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1) **BioNEST, recently in news, is an initiative of:**

- a. Reserve Bank of India
- b. United Nations Environment Programme
- c. NITI Aayog
- d. Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

**Answer: (d) BIRAC**

**Explanation:** BioNEST (Bio-incubation Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) is a flagship scheme of BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council), a PSU under the Department of Biotechnology, aimed at fostering bio-entrepreneurship.

2) **Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

**Institution/Movement Founder / Association**

1. Gurukul Kangri — Swami Shraddhanand
2. Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Schools — Arya Samaj
3. Shuddhi Movement — Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct: Swami Shraddhanand (a disciple of Dayanand Saraswati) founded the Gurukul in 1902.

Statement 2 is correct: The DAV schools were established by the Arya Samaj.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Shuddhi Movement was started by the Arya Samaj (Dayanand Saraswati), not Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

3) **Consider the following statements:**

1. Lord Cornwallis founded the College of Fort William in Calcutta in 1800 to educate young recruits for the Civil Services.
2. The first competitive exams for the Indian Civil Services (ICS) were held in London in 1855.
3. Satyendranath Tagore was the first Indian to clear ICS in 1864.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect: Lord Wellesley founded Fort William College in 1800, not Cornwallis.

Statement 2 is correct: Competitive exams began in London in 1855.

Statement 3 is correct: Satyendranath Tagore (elder brother of Rabindranath) cleared the exam in 1863/64.

**4) 'Mela Patt' is an annual festival celebrated in which of the following regions in India?**

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir

**Answer: (d) Jammu and Kashmir**

**Explanation:** It is a historic festival celebrated in the Bhaderwah region of Doda district to commemorate the meeting between Emperor Akbar and Raja Nagpal of Bhaderwah.

**5) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Environment Programme:**

1. It is the leading global authority on the environment.
2. Its headquarter is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

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:** UNEP is the leading environmental authority globally, established in 1972 and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

**6) With reference to measures of money supply in India, consider the following statements:**

1. M1 includes currency with the public and time deposits with commercial banks.
2. M3 includes M1 plus time deposits with commercial and cooperative banks.
3. M4 is the broadest measure of money supply that includes all post office deposits.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is incorrect: M1 (Narrow Money) includes currency with the public and demand deposits, not time deposits.

Statement 2 is correct:  $M3 = M1 + \text{Time deposits}$ .

Statement 3 is correct: M4 is the broadest measure, including all post office savings (excluding NSC).

7) **With reference to Coffee production in India, consider the following statements:**

1. India is the second-largest coffee producer in the world, only after China.
2. Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are the major coffee-producing states in India.
3. Nearly two-third of India's coffee is exported.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is incorrect: Brazil is the world's largest producer. India is a significant producer (roughly 6th or 7th globally), but nowhere near 2nd.

8) **Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):**

1. It is published by the Office of the Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
2. It serves as a leading indicator for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
3. It is released on a quarterly basis.

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 published by the Office of the Economic Adviser (DPIIT).

Statement 2 is correct: It comprises over 40% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Statement 3 is incorrect: It is released on a monthly basis, not quarterly.

9) **Consider the following statements:**

Statement I: In 1880, the Shimla Fine Arts Society held the 'Native Industrial Art' exhibition at Ravenswood, Shimla.

Statement II: Lord Curzon (1899–1905) supported the speedy completion of the Kalka–Shimla railway under Chief Engineer Mr. H.S. Harrington.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (A) Both statements are correct
- (B) Statement I is correct; Statement II is incorrect
- (C) Statement I is incorrect; Statement II is correct
- (D) Both statements are incorrect

**Answer: (A) Both statements are correct**

**Explanation:** The Native Industrial Art exhibition was a significant cultural event in 1880. Lord Curzon was instrumental in the completion of the Kalka-Shimla railway, which was inaugurated in 1903.

**10) With reference to the Right to Vote, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 326 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination.
2. Right to vote is a fundamental right enforceable under Article 32 of the Constitution.

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:** The Right to Vote is a Constitutional/Legal Right under Article 326. The Supreme Court has clarified it is not a Fundamental Right, so Article 32 (writ jurisdiction) cannot be used directly to enforce it as such.

**11) With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. It is provided under Article 244 of the Constitution.
2. It deals with the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
3. The Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) formed under it have no power to levy or collect taxes within their areas.

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) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 3 is incorrect; ADCs have the power to levy and collect certain taxes (like land revenue and taxes on professions/trades) under the Sixth Schedule.

**12) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College comprising members of both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members.
2. Article 64 of the Constitution assigns the Election Commission the authority to resolve disputes related to the election of Vice-President.

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 2 is incorrect; according to Article 71, all doubts and disputes in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court, not the Election Commission.

13) **Ayni airbase was shut down by India recently, it is situated in which of the following countries?**

- (a) Mauritius
- (b) Japan
- (c) Tajikistan
- (d) Israel

Answer: (c) Tajikistan

• Explanation: Ayni (Gissar) airbase is located in Tajikistan. India played a significant role in renovating the base.

14) **What are "Flying Rivers" in the context of the Amazon rainforest?**

- (a) Rivers that flow above ground due to elevation in the Andes
- (b) Massive streams of water vapour transported through the atmosphere
- (c) Underground rivers in the Amazon basin
- (d) Seasonal floods caused by Amazon tributaries

Answer: (b) Massive streams of water vapour transported through the atmosphere

• Explanation: "Flying Rivers" refer to the vast amounts of moisture released by trees in the Amazon via evapotranspiration, which then travel as "aerial rivers" to bring rain to other parts of South America.

15) **With reference to the Western Ghats, consider the following statements:**

1. They are also known as the Sahyadri Hills and form the western edge of the Deccan Plateau.
2. They extend from the Tapti River in Gujarat to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.
3. They are younger than the Himalayas and were formed during the Tertiary period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- Explanation: Statement 3 is incorrect. The Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas; they are considered the broken edge of the Deccan Plateau formed during the breakup of Gondwana.

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