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1. Geography

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1. Natural growth of population is the outcome of which of the following?

1. Crude Birth Rate
2. Crude Death Rate
3. Migration
4. Marriages

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 3
- C. 2 and 4
- D. 1 and 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- Births and deaths are natural causes of population change.
- The difference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country or place is called the natural increase.
- The natural increase is calculated by subtracting the death rate from the birth rate.

2. Match List -I and List -II

List -I (States)	List -II (Highest Peak)
1. Kerala	1. Dodda Betta
2. Nagaland	2. Nand Devi
3. Uttarakhand	3. Anai Mudi
4. Tamil Nadu	4. Saramati

Codes:

- 1 2 3 4
- A. 1 3 4 2
 - B. 2 3 4 1
 - C. 3 4 2 1
 - D. 1 2 3 4

Answer: C

3. Which of the following pairs is NOT correctly matched?

- | Desert | Country |
|---------------|--------------|
| A. Sonoran | USA |
| B. Taklamakan | China |
| C. Karakum | Turkmenistan |
| D. Gibson | Brazil |

Answer: D

Explanation

- | Desert | Country |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| ● Sonoran | North America |
| ● Taklamakan | Northwest China |
| ● Karakum | Turkmenistan (Central Asia) |
| ● Gibson | Brazil |

4. At the mouth of which of the following rivers the 'bird's foot' type delta is formed?

- A. Huang Ho
- B. Danube
- C. Nile
- D. Mississippi

Answer: D

Explanation

- A bird-foot delta has few, widely spaced distributaries, making it look like a bird's foot. The Mississippi River forms a bird-foot delta as it empties into the Gulf of Mexico.



5. Which of the following statements is not correct?

- A. Black soil is locally called 'regur'
- B. According to Krabs the regur soil is essentially a mature soil
- C. Black soils are highly retentive to moisture.
- D. Black soil is found in Himalayan region

Answer: D

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2. History & Culture

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1. The national motto of India, 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from

- A. Katha Upanishad
- B. Chandogya Upanishad
- C. Aitareya Upanishad
- D. Mundaka Upanishad

Answer: D

Explanation

- "Satyameva Jayate" ("Truth alone triumphs") is a part of a mantra from the Hindu scripture Mundaka Upanishad.
- Following the independence of India, it was adopted as the national motto of India on 26 January 1950
- It is inscribed in the Devanagari script at the base of the Lion Capital of Ashoka and forms an integral part of the Indian national emblem.

2. Chaitra 1 of the national calendar based on the Saka Era corresponds to which one of the following dates of the Gregorian calendar in a normal year of 365 days?

- A. 22 March (or 21st March)
- B. 15th May (or 16th May)
- C. 31st March (or 30th March)
- D. 21st April (or 20th April)

Answer: A

Explanation

- Chaitra is the first month of the calendar. Chaitra has 30 days and starts on March 22, except in leap years, when it has 31 days and starts on March 21. The months in the first half of the year all have 31 days, to take into account the slower movement of the sun across the ecliptic at this time.
- Its usage started officially at 1 Chaitra 1879, Saka Era, or 22 March 1957.

Name (Sanskrit)	Length	Start date (Gregorian)	Tropical zodiac	Tropical zodiac (Sanskrit)
Chaitra	30/31	March 22/21	Aries	<u>Mesa</u>

3. Some Buddhist rock-cut caves are called Chaityas, while the others are called Viharas. What is the difference between the two?

- A. Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the dwelling place of the monks
- B. Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the dwelling place of the monks
- C. Chaitya is the stupa at the far end of the cave, while Vihara is the hall axial to it
- D. There is no material difference between the two

Answer: B

Explanation

- Viharas were for the purpose of living, Chaityas were assemblies for the purpose of discussions.
- Chaitya was a rectangular prayer hall with a stupa placed in the centre, the purpose was prayer.
- Viharas, on the other hand, did not have stupas.
- Both early Chaityas and Viharas were made by woods and later stone-cut Chaityas and Viharas were made.

4. Annie Besant was

1. responsible for starting the Home Rule Movement
2. the founder of the Theosophical Society
3. once the President of the Indian National Congress

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Theosophical Society was founded by Madame Blavatsky and Col. Olcott in 1875 in New York.
- It was crystallised in the Madras Presidency with its headquarters in Adayar.
- Annie Besant joined the Theosophical Society, and when Blavatsky died in 1891, Besant was left as one of the leading figures in theosophy
- In 1893, soon after becoming a member of the Theosophical Society she went to India for the first time
- She had also joined the Indian National Congress.
- In June 1917 Besant was arrested and interned for her activities as part of the Home Rule League.

- She was freed in September 1917 and in December 1917 she took over as president of the Indian National Congress for a year.

5. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Brahmo Samaj?

1. It opposed idolatry.
2. It denied the need for a priestly class for interpreting the religious texts.
3. It popularized the doctrine that the Vedas are infallible.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy's His greatest achievement in the field of religious reform was the setting up of the Brahmo Sabha in 1828 which later became the Brahmo Samaj
- Brahmo Samajists have no faith in any scripture as an authority.
- Brahmo Samajists have no faith in Avatars
- Brahmo Samajists denounce polytheism and idol-worship.
- Brahmo Samajists are against caste restrictions.
- Brahmo Samajists make faith in the doctrines of Karma and Rebirth optional.

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3. Economy

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1. As per the revised definition, an enterprise is micro if:

- A. The investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed ₹1 crore and turnover also does not cross 1 crore.
- B. The investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed ₹5 crore and turnover also does not cross 5 crore.
- C. The investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed ₹1 crore and turnover does not cross 5 crore.
- D. The investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed ₹5 crore and turnover does not cross 1 crore.

Answer: C

Explanation

- In News: Recently, the government notified new criteria for classification of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on the basis of turnover and investment in plant and machinery.
- As per the revised definition, an enterprise is micro where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed ₹1 crore and turnover does not cross 5 crore.
- An enterprise is now classified as small enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed Rs 10 crore and turnover is not over ₹50 crore.
- For medium enterprise, as per the new classification, the investment in plant and machinery or equipment should not exceed ₹50 crore and turnover should be below ₹250 crore.

2. Which of the following is/are correct about India's Trade with China:

- 1. The trade deficit between the countries has never crossed \$50 billion.
 - 2. Till date, India has never imposed anti-dumping duties on Chinese goods.
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both are correct
 - D. None is correct

Answer: D

Explanation

- In News: India's trade deficit with China fell to \$48.66 billion in 2019-20 on account of decline in imports from the neighbouring country.

- Exports to China in the last financial year stood at \$16.6 billion, while imports aggregated at \$65.26 billion.
- The trade deficit between the countries was at \$53.56 billion in 2018-19 and \$63 billion in 2017-18.
- The government is taking steps such as framing technical regulations and quality norms for several products to cut dependence on China for imports.
- Indian Government has imposed anti-dumping duties on several goods, which are being dumped in the domestic market at below the average prices from China with a view to guard domestic players from cheap imports.
- China accounts for about 14 per cent of India's imports and is a major supplier for sectors such as mobile phones, telecom, power, plastic toys, and critical pharma ingredients.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) from China into India too has dipped to \$163.78 million in 2019-20 from \$229 million in the previous fiscal.
- India had received \$350.22 million FDI from the neighbouring country in 2017-18 and \$277.25 million in 2016-17.

3. Which of the following is/are correct about Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan:

- 1. It will be implemented in 6 states with a large concentration of returnee migrant workers.**
- 2. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for this campaign.**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both are correct
- D. None is correct

Answer: C

Explanation

- In News: Prime Minister recently launched a massive employment -cum- rural public works Campaign named 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to empower and provide livelihood opportunities in areas/ villages witnessing large number of returnee migrant workers affected by the devastating COVID-19.
- The Abhiyaan was flagged off from village Telihar, Block Beldaur, district Khagaria, Bihar.
- There are 6 Participating States, Various Union Ministers and others.
- This Abhiyaan of 125 days, will work in mission mode, will involve focused implementation of 25 categories of works/ activities in 116 districts, each with a large concentration of returnee migrant workers in 6 states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.
- Public works to be undertaken during this campaign will have a resource envelope of Rs. 50,000 crores.
- The Abhiyaan will be a convergent effort between 12 different Ministries/Departments, namely; Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Road Transport & Highways, Mines, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Environment, Railways, Petroleum & Natural Gas, New & Renewable Energy, Border Roads, Telecom

and Agriculture, to expedite implementation of 25 public infrastructure works and works relating to augmentation of livelihood opportunities.

- The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for this campaign and the campaign will be implemented in close coordination with the State Governments.

4. Recently in news, ByteDance is:

- A. A malware impacting security of financial transactions of the banks
- B. An AI driven robot that quickly imitates the dance moves
- C. A latest rover to visit distant Neptune
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- ByteDance is the developer of the video-sharing social networking service Douyin (TikTok).
- The recent ban of 59 Chinese apps by India might cause ByteDance a loss of up to \$6 billion (₹45k crore).
- Recently, Indian government decided to ban them citing concerns about privacy and national security of the country.
- The Indian government recently banned 59 apps with China links including TikTok, SHAREit, UC Browser, Baidu map, Helo, Mi Community, Club Factory, WeChat and UC News in view of the information available that they were engaged in activities “which is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defense of India, the security of the state and public order

4. Which of the following is/are correct in context of An Insolvency Professional:

1. An Insolvency Professional has to be registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
 2. During the bankruptcy situation, the insolvency professionals play a vital role in liquidating the entity assets and other settlement processes.
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both are correct
 - D. None is correct

Answer: C

Explanation

- In News: Insolvency regulator IBBI expands role of insolvency professional entities. Allows Insolvency Professional Entities (IPEs) to provide support services to all IPs, not just to IPs who are its partners or directors.

- An Insolvency Professional is one who is registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- They are enrolled with an Insolvency Agency and they are involved in the dissolution process of an insolvent individual, companies, LLPs or partnerships.
- These professionals are authorised to act on behalf of such insolvent individual, companies etc. During the bankruptcy situation, the insolvency professionals play a vital role in liquidating the entity assets and other settlement processes.
- This process has gained momentum with the government bringing in strict norms through Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

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5. Environment & Ecology

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1. Recently, Tillari Conservation Reserve has been notified in which of the following states?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Goa
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

Answer: C

Explanation

- Tillari will be the seventh corridor in the state of Maharashtra to be declared as a 'conservation reserve'.
 - The state forest department declared 29.53 sqkm area of Dodamarg forest range in Sindhudurg district as 'Tillari Conservation Reserve'.
 - The area covering nine villages in the forest range is known to serve as a corridor and even as a habitat for the population of tigers and elephants moving between the three states of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
 - The 38-km-long Dodamarg wildlife corridor that connects Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra to Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka frequently witnesses elephant and tiger movement.
 - The land in Tillari which was under the forest department was a reserve forest which basically is less protected.
 - Being declared as a conservation reserve is a step in the right direction and gives it some level of protection from development projects.
2. The report titled 'Skin and Bones Unresolved: An Analysis of Tiger Seizures from 2000-2018' has quantified the illegal global trade in tigers and tiger parts between 2000 and 2018. It has been compiled by
1. WWF
 2. GTF
 3. TRAFFIC
 4. IUCN
 5. NTCA

Choose the correct option

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only

- B. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- A recent report titled 'Skin and Bones Unresolved: An Analysis of Tiger Seizures from 2000-2018' has quantified the illegal global trade in tigers and tiger parts between 2000 and 2018.
- The report has been compiled by TRAFFIC in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund(WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN).
- The report says that tigers are listed in Appendix I of CITES, which bans all commercial international trade for member countries.
- The report provides that overall 2,359 tigers were seized from 2000 to 2018 across 32 countries and territories globally.
- Apart from live tigers and whole carcasses, tiger parts were seized in various forms such as skin, bones or claws.
- The top three countries with the highest number of seizure incidents were India followed by China and Indonesia.
- India is the country with the highest number of seizure incidents at 463 or 40% of all seizures.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Rajaji National Park

1. It is in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
2. It is named after the famous freedom fighter C. Rajgopalachari.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Rajaji National Park is an Indian national park and tiger reserve that encompasses the Shivaliks, near the foothills of the Himalayas. The park is spread over three districts of Uttarakhand: Haridwar, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal.
- In 1983, three wildlife sanctuaries in the area namely, Chilla, Motichur and Rajaji sanctuaries were merged into one.
- The Ganga and Song rivers flow through the park.

- Rajaji National Park has been named after C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji), a prominent leader of the Freedom Struggle, the second and last Governor-General of independent India and one of the first recipients of India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna.



4. Consider the following statements regarding Green Nobel Prize

1. It is awarded annually by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
2. The winners are announced on Earth Day which is observed on 22nd April every year.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Goldman Environmental Prize (also known as Green Nobel Prize) recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk.
- It is awarded annually by Goldman Environmental Foundation since 1990.
- The Goldman Prize views “grassroots” leaders as those involved in local efforts, where positive change is created through community or citizen participation in the issues that affect them.
- Goldman Prize recipients are usually people from isolated villages or inner cities who choose to take great personal risks to safeguard the environment.
- The winners are announced on Earth Day which is observed on 22nd April every year.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Ocean Acidification

1. It is increase in the pH of the Earth's oceans caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

2. Ocean acidification leads to seawater pH go below 7.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Ocean acidification is the ongoing decrease in the pH of the Earth's oceans, caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.
- It increases the concentration of hydrogen ions and decreases the concentration of carbonate ions.
- Seawater is slightly basic, and the process in question is a shift towards pH-neutral conditions rather than a transition to acidic conditions (pH < 7).
- Coccolithophores are single-celled algae living in the upper layers of the world's oceans.
- They have been playing a key role in marine ecosystems and the global carbon cycle for millions of years.
- Coccolithophores calcify marine phytoplankton that produces up to 40 per cent of open ocean calcium carbonate and responsible for 20 per cent of the global net marine primary productivity.
- These build exoskeletons from individual CaCO₃ plates consisting of chalk and seashells building the tiny plates on their exterior.
- Though carbon dioxide is produced during the formation of these plates, coccolithophores help in removing it from the atmosphere and ocean by consuming it during photosynthesis.
- At equilibrium, coccolithophores absorb more carbon dioxide than they produce, which is beneficial for the ocean ecosystem.

6. Science & Technology

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1. Optical fibre works on the principle of

- A. Total Internal Reflection
- B. Total Internal Refraction
- C. Refraction
- D. Reflection

Answer: A

2. When water is heated from 0°C to 10°C , its volume

- A. Increases
- B. decreases
- C. does not change
- D. first decreases and then increases

Answer: D

Explanation

- Water has maximum density at 4°C and maximum volume at 0°C .
- Initially at start of heating from 0°C to 4°C there will be a contraction as a result of which volume decreases. On further heating beyond 4°C to 10°C the molecules gain kinetic energy and start moving more randomly. Thus, intermolecular distance increases as a result of which its volume increases.

3. The approximate mean velocity with which the earth moves around the sun in its orbit is

- A. 20 km/s
- B. 30 km/s
- C. 20 km/h
- D. 30 km/h

Answer: B

Explanation

- In one orbit around the sun, the earth has travelled 940 million km.
- Earth completes one revolution in 365.256 days.

4. Low temperature (cryogenics) find application in

- A. space travel, surgery and magnetic levitation
- B. surgery, magnetic levitation and telemetry

- C. space travel, surgery and telemetry
- D. space travel, magnetic levitation and telemetry

Answer: A

5. The tail of a comet is always directed

- A. towards the sun
- B. away from the sun
- C. towards the nearest planet
- D. independent of any factor

Answer: B

Explanation

- The radiation emitted by sun exerts a radial pressure on the comet. So the tail of comet is always directed away from the sun

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