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Table of Contents

1. Geography.....	1
2. Polity	3
3. Economy	5
4. Environment.....	9
5. Science & Technology	12

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1. Geography

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1. Which of the following statements with respect to Kaveri River are correct?

1. It flows through the states of Karnataka and Telangana.
2. It is the basis for the Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary.
3. The Stanley water reservoir has been built over it
4. The water of the river is shared between Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu.

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

Answer: C

2. Identify the correct statements regarding coral reefs?

1. Corals are in fact animals, not plants.
2. Coral reefs are the largest structures on earth of biological origin.
3. Coral reefs are naturally colorful because of algae, which lives inside of the coral, providing them with food.
4. The three main types of coral reefs are fringing reefs, barrier reefs, and coral atolls.

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

Answer: D

3. Which of the following statements regarding Atal tunnel are correct?

1. It is built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and is the longest high-altitude highway tunnel in the world.
2. The Atal Tunnel will have all-weather connectivity between Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley which was earlier cut off for six months of the year due to excessive snowfall in the region
3. It is built under the Lipu lekh pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas.

4. The Moravian Mission was the basis for Atal tunnel.

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

Answer: D

4. Which of the following passes are matched correctly with the states they are in?

- 1. Jelep la - Sikkim
- 2. Bara lacha-la - Uttarakhand.
- 3. Bum la- Himachal pradesh
- 4. Mana pass - Arunachal Pradesh

Choose the correct code.

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

Answer: A

5. Match the rivers and the dams built on them.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hirakund | a. Tapi |
| 2. Bhakhra nangal | b. Indus |
| 3. Nimoo bazgo | c. Mahanadi |
| 4. Ukai | d. Sutlej |

Select the correct code

- A. 1-c, 2-d, 3-b, 4-a
- B. 1-b, 2-d, 3-c, 4-a
- C. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d
- D. 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-d

Answer: A

2. Polity

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1. Which of the following have been matched correctly?

1. Sarkaria Commission - Centre-State relations.
2. P.C. Hotha Committee - Restructuring of Civil Services
3. Swaminathan Committee - Civil Services Examination.
4. Wanchoo Committee - Recommendations on Integrated wages, Income and Price Policy

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

Answer: A

2. 1985 Coomar Narain case is related to which of the following?

- A. The SC tried to curb the blatant misuse of Article 356 (regarding the imposition of President's Rule on states).
- B. The SC restored the conviction and sentence of 6-year (RI) rigorous imprisonment imposed on 2 UK nationals who were acquitted by the Bombay High Court in a pedophilia case. The court said that "the sexual abuse of children is one of the most heinous crimes."
- C. One of the oldest and longest criminal trials involving Official Secrets Act.
- D. The SC ruled that the power of judicial review vested in the Supreme Court and High Courts by Articles 32 and 226 respectively is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

Answer: C

3. Which state became the first digital state in public education?

- A. Kerala
- B. Sikkim
- C. Goa
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Answer: A

4. Who among the following was the first chairman of the National Commission for Women?

- A. Mohini Giri
- B. Dr. Poornima Advani
- C. Dr. Girija Vyas
- D. Jayanti Patnaik

Answer: D

5. Which of the following statements are true about the governor of a state?

- 1. The executive power of the state is vested in him.
- 2. He must have attained the age of 35 years.
- 3. He holds the office during the pleasure of the president.
- 4. The grounds for his removal are laid down in the constitution.

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

Answer: B

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3. Economy

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1. Which of the following is/are correct in context of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)?

1. CPI-IW is managed by the Labour Bureau of the Labour Ministry while CPI- Agricultural Workers (CPI-AL) and CPI-Rural workers (CPI RL) are compiled by Central Statistical Organisation.
2. CPI-IW is used to determine Dearness Allowance (DA) of serving government officers and employees and not that of the retired officers and employees.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Both the statements are correct

- There is a proposal to change Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) to 2016 from 2001.
- It could mean further increase in Dearness Allowance (DA)/Dearness Relief (DR), when revised from next year.
- Yearly inflation as represented by All India CPI-IW is key for calculating DA and DR.
- DA as a percentage of basic pay is paid to serving government officers and employees, while DR as a percentage of basic pensions is for the retired officers and employees.
- CPI-IW is managed by the labour bureau of the Labour Ministry along with CPI- Agricultural Workers (CPI-AL) and CPI-Rural workers (CPI RL).
- However, a more broader retail inflation rate based on Consumer Price Index released by National Statistics Office.

2. Which of the following statements with respect to project STARS are correct?

1. The project will cover all UTs initially and then later on will be implemented in all the states.
2. The project will setup and support the PRAKH, the national assessment center.
3. It is a World Bank aided project.
4. The project is a flagship program under ministry of MSME.

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Statements 1 and 4 are wrong

- The cabinet has approved Rs 5,718 crores of aid from World Bank to implement project STARS.
- STARS is Strengthening Teaching Learning and Resources for States.
- The project is to be implemented by department of school education and literacy operating under Ministry of Education.
- The project will cover Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala.
- The focus and components of the project is aligned with national education policy 2020.
- Project will improve overall monitoring of Indian school education system.
- It will shift the focus towards maintaining of outputs by linking the disbursement of funds.
- The STARS project has two major components:
 - ✓ To support the ministry of education by incentivizing States through state incentive grants.
 - ✓ To strengthen Ministry of Education to capture authentic data on transaction, retention and completion rates of students.
- The project supports ministry of education to establish the national assessment centre, PRAKH. The project will also include Contingency Emergency Response Component.
- State level projects under STARS envisage improving learning assessment systems, strengthening early childhood education, and strengthening vocational education, strength in classroom instruction, career guidance and internships.

3. The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019 report is released by which agency?

- A. UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs
- B. UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- C. All Hands Volunteer
- D. NECHAMA

Answer: B

Explanation

- Released recently by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in the past 20 years.
- 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, affecting 4.2 billion people and costing the global economy some \$2.97 trillion.

About UNISDR

- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), created in December 1999, is the successor to the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.
- It was established to ensure the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, that's why it was earlier known as UNISDR.
- It is also overseeing The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.

4. Which of the following statements wrt Long term repo operation (LTRO) is/are incorrect?

1. It refers to the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the RBI in case of shortage of funds.
2. It helps in reducing the liquidity in the banking system.
3. Funds through LTRO are provided at the repo rate.
4. LTROs are conducted on Core Banking Solution (E-KUBER) platform

- A. 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Long Term Reverse Repo Operation (LTRO) is a mechanism to facilitate the transmission of monetary policy actions and the flow of credit to the economy.
- This helps in injecting liquidity in the banking system.
- Funds through LTRO are provided at the repo rate. This means that banks can avail one year and three-year loans at the same interest rate of one day repo.
- Otherwise usually, loans with higher maturity period (here like 1 year and 3 years) will have a higher interest rate compared to short term (repo) loans.
- LTROs are conducted on Core Banking Solution (E-KUBER) platform.
- The minimum bid amount is Rs 1 crore and multiples thereof.
- There is no restriction on the maximum amount of bidding by individual bidders.

5. Recently the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences has been awarded to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. In the common-value model, the actual value is the same for everyone, but bidders have different private information ("signals") about what that value actually is.
 2. In private-values model, each bidder knows how much he values the object for sale but his value is private information.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both are Correct
D. None is Correct

Answer: C

Explanation

- In the common-value model, the actual value is the same for everyone, but bidders have different private information ("signals") about what that value actually is. In this case a bidder would change her estimate of the value if she learned another bidder's signal.
- In contrast, in private-values model, each bidder knows how much he values the object for sale but his value is private information. In contrast to the common-value setting, a bidder's value would be unaffected by learning any other bidder's information.
- Wilson developed a theory for auction of objects of "common value", a value that is "uncertain to begin with but is eventually the same for everyone", such as radio frequency.
- He shows why rational bidders place their bids below their best estimate of common value – they are afraid of the winners' curse, of paying too much and losing out.
- Milgrom generalises the auction theory to look at "private values" which can vary from bidder to bidder (such as an art auction).
- He concludes that sellers realise higher revenue "when bidders learn more about each other's estimated values during bidding".
- With auctions being used to sell "complex objects" such as landing slots, shares and radio frequency, sophistication in auction design has become an imperative.

4. Environment

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1. Which of the following statements in context of The World Migratory Day are incorrect?

1. The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year.
2. The campaign is organized by Birdlife International.
3. Theme for this year is - Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.
4. The idea of celebrating World Migratory Day was designed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year, that is, on second Saturdays of May and October. Earlier in May, the day was celebrated on May 9, 2020.
- Both the days are celebrated under the same theme. This year, the day is celebrated under the Theme: Birds Connect Our World.
- The campaign is organised by two international wildlife treaties administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- They are as follows:
 - ✓ African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement Convention on the conservation of Migratory species of wild animals.
 - ✓ The idea of celebrating World Migratory Day was designed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993.
 - ✓ The Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species is also called Bonn convention.

2. *Abortelphusa Namdaphaensis* a small freshwater crab species, were recently found in which of the following places?

- A. Western Ghats
- B. Abor hills
- C. Eastern Ghats

D. The Ganga catchment area

Answer: B

Explanation

- The name of *Abortelphusa Namdaphaensis*, a small freshwater crab species, is a tribute not just to Namdapha, the largest protected area in the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot, but also to the Abor Hills, another rich biodiversity hotspot in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Namdapha (named a National Park in 1983) is known for its rich biodiversity, and believed to be the rare area that harbours four large cats: tigers, snow leopards, clouded leopards and leopards.

3. What is “Ganga Avalokan” recently seen in news?

- A. A Hindu religious book
- B. The GPS based mapping system
- C. Museum
- D. Project for Kumbh 2021 in Haridwar

Answer: C

Explanation

- It is nation’s first museum on Ganga. It has been dedicated to showcase the biodiversity, rejuvenation and culture in Ganga River.
- The museum is located at Chandi Ghat, Haridwar.

4. Which of the following pairs have been incorrectly matched?

1. Palamau – Bihar
 2. Buxa- West Bengal
 3. Sariska- Rajasthan
 4. Pakke- Arunachal Pradesh
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. 3 and 4 only
 - D. 1,2,3 and 4

Answer: A

5. Which of the following statements in context of “murder hornets” are correct?

1. They are endemic to North America.
2. They prey on honeybees.
3. They need meat to feed their young.
4. Hornets can sting over and over.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- They're Asian giant hornets, a species (*Vespa mandarinia*) that recently invaded North America. (invasive)
- This wasp earned its nickname from preying on honeybees.
- It can swoop down and grab them out of the air.
- Hornets are big, predatory, colony-forming wasps. They belong to the genus *Vespa*.
- None are native to North or South America.
- Most are native to Asia. They need meat to feed their young.
- That's in contrast to honeybees, which collect plant pollen as protein. Another difference: A honeybee dies after its single-use stinger rips out of its body.
- Hornets can sting over and over.

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5. Science & Technology

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1. Which of the following statements with respect to Shaurya missile are correct?

1. The surface-to-surface medium range Shaurya missile can reach speeds of 7.5 Mach.
2. The cruise missile can hit targets 400 kilometers away - its range increased from the existing 290 kilometers.
3. The 10 meter-long missile - weighing 6.2 tonne - can carry both nuclear and conventional warheads weighing up to 1,000 kilograms.

Select the correct code

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

Answer: D

2. What is the theme of world space week 2020?

- A. Women in Space
- B. Satellites Improve Life
- C. Exploring New Worlds In Space
- D. Space Unites the World

Answer: B

3. The term K- family frequently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Satellite missions to be launched by NASA
- B. GIS based mapping by LATMOS
- C. Missile system developed by DRDO
- D. Data computing set developed by CNSA

Answer: C

4. The term CBD OIL is recently seen in news. Consider the following statements related to the same:

1. It is an analgesic product.

2. CBD oil manufactured under a licence issued by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 can be legally used.

Select the correct statement

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

Answer: C

5. Which of the following are correctly matched?

- 1. Cassini Spacecraft – SpaceX
- 2. HAYABUSA – JAXA
- 3. EMISAT - ISRO

Choose the correct answer -

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

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