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1) **Which of the following is India's first dark sky reserve, established to promote astro-tourism and preserve pristine night skies?**

- (a) Munnar, Kerala
- (b) Hanle, Ladakh
- (c) Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Mount Abu, Rajasthan

Answer: (b) Hanle, Ladakh

• **Explanation:** Located in the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve was established to protect the night sky from light pollution, benefiting the Indian Astronomical Observatory located there.

2) **With reference to the PUNCH Space Mission, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a constellation of four small satellites in low Earth orbit.
2. It aims to study the Sun's corona and solar wind as a unified system.

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:** NASA's Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere (PUNCH) consists of four suitcase-sized satellites. It is designed to track how the solar corona transitions into the solar wind.

3) **With reference to the Small Modular Reactors (SMR), consider the following statements:**

1. These are advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of 30MWe (megawatt electric) to 300 MWe per unit up.

2. It has more generating capacity than traditional nuclear power reactors.
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: SMRs are defined by the IAEA as having a power capacity of up to 300 MWe.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: They have less generating capacity than traditional reactors (which can exceed 1,000 MWe), but they are easier to build and scale.

4) G-2' recently, seen in the news, is related to which of the following countries?

- 1. India
- 2. U.S.
- 3. France
- 4. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) 2 and 4 only

• **Explanation:** The "Group of Two" (G-2) is a proposed informal relationship between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies, to address global problems together.

5) With reference to The International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization, launched in 2015 by India and France at the COP21 summit.
 - 2. It has the goal of mobilizing USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2045.
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:**

o Statement 1 is correct: Launched at COP21.

o Statement 2 is incorrect: The goal is to mobilize USD 1 trillion by 2030, not 2045.

6) Which of the following countries has recently become the 11th and newest member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

(a) Papua New Guinea

(b) East Timor

(c) Sri Lanka

(d) Maldives

Answer: (b) East Timor

• **Explanation:** East Timor (Timor-Leste) was granted observer status and "in-principle" approval to become the 11th member of ASEAN in late 2022, with full membership processes continuing through 2024-25.

7) With reference to India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It aims to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

2. At least 60% of installed electricity capacity will come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

3. India aims to create a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

• **Explanation:** Statement 1 and 3 are correct.

o Statement 2 is incorrect: India's target is to achieve 50% (not 60%) cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

8) With reference to the Montreal Protocol, consider the following statements:

1. It was signed in 1987 to phase out substances that deplete the ozone layer.

2. It is a legally binding agreement implemented under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

3. The Kigali Amendment to this Protocol aims to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

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 1 and 2 are correct.

o Statement 3 is incorrect: The Kigali Amendment aims to phase down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are not Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS), but they are powerful Greenhouse Gases.

9) With reference to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), consider the following statements:

1. It was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC in 1997 to support developing countries.
2. The Fund is mandated to allocate its resources equally between mitigation and adaptation.
3. Its headquarters is located in Songdo, South Korea.

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: It was established in 2010 (Cancun Agreement) under the UNFCCC, not the Kyoto Protocol.

o Statements 2 and 3 are correct.

10) Consider the following statements regarding the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

1. It is a statutory body established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the Chairperson of NTCA.
3. NTCA is responsible for notifying tiger reserves in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

• **Explanation:** All statements are correct. The NTCA provides statutory authority to Project Tiger and is chaired by the Environment Minister.

11) Consider the following pairs:

Corruption Indices	Publishers
1. Corruption Perceptions Index	Transparency International
2. Rule of Law Index	World Bank
3. Control of Corruption Index	World Justice Project
4. Index of Public Integrity	United Nations

How many of the above pair(s) is / are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Answer: (a) Only one pair

• Explanation:

- o 1. CPI: Transparency International (Correct).
- o 2. Rule of Law Index: World Justice Project (not World Bank).
- o 3. Control of Corruption: World Bank (WGI) (not WJP).
- o 4. Index of Public Integrity: ERCAS (not UN).

12) The Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, often seen in the news, is primarily associated with which of the following?

- (a) Reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure
- (b) Drafting India's data protection framework
- (c) Reviewing Centre–State financial relations
- (d) Recommending judicial reforms and fast-track courts

Answer: (b) Drafting India's data protection framework

• Explanation: This committee submitted the report "A Free and Fair Digital Economy," which formed the basis for India's Personal Data Protection bills.

13) The Global Methane Status Report recently in the news was released by which organisation?

- (a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- (b) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- (c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- (d) UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Answer: (d) UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

• Explanation: Released through the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), which is a UNEP initiative.

14)With reference to Aditya L1 spacecraft , consider the following statements:

1. It is the first space based observatory class Indian solar mission to study the Sun.
2. It is launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

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:**

o Statement 1 is correct.

o Statement 2 is incorrect: It is a standalone ISRO mission, not a collaboration with JAXA (though ISRO and JAXA are working together on the LUPEX moon mission).

15)The term “Abraham Accords” sometimes seen in the news refers to:

- (a) A peace initiative between Israel and Palestine mediated by the United Nations.
- (b) An agreement aimed at establishing defence cooperation between Israel, the U.S., and NATO members.
- (c) A U.S.-brokered framework for normalisation of relations between Israel and some Arab states.
- (d) An accord signed among Middle Eastern countries to jointly manage oil production quotas.

Answer: (c) A U.S.-brokered framework for normalisation of relations between Israel and some Arab states.

• **Explanation:** Initially signed in 2020 between Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain, and later joined by others like Morocco, marking a significant shift in Middle Eastern geopolitics.