

2019



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

11<sup>th</sup> November- 16<sup>th</sup> November



The Indian **EXPRESS**

live **mint**

BusinessLine



1. With reference to 'Mission Innovation', consider the following statements:
  1. It is under the aegis of UN Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL).
  2. It was announced at COP 24 of UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris - 2015.

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: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a **global initiative** of 24 countries and the **European Union** to accelerate global clean energy innovation. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The UN Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL) are designed to move humanity forward, by focusing on the use of innovative technology to solve some of humanity's most pressing needs.
- It was announced at COP21 of UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris - 2015. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

**Objectives:**

- Substantial boost in public sector investment.
- Increased private sector engagement and investment.
- Increasing international collaboration.
- Raising awareness of the transformational potential of energy innovation.

2. Which of the following is/are objectives of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative?

1. To boost ecosystem of Research and Development in Defence sector in India.
2. To bring transparency in Defence procurement.
3. To attract Foreign Direct Investment in Defence.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation :**

- An **innovation ecosystem for Defence** titled **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** was launched in April 2018.

- It will function as the executive arm of the Defence Innovation Organisation.
  - It is **aimed at creation of an ecosystem** to foster innovation and technology development **in Defence and Aerospace** by engaging industries, R&D institutes and academia. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**
  - It will provide them grants to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian Defence and Aerospace needs.
  - The scheme mandates setting up of Defence Innovation Hubs across the country, to provide necessary incubation and infrastructure support to defence startups and innovators.
3. The term 'Pliosaur' is sometimes mentioned in the media in reference to
- (a) Fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
  - (b) An early human species
  - (c) A cave system found in North-East India
  - (d) Carnivorous marine reptiles

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Pliosaur is a group of large carnivorous marine reptiles characterised by:
    - Massive heads
    - Short necks
    - Streamlined tear-shaped bodies.
  - **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**
  - Pliosaurus have been found as fossils from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.
  - They are classified in the order Plesiosauria.
  - Pliosaurus possessed powerful jaws and large teeth, and they used four large fins to swim through Mesozoic seas.
  - They are also regarded as the largest aquatic carnivorous reptiles that ever lived.
4. With reference to 'Karez System', consider the following statements:
1. It is a water harnessing technology that originated in Iran.
  2. It was built by the Ahmadnagar Sultans in India in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- 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)**

**Explanation:**

- Karez system was built by Bahmani kings in the **15<sup>th</sup> century** by the in:

- Bidar, Gulbarga and Bijapur in Karnataka.
  - Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.
  - **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
  - It is a water harnessing technology that originated in Iran/Persia. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
  - Karez is a network of underground canals which basically taps into the groundwater sources and transports it through an underground tunnel to the civilian settlements for various purposes.
  - It is known by different names in different regions:
    - North Africa - Fugara
    - Arabia - Falaj
    - Jordan and Syria - Qanat Romani
    - Spain - Galerias
    - Morocco - Kettharrain
    - China - Kanjering
    - Afghanistan and Pakistan - Kariz
5. With reference to 'Vaippar river', consider the following statements:
1. It originates from the Varusanadu hills in Telangana.
  2. It flows into Gulf of Mannar.

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)**

**Explanation:**

- Vaippar originates from the Varusanadu hills **in Tamil Nadu**. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- It runs from Sivagiri and flows through Virudhunagar and Tuticorin districts of Tamil Nadu.
- It flows into Gulf of Mannar. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

6. In which of the following states is Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve located?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve is the **largest Tiger Reserve** in India- spread over Guntur, Prakasam & Kurnool districts of **Andhra Pradesh** and Nalgonda & Mahabubnagar in **Telangana**.

- The reserve is situated in the **Nallamalais** - an offshoot of Southern Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.
- The **River Krishna** flows through the reserve over a distance of 130 km.
- The reserve primarily comprises of southern **tropical dry mixed deciduous** forest.
- Post bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the northern part of the reserve is vested with **Telangana** state and renamed as **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**.
- **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

7. In the context of recently released Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India, consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. The atlas consists of 45 maps of metals, oxides and elements present in top and bottom soils across India.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

- ‘Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India’ was developed by CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- This is the third map among the series of maps published by NGRI. Earlier, The Gravity Map of India and the Seismic Map of India were released by the research institute.
- The atlas consists of 45 maps of metals, oxides and elements present in top and bottom soils across India. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

8. With reference to the objective of the **Recognition of Prior Learning program**, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) To provide for an industry led, practice oriented, effective and efficient mode of formal training.
- (b) To provide financial assistance for skills training for persons with disability.
- (c) To certify individuals who have work experience without formal training or qualification according to the National Skills Qualification Framework.
- (d) To enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing ‘on the job work exposure’ and earning of stipend.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is a component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- It is a platform to certify those individuals who have work experience in a concerned skill or have learned a skill without formal training or qualification according to the National Skills Qualification Framework.

9. Consider the following statements regarding recently conducted BRICS Summit 2019:

1. The theme for 2019 BRICS Summit was 'BRICS: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future'.
2. Members have agreed on Creation of BRICS Counter-Terrorism Sub-Working Groups.
3. The BRICS Business Council created a road map to achieve \$500 billion trade target among BRICS nations by next summit.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:**

- The 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit recently took place in Brasília, Brazil. The BRICS member nations adopted **Brasilia Declaration**.
- The 2019 Brazilian Presidency of the BRICS focused on the theme: 'BRICS: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future'. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- BRICS members have agreed on constitution of five sub working groups on counterterrorism in the areas of:
  - Terrorist financing
  - Use of internet for terrorist purposes
  - Countering radicalisation
  - Issue of foreign terrorist fighters
  - Capacity-building.**Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The BRICS Business Council created a road map to achieve \$500 billion trade target among BRICS nations by next summit. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

10. Regarding President's Rule, which of the following statements is *not correct*?

- (a) A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue, by a simple majority.
- (b) If approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the President's Rule continues for six months.
- (c) It can be extended for a maximum period of one year with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.
- (d) The Parliament becomes empowered to make laws with respect to any matter in the State List in relation to that state.

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

- **Article 356** of the Indian Constitution states that the President of India can suspend state legislature and impose President's rule in any state in the country "if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution".
- It can be extended for a *maximum period of three years* with the approval of the Parliament, every six months. **Hence, Statement (c) is not correct.**
- **All other statements are correct.**

### MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. An effective judiciary should be independent as well as accountable. In light of the recent Supreme Court judgement bringing the office of CJI under the RTI Act, critically examine the need to balance judicial independence and transparency. (250 words).

Q2. Explain the significance of BRICS for a multilateral world in the context of growing global protectionism. (250 words).



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