

SOLUTION

Q1 . Solution: 5)

Every year Mahaparinirvan Diwas observed across India on the death anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Raoji Ambedkar.

1. 6th December 2021 marks the observance of the 65th Mahaparinirvan Diwas
2. Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was chairman Drafting committee of the Constitution of independent India.

Q2. Solution: b)

In both Houses, elected members enjoy the right to seek information from various ministries and departments in the form of starred questions, unstarred questions, short notice questions and questions to private members.

The admissibility of questions in Rajya Sabha is governed by Rules 47-50 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.

In Lok Sabha, the questions are examined for admissibility under Rules 41-44 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

In both Houses, the first hour of every sitting is usually devoted to asking and answering of questions, and this is referred to as the 'Question Hour'.

The Rajya Sabha Chairman or the Lok Sabha Speaker has the authority to decide whether a question or a part is or is not admissible under the norms of the House, and disallow any question or a part. Once disallowed, it is often difficult for members to challenge the decision.

Q3. Solution: a)

The Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy (PLCP) 2014 mandates that whenever the Government makes any laws (bills, rules, regulations etc.), it must place a draft version of it in the public domain for at least 30 days.

The policy also says that along with the draft, a note explaining the law in simple language and justifying the proposal, its financial implication, impact on the environment and fundamental rights, a study on the social and financial costs of the bill, etc. should be uploaded.

The respective departments should also upload the summary of all the feedback that they receive on the circulated draft.

The PLCP was formulated based on the broad recommendations of the National Advisory Council headed by Sonia Gandhi (2013) and the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002).

It aimed to create an institutionalized space for public participation in law-making processes.

This policy provides a forum for citizens and relevant stakeholders to interact with the policymakers in the executive during the initial stages of law-making.

Q4. Solution: 2)

The continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) till March 2024 to complete the 2.95 Crore houses in rural areas.

- i. Funding & implementation of the Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project was approved by the cabinet with an outlay of Rs 44,605 crore at 2020-21 price levels.
- ii. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched in 2016 & previously known as Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY).

Q5. Solution: b)

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions are multilateral environmental agreements, which share the common objective of protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes.

(B) Basel Convention:

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was created to protect people and the environment from the negative effects of the inappropriate management of hazardous wastes worldwide. It is the most comprehensive global treaty dealing with hazardous waste materials throughout their lifecycles, from production and transport to final use and disposal.

(R) Rotterdam Convention:

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade provides Parties with a first line of defence against hazardous chemicals. It promotes international efforts to protect human health and the environment as well as enabling countries to decide if they want to import hazardous chemicals and pesticides listed in the Convention.

(S) Stockholm Convention:

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.

Q6. Solution: C)

Q7. Solution: (d)

Solar energy is radiant light and heat from the Sun. (Statement 1 is correct)

Solar energy is the cleanest and most abundant renewable energy source available. (Statement 2 is correct)

Q8. Solution (a)

International Solar Alliance (ISA) announced on 30th November 2015, at the 21st session of United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France. (Statement 1 is correct)

The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, India. (Statement 2 is not correct)

Q9. Solution: a)

To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must meet two strict criteria:

It must have at least 1,500 vascular plants as endemics— which is to say, it must have a high percentage of plant life found nowhere else on the planet. A hotspot, in other words, is irreplaceable.

It must have 30% or less of its original natural vegetation. In other words, it must be threatened.

Q10.Solution: (d)

The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), also known as the Gadgil Commission after its chairman Madhav Gadgil, was an environmental research commission appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India. The commission submitted the report to the Government of India on 31 August 2011. The Expert Panel approached the project through a set of tasks, such as:

- i. Compilation of readily available information about Western Ghats

- ii. Development of Geo-spatial database based on environmental sensitivity, and
- iii. Consultation with Government bodies and Civil society groups.

The Kasturirangan Commission has sought to balance the two concerns of development and environment protection, by watering down the environmental regulation regime proposed by the Western Ghats Ecology Experts Panel's Gadgil report in 2012.

Q11. Solution: (a)

The Western Ghats is an extensive region spanning over six States. It is the home of many endangered plants and animals. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

It is one of the eight "hottest hot-spots" of biological diversity in the world.

According to UNESCO, the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas. They influence Indian monsoon weather patterns by intercepting the rain-laden monsoon winds that sweep in from the south-west during late summer.

12. Solution: (d)

S1: Matters of urgent importance can be raised in Adjournment motion.

S2 and S3: MPs hold the executive accountable by asking questions, and supplementary questions

Q13 Solution: (d)

The 2022 World Inequality Report (WIR) has been released.

What you need to know about the WIR?

Released by the World Inequality Lab, a research center at the Paris School of Economics.

The WIR studies different kinds of financial data to find out how a country's (and the world's) income and wealth are distributed.

Q14. Solution: (b)

About the Project:

The project involves transferring of water from the Ken river to the Betwa river through the construction of Daudhan dam and a canal linking the two rivers, the Lower Orr Project, Kotha Barrage and the Bina Complex Multipurpose Project.

Key facts:

Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna.

Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP.

Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.

Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

Q15. Solution: (a)

S1: Panna National Park is a national park located in Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh in India.

S2: Kanha tiger reserve is now the first in India to have an official mascot – 'Bhoorsingh the barasingha'. The barasingha or swamp deer is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh and is found only in the Kanha tiger reserve, across Mandla and Balaghat districts.

S3: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has written to Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, asking him not to implement the Ken-Betwa river linking project. It is because Panna Tiger reserve will be damaged by the river linking project. The state government's open estimate is that around 40 per cent of the area of the tiger reserve will be irretrievably damaged.