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**1) Which one of the following landmark Supreme Court judgments held that reservation is not a Fundamental Right and that the State is not constitutionally obligated to provide reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in matters of promotion?**

- (a) Mukesh Kumar v. State of Uttarakhand (2020)
- (b) M. Nagaraj v. Union of India (2006)
- (c) Jarnail Singh v. Laxmi Narain Gupta (2018)
- (d) State of Kerala v. N.M. Thomas (1976)

**Answer: (a) Mukesh Kumar v. State of Uttarakhand (2020)**

**Explanation:**

- In **Mukesh Kumar v. State of Uttarakhand (2020)**, the Supreme Court held that Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) are enabling provisions and do not confer a fundamental right to claim reservations.

**2) With reference to the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs), consider the following pairs:**

Article — Provision

Article 37 — State to secure a social order

Article 39A — Equal justice and free legal aid

Article 43A — Right to work, education, and assistance

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) Only three
- (d) None

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- Article 39A – Correct
- Article 37 – Incorrect (deals with non-justiciability; Article 38 = social order)
- Article 43A – Incorrect (workers' participation in management)

**3) Consider the following statements regarding PACE Satellite:**

1. It was launched by NASA.
2. Its primary objective is to study tectonic plate movements and earthquakes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a) 1 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct; NASA launched the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) satellite in early 2024. Statement 2 is incorrect; its primary objective is to study ocean health, air quality, and climate change by monitoring phytoplankton and atmospheric particles, not tectonic movements.

**4) With reference to Turkiye, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a transcontinental Eurasian country.
2. It is bordered by Greece and Russia.
3. It is surrounded by the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct: It is transcontinental, spanning across Southeastern Europe and Western Asia.

Statement 2 is incorrect: While it borders Greece, it does not share a land border with Russia (they are separated by the Black Sea).

Statement 3 is correct: It is bordered by the Black Sea to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south.

**5) Mount Semeru, recently in news, is located in:**

- a. Russia
- b. Iran
- c. Afghanistan
- d. Indonesia

**Answer: (d) Indonesia**

**Explanation:** Mount Semeru is the highest mountain and an extremely active volcano located on the island of Java, Indonesia. It frequently appears in the news due to its eruptive activity.

**6) Which of the following two countries are participating in the Exercise Cyclone?**

- a. India – Egypt
- b. Indonesia -Vietnam
- c. France -India
- d. Russia- India

**Answer: (a) India – Egypt**

**Explanation:** Exercise Cyclone is the first-ever joint exercise between the Special Forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army. The second edition was held in early 2024.

**7) Consider the following statements regarding ECINet Platform:**

1. It is a single-point digital platform developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
2. It includes tools such as cVIGIL for reporting election code violations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** ECINet is the ECI's comprehensive portal for election management. It integrates various applications like cVIGIL (for citizens to report violations), Suvidha (for candidate permissions), and Voter Helpline.

**8) Consider the following statements regarding Namu Drone Didi Yojana:**

1. It is a central sector initiative to empower women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by providing them with drone technology for agricultural services.
2. Under this one of the members of the women SHGs will be selected for 15 day training.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** Launched in 2024, it empowers women SHGs by providing drones for agricultural tasks like liquid fertilizer and pesticide application. One member from each SHG receives specialized 15-day training (5 days mandatory drone pilot training and 10 days for agricultural applications).

**9) Consider the following statements regarding SAMPANN Platform:**

1. It is the flagship digital pension and financial management platform of the Department of Telecommunications.
2. It is managed by the Office of the Controller General of Communication Accounts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension) is an online pension processing system for Department of Telecommunications pensioners, launched to ensure timely disbursement. It is managed by the CGCA.

**10) Consider the following statements regarding 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste initiative:**

1. It aims to inspire other cities to accelerate their transition toward zero waste

2. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a) 1 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect; the "20 Cities Towards Zero Waste" is an initiative typically associated with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

**11) Consider the following statements regarding National Biodiversity Authority:**

- 1. It is a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- 2. Its headquarter is located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** The NBA was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). It is a statutory body headquartered in Chennai.

**12) Consider the following statements regarding GARBH-INi Initiative:**

- 1. It promotes Maternal and Child Health and develops prediction tools for preterm birth.
- 2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a) 1 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct; it focuses on maternal-fetal health and preterm birth prediction using AI. Statement 2 is incorrect; it is a flagship program of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), not the Health Ministry.

**13) Consider the following statements regarding World Happiness Report:**

1. It is an annual report published by the University of Oxford in collaboration with UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
2. It considers GDP per capita and Life expectancy for this measurement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (b) 2 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect; it is published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (University of Oxford joined as a collaborator for the 2024 edition, but the SDSN remains the primary body). Statement 2 is correct; it uses six variables including GDP per capita, social support, and healthy life expectancy.

**14) Arrange the following Indian cities in the chronological order of their designation as a UNESCO Creative City, starting from the earliest:**

1. Chennai (Music)
2. Hyderabad (Gastronomy)
3. Varanasi (Music)
4. Lucknow (Gastronomy)

Select the correct code:

- (a) 3 - 1 - 4 - 2
- (b) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4
- (c) 3 - 2 - 1 - 4
- (d) 1 - 3 - 2 - 4

**Answer: (b) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4**

**Explanation:** Chronology: 1. Varanasi (2015) 2. Chennai (2017) 3. Hyderabad (2019) 4. Note: Lucknow was designated as a City of Gastronomy in late 2023/2024.

**15) Durgeshnandini (1865), Kapalkundala (1866), and Devi Chaudhurani (1884) are notable works of which of the following personalities?**

- (a) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- (b) Rabindranath Tagore
- (c) Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay
- (d) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

**Answer: (a) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**

**Explanation:** These are classical Bengali novels written by Bankim Chandra, who is also the author of Anandamath.

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