

UPSC PRELIMS -2016**KEYS WITH EXPLANATION**

1. With reference to 'stand up india scheme', which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. Its purpose is to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women entrepreneurs.
2. It provides for refinance through SIDBI.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - c

Explanation:

The "Stand up India Scheme" is being launched now to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women for loans in the range of Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 100 Lakhs. The Scheme is expected to benefit large number of such entrepreneurs, as it is intended to facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch (Scheduled Commercial Bank) on an average one for each category of entrepreneur.

The broad features of the scheme are as under:-

- I. Composite loan between Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs.100 lakh, inclusive of working capital component for setting up any new enterprise.
- II. Debit Card (RuPay) for drawal of working capital.
- III. Credit history of borrower to be developed.
- IV. Refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of Rs.10,000 crore.

2. The FAO accords the status of 'Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)' to traditional agricultural systems. What is the overall goal of this initiative?

1. To provide modern technology, training in modern farming methods and financial support to local communities of identified GIAHS so as to greatly enhance their agricultural productivity
2. To identify and safeguard eco-friendly traditional farm practices and their associated landscapers, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities
3. To provide Geographical Indication status to all the varieties of agricultural produce in such identified GIAHS

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer. B

Explanation: In order to safeguard and support the world's agri-cultural heritage systems, in 2002 FAO started an initiative for the dynamic conservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS). The GIAHS Initiative promotes public understanding, awareness, national and international recognition of Agricultural Heritage systems. Looking to safeguard the social, cultural, economic and environmental goods and services these provide to family farmers, smallholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, the initiative fosters an integrated approach combining sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The GIAHS initiative has project interventions in Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Chile, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Turkey. In these countries, adaptive management approaches will be developed and implemented, to assist national and local stakeholders in the dynamic conservation of their agricultural heritage systems.

Source:

www.fao.org

3. Which of the following is/are tributary tributaries of Brahmaputra?

1. Dibang
2. Kameng
3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer.d

Source:

Indian IAS Academy Indian geography book

4. The term 'Core Banking Solutions' is sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following statements best describes/describe this term?

1. It is a networking of a bank's branches which enables customers to operate their accounts from any branch of the bank on its network regardless of where they open their accounts.
2. It is an effort to increase RBI's control over commercial banks through computerization.
3. It is a detailed procedure by which a bank with huge non-performing assets is taken over by another bank.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer . a

Explantion:

Core Banking Solution (CBS)

CBS provides a centralized environment, in which the information of the customer's account is stored in the central server of the bank, and is available to all the CBS networked branches, instead of the branch server.

It has several advantages for both the customers and the banks -

Customers -

- Transaction from any branch, (anytime anywhere banking facility)
- Better funds management, due to immediate availability of funds, etc.

Banks -

- Standardization of process within the bank
- Better customer service leading to retention of customer
- Instant reflection of transactions that can be viewed from any branch
- Better risk management (e.g., loans against same property or mortgage can be checked), etc.

CORE

The full form of 'CORE' in Core Banking Solutions (CBS) is often termed as - Centralized Online Real-Time Exchange.

5. Consider the following pairs :
- | Terms sometimes | Their origin seen in the news |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Annex—I Countries | : Cartagena Protocol |
| 2. Certified Emissions Reductions | : Nagoya Protocol |
| 3. Clean Development Mechanism | : Kyoto Protocol |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- Answer . c

Explanation:

1. Annex I countries under the Kyoto Protocol, their 2008-2012 commitments (% of base year) and 1990 emission levels (% of all Annex I countries)
2. *Certified Emission Reductions* (CERs) are a type of emissions unit (or carbon credits) issued by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board for emission reductions achieved by CDM projects and verified by a DOE (Designated Operational Entity) under the rules of the *Kyoto Protocol*.

6. In the context of the developments in Bioinformatics, the term 'transcriptome', sometimes seen in the news, refers to
- (a) a range of enzymes used in genome editing
(b) the full range of mRNA molecules expressed by an organism
(c) the description of the mechanism of gene expression
(d) a mechanism of genetic mutations taking place in cells
- Answer . b

Explanation:

The transcriptome is the set of all messenger RNA molecules in one cell or a population of cells. It differs from the exome in that it includes only those RNA molecules found in a specified cell population, and usually includes the amount or concentration of each RNA molecule in addition to the molecular identities.

7. 'Mission Indra dhanush' launched by the Government of India pertains to
- (a) immunization of children and pregnant women
(b) construction of smart cities across the country
(c) India's own search for the Earth-like planets in outer space
(d) New Educational Policy
- Answer .A

Explanation: Mission Indradhanush was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) Government of India on 25th December, 2014. The objective of this mission is to ensure that all children under the age of two years as well as pregnant women are fully immunized with seven vaccine preventable diseases. The Mission Indradhanush, depicting seven colours of the rainbow, targets to immunize all children against seven vaccine preventable diseases, namely: Diphtheria, Pertussis (*Whooping Cough*), Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Polio, Hepatitis B, Measles.

8. Which of the following best describes/ describe the aim of 'Green India Mission' of the Government of India?
1. Incorporating environmental benefits and costs into the Union and State Budgets thereby implementing the 'green accounting'
 2. Launching the second green revolution to enhance agricultural output so as to ensure food security to one and all in the future
 3. Restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer :C

Explanation:

To increase forest/tree cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and improve quality of forest/tree cover on another 5 mha of forest/non-forest lands; To improve/enhance eco-system services like carbon sequestration and storage (in forests and other ecosystems), hydrological services and biodiversity; along with provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non-timber forest produces (NTFPs); and To increase forest based livelihood income of about 3 million households.

Source:

<http://www.envfor.nic.in>

9. With reference to pre-packaged items in India, it is mandatory to the manufacturer to put which of the following information on the main label, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011?
1. List of ingredients including additives
 2. Nutrition information
 3. Recommendations, if any, made by the medical profession about the possibility of any allergic reactions
 4. Vegetarian/non-vegetarian

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer :C

Explanation:

Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods In addition to the General Labelling requirements every package of food shall carry the following information on the label, namely

1. The Name of Food: The name of the food shall include trade name or description of food contained in the package.
2. List of Ingredients:
3. Nutritional information
4. Declaration regarding Veg or Non veg
5. Declaration regarding Food Additives-
6. Name and complete address of the manufacturer
7. Net quantity
8. Lot/Code/Batch identification
9. Date of manufacture or packing
10. Best Before and Use By Date
11. Country of origin for imported food:
12. Instructions for use:

Source:

10. 'Project Loon', sometimes seen in the news, is related to
- (a) waste management technology
 - (b) wireless communication technology
 - (c) solar power production technology
 - (d) water conservation technology

Answer .B

Explanation:

Project Loon is a research and development project being developed by X (formerly Google X) with the mission of providing Internet access to rural and remote areas. The project uses high-altitude balloons placed in the stratosphere at an altitude of about 18 km (11 mi) to create an aerial wireless network with up to 4G-LTE speeds.

11. 'Net metering' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of promoting the
- (a) production and use of solar energy by the households/consumers
 - (b) use of piped natural gas in the kitchens of households
 - (c) installation of CNG kits in motor-cars
 - (d) installation of water meters in urban households

Answer .:A

Explanation:

Net-metering is:

- a regulatory model that allows electricity producers to "export" surplus electricity from variable energy sources in the national / regional / local grid, and use the "exported" electricity to balance out deficit, allowing households / investors to meet their own electricity demand with their own production system, in which the active current / electricity generated by consumers in decentralized micro- and mini- generators, is offset with the metered consumption

12. India's ranking in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index' is sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following has declared that ranking?
- (a) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
 - (b) World Economic Forum
 - (c) World Bank
 - (d) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Answer :C

13. Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally
- (a) agriculturists
 - (b) warriors
 - (c) weavers
 - (d) traders

Answer .D

Internal and External Trade:

Explanation:

During Mughal Period, The Indian trading classes were well organized and highly professional. Some specialised in long distance, inter-regional trade and some local, retail trade. The former were called seth, bohra or modi, while the latter were called beoparis or banik. In addition to retailing goods, the baniks had

their own agents, in the villages and townships, with whose help they purchased food-grains and cash crops. There was a special class of traders, the banjaras, who specialized in carrying bulk goods.

14. Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka?

- (a) Georg Bihler
- (b) James Prinsep
- (c) Max Muller
- (d) William Jones

Answer ;B

Explanation:

The *Edicts of Ashoka* are a collection of 33 inscriptions on the Pillars of *Ashoka* as well as ... These *edicts* were *deciphered* by British archaeologist and historian James Prinsep

15. With reference to the 'Gram Nyayalaya Act', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases.
- 2. The Act allows local social activists as mediators/reconciliators.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer .B

Explanation:

The Gram Nyayalayas have both civil and criminal jurisdiction over the offences and nature of suits specified in the First, Second and Third schedule of the Act. The *Gram Nyayalaya Act* was passed in 2008 to make the judicial process ... it *allows* appointment of *local social activists* and lawyers as *mediators/reconciliators*

Source:

www.downtoearth.org.in

16. With reference to the 'Trans-Pacific Partnership', consider the following statements :

- 1. It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
- 2. It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer .A

Explanation:

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) or Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) is a trade agreement among twelve Pacific Rim countries. The finalized proposal was signed on 4 February 2016 in Auckland. The Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPSEP) is a trade agreement between four Pacific Rim countries concerning a variety of matters of economic policy.

17. Consider the following statements :

The India-Africa Summit

1. held in 2015 was the third such Summit
2. was actually initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer A

Explanation:

The India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) is the official platform for the African-Indian relations. IAFS will be held once in every three years. It was first held from April 4 to April 8, 2008 in New Delhi, India. It was the first such meeting between the heads of state and government of India and 14 countries of Africa chosen by the African Union.

18. What is/are the purpose/purposes of the 'Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR)' announced by RBI?

1. These guidelines help improve the transparency in the methodology followed by banks for determining the interest rates on advances.
2. These guidelines help ensure availability of bank credit at interest rates which are fair to the borrowers as well as the banks.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer .C

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India today released the final guidelines on computing interest rates on advances based on the marginal cost of funds. The guidelines come into effect from April 1, 2016. Apart from helping improve the transmission of policy rates into the lending rates of banks, these measures are expected to improve transparency in the methodology followed by banks for determining interest rates on advances. The guidelines are also expected to ensure availability of bank credit at interest rates which are fair to the borrowers as well as the banks. Further, marginal cost pricing of loans will help the banks become more competitive and enhance their long run value and contribution to economic growth.

Source:

<https://rbi.org.in/>

19. What is/are unique about 'Kharai camel', a breed found in India?

1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometres in seawater.
2. It survives by grazing on mangroves.
3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer .D

Explanation:

While camels are special to the desert regions, Kharai, also known as Dariyataru due to its ability to swim in deep waters of sea, is more than an animal to carry the men or weight," said Bhatti. "The camels exclusively survive in mangroves, eating grass and vegetation found in coastal regions. Due to their unique diet, they swim to islands near the shore for grazing."Due to its unique abilities, the camels are seen in coastal and marshy areas found inhospitable by other breeds

Source:<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

20. Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11 metres and has orange-coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered?

- (a) Andaman Islands
- (b) Anaimalai Forests
- (c) Maikala Hills
- (d) Tropical rain forests of northeast

Answer .A

Explanation:

Scientists at the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of banana from a remote tropical rain forest on the Little Andaman islands. "The new species is about 11 metres high, whereas as the usual banana species is about three to four metres high. The fruit lux of the new species is about one metres, which is thrice the size of regular species,"

Source:

The hindu

21. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Astradharini', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Answer .C

Explanation:

Indian Navy's Torpedo Launch and Recovery Vessel *INS Astradharani* was commissioned at Naval Jetty in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. ... Indian Navy's first totally indigenously-designed and built torpedo launch and recovery vessel *INS Astradharani* was commissioned

Source: The Hindu

22. What is 'Greased Lightning-10 (GL-10)', recently in the news?

- (a) Electric plane tested by NASA
- (b) Solar-powered two-seater aircraft designed by Japan
- (c) Space observatory launched by China
- (d) Reusable rocket designed by ISRO

Answer .A

Explanation:

That is a concept being developed by NASA researchers called *Greased Lightning* or *GL-10*. The team, at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, is looking at the idea initially as a potential unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

Source:

23. With reference to 'Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion', which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. This initiative aims to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies, and to demonstrate value addition techniques, in an integrated manner, with cluster approach.
 2. Poor, small, marginal and tribal farmers have larger stake in this scheme.
 3. An important objective of the scheme is to encourage farmers of commercial crops to shift to millet cultivation by offering them free kits of critical inputs of nutrients and microirrigation equipment.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer . A

Explanation:

The scheme aims to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies in an integrated manner with visible impact to catalyze increased production of millets in the country. Besides increasing production of millets, the Scheme through processing and value addition techniques is expected to generate consumer demand for millet based food products. The Scheme will be implemented from Kharif 2011.

24. The 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' were adopted as methods of struggle for the first time during the
- (a) agitation against the Partition of Bengal
 - (b) Home Rule Movement
 - (c) Non-Cooperation Movement
 - (d) visit of the Simon Commission to India

Answer . a

25. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements :
1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
 2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.
 3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer . b

26. 'Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres)', often in the news, is
- (a) a division of World Health Organization
 - (b) a non-governmental international organization
 - (c) an inter-governmental agency sponsored by European Union
 - (d) a specialized agency of the United Nations

Answer . b

Explanation:

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian-aid non-governmental organization (NGO) and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, best known for its projects in war-torn regions and developing countries facing endemic diseases

27. With reference to an initiative called 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)', which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is an initiative hosted by UNEP, IMF and World Economic Forum.
 2. It is a global initiative that focuses on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
 3. It presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer . c

Explanation:

The initiative on 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) is an important partner in implementing the CBD programme of work on incentive measures, and in particular its work on valuation. This major international initiative, funded by the European Commission, Germany, United Kingdom, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden, and managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as part of its Green Economy Initiative (GEI), seeks to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, to highlight the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and to draw together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions moving forward.

Members of the TEEB Advisory Board include the Executive Director of UNEP, the Executive Secretary of the CBD and the Director General of IUCN, amongst others.

28. With reference to 'Red Sanders', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:
1. It is a tree species found in a part of South India.
 2. It is one of the most important trees in the tropical rain forest areas of South India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer . c

Explanation:

Pterocarpus santalinus, with the common names red sanders, red sandalwood, and saunderswood, is a species of *Pterocarpus* endemic to the southern Eastern Ghats mountain range of South India. This tree is valued for the rich red color of its wood.

29. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
- Proper design and effective implementation of UN-REDD+ Programme can significantly contribute to
1. protection of biodiversity
 2. resilience of forest ecosystems
 3. poverty reduction

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer . d

30. What is 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol'?

(a) It is an international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify and manage greenhouse gas emissions

(b) It is an initiative of the United Nations to offer financial incentives to developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adopt eco-friendly technologies

(c) It is an inter-governmental agreement ratified by all the member countries of the United Nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to specified levels by the year 2022

(d) It is one of the multilateral REDD+ initiatives hosted by the World Bank

Answer . a

Explanation:

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, developed by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), sets the global standard for how to measure, manage, and report greenhouse gas emissions. Hundreds of companies and organizations around the world are using GHG Protocol standards and tools to manage their emissions and become more efficient, resilient, and prosperous organizations.

31. With reference to 'Financial Stability and Development Council', consider the following statements:

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.

2. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.

3. It monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer . c

Explanation:

Financial Stability and Development Council is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India. The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the *Raghuram Rajan Committee* in 2008. Finally in 2010, the then Finance Minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India. Chairperson is the Union Finance Minister of India

32. With reference to 'Agenda 21', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements :

1. It is a global action plan for sustainable development

2. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer . a

Explanation:

Agenda 21 is a non-binding, voluntarily implemented action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development. It is a product of the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

33. Satya Shodhak Samaj organized

- (a) a movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar
- (b) a temple-entry movement in Gujarat
- (c) an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra
- (d) a peasant movement in Punjab

Answer .c

34. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

Viruses can infect

- 1. bacteria
- 2. fungi
- 3. plants

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer . d

35. The term 'Base Erosion and Profit Shifting' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- (a) mining operation by multinational companies in resource-rich but backward areas
- (b) curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies
- (c) exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies
- (d) lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects

Answer . b

Explanation:

Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) refers to those instances where gaps between different tax rules leads to tax avoidance causing harm to the government.

36. Recently, India's first 'National Investment and Manufacturing Zone' was proposed to be set up in

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer . a

Explanation:

Andhra Pradesh is set to house India's first national investment and manufacturing zone after the state assured the Centre of availability of 10 sq km of land in one place in Prakasham district.

37. What is/are the purpose/purposes of 'District Mineral Foundations' in India?

- 1. Promoting mineral exploration activities in mineral-rich districts
- 2. Protecting the interests of the persons affected by mining operations
- 3. Authorizing State Governments to issue licences for mineral exploration

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer .b

Explanation:

The mines and minerals (Development and regulation) Act 2015, mandated the state governments to set up an DMF for empowering the displaced communities

Objectives:

1. work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations in such a manner as prescribed by the state govt
2. to improve economic status and empower communities

38. SWAYAM', an initiative of the Government of India, aims at
- (a) promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas
 - (b) providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs
 - (c) promoting the education and health of adolescent girls
 - (d) providing affordable and quality education to the citizens for free

Answer . d

Explanation:

SWAYAM or Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds programme of Ministry of Human Resource Development, *Government of India*, Professors of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs, ... basic sciences. At least one crore students are expected to benefit in 2 to 3 years through this *initiative*. This project *aims* to deliver quality engineering education in *India*.

39. The Montague-Chelmsford Proposals were related to
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) social reforms | (b) educational reforms |
| (c) reforms in police administration | (d) constitutional reforms |

Answer . d

40. What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?
1. Both were built in the same period.
 2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
 3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the statements given above is correct

Answer:c

41. With reference to 'Bitcoins', sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1.Bitcoins are tracked by the Central Banks of the countries.
2. Anyone with a Bitcoin address can send and receive Bitcoins from anyone else with a Bitcoin address.
3. Online payments can be sent without either side knowing the identity of the other.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer:b

Explanation:

Bitcoin is a digital asset and a payment system. The system is peer-to-peer and transactions take place between users directly, without an intermediary. A major Bitcoin exchange, Bitfinex, was hacked and

nearly 120,000 BTC (around \$60m) was stolen in 2016. Bitcoin value crashed and Bitfinex was forced to suspend its trading. Bitcoin is a digital asset and a payment system.

42. Consider the following statements :
1. New Development Bank has been set up by APEC.
 2. The headquarters of New Development Bank is in Shanghai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:b

Explanation:

The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

The headquarters of New Development Bank is in Shanghai.

43. 'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news, are related to
- (a) constitutional reforms
 - (b) Ganga Action Plan
 - (c) linking of rivers
 - (d) protection of Western Ghats

Answer:d

Explanation:

Gadgil Commission, an environmental research commission is named after its chairman Madhav Gadgil. The commission is formally known as Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP). The commission submitted the report to the Government of India on 31 August 2011

44. Consider the following :
1. Calcutta Unitarian Committee
 2. Tabernacle of New Dispensation
 3. Indian Reform Association
- Keshab Chandra Sen is associated with the establishment of which of the above?

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

Answer:b

45. Which of the following is not a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?
- (a) Iran
 - (b) Saudi Arabia
 - (c) Oman
 - (d) Kuwait

Answer:A

46. What is/are the purpose/purposes of Government's 'Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme' and 'Gold Monetization Scheme'?
1. To bring the idle gold lying with Indian households into the economy
 2. To promote FDI in the gold and jewellery sector
 3. To reduce India's dependence on gold imports
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- Answer:C

47. 'Belt and Road Initiative' is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of
- (a) African Union
(b) Brazil
(c) European Union
(d) China
- Answer:D

Explanation:

December 21 and 22, 2015, the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Department of International Studies convened the first Symposium on the Belt and Road initiative and its Implications for Cambodia, with cooperation and sponsorship from, the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

48. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana is aimed at
- (a) bringing the small entrepreneurs into formal financial system
(b) providing loans to poor farmers for cultivating particular crops
(c) providing pensions to old and destitute persons
(d) funding the voluntary organizations involved in the promotion of skill development and employment generation
- Answer:A

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana under the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Bank is a new institution being set up by Government of India for development and refinancing activities relating to micro units. It was announced by the Finance Minister while presenting the Union Budget for FY 2016. The purpose of MUDRA is to provide funding to the non corporate small business sector. Loans worth about Rs 1 lakh crore have been sanctioned to small entrepreneurs under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today, emphasising that the government wants youth to be job creators and not job seekers.

49. In which of the following regions of India are shale gas resources found?
1. Cambay Basin
 2. Cauvery Basin
 3. Krishna-Godavari Basin
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer:D

50. 'Global Financial Stability Report' is prepared by the
- European Central Bank
 - International Monetary Fund
 - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Answer:B

Explanation:

A semiannual report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that assesses the stability of global financial markets and emerging market financing. The Global Financial Stability Report focuses on current conditions, especially financial and structural imbalances, that could risk an upset in global financial stability and access to financing by emerging market countries. It emphasizes the ramifications of financial and economic imbalances that are highlighted in one of the IMF's other publications, the World Economic Outlook.

51. Regarding 'Atal Pension Yojana', which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is a minimum guaranteed pension scheme mainly targeted at unorganized sector workers.
 2. Only one member of a family can join the scheme.
 3. Same amount of pension is guaranteed for the spouse for life after subscriber's death.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer:C

Explanation:

Government of India is concerned about the old age income security of the working poor and is focused on encouraging and enabling them to save for their retirement. To address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganized sector and to encourage the workers in unorganized sector to voluntarily save for their retirement. In case of death of the Subscriber due to any cause: In case of death of subscriber pension would be available to the spouse and on the death of both of them (subscriber and spouse), the pension corpus would be returned to his nominee

52. The term 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as
- G20
 - ASEAN
 - SCO
 - SAARC

Answer (b)

Explanation:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand). RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. RCEP is viewed as an alternative to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, which includes the United States but excludes

53. On which of the following can you find the Bureau of Energy Efficiency Star Label?
1. Ceiling fans
 2. Electric geysers
 3. Tubular fluorescent lamps

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer (d)

Explanation:

The scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Power in May, 2006 and is currently invoked for equipments/appliances Room Air Conditioner, Ceiling Fan, Colour Television, Computer, Direct Cool Refrigerator, Distribution Transformer, Domestic Gas Stove, Frost Free Refrigerator, General Purpose Industrial Motor, Monoset Pump, Openwell Submersible Pump Set, Stationary Type Water Heater, Submersible Pump Set, Tfl, Ballast, Solid State Inverter, Office Automation Products, Diesel Engine Driven Monosetpumps For Agricultural Purposes, Diesel Generator Set, Led Lamps, Inverter Ac.

54. India is an important member of the 'International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor'. If this experiment succeeds, what is the immediate advantage for India?

- (a) It can use thorium in place of uranium for power generation
- (b) It can attain a global role in satellite navigation
- (c) It can drastically improve the efficiency of its fission reactors in power generation
- (d) It can build fusion reactors for power generation

Answer (D)

Explanation:

ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, and is also Latin for "the way") is an international nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject, which will be the world's largest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment. It is an experimental tokamak nuclear fusion reactor that is being built next to the Cadarache facility in Saint-Paul-lès-Durance, south of France

55. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
(1) Eripatti	: Land, revenue from which was set apart for the main-tenance of the village tank
(2) Taniyurs	: Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
(3) Ghatikas	: Colleges generally attached to the temples

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer :D

56. Consider the following statements:

- (1) The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
- (2) The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer . A

Explanation:

India and France have launched an International Solar Alliance to boost solar energy in developing countries. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30 November by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande.

57. 'European Stability Mechanism', sometimes seen in the news, is an
- (a) agency created by EU to deal with the impact of millions of refugees arriving from Middle East
 - (b) agency of EU that provides financial assistance to eurozone countries
 - (c) agency of EU to deal with all the bilateral and multilateral agreements on trade
 - (d) agency of EU to deal with the conflicts arising among the member countries

Answer .(b)

Explanation:

Greece is seeking financial support from the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), the eurozone's permanent bailout fund for struggling economies.

It was launched back in October 2012 as one of the key elements in the eurozone's defences against a deepening debt crisis.

58. Which of the following is/are the advantage /advantages of practising drip irrigation?
1. Reduction in weed
 2. Reduction in soil salinity
 3. Reduction in soil erosion

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above is an advantage of practising drip irrigation

Answer . C

Explanation:

With *drip irrigation*, water is conveyed under pressure through a pipe system to the fields, where it drips slowly onto the soil through emitters or drippers which are located close to the plants. Compared to other types of *irrigation* (sprinkler irrigation or surface irrigation), only the immediate root zone of each plant is wetted. Therefore this can be a very efficient method of *irrigation*. *Drip irrigation* is sometimes called *trickle irrigation*

59. Regarding DigiLocker', sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- 1 It is a digital locker system offered by the Government under Digital India Programme.
 2. It allows you to access your e-documents irrespective of your physical location.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer . C

Explanation:

The vision of Digital India programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. DigiLocker is Government of India's cloud based platform for issuance and verification of documents & certificates digitally. With DigiLocker, you can:

access your documents anytime, anywhere

- share documents digitally for verification
- eSign documents (which is similar to self-attestation)

60. Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was undertaken?

- (a) Cauvery and Tungabhadra
- (b) Godavari and Krishna
- (c) Mahanadi and Sone
- (d) Narmada and Tapi

Answer ;(b)

Explanation:

3,000 TMC of the Godavari's flood waters flows into the Bay of Bengal every year. Successive Andhra Pradesh governments have been trying to harness at least 10 per cent of this water and divert some of it into the Krishna, whose delta faces an acute shortage of water for irrigation from June to August.

* While the plan is to eventually divert water from the Polavaram dam, since the dam is still under construction and will take at least 4 to 5 years to be ready, the Chandrababu Naidu government decided to divert Godavari water from the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme. This plan will kick off on September 16. For now, since September 1, the government has been carrying out a trial run, pumping water into the canal from the Tadipudi lift irrigation project of the Godavari. It's this water that will enter the Krishna delta on September 15.

61. In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of Air Quality Index?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulfur dioxide
5. Methane

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer :(b)

The air quality of our country calculated using the measurements of average times of the chemicals ozone (O_3), sulphur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers ($PM_{2.5}$), and particles smaller than 10 micrometers.

62. With reference to 'Astrosat', the astronomical observatory launched by India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Other than USA and Russia, India is the only country to have launched a similar observatory into space.
2. Astrosat is a 2000 kg satellite placed in an orbit at 1650 km above the surface of the Earth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer .(d)

Explanation:

10 countries most active in space. ASTROSAT with a lift-off mass of about 1513 kg was launched into a 650 km orbit inclined at an angle of 6 deg to the equator by PSLV-C30

63. With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term Araghatta' refers to
- (a) bonded labour
 - (b) land grants made to military officers
 - (c) waterwheel used in the irrigation of land
 - (d) wastel and converted to cultivated land

Answer .(c)

Explanation:

A notable advance seems to have been made with the provision of right angled gearing to the Indian 'Saqiya or araghatta waterwheel with potgarland the fully developed device being decribed as in use in the Punjab and cis-Sutlej territory by early Sixteenth century.

64. With reference to the cultural history of India, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories and Epictales was the profession of who of the following?
- (a) Shramana
 - (b) Parivraaj a k a
 - (c) Agrahaarika
 - (d) Maagadha

Answer .(D)

65. Recently, for the first time in our country, which of the following States has declared a particular butterfly as 'State Butterfly'?
- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
 - (b) Himachal Pradesh
 - (c) Karnataka
 - (d) Maharashtra

Answer . d

Explanation:

Maharashtra has become the first State in the country to have a 'State butterfly.'

The BJP-led government has declared the Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*) as the State butterfly. The decision was taken at a meeting of the State Wildlife Board in Mumbai on Monday.

The Blue Mormon is a large, swallowtail butterfly found primarily in Sri Lanka and India, mainly restricted to the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, South India and coastal belts. It may occasionally be spotted in the Maharashtrian mainland between Vidarbha and Western Maharashtra.

Source:

The hindu

66. Consider the following statements:
The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO
1. is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission

2. made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
3. made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer .c

Explanation:

The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called *Mangalyaan*

It is India's first interplanetary mission and ISRO has become the fourth space agency to reach Mars, after the Soviet space program, NASA, and the European Space Agency. It is the first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit, and the first nation in the world to do so in its first attempt.

67. What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907?
- (a) Introduction of communalism into Indian politics by Lord Minto
 - (b) Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government
 - (c) Foundation of Muslim League
 - (d) Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected as the President of the Indian National Congress

Answer b

68. The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War
- (a) India should be granted complete independence
 - (b) India should be partitioned into two before granting independence
 - (c) India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the Commonwealth
 - (d) India should be given Dominion status

Answer .d

69. Consider the following pairs:

Famous place	Region
1. Bodhgaya	Baghelkhand
2. Khajuraho	Bundelkhand
3. Shirdi	Vidarbha
4. Nasik (Nashik)	Malwa
5. Tirupati	Rayalaseema

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer .c

70. The Parliament of India acquires the power to legislate on any item in the State List in the national interest if a resolution to that effect is passed by the
- (a) Lok Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
 - (b) Lok Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its total membership

- (c) Rajya Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
 - (d) Rajya Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting
- Answer .d

71. Recently, which of the following States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to sea by a long navigational channel?
- (a) Andhra Pradesh
 - (b) Chhattisgarh
 - (c) Karnataka
 - (d) Rajasthan
- Answer .d

Explanation:

The state government is exploring ways to develop an artificial inland port in Jalore by bringing in Arabian Sea water into Rajasthan through Gujarat. If implemented, Rajasthan will become accessible by water transport and will be able to shed the tag of a landlocked state.

72. With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017.
 2. The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2 °C or even 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.
 3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate \$ 1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- Answer .B

73. Consider the following statements:
1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
 2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer:C

The Club of Rome is a global think tank that deals with a variety of international political issues. Founded in 1968 at Accademia dei Lincei in Rome, Italy, the Club of Rome describes itself as "a group of world citizens, sharing a common concern for the future of humanity

74. A recent movie titled The Man Who Knew Infinity is based on the biography of
- (a) S. Ramanujan
 - (b) S. Chandrasekhar
 - (c) S. N. Bose
 - (d) C. V. Raman

Answer. a

75. Consider the following statements:
1. The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 25 years.
 2. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues only for the remainder period.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer.(D)

The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 21 years.

76. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. A Bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its prorogation.
 2. A Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, which has not been passed by the Lok Sabha, shall not lapse on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer. (b)

A Bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on only loksabha dissolved.

77. Which of the following is/are the indicator/indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report?
1. Undernourishment
 2. Child stunting
 3. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans (c)

Explanation:

The Index captures three interlinked dimensions of hunger: consumption of too few calories or nutrients, underweight of children, and child mortality.

78. There has been a persistent deficit budget year after year. Which action/actions of the following can be taken by the Government to reduce the deficit?
1. Reducing revenue expenditure
 2. Introducing new welfare schemes
 3. Rationalizing subsidies
 4. Reducing import duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer. C

79. The establishment of 'Payment Banks' is being allowed in India to promote financial inclusion. Which of the following statements is/are correct in this context?
1. Mobile telephone companies and supermarket chains that are owned and controlled by residents are eligible to be promoters of Payment Banks.
 2. Payment Banks can issue both credit cards and debit cards.
 3. Payment Banks cannot undertake lending activities.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer. B

Explanation:

They can't offer loans but can raise deposits of upto Rs. 1 lakh, and pay interest on these balances just like a savings bank account does.

-They can enable transfers and remittances through a mobile phone.

-They can offer services such as automatic payments of bills, and purchases in cashless, chequeless transactions through a phone.

-They can issue debit cards and ATM cards usable on ATM networks of all banks.

-They can transfer money directly to bank accounts at nearly no cost being a part of the gateway that connects banks.

-They can provide forex cards to travellers, usable again as a debit or ATM card all over India.

-They can offer forex services at charges lower than banks.

-They can also offer card acceptance mechanisms to third parties such as the 'Apple Pay.'

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80. With reference to 'Li-Fi', recently in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It uses light as the medium for high-speed data transmission.
 2. It is a wireless technology and is several times faster than 'WiFi'.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer. (c)

Explanation:

Light is already used for data transmission in fibre-optic cables and for point to point links, but Li-Fi is a special and novel combination of technologies that allow it to be universally adopted for mobile ultra high speed internet communications.

Using the visible light spectrum, Li-Fi technology can transmit data and unlock capacity which is 10,000 times greater than that available within the radio spectrum.

81. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of
- (a) pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
 - (b) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change
 - (c) capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
 - (d) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals
- Answer.b

Explanation :

The INDCs combine the top-down system of a United Nations climate agreement with bottom-up system-in elements through which countries put forward their agreements in the context of their own

national circumstances, capabilities and priorities, within the ambition to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions enough to keep global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intended_Nationally_Determined_Contributions

82. Which one of the following is a purpose of 'UDAY', a scheme of the Government?
- Providing technical and financial assistance to start-up entrepreneurs in the field of renewable sources of energy
 - Providing electricity to every household in the country by 2018
 - Replacing the coal-based power plants with natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind and tidal power plants over a period of time
 - Providing for financial turnaround and revival of power distribution companies

Answer.d

Explanation

'Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) is the financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies of India (DISCOMs) initiated by the Government of India with the intent to find a permanent solution to the financial mess that the power distribution is in.^[1]

83. With reference to 'IFC Masala Bonds', sometimes seen in the news, which of the statements given below is/are correct?
- The International Finance Corporation, which offers these bonds, is an arm of the World Bank.
 - They are the rupee-denominated bonds and are a source of debt financing for the public and private sector.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer.c

Explanation

Masala bonds are the new type of bonds, which are rupee-linked bonds, issued to offshore investors but the settlement happens in dollar terms. The major benefit of this bond is that the currency risk is not borne by the issuer. An issuer can issue masala bonds worth a maximum \$750 million a year and the bonds must have a minimum maturity of five years..

84. Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements :
- The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
 - Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer. c

Explanation

The land revenue was the main source of income of the government. There was a separate land revenue department. To assess the proper revenue entire land was classified into four parts:

- the wet land,
- the dry land,
- the orchards and
- the woods.

5. The empire was divided into Mandalas, Nadus and Seeme. For the purpose of assessment and fixation of revenue, Krishnadevaraya had the whole of his empire surveyed. The unit of land for assessment was known as Rayarekhe or the royal line and which measured roughly about seven feet and nine inches. Twenty of these units made a bigha and 36 bigha's, a mar or plot of 16 to 18 acres. Land revenue was fixed based on the yield, normally 1/3rd of the produce. Krishnadevaraya provided irrigation facilities by building reservoirs and channels across the kingdom

85. Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty?

- (a) Swapnavasavadatta (b) Malavikagnirnitra
(c) Meghadoota (d) Ratnavali

Answer.b

86. In the context of which of the following do you sometimes find the terms 'amber box, blue box and green box' in the news?

- (a) WTO affairs (b) SAARC affairs
(c) UNFCCC affairs (d) India-EU negotiations on FTA

Answer.a

Explanation

In WTO terminology, subsidies in general are identified by "Boxes" which are given the colours of traffic lights: green (permitted), amber (slow down — i.e. be reduced), red (forbidden). In agriculture, things are, as usual, more complicated. The Agriculture Agreement has no Red Box, although domestic support exceeding the reduction commitment levels in the Amber Box is prohibited; and there is a Blue Box for subsidies that are tied to programmes that limit production. There are also exemptions for developing countries (sometimes called an "S&D Box")

87. Which of the following is/are included in the capital budget of the Government of India?

1. Expenditure on acquisition of assets like roads, buildings, machinery, etc.
2. Loans received from foreign governments
3. Loans and advances granted to the States and Union Territories

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer:(d)

Definition: Capital Budget consists of capital receipts and payments. It also incorporates transactions in the Public Account.

Description: Capital receipts are loans raised by the government from the public (which are called market loans), borrowings by the government from the Reserve Bank and other parties through sale of treasury bills, loans received from foreign bodies and governments, and recoveries of loans granted by the Central government to state and Union Territory governments and other parties.

Capital payments consist of capital expenditure on acquisition of assets like land, buildings, machinery, and equipment, as also investments in shares, loans and advances granted by the Central government to state and Union Territory governments, government companies, corporations and other parties.

88. What is/are the importance/importances of the 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification'?

1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive inter-national partnerships.
2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portion of financial resources to these regions.

3. It is committed to bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating the desertification.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer.c

Explanation

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) is a Convention to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs that incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.

The UNCCD has been ratified by 195 states plus the European Union.^[3] Currently, all member states of the UN — except Canada, which withdrew on 28 March 2013, effective 28 March 2014^[1] — are parties to convention. The convention does not apply to Aruba, Caribbean Netherlands, Curaçao and Sint Maarten (Kingdom of the Netherlands), or to Gibraltar, the Isle of Man, Guernsey, or Jersey (United Kingdom).

The non-UN member states that have ratified the convention are the Cook Islands and Niue. The Holy See and the states with limited recognition are non-parties.

89. Recently, which one of the following currencies has been proposed to be added to the basket of IMF's SDR?

- (a) Rouble (b) Rand
(c) Indian Rupee (d) Renminbi

Answer.d

Explanation:

The Review of the Method of Valuation of the *Special Drawing Right (SDR)* basket is conducted every five years by the IMF's Executive Board, or earlier if warranted by developments. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the SDR basket reflects the relative importance of major currencies in the world's trading and financial systems, with a view to enhancing the SDR's attractiveness as a reserve asset. The latest review was completed on November 30, 2015.

90. With reference to the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), consider the following statements :

1. IMFC discusses matters of concern affecting the global economy, and advises the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the direction of its work.
2. The World Bank participates as observer in IMFC's meetings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer.c

Explanation :

The Boards of Governors of the IMF and the World Bank Group normally meet once a year, during the IMF-World Bank Spring and Annual Meetings, to discuss the work of their respective institutions. The Meetings, which take place in September or October, have customarily been held in Washington for two consecutive years and in another member country in the third year.

The IMF's mandate and governance have evolved along with changes in the global economy, allowing the organization to retain a central role within the international financial architecture. The diagram below provides a stylized view of the IMF's current governance structure.

91. Rashtriya Garima Abhiyaan' is a national campaign to
- rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with suitable sources of livelihood
 - release the sex workers from their practice and provide them with alternative sources of livelihood
 - eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers
 - release the bonded labourers from their bondage and rehabilitate them

Answer.c

EXPLANATION:

The practice continues in the country in spite of efforts of several people, implementation of government schemes such as the National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers since 1992 and Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers since 2007, and regardless of it...

92. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements :
- Siddhas (Sittars) of Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.
 - Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Answer.a

93. Which of the following best describes the term 'import cover', sometimes seen in the news?
- It is the ratio of value of imports to the Gross Domestic Product of a country
 - It is the total value of imports of a country in a year
 - It is the ratio between the value of exports and that of imports between two countries
 - It is the number of months of imports that could be paid for by a country's international reserves

Answer.d

Explanation:

The stock of foreign exchange reserves in terms of months of retained imports of goods as at end of year. It measures the number of months of money available in the national bank to cover the cost of imports. Footnote. All figures are collected from Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau since 1999.

94. Consider the following pairs :
- Community sometimes In the affairs of mentioned in the news
- Kurd : Bangladesh
 - Madhesi : Nepal
 - Rohingya : Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2
- 2 only
- 2 and 3
- 3 only

Answer.c

Explanation:

The recent turmoil in Madhes (or the Terai plains bordering India) was a stark reflection of the challenges confronting the restructuring process in Nepal. It was also a reminder to the current interim government that the problems in Nepal are not yet over and that there are serious socio-economic and political issues that need to be addressed.

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority population living mainly in the state of Arakan, in Myanmar (Burma). Although approximately 800,000 Rohingya live in Myanmar, and apparently their ancestors were in the country for centuries, the Burmese government does not recognize Rohingya people

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer.a

EXPLANATION:

Function and Power of NGRBA

National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has started the Mission Clean Ganga with a changed and comprehensive approach to champion the challenges posed to Ganga through four different sectors, namely, of wastewater management, solid waste management, industrial pollution and river front development.

NGRBA is mandated to take up regulatory and developmental functions with sustainability needs for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.

The NGRBA is fully operational and is also supported by the state level State Ganga River Conservation Authorities (SGRCAs) in five Ganga basin States which are chaired by the Chief Ministers of the respective States.

99. Why does the Government of India promote the use of 'Neem-coated Urea' in agriculture?

(a) Release of Neem oil in the soil increases nitrogen fixation by the soil microorganisms

(b) Neem coating slows down the rate of dissolution of urea in the soil

(c) Nitrous oxide, which is a greenhouse gas, is not at all released into atmosphere by crop fields

(d) It is a combination of a weedicide and a fertilizer for particular crops

Answer.a

Delhi-based National Fertilisers Limited (nfl) has started manufacturing urea coated with neem oil. Fifty field trials conducted in three states show positive results, with an average increase of 16 per cent in crop production. "On an average, 20 per cent less neem-coated urea is required as compared to ordinary urea

100. Consider the following statements :

1. The Chief Secretary in a State is appointed by the Governor of that State.

2. The Chief Secretary in a State has a fixed tenure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer.d

The incumbent to the post of Chief Secretary is chosen by the Chief Minister of the state. The trend is that the Chief Minister consults the Union Government regarding the appointment of the Chief Secretary but this consultation is not obligatory. Likewise, the C.M. may consult the cabinet or a few of his ministerial colleagues on this matter but the final decision is his. Three main factors are considered by the C.M. while selecting an officer for this post. These are as follows: