

17th September, 2020

TEST YOURSELF

Daily Current Affairs MCQs

Q1. With reference to the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment, consider the following statements:

1. It is a grouping of 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the East coast of Africa on the maritime issue.
2. It was established on January 2014.
3. India and UK are the observer states to this.

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: C

Explanation:

In News- India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment, DCOC/JA, as Observer.

Statement 1 is correct: DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East Coast of Africa and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region.

Statement 2 is not correct: The DCOC, established in January 2009, is aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

Statement 3 is correct: India has joined Japan, Norway, the UK and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA. As an observer at the DCOC/JA, India is looking forward to working together with DCOC/JA member states towards coordinating and contributing to enhanced maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Dr Kapila Vatsyayan was a leading scholar of Indian Classical music.
2. She is the recipient of Bharat Ratna Award.

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:

In News- Recently, Renowned scholar of Indian classical dance Dr Kapila Vatsyayan passes away.

Both the statements are not correct: Dr Kapila Vatsyayan who was a leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture and art history recently passed away at the age of 92. She was born in Delhi in 1928. She was a former Member of Parliament and also served as Secretary to the Government in the Ministry of Education, where she was responsible for the establishment of a large number of national institutions of higher education. She served as the founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and was former President of India International Centre (IIC) and an IIC Life Trustee and the Chairperson of the IIC International Research Division. In 2011, she was bestowed upon with the Padma Vibhushan by the government of India.

Q3. Which of the following organisation recently released the report titled “Ecological Threat Register(ETR)”?

- (a) Greenpeace International
- (b) World Wide Fund for Nature
- (c) Institute for Economics & Peace
- (d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- The first edition of Ecological Threat Register (ETR) by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) recently.

Option C is correct: It is produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) which is a world's leading think tank headquartered in Sydney, Australia. The think tank also released reports such as the Global Peace Index and the Global Terrorism Index. The ETR measures ecological threats that countries are currently facing and provides projections to 2050. The Ecological Threat Register (ETR) covers around 157 independent states and territories.

Q4. With reference to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), consider the following statements:

1. These schemes are 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the respective state government machinery.
2. They are mainly formulated on the subjects in the Union List.
3. MGNREGA comes under the category of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct: In India's development plan exercise we have two types of schemes i.e central sector and centrally sponsored scheme. Under Central sector schemes, it is 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the Central Government machinery. Central sector schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10 and the implementation is by the State Governments.

Statement 2 is not correct: Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage States to prioritise in areas that require more attention.

Statement 3 is correct: The centrally sponsored schemes are divided into two categories – core of the core schemes and core schemes. MGNREGA or the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act falls under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes: Core of the core schemes.

Q5. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Phytoplankton?

1. They are the tiny microscopic plants found in the ocean
2. Diatoms and algae are types of Phytoplanktons.
3. They are present deep into the water and photosynthesise their own food.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- New study helps monitor trends in phytoplankton biomass in the Bay of Bengal.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Phytoplanktons are tiny microscopic plants found in the ocean. They are important ecological indicators that regulate life in the ocean. Like land plants, they take up carbon dioxide, make carbohydrates using light energy, and release oxygen. They are what is known as primary producers of the ocean—the organisms that form the base of the food chain. Phytoplankton comprises two very different kinds of organisms. The larger category includes single-celled algae known as protists—advanced eukaryotic cells, similar to protozoans. These forms include diatoms and are most abundant near coasts.

Statement 3 is not correct: Because they need light, phytoplankton lives near the surface, where enough sunlight can penetrate to power photosynthesis.

Q6. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the interest rate derivatives (IRD)?

1. An interest rate derivative is a financial contract whose value is based on some underlying interest rate or interest-bearing asset.
2. A plain vanilla interest rate swap is the most common type of interest rate derivative.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently proposed to introduce exchange-traded and over-the-counter (OTC) interest rate derivatives products that would be accessible to both foreign investors and retail participants.

Statement 1 is correct: An interest rate derivative is a financial instrument with a value that is linked to the movements of an interest rate or rates. These may include futures, options, or swaps contracts. Interest rate derivatives are often used as hedges by institutional investors, banks, companies, and individuals to protect themselves against changes in market interest rates, but they can also be used to increase or refine the holder's risk profile or to speculate on rate moves.

Statement 2 is correct: A plain vanilla interest rate swap is the most basic and common type of interest rate derivative. There are two parties to a swap: party one receives a stream of interest payments based on a floating interest rate and pays a stream of interest payments based on a fixed rate. Party two receives a stream of fixed interest rate payments and pays a stream of floating-rate payments.