakoram Pass via QuaraTagh Pass and along the main Kunlun Range** to a point east of 80 degrees East longitude and 40 km north of Hajit Langer.

Hence, 3rd pair is incorrectly matched.

13. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Devonian is defined as **a geological period lasting around 60 million years**, characterised by the **expansion of land-plant cover**, the appearance of seed plants and terrestrial tetrapods, and significant climatic changes leading to the spread of land vegetation and the **onset of the Late Paleozoic Ice Age**.

The Devonian was a time of major evolutionary innovation in the marine realm. **The Devonian has been called the 'Age of Fishes'**.

Hence, option a is correct.

14. Ans: d

Explanation:

The main areas of Gondwana rocks in the peninsula are along the **Damodar Valley in Jharkhand, along the Mahanadi River valley in Chhattisgarh and Odisha, in the southern part of Madhya Pradesh and a series of troughs along the Godavari from Nagpur to the delta**. In the extra-peninsular region, **these rocks are found in Kashmir, Darjeeling and Sikkim**.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Economically, the Gondwana rocks are the most important in India, **containing about 98 per cent of its coal reserves. They have rich deposits of iron ore, copper, uranium and antimony**.

Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.

15. Ans: b

Explanation:

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	Glaciers	Location
1.	Mombil Yaz	Shingshal Valley
2.	Biafo	Braldoh Valley
3.	Yarkand Remo	Shyok Valley
4.	Siachen	Nubra Valley

Hence, only 2 pairs are correctly matched.

16. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Rajasthan Plain

The western extremity of the Great Plain of India consists of the Thar or the Great Indian Desert which covers western Rajasthan and the adjoining parts of Pakistan. About two-thirds of the Indian desert lies in **Rajasthan**, west of the Aravali Range, and the remaining one-third is in the neighbouring states of **Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat**.

The Marusthali, a vast desert is an undulating plain whose average elevation is about 325m above mean sea level, accounting for greater part of the Marwar plain.

The eastern part of the Marusthali is rocky while its western part is covered by shifting sand dunes locally known as dhrian.

The eastern part of the Thar Desert, up to the Aravali Range is a **semi-arid plain which is known as the Rajasthan Bagar**. It runs in a northeast to south-west direction from the edge of the Aravali in the east to the 25 cm isohyet (line joining places of equal rainfall) in the west. It is drained by a number of short seasonal streams originating from the Aravali and supports agriculture in some **patches of fertile tracts called rohi**.

The river Luni, is a seasonal stream which flows towards the south-west to the Rann of Kachchh. The tract north of the Luni is known as **thali or sandy plain**.

Hence, option d is correct.

17. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Ponnaiyar or the Dakshina Pinakini river, rises near Hongashenhalli village at an elevation of about 900 m in the Kolar district of Karnataka state.

The Ponnaiyar Basin is the second largest interstate-flowing river basin between the Pennar and Cauvery basins.

It covers a large area in the state of Tamil Nadu besides the areas covered in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

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Kaveri (Cauvery) is the most revered and sacred river of south India and is designated as the **'Dakshina Ganga' or 'the Ganga of the South'**. The source of this river lies at Taal Cauvery on the Brahmagiri range of hills in the Western Ghats situated in the Coorg Plateau (Coorg district of Karnataka).

The Penneru river springs from the Nandi Durg peak in Karnataka and flows in the northward direction. It then enters Andhra Pradesh and takes an easterly course. It forms a narrow estuary before it joins the Bay of Bengal.

South of the Cauvery delta, there are several streams, of which Vaigai is the largest. It flows through dry channels and tends to get lost intermittently and appear again on the surface.

Hence, option a is correct.

18. Ans: b

Explanation:

Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests: These are rain forests that grow in the areas where the annual rainfall exceeds 250 cm, the annual temperature is about 25^o-27^o C, the average annual humidity exceeds 77 per cent and the dry season is distinctly short. They are found along the western side of the Western Ghats, Arunachal Pradesh, upper Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The important species of these forests are mesua, white cedar, calophyllum, toon, dhup, palaquium etc.

Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forests: Bordering the areas of tropical wet evergreen forests are comparatively drier areas of the tropical semi-evergreen forests. Here the annual rainfall is 200-250 cm, the mean annual temperature varies from 25^o C to 27^o C and the relative humidity is about 75 per cent. These forests are found on the western coast, Assam, lower slopes of the Eastern Himalayas, Odisha and Andamans. **These forests are characterised by many species, frequently buttressed trunks, rougher and thicker bark, heavy climbers, less bamboos and abundant epiphytes.**

Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests: These are found in areas of moderate rainfall of 100 to 200 cm per annum, mean annual temperature of about 27^o C and the average annual relative humidity of 60 to 75 per cent. Such areas include a belt running along the Western Ghats, Shiwalik Range, Manipur, Mizoram, hills of eastern Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Chota Nagpur Plateau, most of Odisha, parts of West Bengal and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Littoral and Swamp Forests: These forests occur in and around the deltas, estuaries and creeks prone to tidal influences and are also known as delta or tidal forests. While littoral forests occur along several places along the coast, swamp forests are confined to the deltas of the Ganga, the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Cauvery. The most important species found in these forests are Sundri, burguiera, sonneratia, agar, bhendi, keora, nipa etc.

Hence, option b is correct.

19. Ans: c

Explanation:

Effects of Earthquakes

Earthquake is a natural hazard. The following are the immediate hazardous effects of earthquakes:

(i) Ground Shaking

(ii) Differential ground settlement

(iii) Land and mud slides

(iv) Soil liquefaction

(v) Ground lurching

(vi) Avalanches

(vii) Ground displacement

(viii) Floods from dam and levee failures

(ix) Fires

(x) Structural collapse

(xi) Falling objects

(xii) Tsunami

The first six listed above have some bearings upon landforms, while others may be considered the effects causing immediate concern to the life and properties of people in the region. The effect of tsunami would occur only if the epicentre of the tremor is below oceanic waters and the magnitude is sufficiently high.

Hence, option c is correct.

20. Ans: d

Explanation:

Biological Activity and Weathering

Biological weathering is contribution to or removal of minerals and ions from the weathering environment and physical changes due to the growth or movement of organisms. **Burrowing and wedging by organisms like earthworms, termites, rodents etc., help in exposing the new surfaces to chemical attack and assist in the penetration of moisture and air.**

Human beings, by disturbing vegetation, ploughing and cultivating soils, also help in mixing and creating new contacts between air, water and minerals in the earth's materials.

Decaying plant and animal matter help in the production of humic, carbonic and other acids, which enhance decay and solubility of some elements.

Plant roots exert a tremendous pressure on the earth's materials, mechanically breaking them apart.

Hence, option d is correct.

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21. Ans: d

Explanation:

<u>Texts</u>	<u>Time-Period</u>
Vedic Texts	: Around 2000 BCE to 500 BCE
Vedanga Texts	: 600 BCE to 200 BCE
Puranas	: 60 BCE to 550 CE
Dharmasutras	: 600 BCE to 300 BCE
Smritis	: 200 BCE to 900 CE
Tripitaka	: 600 BCE to 300 BCE
Sangam texts	: 300 BCE to 300 CE
Tirukkural	: 500 CE to 600 CE

Tamil epics (Silappadikaram and Manimekalai): 500 CE to 600 CE

Hence, option d is correct.

22. Ans: c

Explanation:

The three Pitakas are divided into books known as **the Nikayas**.

The Khuddaka Nikaya also contains the Dhammapada (a collection of verse dealing mainly with ethical sayings) and the Theragatha and Therigatha (songs of Buddhist monks and nuns).

The Therigatha, describes **women's experience of renunciation**, is especially important because it is one of the very few surviving ancient Indian texts composed by or attributed to women.

Milindapanha (1st century BCE - 1st century CE) which consists of a dialogue on various **philosophical issues** between King Milinda (Indo-Greek Menander) and the monk Nagasena.

The Nettigandha or Nettipakarana (The Book of Guidance) belongs to (1st century BCE - 1st century CE) and gives a connected account of the **teaching of Buddha**.

The first connected life story of the Buddha occurs **in Nidanakatha** (1st century).

Hence, option c is correct.

23. Ans: b

Explanation:

Some of the **earliest agriculture centres** in the sub-continent:

Koldihawa and Mahagara: Uttar Pradesh

Lahuradeva: Uttar Pradesh

Kunjhun: Madhya Pradesh

Didwana-Sambhar: Rajasthan

Hence, option b is correct.

24. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Rig Veda mentions about different assemblies.

The sabha seems to have been a smaller, more elite gathering, whereas the **samiti** appears to have been a larger assembly presided over by the Rajan(King). **Such assemblies have played an important role in the redistribution of resources.**

Hence, statements 1 & 2 are correct.

The **vidatha** has been understood as a tribal assembly with diverse functions. However, it actually refers to a local congregation of people meeting to **perform socio-religious rituals and ceremonies for the well-being of the settlement.**

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

25. Ans: c

Explanation:

The Government of India Act 1919

The British government made a **declaration on August 20, 1917**, that the Policy of His Majesty's Government (HMG) was that of —

Increasing associations of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in British India as an integral part of the British Empire.

Hence, option c is correct.

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26. Ans: c

Explanation:

Till 1853, all appointments to the Civil Service were made by the directors of the East India Company, who placated the members of the Board of Control by letting them make some of the nominations.

The directors fought hard to retain this lucrative and prized privilege and refused to surrender it even when their other economic and political privileges were taken away by Parliament. They lost it finally **in 1853 when the Charter Act decreed that all recruits to the Civil Service were to be selected through a competitive examination.**

Hence, option c is correct.

27. Ans: c

Explanation:

In 1781, **Warren Hastings set up the Calcutta Madrasa for the study and teaching of Muslim law** and related subjects; and in 1791, **Jonathan Duncan started a Sanskrit College for the study of Hindu law** and philosophy. Both these institutions were designed to provide a regular supply of qualified Indians to help administration of law in the courts of the company.

Hence, statements 1 & 2 are correct.

The Wood's Despatch (the document despatched from the Court of Directors and popularly named after Sir Charles Wood, President of the Board of Control) of 1854 was another step in the development of education in India. **The Despatch asked the Government of India to assume responsibility for the education of the masses. It thus repudiated the "downward filtration" theory.**

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

28. Ans: c

Explanation:

The economic policies followed by the British led to the rapid transformation of India's economy into a colonial economy. There was a sudden and quick collapse of the urban handicraft industry.

The railways enabled British manufacturers to reach and uproot the traditional industries in the remotest villages of the country.

The cotton-weaving and spinning industries were the worst hit. The decay of the traditional industries was not accompanied by the growth of modern machine industries.

Hence, statement 1 is not correct & statement 3 is correct.

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Thus, **British conquest led to the de-industrialisation of the country and increased dependence of the people on agriculture.**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

29. Ans: b

Explanation:

Among the several forms of struggle thrown up by the movement, some are:

- (a) Boycott and public burning of foreign goods.
- (b) Crops of volunteers or samitis were another major form of mass mobilisation widely used by the Swadeshi Movement.
- (c) The creative use of traditional popular festivals and meals as a means of reaching out to the masses.**
- (d) Emphasis was given to **self-reliance or 'Atmasakti'** for re-assertion of national dignity, honour and confidence.
- (e) Campaigns against evils such as caste operation, early marriage, the dowry system, consumption of alcohol, etc.**
- (f) In the cultural sphere, the impact of the Swadeshi Movement was most marked. The songs at that time by Rabindranath Tagore (Amar Sonar Bangla) and fairy tales such as Thakurmar Jhuli (Grandmother's Tales) by Dakshinaranjan Mitra Majumdar are still popular.

Hence, statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

The main drawback of the Swadeshi Movement was that it **was not able to garner the support** of the mass of Muslims and especially of the Muslim peasantry.

Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.

30. Ans: a

Explanation:

Two kinds of states are included in the list of mahajanapadas- monarchies (rajyas) and non-monarchical states known as ganas or sanghas. The translation of gana and sangha as 'republic' is misleading. These were oligarchies, where power was exercised by a group of people. **Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa and Avati were the most powerful states** in the 6th century BCE.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The kingdom of Magadha (the most powerful state) roughly covered the modern Patna and Gaya districts of present Bihar. Initially, its capital was Girivraja or Rajagriha, near modern Rajgir.

Anga corresponded roughly to the present-day Bhagalpur and Monghyr districts of Bihar. **It was the easternmost mahajanapada.** The Champa river (which can probably be identified with the Chandan) was its boundary with Magdha, which lay to its west.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

31. Ans: b

Explanation:

Monopoly is said to exist when one firm is the sole producer or seller of a product that has no close substitutes. If there is to be a monopoly the cross elasticity of demand between the product of the monopolist and the product of any other producer must be very small. Cross elasticity of demand shows a change in the demand for a good as a result of a change in the price of another good.

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

The barriers that prevent the firms from entering the industry may be economic in nature or else of institutional and artificial nature. In case of monopoly, **barriers are so strong** that they prevent the entry of all firms except the one that is already in the field.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

32. Ans: d

Explanation:

Capital may be classified into fixed capital or working capital. Fixed capital are durable-use products' goods which are used in production again and again till they wear out.

Machinery, tools, railways, tractors, factories etc., are all fixed capital. Fixed capital does not mean fixed in location. Capital like plant, tractors and factories are called fixed because if money spent upon these durable goods, remains fixed for a long period in contrast with the money spent on purchasing raw materials which is released as soon as goods made with them are sold.

Working capital, on the other hand, are single-use producers' **goods like raw materials, goods in process and fuel.** They are used up in a single act of production. Moreover, money spent on them is fully recovered when goods made with them are sold in the market.

Hence, option d is correct.

33. Ans: c

Explanation:

The fundamental cause of international specialisation and, hence, international trade is the difference in costs of production. It is the relative differences in costs that determine the products to be produced by different countries. Considering climatic conditions, availability of minerals and other resources and differences in costs arising from them, every country seems to be better suited for the production of certain articles rather than for others. **A**

country tends to specialise in the production of those goods for which it has got relative or comparative advantage.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

A country can produce numerous goods. But it will not produce all of them since it will simply not be paying to do so. It will be much better if after comparing the costs of various articles that it can produce, it selects those in which the **comparative costs are lower** or in which it enjoys a relative advantage.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

34. Ans: c

Explanation:

Economic cost is the **sum** of accounting cost and input cost.

Economic profit is the **difference** of total revenue and total economic cost.

Opportunity cost of any good is the next best alternative good that is sacrificed.

Relative prices of goods **tend to reflect** their opportunity costs.

Hence, option c is correct.

35. Ans: b

Explanation:

Frictional Unemployment: It comprises of workers who have voluntarily quit their previous jobs and are searching for new better jobs or looking for employment for the first time. They are unemployed because of frictions such as lack of market information about jobs, lack of perfect mobility on the part of the workers.

Structural Unemployment: It is a characteristic of a growing economy and unemployed workers lack skills required by expanding industries.

Cyclical Unemployment: It is due to the deficiency of effective demand. It increases greatly during recession and depression.

Natural Rate of Unemployment: Frictional and structural unemployment together constitute natural rate of unemployment.

Hence, option b is correct.

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36. Ans: a

Explanation:

<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>Assets</u>
Capital	Cash and Balances with RBI
Reserves and Surplus	Balances with other banks and money at call and short notice
Deposits	Investment in government and other securities
Borrowings	Advances
	Fixed assets

37. Ans: c

Explanation:

Money supply increases

When the supply of **high-powered money (i.e., reserve money) H increases.**

High-powered money consists of notes and coins issued by RBI and the Government.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

When the **currency deposit ratio (k)³ of the public decreases.**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

When the **cash or currency reserves-deposit ratio of the banks (r) falls.**

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

38. Ans: c

Explanation:

When budget deficit is financed through borrowing from the market, **the demand for money or loanable funds increases** which, given the supply of money, causes **interest rate to rise.** Rise in interest rate tends to reduce or **crowd out private investment.**

Hence, option c is correct.

39. Ans: a

Explanation:

An important effect of inflation is that it redistributes income and wealth in favour of some at the cost of others. Inflation adversely affects those who receive relatively fixed incomes and benefits businessmen, producers, traders and others who enjoy flexible incomes.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Inflation benefits: debtors, producers, traders

Inflation harms: creditors, fixed income groups, pensioners, wealth holders of cash, bonds and debentures.

Hence, statement 2 is correct & statement 2 correctly explains statement 1.

40. Ans: b

Explanation:

Raising interest rates by RBI may not lead to restriction of bank credit when:

- Bank may have surplus liquidity or cash reserves with them and may not follow tight monetary policy.
- **If there are boom conditions, aggregate demand for goods would be high, and demand for credit may not be affected by higher lending rates.**
- **It is easy for corporates to borrow through ECBs especially when interest rates in U.S Eurozone are low.**
- **When corporate sector is able to raise money from capital market especially when stock market prices are rising**

Hence, option b is correct.

41. Ans: a

Explanation:

The '**Goldilocks Zone,**' or **habitable zone, is the range of distance with the right temperatures for water to remain liquid.** Discoveries in the Goldilocks Zone, like Earth-size planet Kepler-186f, are what scientists hope will lead us to water—and one day life.

Hence, option a is correct.

42. Ans: d

Explanation:

What is the James Webb Space Telescope?

The James Webb Space Telescope, also called Webb or JWST, is a large, space-based observatory, optimised for infrared wavelengths, which complements and extends the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

It has **longer wavelength coverage** and greatly improved sensitivity. The longer wavelengths enable Webb **to look further back in time to find the first galaxies that formed in the early Universe,** and to peer inside dust clouds where stars and planetary systems are forming today.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

43. Ans: b

Explanation:

Agni-Prime is a **two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile** with dual redundant navigation and guidance system, according to DRDO.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

It has a range of 1,000-2,000km and was tested for the first time in June 2021.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

44. Ans: a

Explanation:

Viruses are also microscopic but are different from other microorganisms. **They, however, reproduce only inside the cells of the host organism, which may be a bacterium.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Microorganisms **may be single-celled like bacteria,** some algae and protozoa, or **multicellular,** such as many algae and fungi.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Chickenpox is an illness caused by the **varicella-zoster virus.**

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

45. Ans: d

Explanation:

Hydrophilic polymers are those polymers that dissolve in, or are swollen by, water.

Many compounds of major technical and economic importance fall within this definition, including many polymers of natural origin. Many foodstuffs containing substantial amounts of carbohydrate and proteins can be classified as hydrophilic polymers.

Applications of hydrophilic and water-soluble industrial polymers are diverse. Over 150 different applications have been identified but the most important include:

(a) Paper manufacture, where water-soluble polymers are used in formation of the paper web, in pulp retention, and as the binder of coating compositions

(b) Textile sizing (during spinning of the yarn), and finishing (of the woven fabrics)

(c) Water purification and effluent treatment (in flocculation processes)

(d) In the formulation and production of many specialist fluids, where it is necessary to control the viscosity and the flow properties, e.g. in water-based adhesives and in **emulsion paints**

(e) In film-forming materials, where the flexibility and moisture sensitivity of the film can be modified by the incorporation of plasticisers, humectants, or cross-linking agents, e.g. many water-soluble polymer mixtures such as water-based adhesives and emulsion paints, and coatings for paper

Hence, option d is correct.

46. Answer: a

Explanation:

- Bacteria and Archaea are prokaryotes, single-celled microorganisms with no nuclei.
- Archaea and Bacteria share a number of features with each other, but they are also distinct domains of life:
- **Both Archaea and Bacteria are unicellular organisms.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

- Archaea and bacterial cells lack organelles or other internal membrane-bound structures.
- Archaea and Bacteria generally have a single circular chromosome, a piece of circular, double-stranded DNA located in the nucleoid of the cell.
- **Archaea and Bacteria reproduce asexually through binary fission**, a process in which an individual cell reproduces its single chromosome and splits in two.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

- **Almost all prokaryotes have a cell wall**, a protective structure that allows them to survive in extreme conditions, which is located outside of their plasma membrane.

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- The composition of the cell wall differs significantly between the domains of Bacteria and Archaea:
- Bacterial cell walls are composed of peptidoglycan, a complex of proteins and sugars. Some bacteria have an outer capsule outside the cell wall.
- Archaeal cell walls are composed of polysaccharides (sugars).

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

47. Answer: b

Explanation:

The nine-banded armadillo [*Dasyus novemcinctus*] has been used to study leprosy and prepare a vaccine for the disease.

Aspirin, the world's most widely used drug, was derived from the leaves of the tropical willow, *Salix alba*.

The Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), an endangered mammal, is being used to help understand haemophilia.

The rose periwinkle (*Cargaranthus roseus*), a Madagascar plant, has yielded two potent drugs effective in treating blood cancer.

Hence, option b is correct.

48. Answer: b

Heat flows from a body at a higher temperature to a body at a lower temperature. There are three ways in which heat can flow from one object to another: conduction, convection, and radiation.

In solids, generally, the heat is transferred by conduction. In liquids and gases, the heat is transferred by convection. No medium is required for the transfer of heat by radiation.

The materials that allow heat to pass through them easily are conductors of heat. The materials that do not allow heat to pass through them easily are called insulators.

CONDUCTION

The process by which heat is transferred from the hotter end to the colder end of an object is known as conduction. Through **solid** substances only

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

CONVECTION

The water and air are poor conductors of heat. The heat is transferred from particle to particle through a vertical rising of heat known as convection, in which heated particle rises up, and cool particles come toward the heat.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

RADIATION

The heat from the sun comes to us by another process known as radiation. Radiation is an automatic process that **doesn't require any medium** to transfer heat.

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

49. Ans: c

Explanation:

A cryogenic engine is a type of rocket engine that uses liquefied gasses as fuel and oxidizers. The term cryogenic refers to the fact that these liquefied gasses must be kept at cryogenic temperatures, that is, very low temperatures (below -150 degree Centigrade).

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

A cryogenic engine will typically employ Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) as propellants, instead of conventional rocket fuel options.

As opposed to electric motors, whose power comes from rotating motion, cryogenic engines are reaction engines. In order to work, they throw mass in one direction and rely on the reaction thrust in the opposite direction. A small amount of fuel goes to the turbine.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Advantages of cryogenic engines are:

More environmentally-friendly than other options

Non-toxic and non-corrosive

Able to reduce the cost of launch operations

Efficient and high-specific impulse

Safer than other options in terms of ground safety, they're non-hypergolic

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

The disadvantages of this type of engine include:

Liquid Hydrogen presents a low density

Their cryogenic storage requires of complex equipment that must be carefully tailored by experts in cryogenic engineering

Presents the need for devising an ignition system

50. Ans: c

Explanation:

mRNA—or messenger RNA—is a molecule that contains the instructions or recipe that directs the cells to make a protein using its natural machinery. To enter cells smoothly, mRNA travels within a protective bubble called a Lipid Nanoparticle. Once inside, our cells read the mRNA as a set of instructions, building proteins that match up with parts of the pathogen called antigens. The immune system sees these foreign antigens as invaders—dispatching defenders called antibodies and T-cells—and training the immune system for potential future attacks. So, if and when the real virus comes along, the body might recognize it—sounding the alarm to help defend against infection and illness.

mRNA instructs cells in the body to make specific proteins, and proteins play many essential roles in our bodies. **mRNA basically uses our own body and biological processes to potentially treat diseases and prevent infections.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Research partners Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman at the University of Pennsylvania were able to engineer mRNA in a way that could get into cells without triggering the body's defenses. That breakthrough enabled continued scientific advances that led to the development and authorisation of the first mRNA vaccines for COVID-19 in 2020 and solidified the promise of the technology.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

51. Ans: b

Explanation:

Wetlands are an intermediate type of ecosystem between terrestrial and aquatic ones: they have soils that are waterlogged, either perpetually or very frequently.

Only a limited amount of oxygen can dissolve in water, and oxygen diffuses through water at a rate 10,000-fold more slowly than through air.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The oxygen in wetland soils is rapidly depleted by the high rates of microbial decomposition there, fed by abundant inputs of dead plant materials. This slow rate of oxygen diffusion through the waterlogged soils ensures that the soils remain oxygen free, but microbial processes continue in the absence of oxygen, and cause a variety of important biogeochemical changes. One of these, **the bacterial conversion of dissolved nitrate to N₂ gas, is a critical influence on the global distribution of this major nutrient.**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

52. Ans: b

Explanation:

In their most extreme form, the deserts are too arid to bear any vegetation, including both some hot deserts such as Death Valley in California and some of the cold deserts of Antarctica. **Approximately, 10% of the surface area of the Earth is covered by deserts.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

In many deserts, freezing temperatures are common at night and tolerance of frost is almost as important as tolerance of drought.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

53. Ans: d

Explanation:

Tropical rain forests experience high solar radiation received throughout the year and regular, abundant, and reliable rainfall. The production is achieved, overwhelmingly, high in the dense forest canopy of evergreen foliage. It is dark at ground level except where fallen trees create gap.

A characteristic of this biome is that often many tree seedlings and saplings remain in a suppressed state from year to year, and only leap into action if a gap forms in the canopy above them.

Hence, option d is correct.

54. Ans: a

Explanation:

The **ability to fix nitrogen is widely though irregularly distributed among both the eubacteria ('true' bacteria) and the archaea (Archaeobacteria)**, and many of these have been caught up in tight mutualisms with distinct groups of eukaryotes.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Rhizobia bacteria fix nitrogen in the root nodules of most leguminous plants (peas, beans and their relatives) **and just one nonlegume, Parasponia.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

55. Ans: d

Explanation:

In general, if there were no change in ocean physics and circulation, it is expected that the ocean would take up more carbon dioxide as the concentration in the atmosphere increases, simply because higher atmospheric concentration increases the diffusion of the gas. On the other hand, **the surface oceans are warming as the global climate warms, and this lowers the solubility of carbon dioxide and, therefore, reduces the net rate of uptake by the oceans.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Carbon dioxide is quite soluble in seawater, but the solubility varies with water temperature; **warm ocean waters release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, while cold waters absorb it.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

56. Ans: c

Explanation:

Much of the methane formed in the wetlands and lake sediments escapes to the atmosphere.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Methane formed from biological processes such as the decomposition of organic matter in recent years contains ^{14}C , it is being continuously produced in the atmosphere.

On the other hand, **methane from ancient geological formations contains no ^{14}C , because this radioactive isotope has a half-life of 5,730 years and will have decayed away over a time period of millions of years.**

Most of the methane is produced by bacterial methanogenesis in flooded rice paddies in the oxygen-free guts of cows and other livestock, and during bacterial decomposition of organic matter in landfills, sewage treatment facilities, and manure from livestock, all of which are often oxygen-free as well.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Human activity is simply creating new environments for this natural process of methanogenesis on a massive scale. The single largest of these sources, after fossil fuels, is animal agriculture. Animal agriculture emissions have grown tremendously over the past half-century as global meat production has increased 5-fold and continues to rise. **The drivers behind this increased consumption are both human population growth and an increase in meat consumption per person.**

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

57. Ans: b

Explanation:

Nitrogen pollution contributes directly to human diseases including cancer and heart diseases, by catalysing, along with methane and other hydrocarbon gases, the formation of toxic ozone in the lower atmosphere (which also damages forest and agricultural productivity), by forming into very fine particles, and **by the reaction of nitrate with organic matter in the human gut to form potently carcinogenic compounds called nitrosamines.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Nitrogen pollution affects the health of both animals and humans through indirect, ecologically mediated mechanisms. **For instance, nitrogen deposition leads to increased pollen formation by many plants, increasing allergies.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

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Nitrogen pollution is much greater in some regions than in others: the hot spots include most of Europe, India, eastern China, the eastern portion of the United States, and southern Brazil. **These correspond to the major agricultural areas of the world and are the regions seeing the greatest use of nitrogen fertiliser.**

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

58. Ans: b

Explanation:

The global stocktake was established under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. It is a process for Member States and stakeholders to assess whether they are collectively making progress towards meeting the goals of the **Paris Climate Change Agreement**. The global stocktake assesses everything related to where the world stands on climate action and support, identifying the gaps, and working together to agree on solutions pathways, to 2030 and beyond. The first global stocktake took place at COP 28 in 2023.

Hence, option b is correct.

59. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Emissions Gap Report (EGR) is an annual report published by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** that tracks the gap between current and desired global emissions.

Hence, option a is correct.

60. Ans: a

Explanation:

Greenhouse gases consist of **carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons, and water vapor**. Water vapor, which reacts to temperature changes, is referred to as a 'feedback', because it amplifies the effect of forces that initially caused the warming.

Hence, option a is correct.

61. Ans: d

Explanation:

Volcanic Landforms-Intrusive Forms

The lava that is released during volcanic eruptions on cooling develops into igneous rocks. The cooling may take place either on reaching the surface or also while the lava is still in the crustal portion. Depending on the location of the cooling of the lava, igneous rocks are classified as volcanic rocks (cooling at the surface) and plutonic rocks (cooling in the crust). **The lava that cools within the crustal portions assumes different forms. These forms are called intrusive forms.**

They are as follows:

Batholiths: A large body of magmatic material that cools in the deeper depth of the crust develops in the form of large domes. They appear on the surface only after the denudational processes remove the overlying materials.

Lacoliths: These are large dome-shaped intrusive bodies with a level base and connected by a pipe-like conduit from below. It resembles the surface volcanic domes of composite volcanoes, only these are located at deeper depths.

Lapolith: As and when the lava moves upwards, a portion of the same may tend to move in a horizontal direction wherever it finds a weak plane. It may get rested in different forms. In case it develops into a saucer shape, concave to the sky body, it is called lapolith.

Phacolith: A wavy mass of intrusive rocks, at times, is found at the base of synclines or at the top of anticlines in folded igneous country. Such wavy materials have a definite conduit to source beneath in the form of magma chambers (subsequently developed as batholiths). These are called the phacoliths.

Sills: The near horizontal bodies of the intrusive igneous rocks are called sills or sheets, depending on the thickness of the material. The thinner ones are called sheets, while the thick horizontal deposits are called sills.

Dykes: When the lava makes its way through cracks and the fissures developed in the land, it solidifies almost perpendicular to the ground. It gets cooled in the same position to develop a wall-like structure. Such structures are called dykes. These are the most commonly found intrusive forms in the western Maharashtra area. **These are considered the feeders for the eruptions that led to the development of the Deccan traps.**

Hence, option d is correct.

62. Ans: d

Explanation:

The atmosphere has a sufficient capacity to keep small solid particles, which may originate from different sources and include sea salts, fine soil, smoke-soot, ash, pollen, dust and disintegrated particles of meteors. **Dust particles are generally concentrated in the lower**

layers of the atmosphere; yet, convectional air currents may transport them to great heights.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The higher concentration of dust particles is found in subtropical and temperate regions due to dry winds in comparison to equatorial and polar regions. Dust and salt particles act as hygroscopic nuclei around which water vapour condenses to produce clouds.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

63. Ans: d

Explanation:

Factors Controlling Temperature Distribution

The temperature of air at any place is influenced by **(i) the latitude of the place; (ii) the altitude of the place; (iii) distance from the sea, the airmass circulation; (iv) the presence of warm and cold ocean currents; (v) local aspects.**

The latitude: The temperature of a place depends on the insolation received. It has been explained earlier that the insolation varies according to the latitude; hence the temperature also varies accordingly.

The altitude: The places near the sea-level record higher temperature than the places situated at higher elevations. In other words, the temperature generally decreases with increasing height. The rate of decrease of temperature with height is termed as the normal lapse rate. It is 6.5°C per 1,000 m.

Distance from the sea: Compared to land, the sea gets heated slowly and loses heat slowly. Land heats up and cools down quickly. Therefore, the variation in temperature over the sea is less compared to land. The places situated near the sea come under the moderating influence of the sea and land breezes which moderate the temperature.

Air-mass and Ocean currents: The places, which come under the influence of warm air-masses experience higher temperature and the places that come under the influence of cold air masses experience low temperature. Similarly, the places located on the coast where the warm ocean currents flow record higher temperature than the places located on the coast where the cold currents flow.

Hence, option d is correct.

64. Ans: b

Explanation:

Normally, temperature decreases with increase in elevation. It is called the normal lapse rate. At times, the situation is reversed and the normal lapse rate is inverted. It is called the

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Inversion of temperature. Inversion is usually short-duration but quite common nonetheless. **A long winter night with clear skies and still air is an ideal situation for inversion.**

The heat of the day is radiated off during the night, and by early morning hours, the earth is cooler than the air above. Over polar areas, temperature inversion is normal throughout the year. Surface inversion promotes stability in the lower layers of the atmosphere. Smoke and dust particles get collected beneath the inversion layer and spread horizontally to fill the lower strata of the atmosphere. Dense fogs in the mornings are common occurrences, especially during the winter season. This inversion commonly lasts for a few hours until the sun comes up and begins to warm the earth.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The inversion takes place in hills and mountains due to air drainage. **Cold air at the hills and mountains, produced during the night, flows under the influence of gravity.** Being heavy and dense, the cold air acts almost like water and moves down the slope to pile up deeply in pockets and valley bottoms with warm air above. This is called air drainage. It protects plants from frost damage.

Hence, statement 2 is correct. But statement 2 doesn't explain statement 1.

65. Ans: a

Explanation:

Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges. This is one of the most devastating natural calamities. They are known as **Cyclones in the Indian Ocean, Hurricanes in the Atlantic, Typhoons in the Western Pacific and South China Sea, and Willy-willies in the Western Australia.**

Tropical cyclones originate and intensify over warm tropical oceans. The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are: (i) Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C; (ii) Presence of the Coriolis force; (iii) Small variations in the vertical wind speed; (iv) A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation; (v) Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Hence, only 3rd pair is correctly matched.

66. Ans: a

Explanation:

Cloud is a mass of minute water droplets or tiny crystals of ice formed by the condensation of the water vapour in free air at considerable elevations. As the clouds are formed at some height over the surface of the earth, they take various shapes.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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According to their height, expanse, density and transparency or opaqueness clouds are grouped under four types: cirrus, cumulus, stratus, nimbus.

Cirrus: Cirrus clouds are formed at high altitudes (8,000 - 12,000m). They are thin and detached clouds having a feathery appearance. **They are always white in colour.**

Cumulus: Cumulus clouds look like cotton wool. They are generally formed at a height of 4,000 - 7,000 m. They exist in patches and can be seen scattered here and there. They have a flat base.

Stratus: As their name implies, these are layered clouds covering large portions of the sky. These clouds are generally formed either due to loss of heat or the mixing of air masses with different temperatures.

Nimbus: Nimbus clouds are black or dark grey. They form at middle levels or very near to the surface of the earth. These are extremely dense and opaque to the rays of the sun. Sometimes, the clouds are so low that they seem to touch the ground. Nimbus clouds are shapeless masses of thick vapour.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

67. Ans: d

Explanation:

All waters in nature, whether rain water or ocean water, contain dissolved mineral salts. Salinity is the term used to define the total content of dissolved salts in sea water. It is calculated as the amount of salt (in gm) dissolved in 1,000 gm (1 kg) of seawater. It is usually expressed as parts per thousand (o/oo) or ppt. A salinity of 24.7 o/oo has been considered as the upper limit to demarcate 'brackish water'.

Horizontal Distribution of Salinity

The salinity for normal open ocean ranges between 33o/oo and 37 o/oo. **In the land-locked Red Sea, it is as high as 41o/oo**, while in the estuaries and the Arctic, the salinity fluctuates from 0 - 35 ppt, seasonally.

In hot and dry regions, where evaporation is high, the salinity sometimes reaches to 70 ppt. The salinity variation in the Pacific Ocean is mainly due to its shape and larger areal extent. Salinity decreases from 35 ppt - to 31 ppt in the western parts of the northern hemisphere because of the influx of melted water from the Arctic region.

The average salinity of the Atlantic Ocean is around 36 ppt. **The highest salinity is recorded between 15° and 20° latitudes.** Maximum salinity (37 ppt) is observed between 20° N and 30° N and 20° W - 60° W. It gradually decreases towards the north.

Baltic Sea records low salinity due to the influx of river waters in large quantity. The Mediterranean Sea records higher salinity due to high evaporation. Salinity is, however, very low in the Black Sea due to the enormous freshwater influx by rivers.

The average salinity of the Indian Ocean is 35 o/oo.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The low salinity trend is observed in the Bay of Bengal due to the influx of river water. On the contrary, the Arabian Sea shows higher salinity due to high evaporation and low influx of fresh water.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

68. Ans: d

Explanation:

Glacial Valleys/Troughs

Glaciated valleys are trough-like and U-shaped with broad floors and relatively smooth, and steep sides. The valleys may contain littered debris or debris shaped as moraines with swampy appearance. There may be lakes gouged out of rocky floor or formed by debris within the valleys. There can be hanging valleys at an elevation on one or both sides of the main glacial valley. The faces of divides or spurs of such hanging valleys opening into main glacial valleys are quite often truncated to give them an appearance like triangular facets.

Very deep glacial troughs filled with sea water and making up shorelines (in high latitudes) are called fjords/fiords.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Drumlins

Drumlins are smooth oval ridge-like features composed mainly of glacial till with some masses of gravel and sand. **The long axes of drumlins are parallel to the direction of ice movement.** They may measure up to 1 km in length and 30 m or so in height. One end of the drumlins facing the glacier called the stoss end is blunter and steeper than the other end called tail. The drumlins form due to dumping of rock debris beneath heavily loaded ice through fissures in the glacier. The stoss end gets blunted due to pushing by moving ice.

Drumlins give an indication of the direction of glacier movement.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

69. Ans: a

Explanation:

UNRWA was established by UN General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 “to carry out [...] direct relief and works programmes” for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950.

UNRWA has a humanitarian and development mandate to provide assistance and protection to Palestine refugees pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

UNRWA derives its mandate from the UN General Assembly, the Agency’s parent organ, and

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it is only the General Assembly that can define the UNRWA mandate. The Agency's mandate is not set out in a single source or document. Rather, the Agency's mandate is derived primarily from UN General Assembly resolutions.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The Agency's mandate has evolved over the years, as set out in various General Assembly resolutions, to extend to the provision of emergency services to persons in its area of operations who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the 1967 and subsequent hostilities. The mandate has also evolved to accommodate the changing needs and political situation of Palestine refugees, including with respect to protection activities.

UNRWA provides humanitarian assistance and contributes to protection of refugees through essential service delivery, primarily in the areas of basic education, primary health care and mental health care, relief and social services, microcredit, and emergency assistance, including in situations of armed conflict, to millions of registered Palestine refugees located within its five fields of operations (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza). **The Agency does not have a mandate to engage in political negotiations or durable solutions.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

70. Ans: b

Explanation:

A **prolonged drought rocked Ethiopia** from 2020-2023, most communities in Ethiopia's northern, southern and southeastern regions face the worst levels of food insecurity.

While the Ethiopian government resolved the conflict with the Tigray People Liberation Front and has experienced relative peace since November 2022, lingering tensions in Western Tigray persist. Concurrently, **discord in Oromia and Amhara regions has escalated.**

Hence, option b is correct.

71. Ans: d

Explanation:

Akbar issued Gold, Silver and copper coins.

Gold coins -The '**shansab**' weighed a little more than 10 tolas. **Ilahi** was the other gold coins of smaller value.

Silver Coins -The chief silver coin was the **rupee**. **Jalali** was the square silver rupee issued in 1577.

Copper Coins - The chief copper coin was the **Dam**, it was also called as **Paisa**.

Hence, option d is correct.

72. Ans: b

Explanation:

The Sufi saints brought music to India. The first musician who was permitted to sing in the court of Iltutmish was Hamid-ud-din, the leader of the Sufis, a philosopher and Qazi of Delhi.

The great Sanskrit compendium of music Samgita-Ratnakara was composed in 1238 during the rule of Sultan Firoz Shah, the son of Iltutmish. It took note of all the contemporary moods and modes of music.

Hence, option b is correct.

73. Ans: b

Explanation:

The Rabatak inscription was discovered in Bughlan province, Afghanistan.

The 23-line inscription, written **in the Bactrian language and Greek script**, proved to be a valuable record belonging to **Kanishka's** reign.

The Rabatak inscription throws important **light on Kushana's genealogy**. The inscription also clearly indicates that **Vima Kadphises and Kanishka were father and son**.

The inscription states that Kanishka's empire **included Kaundinya, Ujjayini, Saketa, Kaushambi, Pataliputra, and Champa**.

Hence, option b is correct.

74. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Jataka stories reflect a society marked by deep differences based on class and caste. **The themes of hierarchy and pollution taboos occur frequently in the stories.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The Jataka consist of stories within stories. Each tale has four parts. There is an introductory story set in the gar of the Buddha. Then comes the main story, set in a mythical past., wherein the Buddha appears as the protagonist or witness. The third part is a verse that summarises the crux of the story, and the fourth and final part links the story of the past with the present.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

As is the case with other folk tales, **the Jatakas deal with real concerns and issues of human society**, even when **the stories apparently deal with animals**. Animals, like humans, are described as living in an unequal world. Sometimes, an inferior animal is

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made to realise his inferiority vis-a-vis superior ones. At other times, weaker animals are shown as getting the better of stronger ones through cunning.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

75. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Subsidiary Alliance was put into effect by Lord Wellesley (1798-1805), although its basic principles had been formulated earlier by powers such as the French in southern India.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

According to the principles of this alliance system, any Indian ruler accepting the alliance was to maintain British forces within his territory and make the necessary financial arrangements for its upkeep. This could assume the form of **territorial cessions** as well.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The ruler also had to maintain a British resident in his court whose intervention in foreign policy issues had to be accommodated. In short, the native ruler lost a considerable part of his autonomy. **The Nizam of Hyderabad was the first to enter into this alliance; Tipu Sultan rejected it summarily.**

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

76. Ans: a

Explanation:

Banian was the name given to an Indian agent of the East India Company, who was in charge of information gathering, of securing capital for investment and of marketing.

Aurang refers to a collecting centre for textiles. The Company organised several such collection centres where weavers were assembled and ordered to produce cloth according to specifications.

Mukhim, muhurir, dihidar, tagdidar were the hierarchy of officials at the production centre or **aurang**.

Shroff is a term derived from the word sarraff meaning banker. Typically these functions were money assaying and issuing and discounting of hundis or bills of exchange.

Hence, option a is correct.

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77. Ans: c

Explanation:

In Africa, in recent years, one country after another—Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Guinea—has seen ineffectual elected governments fall to **military juntas**.

Hence, option c is correct.

78. Ans: d

Explanation:

“Quarterlife” book by Devika Rege (released in September 2024) dives into the psyche of the generation born on the cusp of India’s economic liberalisation in 1991: young people awakening into political consciousness in the 21st century, confused by the baggage of their colonial inheritance and globalisation bringing in non-Indian ways of thinking and living.

Hence, option d is correct.

79. Ans: d

Explanation:

There are nine countries with a shoreline at the Baltic Sea: Denmark, **Germany**, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, **Latvia, Estonia**, Finland, and **Sweden**.

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Map source: National Online Project

Hence, option d is correct.

80. Ans: b

Explanation:

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) fighters, affiliated with al-Qaeda, have entered northeastern neighbourhoods of Hama, Syria, following intense fighting. The Syrian army confirmed the rebel incursion after fierce battles and announced a redeployment of forces outside the city.

Hence, option b is correct.

81. Ans: a

Explanation:

A higher rate of inflation in India will lead to a rise in the import of US goods into India and the reduction in the Indian exports to the USA. It will cause the foreign exchange rate of dollar in terms of rupees to rise and the price of the Indian rupee in terms of dollar will fall. Thus, **as a result of higher rate of inflation in India, the US dollar will appreciate and the Indian rupee will depreciate.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Devaluation or depreciation makes the imports from abroad expensive in terms of domestic currency (rupees in case of India) and therefore the imports tend to fall. With exports increasing and imports declining, devaluation or depreciation is expected to reduce a country's trade deficit.

However, it may be noted that the **effect of devaluation or depreciation on the balance of trade is ambiguous and quite uncertain because a good deal depends on the price elasticity of exports and imports of a country.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

82. Ans: c

Explanation:

In developing countries, one of the hindrances to capital formation is the demonstration effect. Demonstration leads to initiation of superior consumption standard. It stimulates consumption among poor which **increases their propensity to consume and consequently reduce their capacity to save.**

Desire for superior conspicuous consumption generally outruns the consumer means. Thus, **consumption behaviour depends not on absolute real income but relative levels of real income.** It does not depend on what we can afford but what the others afford and enjoy.

Hence, option c is correct.

83. Ans: b

Explanation:

The KCC Scheme was introduced with the objective of providing adequate and timely credit to the farmers for their agricultural operations. The Government of India provides interest subvention of 2% and Prompt Repayment Incentive of 3% to the farmers, thus making the credit available at a very subsidised **rate of 4% per annum.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Objective/Purpose

The Kisan Credit Card scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedures to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs as indicated below :

1. To meet the short-term credit requirements for the cultivation of crops;
2. Post-harvest expenses;
3. Produce marketing loan;
- 4. Consumption requirements of farmer household;**
5. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture;
6. Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities

Hence, statement 2 is correct. But statement 2 doesn't explain statement 1.

84. Ans: c

Explanation:

What is a Government Security (G-Sec)?

A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short-term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long-term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).

In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs). G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

Treasury bills or T-bills, are money market instruments, are short-term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 days, 182 days and 364 days. Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.

Dated G-Secs - Dated G-Secs are securities carry a fixed or floating coupon (interest rate), which is paid on the face value, on half-yearly basis. Generally, the tenor of dated securities ranges from 5 years to 40 years.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Cash Management Bills (CMBs) - In 2010, the Government of India, in consultation with RBI, introduced a new short-term instrument, known as Cash Management Bills (CMBs), to meet the temporary mismatches in the cash flow of the Government of India. **The CMBs have the generic character of T-bills but are issued for maturities less than 91 days.**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

85. Ans: b

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).

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Money Market instruments (loan instruments up to one year tenure)

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- Treasury Bills (T-bills) are short term instruments issued by the Government for its cash management
- **Certificate of Deposits (CDs) are short-term unsecured instruments issued by the banks for their cash management.**
- **Commercial Papers (CPs) are short-term unsecured instruments issued by the companies for their cash management.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect & statement 3 is correct.

86. Ans: a

Explanation:

Presently, there are 18 notified biosphere reserves in India.

Biosphere Reserves in India (as on Dec, 2023)

S. No.	Name	Location (State)
1	Nilgiri	Part of Wayanad, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Madumalai, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani hills (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka).
2	Nanda Devi	Part of Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Bageshwar districts (Uttarakhand).
3	Nokrek	Part of Garo hills (Meghalaya).
4	Great Nicobar	Southern most islands of Andaman And Nicobar (A&N Islands).
5	Gulf of Mannar	Indian part of Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka (Tamil Nadu).
6	Manas	Part of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup and Darang districts (Assam)
7	Sunderbans	Part of delta of Ganges and Brahamaputra river system (West Bengal).
8	Simlipal	Part of Mayurbhanj district (Orissa).
9	Dibru-Saikhowa	Part of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts (Assam)
10	Dehang-Dibang	Part of Siang and Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.
11	Pachmarhi	Parts of Betul, Hoshangabad and Chindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh.
12	Khangchendzonga	Parts of Khangchendzonga hills and Sikkim.
13	Agasthyamalai	Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries and their adjoining areas in Kerala.
14	Achanakamar - Amarkantak	Covers parts of Anupur and Dindori districts of M.P. and parts of Bilaspur districts of Chhattishgarh State.
15	Kachchh	Part of Kachchh, Rajkot, Surendra Nagar and Patan Civil Districts of Gujarat State
16	Cold Desert	Pin Valley National Park and surroundings; Chandratol and Sarchu&Kibber Wildlife Sancturary in Himachal Pradesh

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17	Seshachalam Hills	Seshachalam Hill Ranges covering parts of Chittoor and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh
18	Panna	Part of Panna and Chhattarpur districts in Madhya Pradesh

Hence, option a is correct.

87. Ans: a

Explanation:

Wetlands are protected under various national laws, including the **Indian Forest Act (1927), the Forest (Conservation) Act (1980), and the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972).**

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary is a large shallow wetland located in the northeastern region of Uthukuli Taluk, Tiruppur District, Tamil Nadu.

Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, covering 5,151.6 hectares, in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram District, north of Pondicherry .

The Tawa Reservoir, located at the confluence of the Tawa and Denwa rivers near Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

88. Ans: a

Explanation:

THE WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972

Section 11: Hunting of wild animals to be permitted in certain cases—(1) (a) the Chief Wild Life Warden may, if he is satisfied that any wild animal specified in Schedule I has become dangerous to human life or is so disabled or diseased as to be beyond recovery, by order in writing and stating the reasons therefore, permit any person to hunt such animal or cause such animal to be hunted.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Section 35(7): No grazing of any live-stock shall be permitted in a National Park and no live-stock shall be allowed to enter therein except where such live-stock is used as a vehicle by a person authorised to enter such National Park.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Tiger Conservation Authority shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests—Chairperson;

- (b) the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests—Vice-Chairperson;**
(c) three members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States;
(d) eight experts or professionals having prescribed qualifications and experience in conservation of wild life and welfare of people living in tiger reserve out of which at least two shall be from the field of tribal development;

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

89. Ans: b

Explanation:

Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is one of the most charismatic creatures inhabiting the tropical and temperate waters **from Pacific to North Atlantic and throughout the Indian Ocean.**

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

It is the largest extant marine turtle in the world and follows the longest migratory route known for turtles. The species is currently listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN red list and has been given the highest level of protection under Schedule I (Part II) of the Indian Wildlife protection Act, 1972.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

In India, Leatherback nesting is **specific only to the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

90. Ans: c

Explanation:

Kashmir Stag or Hangul is **one of the most critically endangered species found in the temperate grasslands of western Himalayas.**

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Dachigam National Park in Kashmir represents one such grassland habitat that supports Hangul, **a highly threatened and the only subspecies of the Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) to be found in India,** which is now confined only to the Kashmir Valley.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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91. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Governor has the power to appoint the council of ministers, Advocate-General and the Members of the State Public Service Commission.

Article 217(1): Every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal

The Governor has **no power to appoint Judges of the state High Court**. He is consulted by the President in the appointment of the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court of the state.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Article 352(1): The Governor has no emergency powers to meet the situation arising from external aggression or armed rebellion as the President has.

Article 356: The Governor has the power to make a report to the President whenever he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the state can not be carried on in accordance with the provision of the constitution, thereby inviting the President to assume to himself the functions of the Government of the state or any of them. [This is popularly known as '**President's Rule**'.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

92. Ans: c

Explanation:

When a Bill other than a Money Bill or a Constitution Amendment Bill, passed by one House is rejected by the other House or the Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments made in the Bill. President may, by public notification convene a joint sitting.

This provision is only an enabling one, empowering the President to take a step for resolving a deadlock between the two Houses. **It is not obligatory upon him to summon the Houses to meet in a joint sitting.**

Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

At a joint sitting, the Speaker presides and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha acts as Secretary-General of the joint sitting.

During the absence of the Speaker from any joint sitting, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha or if he is also absent, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha or if he too is absent, such other person as may be determined by the members present at the sitting, presides.

The quorum to constitute a joint sitting is one-tenth of the total number of members of the two Houses.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

At a joint sitting, the Speaker, or the person acting as such, shall not vote in the first instance, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the case of equality of votes.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

93. Ans: a

Explanation:

The institution of Speaker or President dates back to **1921**, when the Central Legislative Assembly was constituted for the first time under the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.

Sir Frederick Whyte, a member of the House of Commons, known for his ability, special qualifications and a deep knowledge of parliamentary procedure, was nominated and appointed by the Governor-General as the first Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly for a period of four years.

Vithalbai J. Patel was the **first non-official member** to be elected as **the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly** on 24 August 1925.

Speaker Patel resigned his office on 28 April 1930. He was **succeeded by Sir Muhammad Yakub** on 9 July 1930.

G.V. Mavalankar was elected as speaker on **24 January 1946** and continued till 1952.

Hence, option a is correct.

94. Ans: d

Explanation:

The Constitution of the **Indian Republic is the product not of a political revolution but of the research and deliberations of a body of eminent representatives of the people** who sought to improve upon the existing system of administration.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The **Republican Constitution of India was made by the people themselves, through representatives assembled in a sovereign Constituent Assembly.**

Practically, the only respect in which the Constitution of 1949 differs from the constitutional documents of the preceding two centuries is that while the latter had been imposed by an imperial power, the republican constitution was made by the peoples themselves through the representatives assembled in sovereign constituent assembly

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

95. Ans: a

Explanation:

The Indian Independence Act was passed by the British Parliament on July 5, 1947, and received royal assent on July 18, 1947. The Act came into effect on **August 15, 1947**

Fifteenth day of August , in India Independence Act 1947 was referred to as " the appointed day.

Appointed day is a phrase used to indicate the day on which an appropriate Secretary of State makes a commencement order bringing one or more statutory provisions into effect.

Hence, option a is correct.

96. Ans: d

Explanation:

Characteristics of Sovereignty

- **Absolute and unlimited** means, neither within the state nor outside, are there any powers superior to the sovereign.
- **Universality or all comprehensiveness** means the sovereign is supreme over the persons, associations, and things within the state.
- Sovereignty is **Indivisible**, which means that if sovereignty is divided, there arises the possibility of two or more sovereigns.
- Sovereignty is **Permanent** in the same way as the state itself is permanent.
- Sovereignty is **inalienable** as it cannot be transferred.

Hence, option d is correct.

97. Ans: d

Explanation:

The NIKSHAY - TB Notification incentive for Private Sector scheme is a Government of India initiative to incentivise private sector healthcare providers for notifying tuberculosis (TB) cases to the government. The scheme was launched in 2018 and is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Eligibility

1. All patients with tuberculosis (TB) who are notified to the government on or after April 1, 2018, including those who are already being treated for TB, are eligible for financial incentives.
2. To be eligible for the incentives, patients must be registered or notified on the NIKSHAY portal.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is the largest health assurance scheme in the world which aims at providing a health cover of ₹ 5,00,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) that form bottom 40% of the Indian population. PM-JAY is fully funded by the Government and the cost of implementation is shared between the Central and State Governments.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

98. Ans: b

Explanation:

The scheme "Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)" is a skill training and placement program of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). The program focuses on the rural poor youth and its emphasis on sustainable employment through the prominence and incentives given to post-placement tracking, retention, and career progression.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

DDU-GKY is designed to provide high-quality skill training opportunities to the rural poor, and also to establish a larger ecosystem that supports trained candidates to secure a better future. DDU-GKY aims to skill rural youth who are poor and provide them with jobs having regular monthly wages at or above the minimum wage.

The target group for DDU-GKY is poor rural youth in the age group 15-35.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Benefits

- **Skill Training:** The program provides skill training to beneficiaries in a variety of sectors, including agriculture, construction, retail, and hospitality. The training is designed to be industry-relevant and to equip beneficiaries with the skills they need to secure employment.
- **Placement Assistance:** The program provides placement assistance to beneficiaries by connecting them with potential employers. The program also provides support to beneficiaries during the job search process, such as resume writing and interview preparation.
- **Post-Placement Support:** The program provides post-placement support to beneficiaries to help them adjust to their new jobs. This support may include mentorship, counseling, and access to resources.
- **Career Progression Support:** The program provides career progression support to beneficiaries to help them advance in their careers. This support may include training, mentorship, and access to networking opportunities.
- **Incentives for Higher Placements:** The program provides incentives to PIAs for placing beneficiaries in higher-paying jobs. This incentive is designed to encourage PIAs to place beneficiaries in jobs that are commensurate with their skills and experience.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

99. Ans: b

Explanation:

Resultant to this historic amendment, **bamboo grown in the non-forest area is out of the scope of regulations on the forest produces**. During the year 2022-23, the NBM has been merged with Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The restructured National Bamboo Mission primarily focuses on the development of complete value chain of bamboo sector to link growers with consumers starting from planting material, plantation, creation of facilities, skilled manpower and brand processing marketing, micro, small & medium enterprises, skilled manpower and brand building initiative in a cluster approach mode.

Presently the scheme is being implemented in 24 States/UTs. **The NBM has provisions to raise bamboo plantations as well as to establish units for bio-energy extraction**, activated carbon product, charcoal making, pellet making, Ethanol gasifier, etc for government agencies and private entrepreneurs.

The scheme is applicable to all farmers in India.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

100. Ans: b

Explanation:

The "**One Nation One Ration Card**" (ONORC) Scheme was **launched by the Department of Food & Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** in 2018. It is a national Ration Card portability scheme to ensure food security for all including internal migrants within India. It enables migrant workers and their family members to access PDS benefits from any Fair Price Shop anywhere in the country, thus ensuring the food security through the inter-state portability of ration cards under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Benefits

1. It will benefit approximately 81 crore beneficiaries by digitising Ration Cards.
2. This system allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through an existing ration card with biometric/Aadhaar authentication in a seamless manner.

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3. With the ONORC, all the beneficiaries in one state can get the same fair rations in other states where the ration card was issued.
4. The scheme will ensure food security of migrant labourers who move to other states to seek better job opportunities.
5. It will improve the mechanism to identify fake/duplicate ration cards. It seeks to provide universal access to PDS food grains for migrant workers.
6. Ration card portability will be achieved by implementing an IT-driven system that installs ePoS devices in each Fair Price Shop (FPS).
7. **The ONORC will also help achieve the target set under SDG 2: Ending hunger by 2030.**

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Eligibility

1. **The scheme is eligible for all ration cardholders or beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, with Aadhaar Card numbers seeded.**

Hence, statement 3 is correct.