“IASbaba is Opening up in Delhi very soon!!”
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Agricultural soils release nitrogen oxides into environment.
2. Cattle release ammonia into environment.
3. Poultry industry releases reactive nitrogen compounds into environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (d)

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct as nitrogen oxides are released into the environment due to biological processes in soils and biomass burning.

Agriculture remains the largest contributor to nitrogen emissions followed by sewage and organic solid wastes. (Approx. 90% of the emissions come from soils.)

Nitrous oxide is formed in soils during the microbiological processes nitrification and denitrification. Because nitrous oxide is a gas it can escape from soil during these transformations.

Statement (2) is also correct as cattle release both ammonia and methane into the atmosphere. Cattle account for 80% of the ammonia production, though their annual growth rate is 1%, due to a stable population.

The poultry industry, on the other hand, with an annual growth rate of 6%, recorded an excretion of reactive nitrogen compounds of 0.415 tonnes in 2016. Hence, statement (3) is also correct.


IASbaba Reference: DNA (South Asian Nitrogen Hub)

Key Pointers:

- Nitrogen particles make up the largest fraction of PM2.5.
- While the burning of crop residue is said to be a key contributor to winter smog in many parts of North India, it contributes over 240 million kg of nitrogen oxides.
- Agriculture remains the largest contributor to nitrogen emissions, the non-agricultural emissions of nitrogen oxides and nitrous oxide are growing rapidly, with sewage and fossil fuel burning – for power, transport and industry – leading the trend.
- As fertilizer, nitrogen is one of the main inputs for agriculture.
- Agricultural soils contributed to over 70% of NOx emissions from India in 2010, followed by waste water (12%) and residential and commercial activities (6%). Since 2002, NOx has replaced methane as the second largest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) from Indian agriculture.
- Chemical fertilizers (over 83% of it is urea) account for over 77% of all agricultural NOx emissions in India, while manure, compost and so on make up the rest.

Do you know?

- Cattle account for 80% of the ammonia production, though their annual growth rate is 1%, due to a stable population.
- India is globally the biggest source of ammonia emission, nearly double that of NOx emissions.
- But at the current rate of growth, NOx emissions will exceed ammonia emissions and touch 8.8 tonnes by 2055, studies highlight.
- Nutrient recovery/recycling from waste water for agriculture could cut down NOx emissions from sewage and waste water by up to 40%.

Article link: Nitrogen emissions going up: study – NATIONAL – The Hindu

Q.5) Which among the following is the largest contributor to ammonia production in India?

a. Fertilizers used in Agriculture
b. Residential and commercial activities
c. Automobile
d. Cattle

Q.3) Agriculture is one of the largest Green house gas contributors on earth. Which of the following statements are correct regarding this?

1. Cattle rearing is responsible for release of a large amount of Methane in atmosphere.
2. Use of manure in soil leads to production of Methane and Nitrogen oxides.
3. Burning of crop stubble release a large amount of CO2 and soot in air.
4. Clearing space for agriculture leads to deforestation and hence global warming.

Select the code from following:

a. 1, 2 and 3
b. 2, 3 and 4
c. 1, 3 and 4
d. All of the above


Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.

2. The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of judiciary.

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

Solution (b)

Explanation:

38th amendment to the constitution put the election of the PM beyond the purview of the courts. Hence, statement (1) is wrong.

99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014 which provides for composition of the NJAC was struck down by the Supreme Court as being violative of the independence of judiciary.

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN Significant Amendments (under ILP MOUDLE 1 STAGE 1 MAINS 2019) & 60 Day Plan
Q.8) Match the following:

| 1. The amendment provides for the formation of a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). | a. 99th amendment |
| 2. Amendment related to the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between India and Bangladesh. | b. 100th amendment |
| 3. Amendment provided special provisions for the Hyderabad-Karnataka region of the state of Karnataka | c. 98th amendment |

Match the codes:
- a) 1-a, 2-c, 3-b
- b) 1-c, 2-b, 3-a
- c) 1-b, 2-c, 3-a
- d) 1-a, 2-b, 3-c

99th amendment: NJAC

There is a need for a broad based National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC), for making recommendations for selection of judges.

The Bill seeks to enable equal participation of Judiciary and Executive, ensure that the appointments to the higher judiciary are more participatory, transparent and objective.

Creation of the NJAC:
- Article 124 (2) of the Constitution provides that the President will make appointments of Supreme Court (SC) and High Court (HC) judges after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and other SC and HC judges as he considers necessary.
- The Bill amends Article 124 (2) of the Constitution to provide for a Commission, to be known as the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). The NJAC would then make recommendations to the President for appointments of SC and HC judges.

Composition of the NJAC:
A new Article, Article 124A provides for the composition of the NJAC. The NJAC would consist of:
- Chief Justice of India (Chairperson)
- Two senior most Supreme Court Judges
- The Union Minister of Law and Justice
- Two eminent persons (to be nominated by a committee consisting of the Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister of India and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha). Of the two eminent persons, one person would be from the SC/ST/OBC/minority communities or...
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. The motion to impeach a Judge of the Supreme Court of India cannot be rejected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

2. The Constitution of India defines and gives details of what Constitutes 'incapacity and proved misbehaviour' of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India.

3. The details of the process of impeachment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India are given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

4. If the motion for the impeachment of a Judge is taken up for voting, the law requires the motion to be backed by each House of the Parliament and supported by a majority of total membership of that House and by not less than two-thirds of total members of that House present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (c)

Explanation:

The Judges Enquiry Act (1968) regulates the procedure relating to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court by the process of impeachment.

A removal motion signed by 100 members (in the case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in the case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman. The Speaker/Chairman may admit the motion or refuse to admit it. Hence, statement (1) is wrong.

A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his Office by an order of the president. The grounds of removal are two—proved misbehaviour or incapacity. However, the Constitution of India does not define nor gives details of what Constitutes 'incapacity and proved misbehaviour' of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India. Hence, statement (2) is also wrong.
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.

2. The above-mentioned Act was amended five times.

3. The term 'Office of Profit' is well-defined in the Constitution of India.

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

Solution (a)

IASbaba Reference: DNA & 60 Day plan

**Office of Profit: Explained**

Part of: Mains CS Paper III - Parliament and State Legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

Key pointers:

What are the basic criteria to disqualify an MP or MLA?

Basic disqualification criteria for an MP are laid down in Article 102 of the Constitution, and for an MLA in Article 191.

They can be disqualified for:

1. Holding an office of profit under government of India or state government;
2. Being of unsound mind;
3. Being an undischarged insolvent;
4. Not being an Indian citizen or for acquiring citizenship of another country.

What is office of profit?

The word ‘office’ has not been defined in the Constitution or the Representation of the People Act of 1951.

But different courts have interpreted it to mean a position with certain duties that are more or less of public character.


60 Day Plan-
Q.26) Consider the following statements about ‘office of profit’

1. The origin of this term can be found in the English Act of Settlement, 1701.
2. If an MLA or an MP holds a government office and receives benefits from it, then that office is termed as an “office of profit”
3. The word ‘office’ has not been defined in the Constitution, but is defined in the Representation of the People Act of 1951.

Select the correct code:

a) 1 and 2  
b) 2 Only  
c) 2 and 3  
d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.26) Solution (a)

Office of Profit

What are the basic criteria to disqualify an MP or MLA?

Basic disqualification criteria for an MP are laid down in Article 102 of the Constitution, and for an MLA in Article 191.

They can be disqualified for
- Holding an office of profit under government of India or state government
- Being of unsound mind
- Being an undischarged insolvent
- Not being an Indian citizen or for acquiring citizenship of another country

What is ‘office of profit’?


Q.) Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void?

(a) Third Schedule  
(b) Fifth Schedule  
(c) Ninth Schedule  
(d) Twelfth Schedule

Q.) Solution (b)

IASbaba Reference: DNA
Q.) Consider the following:

1. Carbon monoxide
2. Methane
3. Ozone
4. Sulphur dioxide

Which of the above are released into atmosphere due to the burning of crop/biomass residue?

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

Solution (d)

Reference:

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/coverage/agriculture/river-of-fire-57924

Q.) Consider the following pairs:

*Sea* : : *Bordering country*

1. Adriatic Sea : : Albania
2. Black Sea : : Croatia
3. Caspian Sea : : Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea : : Morocco
5. Red Sea : : Syria

Which of the pair given above are correctly matched?

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

Solution (b)

IASbaba Reference: Daily Quiz & 60 Day Plan
UPSC Quiz - 2019 : IASbaba's Daily Current Affairs Quiz [Day 47]

Q.1) ‘Caspian Sea’ is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Georgia  
2. Kazakhstan  
3. Azerbaijan  
4. Armenia

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2 and 4  
b) 2 and 3 Only  
c) 2, 3 and 4  
d) 2 and 4 Only

Q.54) Caspian Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Georgia  
2. Uzbekistan  
3. Turkmenistan  
4. Azerbaijan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.57) For election to the State Assembly,
Q.) Building 'Kalyana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

(a) Chalukya
(b) Chandela
(c) Rashtrakuta
(d) Vijayanagara

Solution (d)

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN
Q.) With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is not correct?

(a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.

(b) Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.

(c) Tansen composed songs on his patrons.

(d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

Solution (a)

Explanation:
Akbar conferred the title Mian (meaning a learned man) upon Tansen. Hence statement 1 is incorrect. Other statements are correct.

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN
about the age of 60, the Vaishnava musician Tansen joined the Akbar court, and his performances became a subject of many court historians.

Do you know?

- Akbar considered him as a Navaratnas (nine jewels), and gave him the title Mian, an honorific, meaning learned man.
- Tansen is remembered for his epic Dhrupad compositions, creating several new ragas, as well as for writing two classic books on music Sri Ganesh Stotra and Sangita Sara.

Q.) Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait?

(a) Humayun

(b) Akbar

(c) Jahangir

(d) Shah Jahan

Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference: ILP Revision test 30 & VAN
17. Consider the following statements about Mughals

1. Mughal paintings reached its climax during the reign of **Jahangir**
2. Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language
3. Itimad-ud-Daulah Tomb often described as a “jewel box” represents a transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture to its second phase

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a 1 and 2 only
- b 2 and 3 only
- c 1 and 3 only
- d All of the above

**Explanation:**

Mughal paintings reached its climax during the reign of **Jahangir**. He employed a number of painters like Abul Hasan, Bishan Das, Madhu, Anant, Manohar, Govardhan and Ustad Mansur. Apart from painting the scenes of hunting, battles and royal courts, progress was made in portrait painting and paintings of animals. Manyalbums containing paintings and calligraphy were produced during the Mughal period. Later, the influence of European painting could be seen.

Itimad-ud-Daulah Tomb is a Mughal mausoleum in the city of Agra in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Often described as a “jewel box”, sometimes called the “Baby Taj”, the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah is often regarded as a draft of the Taj Mahal. Along with the main building, the structure consists of numerous outbuildings and gardens. The tomb, built between 1622 and 1628 represents a transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture – primarily built from red sandstone with marble decorations, as in Humayun’s Tomb in Delhi and Akbar's tomb in Sikandra – to its second phase, based on white marble and pietra dura inlay, most elegantly realized in the Taj Mahal.

Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language.

**ILP VAN Medieval History**

**Do you know?**

- **Mughal paintings reached its climax during the reign of Jahangir.** He employed a number of painters like Abul Hasan, Bishan Das, Madhu, Anant, Manohar, Govardhan and Ustad Mansur. Apart from painting the scenes of hunting, battles and royal courts, progress was made in portrait painting and paintings of animals. Many albums containing paintings and calligraphy were produced during the Mughal period. Later, the influence of European painting could be seen.

Q.) **Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the**

(a) Department of Science and Technology
(b) Ministry of Employment
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference: Test 32 - Government Schemes & Current Affairs (Revision Test-2)

24. Consider the following statements about Atal New India Challenge

1. It launched under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with an aim to bring-in innovations and technologies relevant to the people
2. Under the Atal Innovation Mission grants of up to Rs 1 crore will be provided to the applicants showing capability, intent, and potential to productize technologies
3. It was launched by NITI Aayog

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All of the above

Explanation:

Solution (d)

Atal New India Challenge - On 26th April 2018, NITI Aayog launched Atal New India Challenge under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with an aim to bring-in innovations and technologies relevant to the people.

Under the Atal Innovation Mission grants of up to Rs 1 crore will be provided to the applicants showing capability, intent, and potential to productize technologies.

The objective of this initiative is to solve problems in 17 different areas, which would have direct impact on improving lives of citizens and also generate employment.

Under this new initiative, Atal Innovation Mission has partnered with the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture and Family Welfare, Drinking Water & Sanitation and the Railway Board.

PIB Compilation 24th February to 2nd March
Q.) On 21st June, the Sun
(a) does not set below the horizon at the Arctic Circle
(b) does not set below the horizon at Antarctic Circle
(c) shines vertically overhead at noon on the Equator
(d) shines vertically overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn

Solution(a)

Explanation:

On June 21st, the sun lies vertically overhead the Tropic of Cancer. This is called summer solstice in northern hemisphere. This is the longest day in northern hemisphere. On this day, the sun does not set below the horizon at Arctic Circle, while the sun does not rise below the Antarctic circle.

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN (Geography) & 60 day 2018
Q.4) The sun’s rays fall vertically on Tropic of Cancer on 21st of June. It is known as

a) Summer Solstice  
b) Winter Solstice  
c) Equinox  
d) Heat Island

1. In summer solstice (21st June) the northern hemisphere will have the longest day and shortest night.
2. In winter solstice (22nd December) the southern hemisphere will have the longest night and shortest day.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) None

Q.2) Solution (a)

The sun is vertically overhead at the Tropic of Cancer on about 21st June. This is known as June or Summer solstice, *when northern hemisphere will have longest day and shortest nights.*

The sun is vertically overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn on about 22nd December. This is known as winter solstice, *when southern hemisphere will have longest day and shortest nights.*

**Do you know?**

- The tropics mark the limit of the overhead sun, for beyond these, the sun is never overhead at any time of the year.

Q.) The Global Competitiveness Report is published by the

(a) International Monetary Fund

(b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(c) World Economic Forum
(d) World Bank

Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference: Babapedia (ILP)

Q.) Consider the following statements about ‘the Charter Act of 1813’:

1. It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China.

2. It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company.

3. The revenues of India were now controlled by the British Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution (a)

IASbaba Reference: 60 Day Full Mock
Q. With reference to the Swadeshi Movement, consider the following statements:

1. It contributed to the revival of the indigenous artisan crafts and industries.
2. The National Council of Education was established as a part of Swadeshi Movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference: ILP Test 30
Q. Consider the following pairs:

Movement/Organization Leader

1. All India Anti-Ulntouchability League: Mahatma Gandhi
2. All India Kisan Sabha: Swami Sahajanand Saraswati
3. Self – Respect: E. V. Ramaswami

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

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

Solution (d)

IASbaba Reference : 60 day Plan & ILP Test 35

72. Which of the following statements are correct regarding All India Anti-Uncouchability League?
1. It was started by Dr B R Ambedkar to end untouchability from India.
2. It was started after Poona Pact between Ambedkar and Gandhi.
3. It was later named as Harijan Sewak Sangh
Select the code from following:

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above

Explanation
Solution (b)
In order to better organize the campaign for the amelioration of the untouchables’ condition, Mahatma Gandhi set up a new body in October 1932. It was first named the All India Anti-Uncouchability League and later renamed the Harijan Sewak Sangh. Local branches of the body were set up in the provinces, while the central body was in Mumbai. Gandhi began to call the untouchables Harijans – a term not associated with the many derogatory and derisive words used for identifying them. Harijan meant “creation of God.”

ILP Test 35
6. Consider the following statements about Periyar Ramasamy

1. He is known for his works against the Brahminical dominance, oppression of women and caste prevalence in Kerala
2. Periyar participated in a non-violent satyagraha held at Vallom in Kerala
3. He believed that revival of the original spirit of Hindu religion would ensure individual self-respect and eradication of social ills from Indian society

Which of the above statements are correct?

\[ \begin{align*}
& a \quad 1 \text{ and } 2 \text{ only} \\
& b \quad 2 \text{ only} \\
& c \quad 1 \text{ and } 3 \text{ only} \\
& d \quad 2 \text{ and } 3 \text{ only}
\end{align*} \]

Explanation:

Solution (b)

On 24th December 1973, Periyar, the Social activist who started the Self-Respect Movement passed away.
He was a respected Indian social activist, and politician who started the Self-Respect Movement and the political party Dravidar Kazhagam. He is also known as the 'Father of modern Tamil Nadu'.
His works against the Brahminical dominance, oppression of women in Tamil Nadu, caste prevalence are exemplary.
In 1924, Periyar participated in a non-violent Satyagraha in Vallom in Kerala.
From 1929 to 1932, he travelled to British Malaya, Europe, and Russia which had a great influence on him.
In 1939, E.V. Ramasamy became the head of the Justice Party, changed its name to Dravid Karzagam in 1944.
He advocated for a separate, independent "Land of Dravidians" - Dravida Nadu while continuing the Self-Respect Movement.

Q.) Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?

(a) Chanhudaro
(b) Kot diji
(c) Sohgaura
(d) Desalpur

Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference : History VAN
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (a)
Q. In the context of which of the following do some scientists the use of cirrus cloud thinning technique and the injection of sulphate aerosol into stratosphere?

a) Creating the artificial rains in some regions
b) Reducing the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones
c) Reducing the adverse effects of solar wind on the Earth
d) Reducing the global warming

Solution (d)

Explanation:

The ability of stratospheric sulfate aerosols to create a global dimming effect has made them a possible candidate for use in solar radiation management climate engineering projects to limit the effect and impact of climate change due to rising levels of greenhouse gases.

Q.) In the context of which one of the following are the terms ‘pyrolysis and plasma gasification' mentioned?

a) Extraction of rare earth elements  
b) Natural gas extraction technologies  
c) Hydrogen fuel-based automobiles  
d) Waste-to-energy technologies

Solution (d)

Explanation:
Pyrolysis is the thermochemical decomposition of organic material at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen or any halogen. A Fast Pyrolysis Reactor (FPR) that will thermochemically decompose any organic or carbon material into energy rich oil and gas.

IASbaba Reference – ILP Test 15
Q.) Which of the following are in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve?

a) Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

b) Mudumalai, Sathyamagalam and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Silent Valley National Park

c) Kaundinya, Gundla Brahme-swaram and papikonda Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Mukurthi National park

d) Kawal and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Nagarjunasagar- Srisailam Tiger Reserve
Solution (a)

Explanation:

IASbaba Reference - Babapedia

10th October – Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

About:
- It is located in the Southern Western Ghats in Tirunelveli District and Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu.
- It is the second-largest protected area in Tamil Nadu (behind only Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary in Erode).
- It forms part of the inter-state (Kerala and Tamil Nadu) Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve
- Agasthyamalai (1681 m.) is in the core zone of the reserve.

Agasthyamala among 20 UNESCO world biosphere reserves

- Location – Western Ghats
- Comprises mostly of tropical forests.
- Includes three wildlife sanctuaries, Shendurney, Peppara, Neyyar and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger reserve

Q.) Why is there a great concern about the ‘micro beads’ that are released into environment?

a) They are considered harmful to marine ecosystems.
b) They are considered to cause skin cancer in children
c) They are small enough to be absorbed by crop plants in irrigated fields.
d) They are often found to be used as food adulterants

Solution (a)

Explanation:

Microbeads are not captured by most wastewater treatment systems. If they are washed down drains after use, they can end up in rivers, lakes and oceans.

Once in the water, microbeads can have a damaging effect on marine life, the environment and human health. This is due to their composition, ability to adsorb toxins and potential to transfer up the marine food chain. These tiny plastics persist in the environment as they are
almost impossible to remove. The best way to reduce their impact is to prevent them from entering the environment.

IASbaba Reference - ILP Test 39

Consider the following pairs:

Items of daily use | Controversial contaminants found in them
--- | ---
1. Liquid Hand soaps | Triclosan
2. Tooth Paste | Plastic microbeads
3. Single use batteries | Lead and mercury

Which of the above are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Explanation:
Solution (c)
Triclosan (sometimes abbreviated as TCS) is an antibacterial and antifungal agent present in some consumer products, including toothpaste, soaps, detergents, toys, and surgical cleaning treatments. It has been found to be carcinogenic.

Plastic microbeads (sometimes written as “microbeads”) are a category of microplastics. They are most commonly used in personal care products as cleansers and exfoliants. Microbeads have been added to some facial scrubs and body washes because of the great scrubbing power they contribute. They are being largely added in the toothpastes to provide shine to teeth. Being too minuscule they escape filtration and reaches the larger water bodies.

Q.) The word ‘Denisovan’ is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to

- a) fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
- b) an early human species
- c) a cave system found in North-East India
- d) a geological period in the history of Indian subcontinent

Solution (b)

Explanation:
Denisovans or Denisova hominins are an extinct species or subspecies of archaic humans in the genus Homo.

IASbaba Reference - Babapedia

- They are an extinct species or subspecies of archaic humans in the genus Homo.
- Denisovans — a cousin of Neanderthals — were discovered in 2010 when scientists working in a cave in southern Siberia obtained a finger bone of a girl belonging to a previously unidentified group of humans.
- The mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) of the finger bone showed it to be genetically distinct from Neanderthals and modern humans.
- The nuclear genome from this specimen suggested that Denisovans shared a common origin with Neanderthals, that they ranged from Siberia to Southeast Asia, and that they lived among and interbred with the ancestors of some modern humans, with about 3% to 5% of the DNA of Melanesians and Aboriginal Australians and around 6% in Papuans deriving from Denisovans.

DO YOU KNOW?

- The Denisova Cave is in south-western Siberia, Russia in the Altai Mountains near the border with China and Mongolia. It is named after Denis, a Russian hermit who lived there in the 19th century.

Q.) Which one of the following statements is not correct?

a) Hepatitis B virus is transmitted much like HIV.

b) Hepatitis B, unlike Hepatitis C, does not have a vaccine.

c) Globally, the numbers of people infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses are several times more than those infected with HIV.

d) Some of those infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses do not show the symptoms for many years.

Solution (b)

Explanation:

- While vaccines exist for hepatitis A and B, there is currently no vaccine for hepatitis C.

IASbaba Reference - Babapedia
Q.) What is Cas9 protein that is often mentioned in news?

a) A molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing

b) A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients

c) A gene that makes plants pest-resistant

d) A herbicidal substance synthesized in genetically modified crops.

Solution (a)

Explanation:
Cas9 is a protein which plays a vital role in the immunological defense of certain bacteria against DNA viruses, and which is heavily utilized in genetic engineering applications. Its main function is to cut DNA and therefore it can alter a cell's genome.

IASbaba Reference - Babapedia

Crispr-Cas9

- Crispr, an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, harnesses the natural defence mechanisms of bacteria to alter an organism's genetic code.
- It's likened to a pair of molecular scissors, a cut-and-paste technology, that can snip the two DNA strands at a specific location and modify gene function.
- The cutting is done by enzymes like Cas9, guided by pre-designed RNA sequences, which ensure that the targeted section of the genome is edited out.

Q.) What is common to the places known as Aliyar, Isapur and Kangsabati?

(a) Recently discovered uranium deposits

(b) Tropical rain forests

(c) Underground cave systems
(d) Water reservoirs
Solution (d)
Explanation:
Aliyar reservoir or Aliyar dam is located in the foothills of Valparai, in the Anaimalai Hills of the Western Ghats (Tamil Nadu)

Isapur Dam is an earthfill dam on Penganga river near Pusad (Maharashtra). It is one of the biggest dam in the state of Maharashtra. The motive behind the construction of the Dam was mainly irrigation.

The Kangsabati Project, also often referred to as the Kangsabati Irrigation Project and The Kangsabati Reservoir Project, is a project started in the Indian state of West Bengal in 1956 as part of the Indian Second Five-year Plan.

Q.) In the context of proposals to the use of hydrogen-enriched CNG (H-CNG) as fuel for buses in public transport, consider the following statements:

1. The main advantage of the use of H-CNG is the elimination of carbon monoxide emissions.
2. H-CNG as fuel reduces carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon emissions.
3. Hydrogen up to one-fifth by volume can be blended with CNG as fuel for buses.
4. H-CNG makes the fuel less expensive than CNG.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution (b)
Explanation:
H-CNG is a blend of hydrogen and CNG, the ideal hydrogen concentration being 18%. Compared to conventional CNG, use of H-CNG can reduce emission of carbon monoxide up
to 70%, besides enabling up to 5% savings in fuel. (It does not completely eliminate carbon monoxide; hence, statement (1) is incorrect.)

Statement (2) and (3) are correct as H-CNG as fuel reduces carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon emissions. Compared with natural gas, HCNG has many advantages when it comes to performance.

H-CNG is expensive than CNG. Current cost of H2 is more than the cost of Natural Gas. Hence, statement (4) is wrong.

Q.) Why are dewdrops not formed on a cloudy night?

(a) Clouds absorb the radiation released from the Earth’s surface.

(b) **Clouds reflect back the Earth’s radiation.**

(c) The Earth’s surface would have low temperature on cloudy nights.

(d) Clouds deflect the blowing wind to ground level.

**Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

During night time, earth surface releases radiation (terrestrial radiation) and these radiation are reflected back due to clouds.

If clear sky, these terrestrial radiation would have escaped out and earth surface would have become cold. However, during cloudy night, terrestrial radiation can’t escape out and leads to the formation of greenhouse condition due to which temperature on earth’s surface is relatively higher. Hence, condition becomes unfavorable for the formation of dew.

Q.) The Ninth Schedule was introduced in the Constitution of India during the prime ministership of

(a) Jawaharlal Nehru

(b) Lal Bahadur Shastri

(c) Indira Gandhi

(d) Morarji Desai

**Solution (a)**
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under Indira Gandhi.
2. Now, coal blocks are allocated on lottery basis.
3. Till recently, India imported coal to meet the shortages of domestic supply, but now India is self-sufficient in coal production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (a)

Explanation:

Despite having huge reserves of coal, India imports high quality coking coal which is necessary for steel production. Import of coal is projected to increase over five percent per year through 2022. Using this information, other options can be eliminated to arrive at correct answer.

IASbaba Reference: ILP -VAN Science & Technology

The single statement in VAN will help you in eliminating statement 3. Therefore the Answer is 1 only (a)
Q.) Recently, there was a growing awareness in our country about the importance of Himalayan nettle (Girardinia diversifolia) because it is found to be a sustainable source of

(a) anti-malarial drug

(b) biodiesel

(c) pulp for paper industry

(d) textile fibre

Solution (d)

Girardinia diversifolia, commonly known as the Himalayan nettle or Nilghiri nettle is found abundantly in open forest land, river sides, and moist habitat in Nepal and in Himalayan parts of India such as Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and J&K and in vast parts of China.

It is a fibre-yielding plant and has become an important livelihood option for people living in the remote mountainous villages of the Hindu Kush Himalaya.
Q.) For the measurement/estimation of which of the following are satellite images/remote sensing data used?

1. Chlorophyll content in the vegetation of a specific location
2. Greenhouse gas emissions from rice paddies of a specific location
3. Land surface temperatures of a specific location

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

Solution (d)

Explanation:
Remote Sensing (RS) refers to the branch of science which derives information about objects from measurements made from a distance i.e. without actually coming into contact with them.

Remote sensing deals with the use of light i.e. electromagnetic radiation as the medium of interaction. RS identifies the earth features by detecting the characteristics of electromagnetic radiation that is reflected by the earth surface.

Every object reflects a portion of electromagnetic radiation incident on it depending upon its physical properties. Therefore, data on rice paddies areas or land surface can be collected by remote sensing satellites.

Chlorophyll content in the vegetation of a specific location can be estimated using Multispectral Satellite Imagery.

Q.) Consider the following States:

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Maharashtra
4. Odisha

With reference to the States mentioned above, in terms of percentage of forest cover to the total area of State, which one of the following is the correct ascending order?

(a) 2-3-1-4
(b) 2-3-4-1
(c) 3-2-4-1
(d) 3-2-1-4

Solution (c)

Explanation:
As per India State of Forests Report 2017, percentage of forest cover to the total area of State is as follows:

Maharashtra - 16.47%
Madhya Pradesh - 25.11%
Odisha - 32.98%
Chattisgarh - 41.09%. Hence correct option is (c)

Q.) Which of the following statements are correct about the deposits of methane hydrate?

1. Global warming might trigger the release of methane gas from these deposits.
2. Large deposits of ‘methane hydrate’ are found in Arctic Tundra and under the seafloor.
3. Methane in atmosphere oxidizes to carbon dioxide after a decade or two.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution (d)
Q.) Among the following, which one is the largest exporter of rice in the world in the last five years?

(a) China
(b) India
(c) Myanmar
(d) Vietnam

Solution (b)

Explanation:

India has been the world’s top rice exporter since the beginning of this decade. India emerged the world’s largest rice exporter in 2011-12, displacing Thailand from its leadership position. Two factors played a role in this. The first was the government’s decision in February 2011 to lift a four-year ban on exports of non-basmati varieties of rice, paving the way for a rise in exports of those varieties.

The second was a decision of the then Thai government under Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, taken in the same year, to favour farmers by strengthening a Rice Pledging Scheme under which it promised to procure unlimited stocks at an enhanced price that reflected a 50 per cent increase over 2010. The consequent increase in domestic prices
obviously reduced the incentive to sell in export markets rather than to the government or in the local market. India was a major beneficiary, recording a sharp increase in exports of non-basmati varieties.


IASbaba Reference: DNA


Q.) Consider the following pairs:

Glacier : : River
1. Bandarpunch : : Yamuna
2. Bara Shigri : : Chenab
3. Milam : : Mandakini
4. Siachen : : Nubra
5. Zemu : : Manas

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Solution (a)

Explanation:
Q.) In India, the use of carbofuran, methyl parathion, phorate and triazophos is viewed with apprehension. These chemicals are used as

(a) pesticides in agriculture
(b) preservatives in processed foods
(c) fruit-ripening agents
(d) moisturising agents in cosmetics

Solution (a)

IASbaba Reference: 60 Day Plan

Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.

2. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based on the recommendations of Ramsar Convention.
3. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN & Test Series
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as 'Amil'.

2. The Iqta system of Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous institution.

3. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence during the reign of Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (a)

Explanation:

Provincial administration under Delhi Sultans

Shiqdar, faujdar, Amil, Amin and qazi were important officers at provincial level.
Shiqdar & faujdar - assisted the governor in the maintenance of law and order - particularly criminal justice, and provided military assistance. The duties of the faujdar were much similar to that of the shiqdar, yet they seem to have existed simultaneously.

The shiqdar and faujdar were helped in carrying out their duties by a host of other local officials.

Qazi - dealt mostly with civil cases and acted as a jurisconsult since he was educated in the Quran.

Amil - primarily responsible for the collection of revenue.

Amin - carried out measurement of land in the reign of Sikandar Lodi.

Kotwal - maintenance of law and order.

**Hence Statement 1 is correct.**

Iqtadari system is a Persian system which was brought to India by Delhi sultans.

**Hence Statement 2 is wrong.**

Office of Mir Bakshi came into existence during the Mughal period.

**Hence statement 3 is wrong.**

Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.

2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

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

**Solution (d)**

**Explanation:**
Saint Nimbarka belongs to 13th or 14th century while Akbar reigned during 16th century. Hence Statement 1 is wrong.

Saint Kabir lived in 15th century while Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi lived during 16th century. Hence Statement 2 is wrong.

**Q.** With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'.
2. In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
3. Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

Lord Chelmsford, the then Viceroy of India, invited Gandhi to Delhi at a War Conference. In order to gain the trust of the empire, Gandhi agreed to move people to enlist in the army for World War I.

Hence Statement 2 is wrong.

Statement 1 and 3 are correct.

**IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN**
Q.) With reference to Indian National Movement, consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Position held</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru</td>
<td>President, All India Liberal Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. K. C. Neogy</td>
<td>Member, The Constituent Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. P. C. Joshi</td>
<td>General Secretary, Communist Party of India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution (d)

All three statements are correctly matched.

**IASbaba Reference: Modern India VAN**

The response in India was immediate and unanimous. That no Indian should be thought fit to serve on a body that claimed the right to decide the political future of India was an insult that no Indian of even the most moderate political opinion was willing to swallow. The call for a boycott of the Commission was endorsed by the Liberal Federation led by Taj Bahadur Sapru, by the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress, and by the Hindu Mahasabha the Muslim League even split on the issue, Mohammed Ali Jinnah carrying the majority with him in favour of boycott.

Q. Which one of the following National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine zone?

(a) Manas National Park
(b) Namdapha National Park
(c) Neora Valley National Park
(d) Valley of Flowers National Park

Solution (d)

Explanation:

Manas National Park - foothills of Eastern Himalayas - Himalayan subtropical zone

Namdapha National Park - Eastern Himalayas - tropical evergreen forest to temperate broadleaf and mixed forest.

Neora Valley National Park - Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forest, Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forest, Indo-Chinese Tropical Moist Forest

Valley of Flowers National Park - Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadows
Q.) With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar?

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.

2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(e) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution (d)

Explanation:

Individuals/Noblemen were given rights over revenue of the allotted jagirs (land) in-lieu of Military services to the state. Jagirdars kept a legion of soldiers and were responsible for their salaries and other needs. Jagirs were not hereditary

Typically hereditary, zamindars held enormous tracts of land and control over their peasants, from whom they reserved the right to collect tax on behalf of imperial courts or for military purposes.

Q.) With reference to land reforms in independent India, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) The ceiling laws were aimed at family holdings and not individual holdings.

(b) The major aim of land reforms was providing agricultural land to all the landless.

(c) It resulted in cultivation of cash crops as a predominant form of cultivation.

(d) Land reforms permitted no exemptions to the ceiling limits.

Solution (b)
Some States chose ‘family’ as the unit and some chose ‘individuals’ as the unit. Hence (a) is wrong. Correct answer is (b) - Detailed explanation is given in ILP VAN (below)

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN

**Addressing Agricultural Needs**

**Land Reforms**

Intermediaries (variously called zamindars, jagirdars etc.) merely collected rent from the actual tillers of the soil without contributing towards improvements on the farm

*The low productivity of the agricultural sector forced India to import food from the United States of America (U.S.A.)*.

*Equity in agriculture*: Land reforms—change in the ownership of landholdings

Steps were taken to abolish intermediaries and to make the tillers the owners of land—ownership of land would give incentives to the tillers to invest in making improvements provided sufficient capital was made available to them.

*Long ceiling*: limiting the maximum size of land which could be owned by an individual—to reduce the concentration of land ownership in a few hands

Around 200 lakh tenants came into direct contact with the government — they were freed from being exploited by the zamindars → incentive to increase output → growth in agriculture

*But there still were cases wherein*

- The zamindars continued to own large areas of land (usage of loopholes in the legislation)
- Tenants were evicted and the landowners claimed to be self-cultivators (the actual tillers)

**Q.** In which of the following relief sculpture inscriptions is ‘Ranyo Ashoka’ (King Ashoka) mentioned along with the stone portrait of Ashoka?

(a) Kanganahalli

(b) Sanchi

(c) Shahnazgarhi

(d) Sohgaura

**Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

Kanganahalli Excavations:
The most important finding of the excavation include a stone sculptured slab bearing the name *Raya Ashoka*. The first inscribed portrait of Ashoka a (surrounded by female attendants and queens) found at Kanaganahalli, was unearthed from the ruined Buddhist stupa.

**Q.** Consider the following:

1. Deification of the Buddha
2. Treading the path of Bodhisattvas
3. Image worship and rituals

Which of the above is/are the feature/features of Mahayana Buddhism?

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

**Solution (d)**

IASbaba Reference: ILP Test
Q.) With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statement is correct?

(a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.

(b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.

(c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.

(d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

Solution (a)

Explanation:

In the Gupta Age, the term Vishti referred to Forced labor. While the Kshatriyas obtained their percentage of the material surplus through the power of arms in the kind of taxes
(Shulka, Bali and Kar etc.), forced labor (Balutam and Vishti), tithes and other perquisites. The Brahmin ministry strengthened its right to the social surplus by the moralistic impediment which was based on the intensity of the tribal righteousness of sharing.

Q.) Which one of the following groups of plants was domesticated in the ‘New World’ and introduced into the ‘Old World’?

a) Tobacco, cocoa and rubber  
b) Tobacco, cotton and rubber  
c) Cotton, coffee and sugarcane  
d) Rubber, coffee and wheat  

Solution (a)

Explanation - [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbian_exchange](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbian_exchange)

Q.) Consider the following pairs:

Famous place       River
1. Pandharapur : Chandrabhaga
2. Tiruchirappalli : Cauvery
3. Hampi : Malaprabha

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Solution (a)

Explanation:

Hampi – Tungabhadra River

IASbaba Reference - DNA
Q.) In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some States than in other because

a) Poverty rates vary from State to State
b) Price levels vary from State to State
c) Gross State Product varies from State to State
d) Quality of public distribution varies from States to States

Solution (b)

Explanation

· The poverty threshold, poverty limit or poverty line is the minimum level of income deemed adequate. This can vary state to state. Eg - Costs of living can vary from one state to another.

Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Some species of turtles are herbivores
2. Some species of fish are herbivores.
3. Some species of marine mammals are herbivores.
4. Some species of snakes are viviparous.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solution (d)

Explanation:
All statements are very general due to the use of word ‘SOME’, which makes the answer (d).

Q. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife</th>
<th>Naturally found in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Blue-finned Mahseer</td>
<td>Cauvery River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Irrawaddy Dolphin</td>
<td>Chambal River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rusty-spotted Cat</td>
<td>Eastern Ghats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Solution (c)

Explanation:

Irrawaddy Dolphin – Chilika Lake

**IASbaba Reference - Babapedia**

**Hump-backed mahseer (Tor remadevi)**

- It is a large freshwater fish also called the tiger of the water and found only in the Cauvery river basin (including Kerala’s Pamban, Kabini and Bhavani rivers).
- It is now “Critically Endangered”
- It is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha state on the east coast of India, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent.
- Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
- The Irrawaddy dolphin (Orcaella brevirostris) is the flagship species of Chilika lake.

Q.) In the context of digital technologies for entertainment, consider the following statements:
1. In Augmented Reality (AR), a simulated environment is created and the physical world is completely shut out.

2. In Virtual Reality (VR), images generated from a computer are projected into real-life objects or surroundings.

3. AR allows individuals to be present in the world and improves the experience using the camera of smartphone or PC.

4. VR closes the world, and transposes an individual, providing complete immersion experience.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (b)

Explanation:

With Augmented Reality, users continue to be in touch with the real world while interacting with virtual objects around them.

With Virtual Reality, the user is isolated from the real world while immersed in a world that is completely fabricated.

Q.) With reference to the recent developments in science, which one of the following statements is not correct?

a) Functional chromosomes can be created by joining segments of DNA taken from cells of different species.
b) Pieces of artificial functional DNA can be created in laboratories.

c) A piece of DNA taken out from an animal cell can be made to replicate outside a living cell in a laboratory.

d) Cells taken out from plants and animals can be made to undergo cell division in laboratory petri dishes.

Solution (a)

Explanation:

Statement 3 is associated with cloning.
Statement 2 is associated with Artificial gene synthesis and DNA printing.
Statement 4 is associated with Tissue Culture.
Hence Statement 1 is correct.

Q.) Consider the following statements:

A digital signature is

1. an electronic record that identifies the certifying authority issuing it
2. used to serve as a proof of identity of an individual to access information or server on Internet
3. an electronic method of signing an electronic document and ensuring that the original content is unchanged

Which of the statements given above is are/correct?

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

Solution (c)

Explanation
A digital signature is a mathematical scheme for verifying the authenticity of digital messages or documents. A valid digital signature, where the prerequisites are satisfied, gives a recipient very strong reason to believe that the message was created by a known sender (authentication), and that the message was not altered in transit (integrity).

Digital signatures are a standard element of most cryptographic protocol suites, and are commonly used for software distribution, financial transactions, contract management software, and in other cases where it is important to detect forgery or tampering.

It does not serve as a proof of identity of an individual to access information or server on Internet, since any person can use the same digital signature.

Q.) In the context of wearable technology, which of the following tasks is/are accomplished by wearable devices?

1. Location identification of a person
2. Sleep monitoring of a person
3. Assisting the hearing impaired person

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

Solution (d)

Explanation:
Application of GPS, Apple Watch & Fitbit, Facett

IASbaba Reference - YK GIST

Q.) RNA interference (RNAi) technology has gained popularity in the last few years. Why?

1. It is used in developing gene silencing therapies.
2. It can be used in developing therapies for the treatment of cancer.
3. It can be used to develop hormone replacement therapies.
4. It can be used to produce crop plants that are resistant to viral pathogens

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution (a)

Explanation:

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT), also known as menopausal hormone therapy (MHT) or postmenopausal hormone therapy (PHT, PMHT), is a form of hormone therapy used to treat symptoms associated with female menopause. These symptoms can include hot flashes, vaginal atrophy, accelerated skin aging, vaginal dryness, decreased muscle mass, sexual dysfunction, and bone loss. They are in large part related to the diminished levels of sex hormones that occur during menopause.

It is not associated with RNAi.

Q.) Recently scientists observed the merger of giant ‘blackholes’ billions of light years away from the Earth. What is the significance of this observation?

a) ‘Higgs boson particles’ were detected.
b) ‘Gravitational waves’ were detected.
c) Possibility of inter-galactic space travel through ‘wormhole’ was confirmed.
d) It enabled the scientists to understand ‘singularity’.

Solution (d)

Explanation:
Q.) Which of the following are the reasons for the occurrence of multi-drug resistance in microbial pathogens in India?

1. Genetic predisposition of some people
2. Taking incorrect doses of antibiotics to cure diseases
3. Using antibiotics in livestock farming
4. Multiple chronic diseases in some people

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution (b)

Explanation:

Major Causes of Antimicrobial Drug Desistance -

- Taking incorrect doses of antibiotics to cure diseases
- Using antibiotics in livestock farming
Q.) With reference to the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. No High Court shall have the jurisdiction to declare any central law to be constitutionally invalid.

2. An amendment to the Constitution of India cannot be called into question by the Supreme Court of 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

Solution (d)

Explanation:

Jurisdiction of the High Court

The jurisdiction of the High Courts have also been provided in Article 226 of the Constitution, and they can be divided into two parts:

Territorial

The High Courts have the right to issue writs within the territory of the state which the High Court is concerned with. Under Article 226(2) the court has been granted a certain degree of extra-territorial jurisdiction as well. High Courts are allowed to issue writs to any government, authority or person outside their territorial jurisdiction if the whole or part of the cause of action arises in their concerned state.

Subject matter

High Courts have been granted a large ambit to exercise this power. A High Court can issue writs not only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights given in Part III of the Constitution but also non-Fundamental Rights for which the Constitution of India has used the words “for any other purpose” to widen the scope of High Court’s Jurisdiction.

IASbaba Reference: 60 Day Plan Week 1&2, Full Mock 2 (Q.5)
Q.30] Solution (b)

Article 13 deals with ‘laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights’. In other words, it expressively provides for the doctrine of judicial review.

This power has been conferred on the Supreme Court (Article 132) and the high courts (Article 226) that can declare a law unconstitutional and invalid on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights.

The term ‘law’ in Article 13 has been given a wide connotation so as to include the following:

(a) Permanent laws enacted by the Parliament or the state legislatures;
(b) Temporary laws like ordinances issued by the president or the state governors;
(c) Statutory instruments in the nature of delegated legislation [executive legislation] like order, bye-law, rule, regulation or notification; and
(d) Non-legislative sources of law, that is, custom or usage having the force of law.

Thus, not only a legislation but any of the above can be challenged in the courts as violating a Fundamental Right and hence, can be declared as void. Hence, statement 3 is wrong.

Q.5) Which of the following comes under the purview of Judicial Review?

1. Decision of Speaker on calling a bill a Money bill
2. Any law placed in IX Schedule of the Constitution
3. A Constitutional Amendment

Select the code from following:

a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3
c) 3 only
d) All of the above

ILP VAN - POLITY

The basic structure doctrine forms the bulwark of the Indian Constitution. Do you agree? Critically examine.

The Supreme Court recognized BASIC STRUCTURE concept for the first time in the historic Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973.

Supreme Court has been the interpreter of the Constitution and the arbiter of all the amendments made by parliament. The majority held that article 368 even before the 24th Amendment contained the power as well as the procedure of amendment. The Supreme Court declared that Article 368 did not enable Parliament to alter the basic structure or framework of the Constitution and parliament could not use its amending powers under Article 368 to ‘damage’, ‘emasculate’, ‘destroy’, ‘abrogate’, ‘change’ or ‘alter’ the ‘basic structure’ or framework of the constitution. This decision is not just a landmark in the evolution of constitutional law, but a turning point in constitutional history.

Q.) Consider the following statements

1. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) exchange rates are calculated by comparing the prices of the same basket of goods and services in different countries.
2. In terms of PPP dollars, India is the sixth largest economy in the world.

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

Solution (a)

IASbaba Reference: Direct Question from VAN - Economy

5. Purchasing Power Parity

Purchasing power parity is defined as the number of units of a country’s currency required to buy the same amount of goods and services in the domestic market as one dollar would buy in the US.

The technique of purchasing power parity allows us to estimate what exchange between two currencies is needed to express the accurate purchasing power of the two currencies in the respective countries.

• The Gross Domestic Product per capita in India was last recorded at 6426.67 US dollars in 2017, when adjusted by purchasing power parity (PPP). The GDP per Capita, in India, when adjusted by Purchasing Power Parity is equivalent to 36 percent of the world’s average. GDP per capita PPP in India averaged 3369.50 USD from 1990 until 2017, reaching an all-time high of 6426.67 USD in 2017 and a record low of 1737.60 USD in 1991.
• Recently, India became the third largest economy in terms of PPP. China became the largest defeating the US to the second position.

60 Day Plan

IASbaba 60 Days CA Compilation – Week 1 & 2 2019

comparable price and volume measures of gross domestic product (GDP) and its expenditure aggregates among countries within and across regions.

• Through a partnership with international, regional, sub-regional and national agencies, the ICP collects and compares price data and GDP expenditures to estimate and publish purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the world’s economies.

PPPs

• PPPs measure the total amount of goods and services that a single unit of a country’s currency can buy in another country.
• PPPs are widely used to convert national accounts data, like GDP, into a common currency, while also eliminating the effect of price level differences between countries.

Q.) With reference to the cultivation of Kharif crops in India in the last five years, consider the following statements:
1. Area under rice cultivation is the highest.

2. Area under the cultivation of jowar is more than that of oilseeds.

3. Area of cotton cultivation is more than that of sugarcane.

4. Area under sugarcane cultivation has steadily decreased.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solution (a)

Area under kharif planting drops by 1.90% over previous year

Oilseeds and sugarcane saw the increase while rice, pulses, coarse cereals and cotton saw the decline. Meanwhile, data from the weather department shows monsoon rainfall has been 9% below normal so far this year.


Q. Among the agricultural commodities imported by India, which one of the following accounts for the highest imports in terms of value in the last five years?

(a) Spices
(b) Fresh fruits
(c) Pulses
(d) Vegetable oils

Solution (d)
Q.) In the context of polity, which one of the following would you accept as the most appropriate definition of liberty?

(a) Protection against the tyranny of political rulers
(b) Absence of restraint
(c) Opportunity to do whatever one likes
(d) Opportunity to develop oneself fully.

Solution (d)

Though option (b) and (d) are close. In the context of polity, the most appropriate definition of liberty would be option (d).
Q. Which one of the following are not the most likely measure the government/ RBI takes to stop the side of Indian rupee?

a) Curbing imports of non-essential goods and promoting exports.
b) Encouraging Indian borrowers to issue rupee denominated Masala bonds
c) Easing conditions relating to external commercial borrowing
d) Following an expansionary monetary policy.

Solution (d)

Explanation

Expansionary monetary policy > increase in money supply > inflation > Weakening rupee.

IASbaba Reference: DNA


Q. Consider the following statement:

The reserve bank of India’s directives relating to “Storage of Payment System Data” popularly known as data diktat, command the payment system providers that

1. They shall ensure that entire data relating to payment systems operated by them are stored in a system only in India.
2. They shall ensure that the systems are owned and operated by public sector enterprises.
3. They shall submit the consolidated system audit report to the comptroller and Auditor General of India by the end of the calendar year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (a)
Explanation:

The question is wrt. ‘Data Localisation’


IASbaba Reference :DNA


Q.) Which of the following adopted a law on data protection and privacy for its citizens known as “General Data Protection Regulation” in April 2016 and started implementation of it from 25th May, 2018?

a) Australia
b) Canada

c) The European Union
d) The United States of America

Solution (c)

Explanation:

The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals citizens of the European Union and the European Economic Area. It also addresses the export of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas.

IASbaba Reference: Babapedia

- It is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA). It also addresses the export of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas.
- The GDPR aims primarily to give control to citizens and residents over their personal data and to simplify the regulatory environment for international business by unifying the regulation within the EU.
- GDPR's regulations are only applicable if the company has a presence, offers goods or services, or monitors individuals' behaviours in the European Union.
Q.) Recently, India signed a deal known as “action plan for prioritization and implementation for cooperation areas in nuclear field” with which of the following countries?

a) Japan  

b) Russia  

c) The United Kingdom  

d) The United States of America  

Solution (b)  

Explanation:  
Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field is associated with Russia and India.  


Q.) The money multiplier in an economy increases with which one of the following?

a) Increase in cash reserve ratio  

b) Increase in the banking habit of the population  

c) Increase in the statutory liquidity ratio  

d) Increase in the population of the country  

Solution (b)  

**Explanation & IASbaba Reference:**  
In monetary economics, a money multiplier is one of various closely related ratios of commercial bank money to central bank money (also

**Money Multiplier**

- The total amount of loans that commercial banks are allowed to extend (the commercial bank money that they can legally create) is equal to an amount which is a multiple of the amount of reserves  
- \[ M \lessgtr R \times \left( \frac{1}{RR} \right) \]  
  where \( M \) is commercial bank money (loans), \( R \) is reserves (central bank money), \( RR \) for the reserve ratio  
- \( 1/RR \) is called the money multiplier
called the monetary base) under a fractional-reserve banking system.

**Q.** The Service Area Approach was implemented under the purview of

(a) Integrated Rural Development Programme

(b) Lead Bank Scheme

(c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

(d) National Skill Development Mission

**Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

Service area approach (SAA) is an improved version of area approach of Lead Bank Scheme. The commercial banks / RRBs are also free to lend to any borrower of any rural and semi-urban area except under Government sponsored schemes where Scheme itself provides for obtention of ‘No Dues Certificate’.

**IASbaba Reference:** Economics Class

**Q.** With Reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sand is a ‘minor mineral’ according to the prevailing law in the country.

2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Central Government.

3. State Governments have the power to frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Solution (c)**
Sand is a minor mineral, as defined under section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Section 15 of the MMDR Act empowers state governments to make rules for regulating the grant of mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. The regulation of grant of mineral concessions for minor minerals is, therefore, within the legislative and administrative domain of the state governments. Under the power granted to them by section 15 of the MMDR Act, State Governments have framed their own minor minerals concession rules.

Further, section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 empowers state governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals sand for purposes connected therewith. Control of illegal mining is, therefore, under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of state governments.

Sand is a minor or major mineral based on its usage!


Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Most of India’s external debt is owed by governmental entities.
2. All of India’s external debt is denominated in US dollars.

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

Solution (d)

At end-March 2018, India’s external debt witnessed an increase of 12.4 per cent over its level at end-March 2017, primarily on account of an increase in commercial borrowings, short-term debt and non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits. The increase in the magnitude of external debt was partly due to valuation loss resulting from the depreciation of the US dollar against major currencies. The external debt to GDP ratio stood at 20.5 per cent at end-March 2018, higher than its level of 20.0 per cent at end-March 2017.
Commercial borrowings continued to be the largest component of external debt with a share of 38.2 per cent, followed by NRI deposits (23.8 per cent) and short-term trade credit (19.0 per cent).

US dollar denominated debt continued to be the largest component of India’s external debt with a share of 49.5 per cent at end-March 2018, followed by the Indian rupee (35.8 per cent), SDR (5.5 per cent), Japanese yen (4.8 per cent) and euro (3.4 per cent).

IASbaba Reference:

Q.) Which of the following is not included in the assets of a commercial bank in India?

(a) Advances
(b) Deposits
(c) Investments
(d) Money at call and short notice

Solution (b)

Explanation:

Bank's assets comprises cash, money at short notice, bills and securities discounted, bank's investments, loans sanctioned by the bank, etc. Bank's cash in hand, cash with other banks and cash with central bank (RBI) are its assets. When a bank makes money available at short notice to other banks and financial institutions for a very short period of 1-14 days it is also treated as bank's asset. Apart from these items bank always make money available to people on the form of loans and advances.
Bank’s liabilities constitute five major items. The share capital, the contribution which shareholders have contributed for starting the bank. Reserve funds are the money, which the bank has accumulated over the years from its undistributed profits. Deposits are the money owned by customers and therefore it is a liability of a bank.

**IASbaba Reference:** Economics Class - Banking

Q.) In the context of India, which of the following factors is/are contributor/contributors to reducing the risk of a currency crisis?

1. The foreign currency earnings of India’s IT sector
2. Increasing the government expenditure
3. Remittances from Indians abroad

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

Currency risk, commonly referred to as exchange-rate risk, arises from the change in price of one currency in relation to another. Investors or companies that have assets or business operations across national borders are exposed to currency risk that may create unpredictable profits and losses.

Over spending by government generally increases the risk hence 2nd statement is not correct.

**IASbaba Reference:** Economics Class – External Sector

Q.) Which one of the following suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past?
(a) First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)

(b) Rajamannar Committee (1969)

(c) Sarkaria Commission (1983)


Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference: Direct Question – ILP VAN

Sarkaria Commission of 1988 had criticized the office of governor for its arbitrary decision making in appointing the chief minister, testing majority and dissolving legislative assembly, recommending president’s rule, reserving bills for president etc.

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IlP VAN-POLITY | 2019

It has also suggested criteria to select a Governor:

- Eminent person
- Must be outside of the state.
- Not linked to local politics
- Not been a big politician or remain active in recent past.
- State must be consulted during appointment.

The above recommendations were upheld by NCRWC, Punchi Commission and SC in Rameshwar Prasad VS UoI 2006.

Q.) Which of the following is issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas investors who want to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly?

(a) Certificate of Deposit

(b) Commercial Paper

(c) Promissory Note

(d) Participatory Note

Solution (d)
Participatory Notes commonly known as P-Notes or PNs are instruments issued by registered foreign institutional investors (FIIs) to overseas investors, who wish to invest in the Indian stock markets without registering themselves with the market regulator.

**IASbaba Reference: ILP Test & VAN**

3. Question

Consider the following statements:

1. Through Indian Depository Receipts, investors abroad can invest in Indian companies.
2. Participatory notes are derivative instruments issued in foreign jurisdictions by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)

Which of the above statements is correct?

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

Incorrect

Statement A is wrong as Through Indian Depository Receipts,

Investors in India to invest in listed foreign companies, including multinational companies, in Indian rupees.

Statement B is correct as Participatory Notes (PNs) are issued by SEBI registered FIIs in foreign jurisdictions against Indian securities.

**ILP VAN**

**PARTICIPATORY NOTES (P-NOTES)**

P-Notes or Participatory Notes are Overseas Derivative Instruments that have Indian stocks as their underlying assets. They allow foreign investors to buy stocks listed on Indian exchanges without being registered. The instrument gained popularity as FIIs, to avoid the formalities of registering and to remain anonymous, started betting on stocks through this route.

Participatory notes are the financial instruments through which individual foreign investors or hedge funds who do not want to disclose their identity can invest in Indian markets, otherwise registration with SEBI is a must to get an exposure into Indian equities.

- Registered foreign institutional investors (FIIs), foreign banks and brokerages based in India issue P-notes to foreign investors and invest in Indian stocks on their behalf. Any dividends or capital gains collected from the underlying securities go back to the investors.
- While a common investor has to fill up several KYC (know your customer) forms, provide PAN number and proof of address, etc., a P-Note investor can invest anonymously. This makes it a ‘legal’ way to route unaccounted wealth in Indian equities, thus feeding the black money monster.
- Other than politicians, bureaucrats or business-persons, even terror financiers are feared to misuse the P-Note route to fulfill illegal objectives.
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. As per law, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority exists at both National and State levels.

2. People’s participation is mandatory in the compensatory afforestation programmes carried out under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016.

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

Solution (a)

Explanation:

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 provides for setting up Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) at both central and state level to ensure expeditious and transparent utilization of amounts realised in lieu of forest land diverted for non-forest purpose. The utilization of funds is expected to mitigate the impact of diversion of such forest land.

The payments into the funds include compensatory afforestation, NPV, and any project specific payments. The National Fund will get 10% of funds collected and the remaining 90% will go to respective State Fund.

The collected funds will be utilised for afforestation, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wild life protection and infrastructure development.

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN Environment
Q.) In India, which of the following review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance, electricity, etc.?

1. Ad Hoc Committees set up by the Parliament
2. Parliamentary Department Related Standing Committees
3. Finance Commission
4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission
5. NITI Aayog

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution (a)

The Parliamentary committees are of two kinds - Standing or permanent committees and Ad hoc committees. The former are elected or appointed periodically and they work on a continuous basis. The latter are created on an ad hoc basis as the need arises and they are dissolved after they complete the task assigned to them.
A Standing Committee is a committee consisting of Members of Parliament. It is a permanent and regular committee which is constituted from time to time according to the provisions of an Act of Parliament or Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

Finance Commission, Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission and NITI Aayog are advisory bodies with a mandate of planning rather than reviewing the regulatory bodies.

Q.) With reference to India’s Five-Year Plans, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. From the Second Five-Year Plan, there was a determined thrust towards substitution of basic and capital good industries.

2. The Fourth Five-Year Plan adopted the objective of correcting the earlier trend of increased concentration of wealth and economic power.

3. In the Fifth Five-Year Plan, for the first time, the financial sector was included as an integral part of the Plan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution (a)

The Second Plan focused on the development of the public sector and "rapid Industrialisation". The plan followed the Mahalanobis model, an economic development model developed by the Indian statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in 1953. The plan attempted to determine the optimal allocation of investment between productive sectors in order to maximise long-run economic growth.

At this time Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. The Indira Gandhi government nationalised 14 major Indian banks and the Green Revolution in India advanced agriculture.

The Fifth Five-Year Plan laid stress on employment, poverty alleviation (Garibi Hatao), and justice. The plan also focused on self-reliance in agricultural production and defence.

IASbaba Reference:
Q.) With reference to the Legislative Assembly of a State in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor makes a customary address to Members of the House at the commencement of the first session of the year.

2. When a State Legislature does not have a rule on a particular matter, it follows the Lok Sabha rule on that matter.

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

Solution (a)

The Governor makes a customary address to Members of the House at the commencement of the first session of the year.

Hence statement 1 is correct.
When a State Legislature does not have a rule on a particular matter, it follows conventions. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has a ‘Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air’.

2. The UNCAC is the ever-first legally binding global anti-corruption instrument.

3. A highlight of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the inclusion of a specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.

4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its member States to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solution (c)

Explanation:

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention covers five main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange. The Convention covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector. A highlight of the Convention is the inclusion of a specific chapter on asset recovery, aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners, including countries from which they had been taken illicitly. The vast majority of United Nations Member States are parties to the Convention.


Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. As per recent amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, forest dwellers have the right to sell the bamboos grown on forest areas.

2. As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, bamboo is a minor forest produce.

3. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 allows ownership of minor forest produce to forest dwellers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Indian Patents Act, a biological process to create a seed can be patented in India.

2. In India, there is no Intellectual Property Appellate Board.

3. Plant varieties are not eligible to be patented in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

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

Solution (c)

IASbaba Reference: Babapedia: Intellectual Property Rights

**Intellectual Property Appellate Board**

- IPAB exercises jurisdiction over Trademarks, Patents and Geographical Indications as on date.
- It is the only tribunal in India which has a global impact.

Q.) As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in India, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) Waste generator has to segregate waste into five categories.

(b) The Rules are applicable to notified urban local bodies, notified towns and all industrial townships only.

(c) The Rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for the identification of sites for landfills and waste processing facilities.

(d) It is mandatory on the part of waste generator that the waste generated in one district cannot be moved to another district.

Solution (c)

Q.) Consider the following statements:

As per the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central (Amendment) Rules, 2018

1. If rules for fixed-term employment are implemented, it becomes easier for the firms/companies to lay off workers

2. No notice of termination of employment shall be necessary in the case of temporary workman

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  

Solution (c)  
Reference:  
https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/FTE%20Final%20Notification.pdf

Q.) With reference to Asian infrastructure investment bank (AIIB), consider the following statement:  
1. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.  
2. India is the largest shareholder in AIIB.  
3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.  

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  

Solution (a)  
Explanation:  
The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. Headquartered in Beijing, it has now grown to 97 approved members worldwide.  
The allocated shares are based on the size of each member country's economy (calculated using GDP Nominal (60%) and GDP PPP (40%)), whether they are an Asian or Non-Asian Member, and the number of shares determines the fraction of authorized capital in the bank. China is the largest shareholder.  
IASbaba Reference: DNA
Q.) The chairman of public sector banks are selected by the

(a) Banks Board Bureau
(b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) Union Ministry of finance
(d) Management of concerned bank

Solution (a)

https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/GgTaUs5JX4ugJZV3uKaL9N/How-public-sector-bank-CEOs-are-selected.html

IASbaba Reference:

Bank Board Bureau (BBB)

- Tasked to improve the governance of Public Sector Banks.
- Recommend selection of chiefs of government owned banks and financial institutions and
- to help banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans
- It will replaced the Appointments Board of Government.
- Guide banks on mergers and consolidations and also ways to address the bad loans problem among other issues.

Q.) Consider the following statements:

1. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the first regulatory body set up by the Government of India.
2. One of the tasks of PNGRB is to ensure competitive markets for gas.
3. Appeals against the decisions of PNGRB go before the Appellate Tribunals for Electricity.

Which one of the statements given above is correct?

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

Solution (b)

Explanation:

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) was constituted under The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

The Act provide for the establishment of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Appellate Tribunal established under section 110 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003) shall be the Appellate Tribunal for the purposes of this Act and the said Appellate Tribunal shall exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on it by or under this Act.

Q.) The economic cost of food grains to the food cooperation of India is minimum support price and bonus (if any) paid to the farmers plus

(a) Transport cost only
(b) Interest cost only
(c) Procurement incidentals and distribution cost
(d) Procurement incidentals and charges for godowns

Solution (c)

Explanation :
Components of economic cost of food grains incurred by the Food Corporation of India
Source: FCI Annual Reports.

Q.) With reference to the Constitution of India, prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142. It could mean which one of the following?

(a) The decisions taken by the Election Commission of India while discharging its duties cannot be challenged in any court of law.

(b) The Supreme Court of India is not constrained in the exercise of its powers by laws made by the Parliament.

(c) In the event of grave financial crisis in the country, the President of India can declare Financial Emergency without the counsel from the Cabinet.

(d) State Legislatures cannot make laws on certain matters without the concurrence of Union Legislature.

Solution (b)

Explanation:
Article 142 in The Constitution Of India 1949

142 - Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court and unless as to discovery, etc (1) The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or orders so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe.

IASbaba Reference: Babapedia

In News- Instant Triple Talaq

Article 142 of Constitution of India deals with Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.

From the Constitution

(1) The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Supreme Court shall, as respects the whole of the territory of India, have all and every power to make any order for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person, the discovery or production of any documents, or the investigation or punishment of any contempt of itself.

Do you know?

- 141. Law declared by Supreme Court to be binding on all courts.- The law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India.

THINK!

- Shayara Bano Case

Q.) Which Article of the Constitution of India safeguards one’s right to marry the person of one’s choice?

(a) Article 19

(b) Article 21

(c) Article 25

(d) Article 29

Solution (b)

IASbaba Reference: DNA
Q.) Consider the following statements:

The Environment Protection Act, 1986 empowers the Government of India to

1. State the requirement of public participation in the process of environmental protection and the procedure and manner in which it is sought

2. Lay down the standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources

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

Solution (c)
Q.) What was the purpose of the Inter-Creditor Agreement signed by Indian banks and financial institutions recently?

(a) To lessen the Government of India’s perennial burden of fiscal deficit and current account deficit.

(b) To support the infrastructure projects of central and state governments.

(c) To act as independent regulator in case of applications for loans of Rs. 50 Crore or more.

(d) To aim at faster resolution of stressed assets of Rs. 50 Crore or more which are under consortium lending.

Solution (d)

24 lenders led by SBI and PNB signed an inter-creditor agreement to speed up the resolution of stressed assets in the range of Rs 500 million-Rs 5 billion under consortium lending. As per the agreement, the ICA is to be entered into by 22 public sector banks that include India Post Payments Bank, 19 private sector banks and 32 foreign banks. Other signatories in the
agreement will include 12 leading financial institutions such as LIC, Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation etc.

The lenders in the agreement will jointly appoint a lead lender who will function on behalf of the entire group. The leading lender will then be required to put forth the resolution plan for the non-performing assets (NPAs) before the group and if it is given a go-ahead by two thirds of the lenders, the proposal will qualify to be taken up for resolution of the given account.

IASbaba Reference: 60 days Plan – Day 5

22. Question

‘Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA)’ was recently in news. It is associated with

- Rafale Aircraft deal
- Non-Performing Assets
- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)

Incorrect

Recently signed Inter Creditor Agreement (ICA) between public sector, private sector and foreign banks is to push for the speedy resolution of non-performing loans on their balance sheets. It is part of the “Sashakt” plan approved by the government to address the problem of resolving bad loans. This was suggested by Sanil Mehta committee.

Inter Creditor Agreement is signed to ensure swift resolution of non-performing assets. There are around 22 public sector banks (including India Post Payments Bank), 19 private lenders and 32 foreign banks signed the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) to fast track the resolution of stressed assets.


Q. With reference to communication technology, what is/are the difference(s) between LTE (Long Term Evolution) and VoLTE (Voice over Long Term Evolution)?

1. LTE is commonly marketed as 3G and VoLTE is commonly marketed as advanced 3G.
2. LTE is data only technology and VoLTE is voice only technology.

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
Solution (d)

LTE is a mobile Internet technology standard. It’s an abbreviation of Long Term Evolution. 4G (or fourth generation) is just a common name given to LTE technology. In short, 4G and LTE are synonyms.

VoLTE is a technology wherein you can simultaneously send voice and data over the network without diminishing quality of voice. In case of LTE, if you make a voice call and you also keep your data connection on, the quality of voice will reduce. So, in order to make a good quality voice call, you will have to switch off data. You may have noticed that in case of 2G and 3G, while you are making phone call, some phones will automatically stop data transfer so as to preserve the voice quality.

But in case of VoLTE, the voice quality will not reduce even if your data connection is on. With VoLTE it is very easy to transmit telephone conversation over the data network.

**Comparison chart of LTE and VoLTE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LTE</th>
<th>VoLTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Stands for Long Term Evolution</td>
<td>Stands for Voice over LTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Primarily designed to be a data-only technology</td>
<td>Designed to carry both voice and data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Does not natively support voice transmission.</td>
<td>Supports voice as well as data transmission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Quality of voice reduces if data connection is left on.</td>
<td>Voice quality remains excellent even if the data connection is on</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IASbaba Reference: ILP VAN - IT and Communication
Q.) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017?

1. Pregnant women are entitled for three months pre-delivery and 3 months post-delivery paid leave.

2. Enterprises with creches must allow the mother minimum six creche visits daily.

3. Women with two children get reduced entitlements.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution (c)

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017 has increased the duration of paid maternity leave available for women employees to 26 weeks from 12 weeks. The paid maternity leave can be availed 8 weeks before the expected date of delivery. Before the amendment, it was 6 weeks. For those women who are expecting after having 2 children, the duration of the leave remains unaltered at 12 weeks.
The amended Act has mandated crèche facility for every establishment employing 50 or more employees. The women employees should be permitted to visit the facility 4 times during the day.

Q.) Which one of the following is not a sub-index of the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index?

(a) Maintenance of law and order.
(b) Paying taxes
(c) Registering property
(d) Dealing with construction permits

Solution (a)

The ease of doing business index is an index created by Simeon Djankov at the World Bank Group.

A nation’s ranking on the index is based on the average of 10 subindices:
• Starting a business – Procedures, time, cost and minimum capital to open a new business

• Dealing with construction permits – Procedures, time and cost to build a warehouse

• Getting electricity – procedures, time and cost required for a business to obtain a permanent electricity connection for a newly constructed warehouse

• Registering property – Procedures, time and cost to register commercial real estate

• Getting credit – Strength of legal rights index, depth of credit information index

• Protecting investors – Indices on the extent of disclosure, extent of director liability and ease of shareholder suits

• Paying taxes – Number of taxes paid, hours per year spent preparing tax returns and total tax payable as share of gross profit

• Trading across borders – Number of documents, cost and time necessary to export and import

• Enforcing contracts – Procedures, time and cost to enforce a debt contract

• Resolving insolvency – The time, cost and recovery rate (%) under bankruptcy proceeding

IASbaba Reference: Test 34 Economics and Current Affairs, ILP Babapedia
Q.) In India, ‘extended producer responsibility’ was introduced as an important feature in which of the following?


(b) The Recycled Plastic (Manufactured and Usage) rules, 1999.

(c) The e-waste (management and handling) Rules, 2011.

(d) THE Food Safety and Standard Regulations, 2011.

Solution (c)

The EPR is a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility—financial or physical—for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.

Accordingly in the amended new E-Waste Rules 2016, the EPR authorisation has been made Central Pollution Control Board’s responsibility with pan India implementation, diverting from the responsibility of SPCBs, thus reducing the load of SPCBs significantly.

IASbaba Reference : DNA

https://iasbaba.com/2016/03/iasbabas-daily-current-affairs-24th-march-2016/
Q.) In the context of any country, which one of the following would be considered as part of its social capital?

(a) The proportion of literates in the population.
(b) The stock of its buildings, other than infrastructure and machines.
(c) The size of population in the working age group
(d) The level of mutual trust and harmony in the society

Solution (d)

Social capital broadly refers to those factors of effectively functioning social groups that include such things as interpersonal relationships, a shared sense of identity, a shared understanding, shared norms, shared values, trust, cooperation, and reciprocity.
Q.) Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India:

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.

2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.

3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.

4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solution (c)

Explanation:

75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them. Under the scheme, Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment, which are then appraised and approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry. Activities for development of PVTGs are undertaken in Sectors of Education, Health, Livelihood and Skill Development, Agricultural Development, Housing & Habitat, Conservation of Culture etc.

IASbaba Reference: ILP Test Series & Babapedia

Base Line Surveys

- Out of the 75 PVTGs, base line surveys exists for about 40 groups, even after declaring them as PVTGs
- Base line surveys are done to precisely identify the PVTG families, their habitat and socio-economic status, so that development initiatives are implemented for these communities, based on the facts and figures
- State governments must urgently conduct such surveys to arrive at accurate demographic and socio-economic figures of the PVTGs.

There are 75 PVTGs. This helps one to eliminate other options and decipher correct answer.
These are a marginalised group that critically depends on making rope with Siali fibre that’s richly available in Simlipal. It is one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) living in Odisha. Which of the following are such tribes?

- Mankidia tribe
- Agariya tribe
- Toda tribe
- Baiga tribe

**Explanation**

Solution (a)

Mankidia, one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in Odisha, were denied habitat rights inside the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) under the historic Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, as the State Forest Department has objected on grounds that tribals could be attacked by wild animals, especially tigers. Mankidia, a marginalised group that critically depends on making rope with siali fibre that’s richly available in Similipal, would now be deprived of the non-timber forest produce.

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