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1. Geography

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1. Noumea Accord recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. It is the first Arab-Israeli peace deal.
- B. French Republic`s deal to grant increased political power to New Caledonia.
- C. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced a global set of principles for space exploration.
- D. Ending the Waziristan war.

Answer: B

Explanation



2. Global hunger index is released by

- A. The world food program
- B. Food and agriculture organization
- C. Welhunger Life and Concern Worldwide
- D. UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Global hunger index was launched on October 16 2020. It has been jointly prepared by Welhunger life and Concern Worldwide.
- This year, India has been ranked 94th Out of 107 countries. In 2018 was India ranked 103 while in 2019 India was ranked 102.
- The report ranked the countries on the basis of four indicators – undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality.
- The report has put India under “serious category” and has given the score of 27.2.
- The child stunting rate, for age group 0-5 years, in India was reported as 37.4 %.
- Wasting in child was reported as 17.3 %. Undernourishment rate of India is 14%. As per the report, child mortality rate is 3.7 %.

- Nepal has been ranked 73rd, Bangladesh has been ranked 75th while Pakistan has been ranked 88th this year.

3. Which of the following are true about Indo – Srilankan accord?

1. It sought to collectively address all the three contentious issues between India and Sri Lanka: strategic interests, people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and Tamil minority rights in Sri Lanka.
2. This accord saw the induction of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka.
3. According to the terms of the accord, Sri Lankan forces would withdraw from the north and the Tamil rebels would disarm.
4. The accord was expected to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War by enabling the thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act of 1987.

Select the correct code

- 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

4. MACS-6478 recently seen in news is

- A. A newly tested missile from the k- family series
- B. A new discovered satellite of Pluto.
- C. A new genome coding sequence for deadly viruses.
- D. A new wheat variety

Answer: D

5. Which of the following statement are correct?

1. The Jhelum River rises from the Sheshnag Lake near Verinag at the foot of Pir Panjal range.
2. The Jhelum River is the largest tributary of Indus.
3. Beas rises from Bara-lacha la pass

Select the correct code

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

Answer: A

2. Polity

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1. Which of the following statements regarding 6th schedule of the constitution are correct?

1. Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).
2. The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of schedule areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
3. It comes under Article 244 of the Constitution.
4. The ADCs in these areas are empowered with civil and judicial powers can constitute village courts within their jurisdiction to hear the trial of cases involving the tribes.

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

Answer: C

2. Which of the following have been awarded the Nobel peace prize for 2020?

- A. World Food Programme (WFP)
B. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
C. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
D. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Answer: A

3. Which of the following statements in context of The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) are incorrect?

1. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7.
2. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

Select the correct code

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

Answer: D

4. Which of the following statements regarding SVAMITVA scheme are correct?

1. It refers to Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.
2. It will enable nearly one lakh property holders to download their property cards through SMS on their mobile phones and pave the way for villagers to use property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
3. The physical distribution of property cards will be done under the scheme.
4. It is a central scheme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Select the correct code

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

Answer: C

5. The authorization for the withdrawal of funds from the- Consolidated Fund of India must come from?

- A. The President of India
- B. The Parliament of India
- C. The Prime Minister of India
- D. The Union Finance, Minister

Answer: B

3. Economy

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1. Often in news, Grey List, is:

1. Released by IMF.
2. Officially referred to as Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring.
3. At present Pakistan is the only country in Grey List.
4. Countries on the list may still face economic sanctions from institutions like the IMF and the World Bank and experience adverse effects on trade.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Released by FATF, an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7.
- Black List: Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
- Grey List: Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
- As of August 2020, there are 18 nations on this list including Pakistan.
- Countries on the FATF grey list represent a much higher risk of money laundering and terrorism financing but have formally committed to working with the FATF to develop action plans that will address their AML/CFT deficiencies.
- While grey-list classification is not as negative as the blacklist, countries on the list may still face economic sanctions from institutions like the IMF and the World Bank and experience adverse effects on trade.
- In news: FATF is all set to decide on Pakistan's grey list status in a virtual meeting soon.

2. Which of the following statements are incorrect regarding Additional Tier- 1 bonds?

1. These bonds have no maturity date.
 2. The issuing bank has the option to call back the bonds or repay the principal after a specified period of time.
- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

Both the Statements are correct

- In news: SEBI has tightened its regulations of AT-1 bonds and ensured that these risky instruments are less accessible to retail investors.
- AT-1 bonds are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.
- These have higher rates than tier II bonds.
- These bonds have no maturity date.
- The issuing bank has the option to call back the bonds or repay the principal after a specified period of time.
- The attraction for investors is higher yield than secured bonds issued by the same entity.
- Individual investors too can hold these bonds, but mostly high net worth individuals (HNIs) opt for such higher risk, higher yield investments.
- Given the higher risk, the rating for these bonds is one to four notches lower than the secured bond series of the same bank.
- Banks can now issue these bonds only on electronic platform.
- Only institutional investors could subscribe to them.
- There shall be a minimum allotment size and trading lot size of ₹1 crore.

3. Which of the following is not amongst the Eight Core Industries?

- A. Electricity
- B. Pharmaceutical
- C. Cement
- D. Natural Gas

Answer: B

Explanation

- The eight core industries include:
 - ✓ Coal
 - ✓ Crude oil
 - ✓ Natural gas

- ✓ Refinery products
- ✓ Fertilizers
- ✓ Steel
- ✓ Cement
- ✓ Electricity.

- These are called core industries because of their likely impact on general economic activity as well as other industrial activity.

4. Consider the following actions which the Government can take:

- 1. Devaluing the domestic currency.**
- 2. Reduction in the export subsidy.**
- 3. Adopting suitable policies which attract greater FDI and more funds from FIIs.**

Which of the above action/actions can help in reducing the current account deficit?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Option 3 will impact the long term thing, not Current Account.
- The current account measures the flow of goods, services, and investments into and out of the country.
- It represents a country's foreign transactions and, like the capital account, is a component of a country's Balance of Payments (BOP).
- There is a deficit in Current Account if the value of the goods and services imported exceeds the value of those exported.
- A nation's current account maintains a record of the country's transactions with other nations that includes net income, including interest and dividends, and transfers, like foreign aid. It comprises of following components:
- Trade of goods, Services, and Net earnings on overseas investments and net transfer of payments over a period of time, such as remittances.

5. Which of the following statements is/are correct in context of Import Substitution Industrialisation (ISI)?

- 1. It is a trade and economic policy that advocates encouraging foreign imports to maximise production of industrialised goods.**

2. In order to spur domestic production, the domestic government usually follows the path of subsidization of vital industries.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Statement 1 is incorrect as Import substitution industrialization (ISI) as a trade and economic policy advocates replacing foreign imports with domestic production.
- It is based on the premise that a country should attempt to reduce its foreign dependency through the local production of industrialized products.
- It has been enacted by various developing countries with the intention of producing development and self-sufficiency by the creation of an internal market.
- The state leads economic development by nationalization, subsidization of vital industries (agriculture, power generation, etc.), increased taxation, and highly-protectionist trade policies.
- Most developing countries abandoned it in the 1980s and after the fall of the Soviet Union.
- While market economists are divided on import-substitution policies, the success of the East Asian economies, particularly Taiwan and China, presents a viable case for the strategic use of Import-Substitution Industrialisation (ISI) policies, but only when applied alongside Export-oriented Industrialisation (EOI).
- India had comprehensive import-substitution policies in place between 1947 and 1990 as well. But, in the absence of the strategic identification of sectors for implementing the ISI policy and a concomitant fillip to exports, they proved to be disastrous.
- If they are successful this time, India must learn from its own past and its peers. Only a limited and targeted import-substitution policy combined with aggressive export promotion can make Atmanirbhar Bharat a \$5-trillion economy.

4. Environment

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1. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the sheath blight disease?

1. Sheath blight is a fungal disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*.
2. Sheath blight occurs in areas with low temperature (10–12°C) and low levels of nitrogen fertilizer.

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Sheath blight is a fungal disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*.
- Rice sheath blight is an increasing concern for rice production, especially in intensified production systems.
- Infected leaves dry out and die more rapidly, young tillers can also be destroyed. As a result, the leaf area of the canopy can significantly be reduced by the disease. This reduction in leaf area is the primary causes of yield reduction.
- Sheath blight occurs in areas with high temperature (28–32°C), high levels of nitrogen fertilizer, and relative humidity of crop canopy from 85–100%.
- Plants are more vulnerable to sheath blight during the rainy season.
- High seeding rate or close plant spacing, dense canopy, the disease in the soil, sclerotia or infection bodies floating on the water, and growing of high yielding improved varieties also favour disease development.

2. Which of the following define Bioremediation?

- A. It is the process of water becoming overly enriched with minerals and nutrients which induce excessive growth of algae.
- B. It is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding, or modern biotechnology.
- C. It is the chemical alteration of chemicals such as nutrients, amino acids, toxins, and drugs in the body.
- D. It is a process to clean up oil spills or contaminated groundwater.

Answer: D

Explanation

- Bioremediation is the use of living microorganisms to degrade the environmental contaminants into less toxic forms.
- It uses naturally occurring bacteria and fungi or plants to degrade or detoxify substances hazardous to human health and/or the environment.
- The microorganisms may be indigenous to a contaminated area or they may be isolated from elsewhere and brought to the contaminated site.
- Contaminant compounds are transformed by living organisms through reactions that take place as a part of their metabolic processes.
- Bioremediation can be effective only where environmental conditions permit microbial growth and activity.
- The application often involves the manipulation of environmental parameters to allow microbial growth and degradation to proceed at a faster rate.

3. Based on the following statements identify the WLS/NP/TR/ ZP?

- 1. First zoo in the country to become a member of the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA).**
 - 2. It is the only zoo for the breeding of the Indian pangolin and white tiger.**
 - 3. It was the world's first captive crocodile breeding centre, where gharials were bred in captivity in 1980.**
 - 4. Recently it revived its 'adopt-an-animal' scheme in wake of covid-19.**
- A. Indravati National Park
B. Nandankanan Zoological Park
C. Kali Tiger Reserve
D. Govind Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Nandankanan Zoological Park, nicknamed Garden of God, was established in 1960, and opened to the public in 1979 and became the first zoo in India to join the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) in 2009.
- Kanjia Lake, a wetland of national importance is located along the Nandankanan Zoological Park.
- It is the only zoo in the country, which has Patas Monkeys, Eastern Rosella variety of parakeet and Open-billed Stork (it is the second largest heronry for Open billed Storks in Odisha).
- It is also the first zoo in the country where Gharials and endangered Ratel were born in captivity.
- The zoo enjoys a good reputation internationally for successfully breeding black panthers, gharials, and white tigers in captivity.
- Nandankanan is the first zoo in the World to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger.

- It is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian Pangolins in the world.
- It is the only zoo in India to have an Open-top Leopard Enclosure.
- Nandankanan is the only zoo in India after which an express train Puri-New Delhi express has been named as "Nandankanan Express".

Adopt an Animal

- The "Adopt an Animal" program would support the Zoo by providing quality food to meet their nutritional requirements, medical care, equipment, up gradation of the enclosure and enrichments.
- The adopter (Zoo Parent) would pay the amount fixed for each species he would like to adopt.
- No adopters would be allowed to take the animal home.
- All the adopted animals would remain in the care and custody of the Zoo, and no ownership rights would be conferred.
- It harnesses public involvement and support; and more importantly, it helps in garnering affirmative action, especially for endangered species, by educating the public and ensuring their help.

4. Which of the following statements regarding aquaponics are correct?

1. It is an ecologically sustainable model that combines Hydroponics with Aquaculture.
2. In this both fish and plants can grow in one integrated ecosystem.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 not 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- Aquaponics is a combination of aquaculture, which is growing fish and other aquatic animals, and hydroponics which is growing plants without soil.
- Aquaponics uses these two in a symbiotic combination in which plants are fed the aquatic animals' discharge or waste.
- In return, the vegetables clean the water that goes back to the fish. Along with the fish and their waste, microbes play an important role to the nutrition of the plants.
- These beneficial bacteria gather in the spaces between the roots of the plant and convert the fish waste and the solids into substances the plants can use to grow.
- The result is a perfect collaboration between aquaculture and gardening.

5. *Eriocaulon parvicephalum* and *Eriocaulon karaavalense* recently heard in news are?

- A. A type of caterpillar recently found in Nilgiri hills.
- B. Butterflies to be chosen as national butterfly of India.

- C. Two new types of blue ginger speices found in Sikkim.
- D. A plant group found in Western Ghats.

Answer: D

Explanation

- Pipeworts (Eriocaulon) is a plant group which completes its life cycle within a small period during monsoon.
- It exhibits great diversity in the Western Ghats.
- Scientists from the Agharkar Research Institute in Pune have recently discovered two new species of pipeworts in the Western Ghats
- The species reported from Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra has been named Eriocaulon parvicephalum (due to its minute inflorescence size),
- And the other reported from Kumta, Karnataka is called Eriocaulon karaavalense (named after Karaavali, Coastal Karnataka region).
- Identification of the species belonging to Eriocaulon is very difficult as they all look similar, which is why the genus is often referred to as a 'Taxonomist's nightmare'.

5. International Relations

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1. Which of the following countries are parts of QUAD grouping?

1. Russia
2. India
3. USA
4. Japan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

2. Consider the following statements

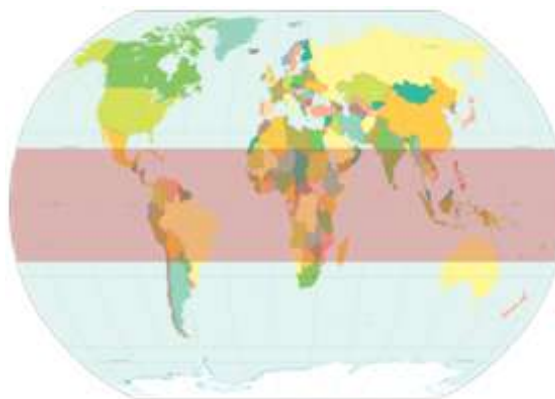
1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The International Solar Alliance is a group of nations that lies within Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.

Which of the given above statement (s) is/ are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation



3. RAISE 2020 summit which was in news is related to,

- A. Renewable Energy
- B. Sustainable Development

- C. Artificial Intelligence
- D. Rural Development

Answer: C

4. Consider the following statements with respect to Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

1. India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations in June 2016, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as full members.
2. With an aim to share literature works with SCO nations, the Sahitya Akademi will translate 10 Indian literature works into Chinese language only.

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: A

5. Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations.

1. There are 5 main organs of the UN and the Trusteeship Council is one of them.
2. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
3. The United Nations is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: B