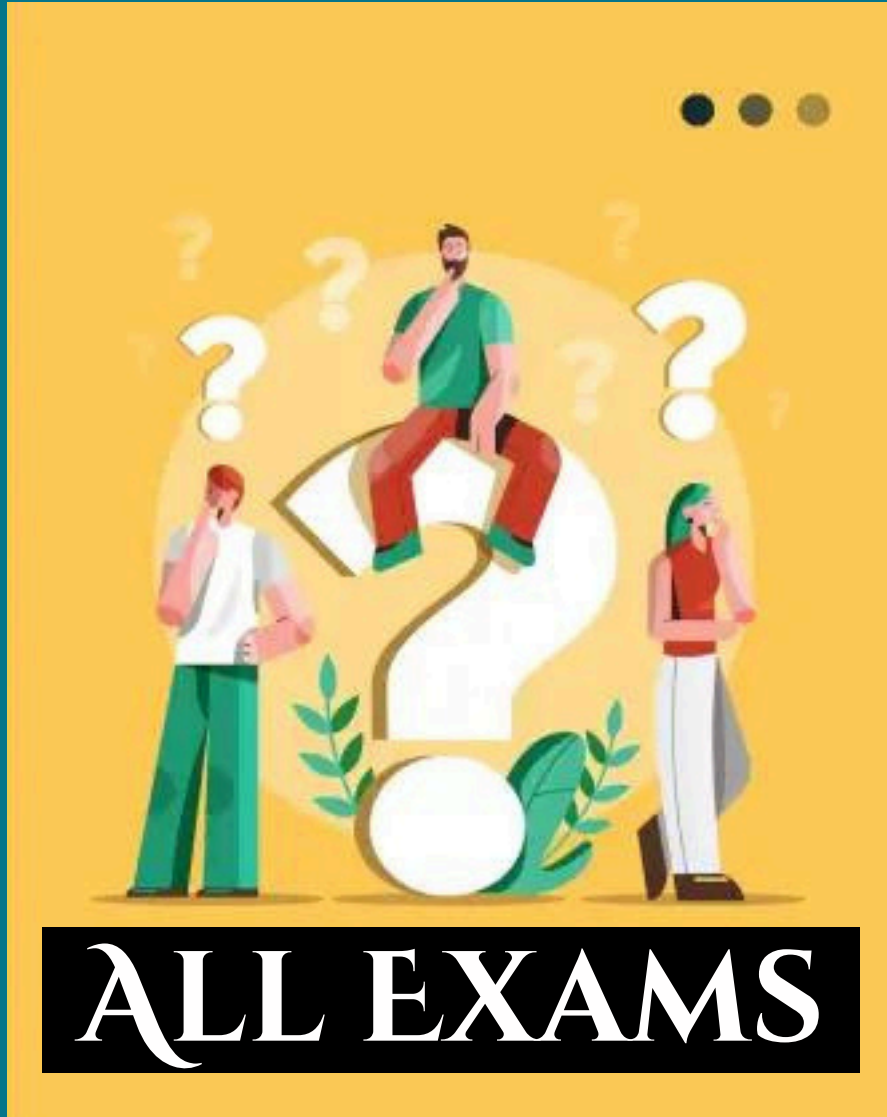


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Q.1

What is the purpose of the NHRC's participation in the upcoming meeting in Geneva?

1. To participate in a cultural exchange
2. To defend the government's human rights processes
3. To sign new international treaties
4. To attend a diplomatic summit

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is preparing to defend the government's human rights processes at a meeting in Geneva.
- The meeting is crucial as a decision on whether the NHRC will retain its "A status" is expected to be made.
- The decision on the NHRC's rating would affect its ability to vote at the UN Human Rights Council and some UNGA bodies.
- The meeting of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the UN-recognised Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) will be held on May 1.
- According to a six-point submission by the SCA in March 2023, the NHRC has failed to create conditions required to be "able to operate independent of government interference".

Q.2

What was the previous name of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)?

1. International Human Rights Association
2. Global Human Rights Committee

3. International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions
4. International Alliance of Human Rights

Answer:

C

Sol:

- GANHRI is the global association of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) that promotes and strengthens NHRIs to operate in line with the Paris Principles.
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is preparing to defend the government's human rights processes at a meeting in Geneva.
- The meeting is crucial as a decision on whether the NHRC will retain its "A status" is expected to be made.
- The decision on the NHRC's rating would affect its ability to vote at the UN Human Rights Council and some UNGA bodies.
- The meeting of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the UN-recognised Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) will be held on May 1.
- According to a six-point submission by the SCA in March 2023, the NHRC has failed to create conditions required to be "able to operate independent of government interference".

Q.3

What is the role of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) under the UNFCCC's Climate Change Technology Mechanism?

1. It is the research arm.
2. It is the advisory arm.
3. It is the regulatory arm.
4. It is the implementation arm.

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is celebrating its 10th anniversary.
- The CTCN is the implementation arm of the UNFCCC's Climate Change Technology Mechanism, which is mandated under the Paris Agreement.
- It is hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The CTCN was established to speed up the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development, as requested by developing countries.

Q.4

Who hosts the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)?

1. UN Development Programme (UNDP)
2. World Health Organization (WHO)
3. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
4. World Bank

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is celebrating its 10th anniversary.
- The CTCN is the implementation arm of the UNFCCC's Climate Change Technology Mechanism, which is mandated under the Paris

Agreement.

- It is hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The CTCN was established to speed up the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development, as requested by developing countries.

Q.5

What is the primary function of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)?

1. They buy bad debts from banks and try to recover them.
2. They provide loans to banks.
3. They regulate the banking sector.
4. They invest in real estate.

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) are specialized financial institutions that buy bad debts from banks and try to recover them.
- ARCs are registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).
- ARCs perform various functions such as
 - Acquiring financial assets,
 - Changing or taking over management,
 - Selling or leasing the business of the borrower, rescheduling debts,
 - Enforcing security interests, and
 - Settling dues payable by the borrower.

Q.6

Under which authority are ARCs registered in India?

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
2. Ministry of Finance
3. Indian Banks' Association (IBA)
4. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) are specialized financial institutions that buy bad debts from banks and try to recover them.
- ARCs are registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).
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 - Acquiring financial assets,
 - Changing or taking over management,
 - Selling or leasing the business of the borrower, rescheduling debts,
 - Enforcing security interests, and
 - Settling dues payable by the borrower.

Q.7

What are solar flares?

1. They are intense bursts of radiation that come from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots.
2. They are visible light emissions from the sun's surface.
3. They are sound waves produced by the sun's magnetic field.
4. They are heat waves emitted by the sun during solar storms.

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Astronomers recently observed a rare event, a "super-sympathetic" solar flare.
- This event featured four simultaneous eruptions.
- Solar flares are intense bursts of radiation that come from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots.
- The increased solar radiation from a solar flare can lead to geomagnetic storms, which may impact power grids and cause auroras (northern and southern lights) at lower latitudes.
- Sympathetic solar flares occur when sunspots or filaments are invisibly linked by massive magnetic field loops that arch above the solar surface.

Q.8

What are sympathetic solar flares?

1. They occur when two sunspots collide.
2. They occur when a solar flare reaches the Earth's atmosphere.
3. They occur when sunspots or filaments are invisibly linked by massive magnetic field loops that arch above the solar surface.
4. They occur when the sun's magnetic field reverses its polarity.

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Astronomers recently observed a rare event, a “super-sympathetic” solar flare.
- This event featured four simultaneous eruptions.
- Solar flares are intense bursts of radiation that come from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots.
- The increased solar radiation from a solar flare can lead to geomagnetic storms, which may impact power grids and cause auroras (northern and southern lights) at lower latitudes.
- Sympathetic solar flares occur when sunspots or filaments are invisibly linked by massive magnetic field loops that arch above the solar surface.

Q.9

What is the primary goal of biohacking?

1. To diagnose and treat diseases.
2. To enhance physical or mental performance, improve overall health and well-being, or achieve a specific health outcome.
3. To increase lifespan without regard to health or performance.
4. To replace traditional medical practices.

Answer:

B

Sol:

- Biohacking is a term used to describe various

methods aimed at enhancing the body’s ability to function at peak performance and potentially extend lifespan.

- It involves using techniques from fields such as biology, genetics, neuroscience, and nutrition.
- The goal of biohacking is to enhance physical or mental performance, improve overall health and well-being, or achieve a specific health outcome.

Q.10

What is biohacking used to describe?

1. Various methods aimed at enhancing the body’s ability to function at peak performance and potentially extend lifespan.
2. The process of genetically modifying organisms.
3. The study of biological systems using computational methods.
4. The use of artificial intelligence in medicine.

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Biohacking is a term used to describe various methods aimed at enhancing the body’s ability to function at peak performance and potentially extend lifespan.

- It involves using techniques from fields such as biology, genetics, neuroscience, and nutrition.
- The goal of biohacking is to enhance physical or mental performance, improve overall health and well-being, or achieve a specific health outcome.

Q.11

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The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has collaborated with which of the following organizations to improve road quality?

1. Ministry of Science and Technology
2. Indian Institute of Science
3. IIT Bombay
4. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has collaborated with IIT Bombay experts for the first time to improve road quality.
- The experts recommend using concrete polymer for the repair of future cracks and maintenance of roads.
- Concrete polymer:
 - Fast-Curing and High-Strength: Polymer concrete can provide a fast-curing, high-strength patching material suitable for use in the repair of hydraulic cement concrete structures.
 - Durable and Wear Resistant: Overlays of polymer concrete can provide a durable and wear-resistant surface for hydraulic cement concrete.
 - Widely Used: Polymer-modified mortars, which include concrete polymer, are widely used as tile adhesives, coatings, waterproofing, and road repair worksg.
 - Improved Lifespan: The use of concrete polymer can extend the lifespan of road cement beyond the typical Defect Liability Period of 10 years to at least 20 years.

Q.12

The Faceless Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) was launched by

1. Minister of State for Transport.
2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
3. National Informatics Centre
4. None of the above

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The government of Maharashtra launched the faceless Regional Transport Offices (RTOs).
- The initiative was launched by the Minister of State for Transport.
- The faceless RTOs aim to help citizens avail certain facilities without the need to be physically present at the RTOs.
- Six services will be available online via the faceless RTOs. These include:
 - Duplicate driving license
 - Driving license renewal
 - Change of address on a licence
 - Change of address on the issued RC book of an individual
 - Duplicate RC book
 - No-objection certificate of a licence
- The six faceless services will be Aadhar based, reducing the chance of cheating or duplication.
- Citizens will have to link their Aadhaar number with their mobile phones to take part in the Faceless RTO scheme.

Q.13

Which bank is offering the Jivhala scheme?

1. State Bank of India
2. Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank
3. Bank of Maharashtra
4. Bank of India

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Jivhala scheme has been launched by the Maharashtra Department of Prisons.
- The scheme is for the inmates who are serving sentences in various jails across Maharashtra.
- Bank Offering the Scheme: Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank
- Scheme Details: Jivhala is a newly launched credit scheme. It is a first-of-its-kind scheme in India launched for prisoners.
- Purpose: Unlike existing loan initiatives provided by banks for inmates, which are for rehabilitation after they complete their prison terms, Jivhala is available to inmates while they are still serving their sentences.

Q.14

Which of the following is NOT one of the seven themes the Maharashtra Gene Bank project will work on?

1. Marine biodiversity
2. Local crop/seed varieties
3. Indigenous cattle breeds
4. Development of cross breeding technology

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Project Name: Maharashtra Gene Bank
- Approval: Recently approved by the Maharashtra Cabinet
- Uniqueness: It's a first-of-its-kind project in India
- Objective: The project aims to conserve genetic resources in Maharashtra, including marine diversity, seeds of local crops, and animal diversity
- The project will work on seven themes:
 - Marine biodiversity
 - Local crop/seed varieties
 - Indigenous cattle breeds
 - Freshwater biodiversity
 - Grassland, scrubland, and animal grazing land biodiversity
 - Conservation and management plans for areas under forest right
 - Rejuvenation of forest areas

Q.15

Who developed the Migration Tracking System (MTS)?

1. The Indian Government
2. The Maharashtra Government
3. The Women and Child Development (WCD) department
4. The Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Maharashtra government has developed a

website-based Migration Tracking System (MTS).

- It is designed to track the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identification numbers.
- Launch: The Women and Child Development (WCD) department of the state government launched the MTS.
- Services: The MTS project aims to maintain the continuity of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) such as immunization, nutrition supply, and health check-ups for migrant beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries: The beneficiaries include lactating mothers, children aged up to 18 years, and pregnant women registered with Anganwadi centres.
- Tracking: The migration of these beneficiaries will be tracked to ensure that ICDS services are portable for their families in their destination districts, whether within or outside the state, until they return to their native places.

Q.1

Inflation Expectations Survey of Households and Consumer Confidence Survey are launched by

1. Reserve Bank of India
2. State Bank of India
3. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
4. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the launch of two surveys: • 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and
- 'Consumer Confidence Survey'.
- These surveys will provide key inputs for the

bi-monthly monetary policy.

- The survey will be conducted across 19 cities, including Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram.
- About Inflation Expectations Survey of Households: • It aims to capture subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on individual consumption baskets.
- Seeks qualitative responses from households on price changes.
- About Consumer Confidence Survey: • It aims to gather qualitative responses from households regarding their views on the general economic situation, employment scenario, price levels, household income, and spending.

Q.2

Inflation Expectations Survey of Households and Consumer Confidence Survey will be conducted across

1. 28 states and 9 Union Territories
2. All 28 states only
3. 19 cities
4. New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the launch of two surveys: • 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and
- 'Consumer Confidence Survey'.
- These surveys will provide key inputs for the bi-monthly monetary policy.
- The survey will be conducted across 19 cities, including Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram.

- About Inflation Expectations Survey of Households: • It aims to capture subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on individual consumption baskets.
- Seeks qualitative responses from households on price changes.

- About Consumer Confidence Survey: • It aims to gather qualitative responses from households regarding their views on the general economic situation, employment scenario, price levels, household income, and spending.

Q.3

The IMF's immediate disbursement to Pakistan is part of which arrangement?

1. Extended Fund Facility
2. Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust
3. Stand-By Arrangement
4. Flexible Credit Line

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved an immediate disbursement of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan.
- It is part of a bailout package.
- The bailout package is supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).
- Provides short-term financial assistance to countries facing balance of payments problems.
- All member countries are eligible for SBA.
- Most often used by advanced and emerging market countries, but low-income countries sometimes use the SBA together with the Standby Credit Facility (SCF).
- Conditions: • Countries' economic policies must address the problems that led the country to seek

funding.

- Disbursements are conditional on the observance of quantitative performance criteria.

- Progress in implementing structural measures that are critical to achieving the objectives of the program is assessed holistically, including via benchmarks.

Q.4

What conditions must be met by countries under the Stand-By Arrangement?

1. No specific conditions are required.
2. Economic policies must address balance of payments problems.
3. Economic policies must not change during the arrangement.
4. Disbursements are made without any performance criteria.

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved an immediate disbursement of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan.
- It is part of a bailout package.
- The bailout package is supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).
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- Disbursements are conditional on the observance

of quantitative performance criteria.

• Progress in implementing structural measures that are critical to achieving the objectives of the program is assessed holistically, including via benchmarks.

Q.5

Which country joined the G6 to form the G7?

1. Russia
2. Germany
3. Italy
4. Canada

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The G7, or Group of Seven, is an intergovernmental organization consisting of some of the world's largest advanced economies.
- Formation: Originally formed as the Group of Six (G6) in 1975, with Canada joining in 1976 to become the G7. The European Union (EU) has also participated fully in the G7 since 1981 as a "non-enumerated" member.
- Objective: The primary aim of the G7 is to discuss and coordinate economic policy among the world's largest industrial nations. Over time, its agenda has expanded to include a wide range of global issues including trade, security, climate change, and development.
- The host of the G7 summit, also known as the presidency, rotates annually among member countries.
- It was formerly referred to as the G-8 until Russia was suspended from the group in 2014 after annexing Crimea.

Q.6

What is the primary objective of the G7?

1. Military alliances
2. Cultural exchanges
3. Economic policy coordination
4. Tourism promotion

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The G7, or Group of Seven, is an intergovernmental organization consisting of some of the world's largest advanced economies.
- Formation: Originally formed as the Group of Six (G6) in 1975, with Canada joining in 1976 to become the G7. The European Union (EU) has also participated fully in the G7 since 1981 as a "non-enumerated" member.
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- The host of the G7 summit, also known as the presidency, rotates annually among member countries.
- It was formerly referred to as the G-8 until Russia was suspended from the group in 2014 after annexing Crimea.

Q.7

Who jointly organized the event titled 'Forging Partnerships between Science and Policy'?

1. World Health Organization and United Nations
2. European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and the Global Leaders Group on AMR

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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and European Union
- International Society for Infectious Diseases and World Economic Forum

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and the Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR jointly organized a high-level event, 'Forging partnerships between science and policy', in Barcelona, Spain.
- The meeting aimed to position research, science, and implementation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) into the political agenda and address the crisis across sectors.
- The talks were in alignment leading up to the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on AMR scheduled for September 2024 in New York, United States.
- Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR: • Consists of world leaders and experts from across sectors working together to accelerate political action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- Performs an independent global advisory and advocacy role.
- The Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on Antimicrobial Resistance, a joint effort by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) provide secretariat support for the Group.

Q.8

Which organizations make up the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) that supports the Global Leaders Group (GLG) on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?

- UNESCO, WHO, FAO, WOAHA
- FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOAHA
- FAO, UNEP, WHO, UNESCO
- WHO, WOAHA, UNEP, UNICEF

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and the Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR jointly organized a high-level event, 'Forging partnerships between science and policy', in Barcelona, Spain.
- The meeting aimed to position research, science, and implementation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) into the political agenda and address the crisis across sectors.
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Q.9

What is a Green Taxonomy?

- A framework for defining environmentally sustainable investments

2. A system for classifying plants
3. A method for tracking greenhouse gas emissions
4. A system for measuring the impact of natural disasters

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The RBI and the Finance Ministry could look especially at the ASEAN region for a layered green taxonomy.
- Green taxonomy: • A framework for defining what can be considered environmentally sustainable investments.
- A classification system that defines which economic activities and assets are “green” or environmentally sustainable.
- Purpose: • Helps prevent greenwashing.
- Assists investors in making informed investment decisions.
- Channels investment toward sustainable or green economic activities and assets.

Q.10

What is the purpose of a Green Taxonomy?

1. To help prevent greenwashing
2. To assist investors in making informed investment decisions
3. To channel investment toward sustainable or green economic activities and assets
4. All of the above

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The RBI and the Finance Ministry could look especially at the ASEAN region for a layered green taxonomy.
- Green taxonomy: • A framework for defining what can be considered environmentally sustainable investments.
- A classification system that defines which economic activities and assets are “green” or environmentally sustainable.
- Purpose: • Helps prevent greenwashing.
- Assists investors in making informed investment decisions.
- Channels investment toward sustainable or green economic activities and assets.

Q.11

When is Maharashtra Day celebrated?

1. August 15
2. May 1
3. February 27
4. April 24

Answer:

B

Sol:

- Maharashtra Day, also known as Maharashtra Diwas, is celebrated annually on May 1 to commemorate the formation of the state of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra, established in 1960 through the Bombay Reorganization Act.
- The Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti (United Maharashtra Committee) was established in 1956

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to advocate for a separate state for Marathi-speaking individuals.

- In 1959, the Indian government created a panel to reorganise states along linguistic lines.
- The panel advocated for a distinct Marathi-speaking state that would include Bombay City and other Marathi-speaking territories within the state of Bombay.

Q.12

What is the age limit of children protected under the POCSO Act?

1. 14 years
2. 16 years
3. 17 years
4. 18 years

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Bombay High Court (HC) directed its administrative department and the state government's law and judiciary department to collaborate.
- The collaboration is to determine the requirements to establish 138 fast-track courts under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the state.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, established in 2012 in India, is designed to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Objective: The primary goal of the POCSO Act is to safeguard children under the age of 18 from

offences like sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.

Q.13

Which district topped the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) in Maharashtra?

1. Mumbai
2. Raigad
3. Nashik
4. Satara

Answer:

B

Sol:

- Raigad district topped the list in the recent District Good Governance Index (DGGI) of Maharashtra.
- The DGGI evaluates 10 governance sectors with 161 indicators and over 300 data points.
- The index is the first of its kind carried out by the department of administrative reforms and organisation and methods.
- Maharashtra has become the fifth state in the country to implement such an exercise.
- In terms of citizen-centric governance and human resources development, Nashik district stood second, followed by Gondia and Pune districts, respectively.
- Raigad district topped the list with 529 points, followed by Gondia with 518 points.

Q.14

What is the primary focus of the Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020?

1. Financial reforms
2. Environmental protections
3. Crimes against women and children
4. Public infrastructure development

Answer:

C

Sol:

- Maharashtra State Home Minister presented a report on the Shakti Bill.
- The committee submitted the amendments to the Shakti Bill, which was sent to the joint committee.
- The Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020 is a bill on crimes against women and children.
- The bill has recommended capital punishment for rape cases.
- It also recommends a time-limit of 30 days for completing the probe since the day of registration of the complaint.
- The amendment has put the onus on social media platforms and companies providing Internet data to share data for police investigation.

Q.15

Which department collaborated with UNICEF to develop the "Majhi Vasundhara (MV) Curriculum"?

1. Department of Education
2. Department of Environment and Climate Change
3. Department of Technology
4. Department of Health

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Maharashtra Government is introducing a comprehensive curriculum for Grades I-VIII.
- The aim is to inculcate climate-consciousness and green values in the next generation.
- The new curriculum has been developed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change and UNICEF.
- The curriculum is named the "Majhi Vasundhara (MV) Curriculum".
- The curriculum aims to inculcate application-based awareness on issues like climate change among students from Grades I-VIII.
- The curriculum will raise awareness among students by keeping a balance between traditional and local knowledge.

Q.1

Recently, evidence has been found of an enhanced possibility of water ice occurrence in the polar craters of the moon. What is believed to be the primary source of sub-surface water ice in the lunar poles?

1. Meteorite impacts
2. Cosmic radiation
3. Out-gassing during volcanism in the Imbrian period
4. Deposition by comets

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The study was conducted by scientists from ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC) in

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collaboration with researchers from IIT Kanpur, the University of Southern California, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

- The research found evidence of an enhanced possibility of water ice occurrence in the polar craters of the moon.
- The study suggests that drilling on the moon to sample or excavate that ice will be crucial for future missions and long-term human presence.
- The extent of water ice in the northern polar region is twice that in the southern polar region.
- The primary source of sub-surface water ice in the lunar poles is believed to be out-gassing during volcanism in the Imbrian period.
- The distribution of water ice is likely governed by mare volcanism and preferential impact cratering.

Q.2

AUKUS is a trilateral security pact formed between

1. America, Canada and UAE
2. Australia, United Kingdom and The United States
3. Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and The United States
4. Australia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Sweden

Answer:

B

Sol:

- AUKUS is a trilateral security pact formed between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced in September 2021.
- The pact referred to is AUKUS, which was established in 2021 with two main goals: • “Pillar One” aims to provide Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines. South Korea is not expected to be part of this project.
- “Pillar Two” focuses on developing advanced war-fighting capabilities such as artificial

intelligence, undersea drones, and hypersonic missiles.

Q.3

When was the AUKUS security pact announced?

1. September 2019
2. September 2020
3. September 2021
4. September 2022

Answer:

C

Sol:

- AUKUS is a trilateral security pact formed between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced in September 2021.
- The pact referred to is AUKUS, which was established in 2021 with two main goals: • “Pillar One” aims to provide Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines. South Korea is not expected to be part of this project.
- “Pillar Two” focuses on developing advanced war-fighting capabilities such as artificial intelligence, undersea drones, and hypersonic missiles.

Q.4

What is the primary purpose of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act mentioned in the text?

1. To promote online businesses over street vending
2. To increase taxes on street vendors

3. To legalize the vending rights of street vendors
4. To restrict the locations where street vendors can operate

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act was enacted to legalize the vending rights of street vendors (SVs).
- It aims to protect and regulate street vending in cities through State-level rules and schemes, and execution by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- It commits to accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs).
- It establishes a participatory governance structure through Town Vending Committees (TVCs).
- The Act outlines mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes, proposing the establishment of a Grievance Redressal Committee chaired by a civil judge or judicial magistrate.

Q.5

Who chairs the Grievance Redressal Committee proposed by the primary purpose of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act?

1. A civil judge or judicial magistrate
2. A high-ranking police officer
3. A city mayor
4. A representative from the vendors

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act was enacted to legalize the vending rights of street vendors (SVs).
- It aims to protect and regulate street vending in cities through State-level rules and schemes, and execution by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- It commits to accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs).
- It establishes a participatory governance structure through Town Vending Committees (TVCs).
- The Act outlines mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes, proposing the establishment of a Grievance Redressal Committee chaired by a civil judge or judicial magistrate.

Q.6

What is the role of the Grievance Redressal Committee as outlined in the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act?

1. To manage food vendor license grievances
2. To address grievances and disputes related to street vending
3. To collect taxes from vendors
4. To oversee food safety standards related grievances

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act came into effect on May 1, 2014.
- The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act was enacted to legalize the vending rights of street vendors (SVs).
- It aims to protect and regulate street vending in cities through State-level rules and schemes, and

execution by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

- It commits to accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs).
- It establishes a participatory governance structure through Town Vending Committees (TVCs).
- The Act outlines mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes, proposing the establishment of a Grievance Redressal Committee chaired by a civil judge or judicial magistrate.

Q.7

Where will the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and Committee for Environmental Protection meetings be held in 2024?

1. Mumbai, Maharashtra
2. Kochi, Kerala
3. New Delhi
4. Kolkata, West Bengal

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection in 2024.
- These meetings will take place from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala.
- The 46th ATCM agenda includes strategic planning for sustainable management of Antarctica, biodiversity prospecting, and addressing climate change impacts.
- The 26th CEP agenda focuses on Antarctic environment evaluation, impact assessment, management, climate change response, area protection and management plans, and conservation of Antarctic biodiversity.

Q.8

Which of the following is NOT one of the Indian research stations in Antarctica?

1. Maitri
2. Bharati
3. Dakshin Gangotri
4. Himadri station

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection in 2024.
- These meetings will take place from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala.
- The 46th ATCM agenda includes strategic planning for sustainable management of Antarctica, biodiversity prospecting, and addressing climate change impacts.
- The 26th CEP agenda focuses on Antarctic environment evaluation, impact assessment, management, climate change response, area protection and management plans, and conservation of Antarctic biodiversity.
- India's first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, was established in 1983. Currently, India operates two year-round research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).
- These permanent research stations facilitate Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica.
- In 2022, India enacted the Antarctic Act, reaffirming its commitment to the Antarctic Treaty.

Q.9

Who was awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia?

1. Alok Shukla
2. Jadav Payeng
3. Rajendra Singh
4. Narendra Modi

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Alok Shukla has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia.
- He is the convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan.
- He is also a founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti.
- The Goldman Environmental Prize recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk.
- It is also known as the Green Nobel.
- The prize recognizes grassroots environmental heroes from the world's six inhabited continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America.
- The first Goldman Environmental Prize ceremony took place on April 16, 1990, timed to coincide with Earth Day.

Q.10

Which of the following regions is NOT one of the areas recognized by the Goldman Environmental Prize?

1. Europe
2. Asia
3. North America
4. Antarctica

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Alok Shukla has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia.
- He is the convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan.
- He is also a founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti.
- The Goldman Environmental Prize recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk.
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- The first Goldman Environmental Prize ceremony took place on April 16, 1990, timed to coincide with Earth Day.

Q.11

Under which section of the Indian Constitution does Article 39(b) fall?

1. Fundamental Rights
2. fall?
 - (a) Fundamental Rights
 - (b) Directive Principles of State Policy
3. Fundamental Duties
4. Parliament

Answer:

B

Sol:

- Article 39(b) of the Indian Constitution is part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, which guides the State in formulating policies and laws.
- Article 39(b) mandates that the State should ensure that the ownership and control over the community's material resources are distributed in a manner that best serves the common good.

Q.12

Which of the following is a component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)?

1. In-situ Slum Redevelopment using land as a resource with private sector participation
2. Free distribution of food and clothing to the urban poor
3. Provision of free internet services to economically weaker sections
4. Provision of free transportation services to low-income groups

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The main goal of PMAY is to provide affordable housing to the urban poor and economically weaker sections.
- Target Group: The scheme targets the economically weaker sections (EWS), low-income groups (LIG), and middle-income groups (MIG) of the society. It also specifically targets women, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and other backward classes.
- PMAY includes four major components:

- In-situ Slum Redevelopment using land as a resource with private sector participation.
- Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for EWS, LIG, and MIG categories.
- Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) with public and private sectors.

Q.13

The Government of India has signed a loan agreement with which of the following organizations to scale up the improvement of rural connectivity in Maharashtra ?

1. World Bank
2. New Development Bank
3. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
4. Bank of Maharashtra

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 300-million-dollar loan on September 8, 2021.
- The loan agreement was signed as additional financing to scale up the improvement of rural connectivity in Maharashtra.
- The additional financing for the "Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project" will help in improving an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges.
- Under the project, a gender action plan has been prepared to focus on capacity development of women workers so that they can benefit from semi-skilled and unskilled labour opportunities.

Q.14

Which state has the highest number of beneficiaries under Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)

1. Bihar
2. Gujarat
3. Kerala
4. Maharashtra

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of generating jobs.
- The scheme had a target of spending Rs 22810 crores till March 31, 2024.
- Maharashtra has the highest number of beneficiaries under this scheme, making it the top state.
- Following Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka are the states with the next highest number of beneficiaries.

Q.15

Who is the target group for Mission Vatsalya?

1. Children
2. Widows
3. Beggars
4. Senior citizens

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Maharashtra government has launched a special initiative named "Mission Vatsalya".
- Mission Vatsalya is designed to provide a range of services and approximately 18 benefits under a single platform.
- The mission has been specifically designed for widows, with a particular emphasis on those from rural areas, poor backgrounds, and deprived sections.
- Schemes such as the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana will be included in this mission to benefit these women.
- This mission is being implemented by the women and child development (WCD) Department.

Q.1

Which mountain ranges border the Shaksgam Valley?

1. Himalayas and Hindu Kush
2. Karakoram and Kun Lun Mountains
3. Alps and Pyrenees
4. Andes and Rockies

Answer:

B

Sol:

- Shaksgam Valley is located in the disputed region near the northern borders of Kashmir.
- It is part of the broader Trans-Karakoram Tract.
- The valley is characterized by its rugged terrain,

high mountains, and is predominantly a high-altitude desert. It is nestled between the Karakoram Range to the south and the Kun Lun Mountains to the north.

- The area is strategically significant due to its location near the Siachen Glacier, another contested area, and its proximity to several important mountain passes.

Q.2

What is the significance of the Shaksgam Valley in terms of location?

1. It is proximal to the Siachen Glacier and several mountain passes.
2. It is located near major trade routes.
3. It is a major source of river water.
4. It is a popular tourist destination.

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Shaksgam Valley is located in the disputed region near the northern borders of Kashmir.

- It is part of the broader Trans-Karakoram Tract.

- The valley is characterized by its rugged terrain, high mountains, and is predominantly a high-altitude desert. It is nestled between the Karakoram Range to the south and the Kun Lun Mountains to the north.

- The area is strategically significant due to its location near the Siachen Glacier, another contested area, and its proximity to several important mountain passes.

Q.3

Recently, Ethylene oxide was seen in news, it is regarding

1. Forever chemicals
2. Ozone-depleting substances (ODS)
3. A toxic chemical used as a food stabiliser
4. Toxic fertilizers banned in Kerala

Answer:

C

Sol:

- A crisis of confidence is affecting the Indian spice export industry.

- At least five countries, including Singapore, Hong Kong, and the U.S., have announced an investigation into possible contamination of spice mixes sold by top Indian brands, MDH and Everest.

- The complaints cite the presence of ethylene oxide, a toxic chemical used as a food stabiliser, beyond permissible limits.

- The Spices Board of India has initiated mandatory testing of products shipped abroad.

- The international scrutiny has stirred a demand for the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to ensure stringent quality checks on spices and curry powders sold in domestic markets.

Q.4

Which organization in India has initiated mandatory testing of products for export due to the presence of a toxic chemical?

1. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
2. Indian Agricultural Research Institute
3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
4. Spices Board of India

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The complaints cite the presence of ethylene oxide, a toxic chemical used as a food stabiliser, beyond permissible limits.
- The Spices Board of India has initiated mandatory testing of products shipped abroad.
- The international scrutiny has stirred a demand for the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to ensure stringent quality checks on spices and curry powders sold in domestic markets.

Q.5

What incident during the 1886 demonstration led to the establishment of International Labour Day?

1. The Boston Tea Party
2. The Haymarket Affair
3. The Great Fire of London
4. The signing of the Magna Carta

Answer:

B

Sol:

- International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is being observed on 1st May to honour the contribution of workers across the world.
- The day aims at paying tribute to workers' sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world.
- In 1886, a large demonstration of labourers, demanding eight hours of daily work, was held in America.
- This demonstration went out of hand in Chicago with lots of people getting hurt in an incident known as The Haymarket Affair.
- The Haymarket Affair marked the start of the International Labour Day.
- In 1889, many socialist parties in Europe came together and decided to celebrate May 1 as International Labour Day.

- Since then, this special day has been observed every year on the same day.

Q.6

International Labour Day celebrated every year on

1. 1st May
2. 28th April
3. 3rd May
4. 15th May

Answer:

A

Sol:

- International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is being observed on 1st May to honour the contribution of workers across the world.
- The day aims at paying tribute to workers' sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world.
- In 1886, a large demonstration of labourers, demanding eight hours of daily work, was held in America.
- This demonstration went out of hand in Chicago with lots of people getting hurt in an incident known as The Haymarket Affair.
- The Haymarket Affair marked the start of the International Labour Day.
- In 1889, many socialist parties in Europe came together and decided to celebrate May 1 as International Labour Day.
- Since then, this special day has been observed every year on the same day.

Q.7

Where is Antares, also known as Alpha Scorpii, located in the night sky?

1. It is the brightest star in the constellation Orion.
2. It is the brightest star in the constellation Ursa Major
3. It is the brightest star in the constellation Scorpius
4. It is the brightest star in the constellation Taurus

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), based in Bengaluru, filmed the passing of the moon in front of Antares, a bright red star.
- This event was visible only from southern India according to IIA.
- Antares, also known as Alpha Scorpii, is the brightest star in the constellation Scorpius and the 15th-brightest star in the night sky.
- It is a massive red supergiant star that is 10,000 times brighter than our sun.
- Antares is one of the largest known stars, with a diameter 700 times that of the sun.
- Antares is relatively cool for a star, with a surface temperature of about 6,100 degrees F (3,400 degrees C), in contrast to our sun's surface temperature of about 10,000 degrees F (5,500 degrees C).

Q.8

How does the surface temperature of Antares compare to our sun?

1. Antares is hotter than our sun
2. Antares has the same temperature as our sun
3. The temperature of Antares is unknown
4. Antares is cooler than our sun

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), based in Bengaluru, filmed the passing of the moon in front of Antares, a bright red star.
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- Antares, also known as Alpha Scorpii, is the brightest star in the constellation Scorpius and the 15th-brightest star in the night sky.
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Q.9

What type of missile system is the SMART system?

1. It is a canister-based missile system
2. It is a tube-based missile system
3. It is a box-based missile system
4. It is a cylinder-based missile system

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tested a next-generation torpedo release system aimed at enhancing the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- The system, known as the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART), has been designed and developed by the DRDO.

- This missile-based mechanism can launch lightweight torpedoes that can target submarines hundreds of kilometres away, far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedoes.
- It is a canister-based missile system that comprises several advanced subsystems, including two-stage solid propulsion and precision inertial navigation.

Q.10

Who tested the next-generation torpedo release system aimed at enhancing the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities?

1. The Indian Navy
2. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
3. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
4. The Indian Army

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tested a next-generation torpedo release system aimed at enhancing the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- The system, known as the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART), has been designed and developed by the DRDO.
- This missile-based mechanism can launch lightweight torpedoes that can target submarines hundreds of kilometres away, far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedoes.
- It is a canister-based missile system that comprises several advanced subsystems, including two-stage solid propulsion and precision inertial navigation.

Q.11

Researchers recently discovered a new species named *Stenaelurillus solapur* and *Stenaelurillus naldurg*. These species are related to

1. Western ghat frogs
2. Nilgiri Tahr
3. Jumping spiders
4. Water lizard

Answer:

C

Sol:

- Researchers recently discovered a new species of jumping spiders in Solapur and Dharashiv districts of Maharashtra.
- The species named *Stenaelurillus solapur* and *Stenaelurillus naldurg* were found only in the habitat they were discovered in.
- The spiders were found in a compact and fragmented semi-arid grassland patch.
- The species of spiders lived secluded in colonies and were rare to find.
- Researchers conducted the exploration of the species in the Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau and the eastern coastal region.
- The other two species of jumping spiders found in Tamil Nadu were named *Stenaelurillus feral* (from Villupuram) and *Stenaelurillus judithblesternae* (from Coimbatore).
- Jumping spiders play a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance.
- Acting as predators, they help control the population of insects and other arthropods, thus reducing the spread of diseases and damage to crops.

Q.12

Under which department does the Enforcement Directorate operate?

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1. Department of Economic Affairs
2. Department of Revenue
3. Department of Financial Services
4. Department of Corporate Affairs

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Enforcement Directorate is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
- It was established in 1956.
- The ED operates under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.
- Primary Functions: • Enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), which replaced the earlier Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA).
- Enforcement of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

Q.13

What was the original name of Sanjay Gandhi National Park?

1. Gandhi Park
2. Mumbai National Park
3. Borivali sanctuary
4. Krishnagiri Park

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) is situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra, it is one of the major

national parks existing within a metropolis limit and is one of the most visited parks in the world.

- The park was established in 1969, Originally named Krishnagiri Park, it was later renamed in the 1980s after Sanjay Gandhi.
- The 2,000-year-old Kanheri caves, sculpted by monks out of the rocky basaltic cliffs, lie within the park.
- The park is also known as the lungs of the city.
- The governing body of the national park is the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Q.14

Which organizations will the Maharashtra government collaborate with to finalize the modalities of the Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT)?

1. IIT Bombay
2. Meta
3. NASSCOM
4. Tata Consultancy Services

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Maharashtra government has announced the creation of a new award named the "Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Information Technology (IT)".
- The award will be presented to institutions and companies for their outstanding performance in the IT sector.
- The presentation will coincide with the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- The state government will collaborate with several organizations, including NASSCOM, to finalize the modalities of the award.

Q.15

By what year does the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy aim to have EVs comprise at least 10% of new vehicles registered?

1. 2022
2. 2023
3. 2024
4. 2025

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Maharashtra government has unveiled the "Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy".
- The policy was unveiled by the State Environment Minister and was approved by the cabinet.
- The aim of the policy is to promote the adoption of electric vehicles, their production, and the strengthening of necessary infrastructure.
- The policy seeks to ensure that EVs comprise at least 10% of new vehicles registered by 2025 and 25% electrification of public transport by 2025 in six urban centres: Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Amravati, Aurangabad, and Nashik.
- The policy also plans to set up 2,500 charging stations in urban areas and highways.

Q.1

The World Press Freedom Index is published by

1. Economist Intelligence Unit
2. United Nations Human Rights Council
3. Reporters Without Borders
4. The Washington Post

Answer:

C

Sol:

- World Press Freedom Index: This is an annual index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF for Reporters sans Frontières), which measures the freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions.
- India's Score: India's score in the World Press Freedom Index fell from 36.62 to 31.28 over the last year.
- India's Rank: Despite the drop in score, India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024. However, this improvement was due to other countries slipping in their rankings, not because of an improvement in India's press freedom.
- Top Countries: Norway and Denmark topped the RSF table, indicating high levels of press freedom in these countries.
- Bottom Countries: Eritrea was at the bottom of the RSF table, with Syria just ahead of it, indicating low levels of press freedom in these countries.

Q.2

What is India's Rank in the recently published World Press Freedom Index 2024?

1. 140
2. 153
3. 159
4. 161

Answer:

C

Sol:

- World Press Freedom Index: This is an annual index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF for Reporters sans Frontières), which measures the freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions.
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- Bottom Countries: Eritrea was at the bottom of the RSF table, with Syria just ahead of it, indicating low levels of press freedom in these countries.

Q.3

International Leopard Day is celebrated annually on

1. 24th April
2. 3 May
3. 5 June
4. 21 June

Answer:

B

Sol:

- International Leopard Day is celebrated annually on May 3.

- Origin: The day was officialised and endorsed as a lasting legacy of the Global Leopard Conference held in March 2023.

- Significance: Leopards are indicators of a healthy ecosystem, and their presence often correlates with high biodiversity levels. Protecting leopards means safeguarding the habitats and prey species that support them, thereby conserving a wide array of plant and animal species.

Q.4

What event led to the official endorsement of International Leopard Day?

1. Global Leopard Conference

2. Global Tiger Forum
3. The Leopard Trust
4. International Conference on Biodiversity

Answer:

A

Sol:

- International Leopard Day is celebrated annually on May 3.

- Origin: The day was officialised and endorsed as a lasting legacy of the Global Leopard Conference held in March 2023.

- Significance: Leopards are indicators of a healthy ecosystem, and their presence often correlates with high biodiversity levels. Protecting leopards means safeguarding the habitats and prey species that support them, thereby conserving a wide array of plant and animal species.

Q.5

Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the Five Eyes alliance?

1. France
2. Canada
3. Australia
4. New Zealand

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Members: The Five Eyes alliance consists of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

- Origins: The alliance originated from secret World War II intelligence collaborations. It was formally established in the aftermath of the war through the

UKUSA Agreement in 1946, which was initially a treaty between the UK and the USA for joint signal intelligence (SIGINT) operations.

• Purpose: The primary purpose of the Five Eyes is to share intelligence among the member countries, focusing mainly on signals intelligence (SIGINT). This collaboration helps the countries to monitor international communications and gather information on various global issues and threats.

Q.6

Which of the following best describes the primary focus of the Five Eyes intelligence operations?

1. Economic intelligence
2. Human intelligence (HUMINT)
3. Geospatial intelligence (GEOINT)
4. Signals intelligence (SIGINT)

Answer:

D

Sol:

• Members: The Five Eyes alliance consists of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

• Origins: The alliance originated from secret World War II intelligence collaborations. It was formally established in the aftermath of the war through the UKUSA Agreement in 1946, which was initially a treaty between the UK and the USA for joint signal intelligence (SIGINT) operations.

• Purpose: The primary purpose of the Five Eyes is to share intelligence among the member countries, focusing mainly on signals intelligence (SIGINT). This collaboration helps the countries to monitor international communications and gather information on various global issues and threats.

Q.7

What is a Standard Essential Patent (SEP)?

1. A patent granted for any technological invention.
2. A patent granted for a technological invention crucial for implementing a standard.
3. A patent for aesthetic design improvements.
4. A non-essential patent for basic technologies.

Answer:

B

Sol:

- A Standard Essential Patent (SEP) is a patent granted for a technological invention that is crucial for the implementation and operation of a standard.
- A standard is a set of technical requirements or agreed technical descriptions that ensure technologies interact and work together. These can be adopted worldwide, regionally, or nationally.

Q.8

A Standard Essential Patent (SEP) can be adopted at which of the following levels?

1. Only nationally.
2. Nationally and regionally, but not worldwide.
3. Worldwide, regionally, or nationally.
4. Only in isolated industries.

Answer:

C

Sol:

- A Standard Essential Patent (SEP) is a patent granted for a technological invention that is crucial for the implementation and operation of a standard.

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• A standard is a set of technical requirements or agreed technical descriptions that ensure technologies interact and work together. These can be adopted worldwide, regionally, or nationally.

Q.9

“Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way” is organized by

1. Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the United Nations Population Fund
2. The NITI Aayog and UN Women
3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India and Sustainable Development solution Network
4. National Commission for Women and the United Nations Environment Programme

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj are collaborating to organize an event with the United Nations Population Fund.
- The title of the event is “Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way”.
- This event is scheduled to take place during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57).
- The Commission on Population and Development was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946.
- The Commission is composed of 47 member countries.
- Member countries are elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years based on geographic distribution.
- The Commission was constituted as a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism.

• The meetings of the Commission were held typically every two or three years until 1994. After 1994, it has been held once a year.

Q.10

Who established the Commission on Population and Development?

1. United Nations General Assembly
2. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
3. United Nations Population Fund
4. United Nations Development Programme

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj are collaborating to organize an event with the United Nations Population Fund.
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- The Commission was constituted as a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism.
- The meetings of the Commission were held typically every two or three years until 1994. After 1994, it has been held once a year.

Q.11

In what year was the Maharashtra Prevention of Human Sacrifice and Other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act enacted?

1. 2010
2. 2011
3. 2012
4. 2013

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Maharashtra Prevention of Human Sacrifice and Other Inhuman, Inhuman and Inhumane Practices of Witchcraft Act aimed at combating superstitious practices in Maharashtra.
- The act aims to combat and criminalize the practice of human sacrifices and other harmful practices rooted in superstition that exploit people's beliefs, especially those that could cause harm or danger to life.
- The law was enacted in 2013, following the assassination of Narendra Dabholkar, an anti-superstition activist, which accelerated the legislative process.
- The law also emphasizes the importance of education and awareness campaigns to educate the public about the harmful effects of such practices and to promote a scientific temper among the populace.

Q.12

Under which act does the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (MAT) operate?

1. The Maharashtra Governance Act, 1974
2. The Indian Penal Code, 1860
3. The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985
4. The Public Service Commission Act, 1951

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (MAT) was established to handle disputes and complaints related to the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the State of Maharashtra.
- MAT exercises jurisdiction over matters specified in the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985. It deals primarily with matters concerning government employees' recruitment and conditions of service.
- Composition: The tribunal is typically composed of a Chairperson, who is or has been a judge of a High Court, and other judicial and administrative members who are or have been high-ranking officials or have legal experience.
- Appeal Process: Decisions made by the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal can be challenged and appealed in the High Court.

Q.13

How does MCOCA differ from the usual criminal justice system in terms of burden of proof?

1. The accused must prove their innocence
2. The prosecution must prove the accused's innocence
3. The prosecution must prove the accused's guilt
4. None of the above

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act

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(MCOCA) is a law enacted by Maharashtra state in India in 1999 to combat organized crime and terrorism.

- Objective: The primary objective of MCOCA is to dismantle organized crime syndicates by enabling law enforcement agencies to intercept communications, use confessions to police as admissible evidence, and attach properties acquired through the proceeds of crime.
- Special Courts: MCOCA provides for the establishment of Special Courts to ensure speedy and efficient trial of cases under its provisions.
- Tough Bail Conditions: Under MCOCA, getting bail is challenging as the law requires the court to be satisfied that the accused is not likely to commit a similar offense while on bail.
- MCOCA shifts the burden of proof to the accused, requiring them to prove their innocence in certain scenarios, which is contrary to the usual criminal justice system premise where the burden is on the prosecution.

Q.14

What percentage of seats must non-government schools reserve for children from economically weaker sections under the RTE Act?

1. 10%
2. 15%
3. 20%
4. 25%

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Right to Education Act (RTE), officially known as The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, was enacted in India in 2009.
- Age Group Covered: The RTE Act provides free and compulsory education to children between the ages of 6 to 14 years in India.

- Compulsory Education: It mandates that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.
- No Detention Policy: The Act originally included a no-detention policy, meaning that students were automatically promoted to the next grade. This was to minimize the stress of board exams. However, as of 2019, amendments allow states to hold back students in certain circumstances.
- Private School Quota: The Act mandates that non-government schools must reserve 25% of seats for children from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged communities.

Q.15

Which authority will be set up by the Maharashtra government to protect trees?

1. Maharashtra State Tree Authority
2. Maharashtra Urban Development Authority
3. Maharashtra Green Mission Authority
4. Maharashtra Forestry Commission

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Heritage Tree Concept: The Cabinet approved the implementation of the 'Heritage Tree' concept in Maharashtra.
- Amendment to Act: The action plan amends the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Tree Protection and Conservation Act, 1975. The amendment aims to safeguard the green cover across urban landscapes and provide a robust mechanism to protect heritage trees.
- Details of Amendments: The government will introduce the "concept of Heritage Trees" and the age of trees for their protection and preservation. The amendment ensures compensatory plantation,

proposes reserving common land for plantation, and suggests following scientific methods like Miyawaki plantation.

- Maharashtra State Tree Authority: To protect a significant number of trees, the Maharashtra government will set up the "Maharashtra State Tree Authority".
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