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Of

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1. History

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following are Iltutmish's contributions?

1. Iqtadari System
2. Tanka
3. Jittal

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Iltutmish made a significant contribution in giving shape to administrative institution such as iqtas, army and currency system. •
- He gave the Sultanate two of its basic coins– the silver 'Tanka' and the copper 'Jittal'. To affect greater control over the conquered areas Iltutmish granted iqtas (land assignments in lieu of cash salaries) to his Turkish officers on a large scale.
- The recipients of "iqtas" called the "iqtadars" collected the land revenue from the territories under them. Out of this they maintained an armed contingent for the service of the state, enforced law and order and met their own expenses.
- Iltutmish realized the economic potentiality of the Doab and the iqtas were distributed mainly in this region. This secured for Iltutmish the financial and administrative control over one of the most prestigious regions of North India

2. Consider the following:

1. Sawar
2. Du-aspah
3. Zat
4. Mansabdari System

Which of the above were introduced by Akbar?

- A. 4 only

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- There is, however, a controversy regarding the Mansabdari system i.e. when it started precisely. From the available evidence, it appears that this system had been initiated by Akbar (in 1577). Along with Mansabdari system, Akbar also reformed the revenue system and introduced two new concepts namely 'Zat' and 'Sawar.'
 - Jahangir also introduced a system whereby the selected nobles could be allowed to maintain a larger quota of troopers, without raising their Zatrunk. The system was popular as 'duaspah' (a trooper with two horses) or 'sih-aspah' (a trooper with three horses) system.
- 3. Which of the following events left Ripon totally disillusioned and heartbroken and because of which he tendered his resignation and left for England?**
- A. Passage of First Factory Act 1881
 - B. Ilbert Bill passage
 - C. Non passage of Self government Act
 - D. William Hunter Commission controversy

Answer: B

Explanation

- According to the system of law, a European could be tried only by a European Judge or a European Magistrate.
- The disqualification was unjust and it was sought to cast a needless discredit and dishonour upon the Indian-born members of the judiciary. C.P. Ilbert, Law Member, introduced a bill in 1883 to abolish this discrimination in judiciary.
- But Europeans opposed this Bill strongly. They even raised a fund of one lakh fifty thousand rupees and established an organisation called the Defence Association. They also suggested that it was better to end the English rule in India than to allow the English to be subjected to the Indian Judges and Magistrates.
- The press in England joined the issue. Hence, Ripon amended the bill to satisfy the English in India and England.
- The Ilbert Bill controversy helped the cause of Indian nationalism. The Ilbert Bill Controversy is a high watermark in the history of Indian National Movement. Ripon was totally disillusioned and heartbroken and he tendered his resignation and left for England.

- The immediate result of this awakening of India was the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885, the very next year of Ripon's departure.

4. Arrange the following states in the correct chronological order of them accepting the British Subsidiary Alliance system?

1. Hyderabad
2. Awadh
3. Mysore

Select the correct code.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Indian princes who accepted the subsidiary system were:
 - ✓ the Nizam of Hyderabad (September 1798 and 1800),
 - ✓ the ruler of Mysore (1799),
 - ✓ the ruler of Tanjore (October 1799),
 - ✓ the Nawab of Awadh (November 1801),
 - ✓ the Peshwa (December 1801),
 - ✓ the Bhonsle Raja of Berar (December 1803),
 - ✓ the Sindhia (February 1804),
 - ✓ the Rajput states of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Macheri, Bundi and the ruler of Bharatpur (1818).
 - ✓ The Holkars were the last Maratha confederation to accept the Subsidiary Alliance in 1818.

5. Welby Commission is famous in Modern Indian History for which of the following reasons?

- A. Educational reforms
- B. Relations between British crown and Indian princely states
- C. Police reforms
- D. To enquire into the Drain theory

Answer: D

Explanation

- Dadabhai Naoroji in his famous book *Poverty and UnBritish Rule in India* wrote his Drain Theory. He showed how India's wealth was going away to England in the form of:
 - ✓ salaries,
 - ✓ savings,
 - ✓ pensions,
 - ✓ payments to British troops in India and e) profits of the British companies.
- In fact, the British Government was forced to appoint the Welby Commission, with Dadabhai as the first Indian as its member, to enquire into the matter.

2. Polity

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following is true with regard to the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act?

1. It provided a special status to the UT of Delhi and re-designated it the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
2. The administrator of Delhi is designated as the lieutenant (Lt.) governor who appoints the Chief Minister.
3. The assembly can make laws on all the matters of the State List and the Concurrent List except the three matters of the State List, that is, public order, police, and land.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi, and redesignated it the National Capital Territory of Delhi and designated the administrator of Delhi as the lieutenant (Lt.) governor. It created a legislative assembly and a council of ministers for Delhi.
- The assembly can make laws on all the matters of the State List and the Concurrent List except the three matters of the State List, that is, public order, police, and land. But, the laws of Parliament prevail over those made by the Assembly.
- The chief minister is appointed by the President (not by the Lt. governor).
- The other ministers are appointed by the president on the advice of the chief minister.
- The ministers hold office during the pleasure of the president.
- The council of ministers is collectively responsible to the assembly.

2. The first high court was set-up in 1862 at

1. Calcutta
2. Bombay
3. Madras
4. Allahabad

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The institution of high court originated in India in 1862 when the high courts were set up at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras¹.
- In 1866, a fourth high court was established at Allahabad.

3. What was the main issue of concern for the T.K. Vishwanathan Committee?

- A. To deal with cyber crimes especially online hate speech.
- B. To suggest measures to strengthen banks and reduce NPAs.
- C. To deal with electoral reforms.
- D. To suggest measures to improve quality of primary education.

Answer: A

Explanation

- An expert committee headed by former Lok Sabha secretary general TK Viswanathan to deal with cyber crimes especially online hate speech recommended appointing cyber crime coordinators in all states and establishing cyber crime cells in each district.
- The committee was formed after Supreme Court struck down Section 66 A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

4. Which of the following is correct about the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010?

1. The NGT is a statutory tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues
2. The NGT is bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
3. The NGT is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same

Select the correct option

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

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (NGT) is an Act of the Parliament of India which enables creation of a special tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.
- Initially, the NGT is proposed to be set up at five places of sittings and will follow circuit procedure for making itself more accessible; New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other place of sitting of the Tribunal.

5. Which of the below statements are true regarding the Contingency Fund of India?

- 1. It is placed at the disposal of the president but requires authorisation by the Parliament.**
- 2. It is governed by the contingency fund of the India Act in 1950.**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Contingency Fund of India (Article 267) - The Constitution authorised the Parliament to establish a 'Contingency Fund of India', into which amounts determined by law are paid from time to time.
- Accordingly, the Parliament enacted the contingency fund of the India Act in 1950. This fund is placed at the disposal of the president, and he can make advances out of it to meet unforeseen expenditures pending its authorisation by the Parliament.
- The fund is held by the Finance secretary on behalf of the president.

3. Economy

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the amount that banks have to maintain in the form of their own funds to offset any loss that banks incur if the account-holders fail to repay dues.
2. CAR is decided by each individual bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is a measure of a bank's available capital expressed as a percentage of a bank's risk-weighted credit exposures.
- The Capital Adequacy Ratio, also known as capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), is used to protect depositors and promote the stability and efficiency of financial systems around the world.
- Two types of capital are measured:
 - ✓ Tier one capital, which can absorb losses without a bank being required to cease trading, and
 - ✓ Tier two capital, which can absorb losses in the event of a winding-up and so provides a lesser degree of protection to depositors.
- Currently, Basel III norms mandate 8% CRAR while RBI mandates minimum CRAR of 9%.

2. WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) includes which of the following?

1. Domestic Support Commitments
2. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
3. Special Safeguard Provisions
4. Countervailing duties

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

- C. 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- The WTO Agreement on Agriculture, which came into force in 1995, aims at reforming agricultural trade and making it fairer and more competitive.
- The WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures disciplines the use of subsidies, and it regulates the actions countries can take to counter the effects of subsidies.
- Under the agreement, a country can use the WTO's dispute-settlement procedure to seek the withdrawal of the subsidy or the removal of its adverse effects. Or the country can launch its own investigation and ultimately charge extra duty ("countervailing duty") on subsidized imports that are found to be hurting domestic producers.
- Its provisions and rules also relate to Special Safeguard Provisions which is a protection measure allowed for developing countries to take contingency restrictions against agricultural imports that are causing injuries to domestic farmers.
- Its provisions and rules also relate to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and it concerns with the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations.

3. Which of the following are about the situation of Liquidity Trap?

1. Expansionary monetary policy does not stimulate economic growth.
2. Public would prefer to hold money in banks rather than in cash form.
3. Public would rush to buy more bonds to earn a fixed interest rate in such a situation of volatility.

Choose the correct codes given below.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- A liquidity trap is a situation in which interest rates are low and savings rates are high, rendering monetary policy ineffective.
- In a liquidity trap, consumers choose to avoid bonds and keep their funds in savings because of the prevailing belief that interest rates will soon rise (which would push bond prices down).
- Because bonds have an inverse relationship to interest rates, many consumers do not want to hold an asset with a price that is expected to decline.

4. Which of the following is/are the consequences that follow if there is an increase in the fixed investment in the economy?

1. Growth in GDP
2. Decline in consumption
3. Improvement in investment outlook
4. Increase in the Interest rates

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The last year's Economic Survey, describes the virtuous cycle of growth wherein an increase in the rate of fixed investment accelerates the growth of GDP that in turn induces a higher growth in consumption.
- Higher growth of consumption improves the investment outlook. This virtuous cycle of higher fixed investment-higher GDP growth-higher consumption growth generates economic development in the country.

5. Which of the following is/are *incorrectly* matched

1. Treasury Bills - Public Account of India
2. Kisan Vikas Patra - Consolidated Fund of India
3. Sukanya Samriddhi Account - Contingency fund of India
4. Public Provident Fund - Public Account of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Receipts under Public Account account mainly flow from the sale of Savings Certificates,

contributions into General Provident Fund, Public Provident Fund, Security Deposits and Earnest Money Deposits (a kind of security deposits) received by the government.

- It also includes schemes like Kisan Vikas Patra, Sukanya Samridhi Scheme, etc.
- In respect of such deposits, the government is acting as a Banker or Trustee and refunds the money after the completion of the contract/ event.
- All government borrowings through Treasury bills and Dated securities go to the Consolidated Fund of India.

4. Environment

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Blue Hydrogen - Renewable Energy
2. Gray Hydrogen - Coal Gasification
3. Brown Hydrogen - Natural Gas

Choose the correct option from below?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Hydrogen, in itself, is a clean fuel.
- Manufacturing hydrogen fuel, however, is energy-intensive and has carbon byproducts.
- What is now called brown hydrogen is created through coal gasification. At the moment, it's mainly produced industrially from natural gas, which
- generates significant carbon emissions. That type is known as "grey" hydrogen.
- A cleaner version is "blue" hydrogen, for which the carbon emissions are captured and stored, or reused.
- The cleanest one of all is "green" hydrogen, which is generated by renewable energy sources without producing carbon emissions in the first place.

2. Consider the following statements related to Simlipal National Park

1. It derives its name from 'Simul', a silk cotton tree.
2. It was declared a biosphere reserve but is not a part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Similipal, which derives its name from 'Simul' (silk cotton) tree, is a national park and a tiger reserve situated in the northern part of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district.
- Similipal and the adjoining areas, comprising 5,569 sq km, was declared a biosphere reserve by the Government of India on June 22, 1994, and lies in the eastern end of the eastern ghat.
- It was declared a biosphere reserve by the Government of India in June, 1994 and has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve since 2009.

3. Consider the following statements regarding TX2 award

- 1. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve recently bagged TX2 award.**
- 2. It has been awarded for having doubled the number of tigers in less than the stipulated time.**

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in UP, has won the inaugural TX2 Award, presented by CATS, Global Tiger Forum, IUCN, UNDP, The Lion's Share and WWF, for its remarkable contribution to tiger conservation.
- The awards celebrate the 10-year anniversary of all 13 Tiger Range Countries committing to double the global population of wild tigers by 2022 - a goal known as TX2.
- The TX2 goal is one of the most ambitious conservation goals ever set for a single species and the Tiger Summit in 2022, the next Year of the Tiger, offers the opportunity to set a new vision to secure their future.

4. To increase the use of Solar Energy as a dependable source of electricity in India, it is important that there be innovation in the field of batteries and storage. One such innovation in news is of Salt Water Batteries. In their regard, which of the following is/are correct?

- 1. Though these batteries employ cost-effective salts, but these salts are highly toxic in nature.**
- 2. These salt water batteries have lower energy storing density than conventional Lithium Ion batteries.**

Choose the correct option from below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The issue of battery storage needs focus for harvesting solar energy. Unlike conventional energy, renewable energy (such as solar) cannot be generated with precision, since
 - the sun is out only for a few hours in a day. It needs to be stored so it can be used when needed.
 - It shall be done without significantly escalating the cost of the energy.
 - India's cumulative battery requirements between 2026 and 2030 will be at least 2,410 GWh.
 - While Lithium-ion batteries are lighter and more compact than lead acid batteries, newer tech such as saltwater batteries are being increasingly considered.

Salt Water Batteries

- These batteries don't contain heavy metals, relying instead on normal saltwater electrolytes.
- While the former need to be disposed of with special processes, a saltwater battery can be easily recycled.
- Comparatively, Lithium-ion-batteries have a relatively high capacity, which means they hold a large amount of charge, but do not discharge or recharge their energy quickly.
- They also contain organic electrolytes and other materials that can be hazardous and flammable, meaning they require careful handling and disposal.

5. Consider the following statements regarding UN HABITAT

- 1. It is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.**
- 2. It reports to the United Nations General Assembly.**

Which of the above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976.
- It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.
- The twin goals of the Habitat Agenda are adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world.
- UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly.

5. Science & Technology

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1. Which of the following is the correct focus of study and space organisation responsible for carrying out the PUNCH Mission?

- A. Asteroid Bennu, NASA
- B. Asteroid Ryugu, JAXA
- C. Mars, ISRO
- D. Sun, NASA

Answer: D

Explanation

- PUNCH stands for Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere
- NASA's PUNCH Mission is focussed on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space
- It consists of a constellation of four suitcase-sized microsats that will orbit the Earth in a formation
- It is expected to be launched in 2022.

2. Which of the following are incorrectly matched

- 1. Tri-Netra : Satellite
- 2. Project Netra : Debris tracking
- 3. Sindhu Netra : Railways

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- TRI-NETRA (Terrain imaging for diesel dRivers INfra-red, Enhanced opTical & Radar Assisted system): Ministry of Railways initiated a proposal to install TRI- NETRA systems on locomotives for enhancing the vision of Locomotive Pilots in inclement weather.
- Sindhu Netra is a satellite of DRDO to keep an eye on the ships in the Indian Ocean.

3. **Epidemiology is the study of how diseases spread. In this context what or who is patient zero or index case?**

- A. First documented person with the disease in the investigation
- B. Person from whom the disease has not spread further
- C. First casualty due to the spread of the disease
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Index case is the first case of a condition or syndrome (not necessarily contagious) to be described in the medical literature whether or not the patient is thought to be the first person affected.
- It may not indicate the source of the disease, the possible spread or which reservoir holds the disease in between outbreaks, but may bring awareness of an emerging outbreak.

4. **Which of the following is not a feature of Cannabis plants?**

- A. They are not pollinated by bees and insects
- B. It is used to produce industrial hemp products
- C. Male and female flowers are found on different plants
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- It is a genus of medicinal, recreational and fibre plant
- Cannabis along with plants like Coconut Palm, Date Palm, Maize etc. are pollinated by Wind (Anemophily).

5. **Helina and Dhruvastra fall in the category of**

- A. Air-to-air missiles
- B. Surface-to-air missiles
- C. Supersonic missiles
- D. Anti-tank guided missiles

Answer: D

Explanation

- Helina (the Army version) and Dhruvastra (IAF version) are launched from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) platform.

- The system has all-weather day-and-night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as with explosive reactive armour.
- It is one of the most-advanced anti-tank weapons in the world.

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