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1) Consider the following statements regarding the extension of President's Rule in a State:

1. Statement-I: President's Rule can be extended beyond one year if a National Emergency is in operation in the whole of India or in the whole or any part of the concerned State.
2. Statement-II: The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978 imposed restrictions on Parliament's power to extend President's Rule beyond one year to curb its arbitrary use.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation

- Statement-I is correct. After the 44th Amendment, extension beyond one year requires the operation of a National Emergency and certification by the Election Commission regarding impracticability of elections.
- Statement-II is correct and explains Statement-I, as the amendment introduced these conditions to restrict misuse of President's Rule.

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST):

1. Statement-I: The recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on the State Legislatures.
2. Statement-II: Article 246A of the Constitution confers simultaneous legislative power on both Parliament and State Legislatures with respect to GST.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement–I is correct. The Supreme Court in Union of India v. Mohit Minerals (2022) held that GST Council recommendations are persuasive, not mandatory.
- Statement–II is correct and explains Statement–I, as Article 246A grants equal legislative authority to the Centre and States, making binding recommendations constitutionally untenable.

**3) As per the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, the Chief wildlife warden may permit hunting of wildlife animals under which of the following conditions?**

1. A wild animal has become dangerous to human life.
2. A wild animal has become diseased beyond recovery
3. Hunting of snakes for collecting venom to prepare lifesaving drugs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- According to Section 11 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: the Chief Wildlife Warden may permit hunting of
  - **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** if he is satisfied that any wild animal specified in Schedule 1 has become dangerous to human life or is so disabled or diseased as to be beyond recovery, by order in writing and stating the reasons therefor, permit any person to hunt such animal or cause animal to be hunted.
  - The killing or wounding in good faith of any wild animal in defence of oneself or of any other person shall not be an offense.
  - **Statement 3 is correct:** Similarly, Section 12 allows hunting snakes for collection of venoms for medical purposes.

4) Which one of the following is the correct sequence of the given air pollutants in increasing order of their size?

- a) Smoke < Suspended Particulate Matter < Dust
- b) Suspended Particulate Matter < Smoke < Dust
- c) Smoke < Dust < Suspended Particulate Matter
- d) Suspended Particulate Matter < Dust < Smoke

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Option a) is correct:** Dust, Suspended Particulate Matter and Smoke are the air pollutant emitted by various sources like combustion of fossil fuels, from Brick Kiln and other industries etc.
- In terms of increasing order of size, Smoke < Suspended Particulate Matter < dust
- Following are their sizes:
  - Smoke: 0.1 micrometer - 1 micrometer
  - SPM: 1 micrometer- 100micrometers
  - Dust 100 micrometer to 200 micrometer

5) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Lichens?

1. They are a symbiotic association of algae and fungi.
2. They are pioneer species in an ecological succession.
3. They help in biological weathering of rocks.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A lichen, or lichenized fungus, is actually two organisms functioning as a single, stable unit. Lichens comprise a fungus living in a symbiotic relationship with an alga or cyanobacterium (or both in some instances).
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Fungi are incapable of photosynthesis but they absorb nutrition from other organic substances while algae and cyanobacteria can conduct photosynthesis.

- Lichens are typically the first organisms to colonize bare rock. They are therefore the pioneer species initiating primary succession (statement 2 is correct).
- **Functions of lichens:**
  - Nitrogen fixation
  - **Statement 3 is correct:** Biological weathering- break down rocks and release mineral by producing certain chemicals.
  - Disruption of rock surfaces- by physically attaching to them.
  - Absorb pollutants such as heavy metals, carbon and sulphur.

**6) With reference to aquatic ecosystem, the term 'Winterkill' refers to:**

- a) death of warm-blooded animals during winter.
- b) extermination of dinosaur during last ice age.
- c) loss of fish in lakes due to lack of oxygen during winters.
- d) the killing of aquatic species due to increased size of ozone hole during winters.

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Winterkill is a term used to describe the **loss of fish in winter because of lack of oxygen in a waterbody.**
- Submerged vegetation and algae create oxygen through the process of photosynthesis.
- During the winter, oxygen production is often reduced because ice and snow on the lake limit the amount of sunlight reaching vegetation.
- In small, shallow lakes the available oxygen can quickly be used up by live plants that consume oxygen in the evening, fish, and by bacteria that feed on dead and decaying vegetation. When the oxygen level declines, less tolerant fish species, and fish in poor condition overall, can begin to suffocate.

**7) With reference to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, consider the following statements:**

1. Statement I: The INF Treaty was the first arms control agreement to abolish an entire category of weapons.
2. Statement II: It prohibited all land-based ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges from 500 km to 5,500 km.

**Which one of the following is correct?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The INF Treaty (1987) was historic because it eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons, not just limited them. This was achieved by banning all ground-launched missiles in the 500–5,500 km range, which explains why it is regarded as a landmark arms control agreement.

**8) Match the following:**

**List I (Mineral)**

**List II (Use)**

**List III (Importance)**

A. Nickel (Ni)

1. Catalytic converters

X. Enables net-zero transition

B. Copper (Cu)

2. Electric vehicle batteries Y. Vital for renewable energy

C. Platinum Group Elements (PGE) 3. Electrical wiring

Z. Key to green hydrogen

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) A-3-X, B-1-Y, C-2-Z
- b) A-2-X, B-3-Y, C-1-Z
- c) A-1-Z, B-2-Y, C-3-X
- d) A-2-Y, B-3-X, C-1-Z

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Nickel (A–2–X) is a core material in EV battery cathodes, making it critical for achieving net-zero carbon goals.
- Copper (B–3–Y) is extensively used in electrical wiring due to high conductivity, making it indispensable for renewable energy systems and power grids.
- Platinum Group Elements (C–1–Z) function as catalysts in catalytic converters and are crucial for green hydrogen production through electrolysis and fuel cells.

**9) Consider the following statements with reference to the measurement of inflation in India:**

1. Statement I: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate may decline significantly even when the prices of goods and services continue to rise marginally in the current period.
2. Statement II: The base effect refers to the impact of a high price level in the corresponding period of the previous year, which can make the current year's inflation rate appear lower.

### Which one of the following is correct?

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
- b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

**Answer: a)**

### Explanation:

- Statement I is correct: In India, CPI inflation is calculated on a year-on-year basis, comparing prices in a given month with those in the same month of the previous year rather than with the immediately preceding month. Hence, inflation can fall even when prices are stable or rising slightly.
- Statement II is correct: The base effect arises when the price level in the base period (last year) is unusually high, which mechanically lowers the calculated inflation rate in the current period.
- Thus, the base effect directly explains how inflation can decline without any actual reduction in prices.

### 10) With reference to Public Debt in India, consider the following statements:

1. Internal debt constitutes an overwhelming share of the Central Government's total public debt, accounting for more than ninety per cent of it.
2. The bulk of India's external debt is denominated in Indian Rupees, thereby insulating the economy from exchange rate risks.
3. Bonds issued under the Market Stabilization Scheme (MSS) are used to mop up excess liquidity, and the interest liability on these bonds is borne by the Government of India.

### How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: b)**

### Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: India's public debt structure is predominantly domestic, with more than 95% comprising internal debt, including government securities, treasury bills, and small savings.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Although overall public debt is largely rupee-denominated due to high internal borrowing, external debt is mainly denominated in foreign currencies, especially the US dollar, followed by SDR and a smaller rupee component.
- Statement 3 is correct: MSS bonds, though issued by the RBI for liquidity absorption, are government.

**11) Consider the following Statements:**

1. Statement I: Under the new Labour Codes, Fixed-Term Employment is considered a tool for formalisation of the workforce.
2. Statement II: FTE workers are entitled to same wages and social security benefits as permanent employees, and their gratuity eligibility is reduced to one year.
- 3.

**Which one of the following is correct?**

- a) Both statements are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement.
- b) Both statements are correct but Statement II is not the correct explanation.
- c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Fixed-Term Employment allows firms flexibility while ensuring **parity in wages and social security** with permanent workers. Reduced gratuity eligibility (1 year) removes hesitation in hiring formally, directly supporting the objective of **formalization of the workforce**

**12) With reference to the strategic shift towards Livestock and Fisheries as engines of agricultural growth, consider the following statements:**

1. Livestock and fisheries generally experience lower price volatility than food grains because they are not covered under a Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime.
2. This policy shift reflects a transition from calorie-based food security to protein-based nutritional security.
3. Diversification into livestock is viewed as a climate-resilient strategy, as animals are relatively less vulnerable to rainfall variability than rain-fed crops.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Livestock and fisheries often face higher price volatility due to perishability, demand–supply fluctuations, and the absence of MSP support.
- Statement 2 is correct. The policy emphasis marks a shift from ensuring cereal availability to improving nutritional outcomes through protein-rich foods such as milk, eggs, meat, and fish.
- Statement 3 is correct. Livestock provides income stability during climatic shocks, acting as a buffer against crop failure caused by rainfall uncertainty, thereby enhancing climate resilience.

**13) Which of the following countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?**

1. Turkmenistan
2. Islamic Republic of Iran
3. Republic of Belarus
4. Republic of Tajikistan
5. Armenia

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 3 and 5 only

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) currently consists of 10 member states.
- Tajikistan (4) is a founding member of the SCO.
- Islamic Republic of Iran (2) became a full member in 2023.
- Republic of Belarus (3) joined the SCO as a full member in 2024.
- Turkmenistan (1) is not a member, as it follows a policy of permanent neutrality.
- Armenia (5) is a dialogue partner, not a full member of the SCO.

**14) Regarding the Rare Earth Corridors announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, consider the following statements:**

1. These corridors are proposed in states that have substantial beach sand mineral reserves.
2. Monazite is the main mineral source of rare earth elements in these coastal regions.
3. The implementation of these corridors is handled exclusively by the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, without the involvement of state agencies.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct. The Rare Earth Corridors are planned in coastal states such as Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, all of which are rich in beach sand minerals.
- Statement 2 is correct. Monazite, a key component of these placer deposits, is India's principal source of Light Rare Earth Elements like Neodymium and Praseodymium.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The corridors are designed around a state-led and state-anchored execution model, with active involvement of state agencies. They are aligned with national initiatives such as the National Critical Minerals Mission, but are not implemented solely by the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation.

**15) With reference to bio-resources and traditional medicine initiatives in the Union Budget 2026–27, consider the following statements:**

1. Bharat-VISTAAR is a multilingual AI-based platform that integrates agricultural best practices with bio-resource management.
2. The value of biogas is excluded while computing Central Excise duty on biogas-blended CNG.
3. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at Jamnagar is being converted into a National Institute of Ayurveda.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct. Bharat-VISTAAR uses AI to combine ICAR's agricultural packages with bio-resource management support for farmers.
- Statement 2 is correct. Excluding biogas value from excise duty on blended CNG promotes the circular bioeconomy and renewable energy use.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre is being strengthened as an international research hub, not converted into a National Institute of Ayurveda.

Thank You

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