

2nd Fortnightly Test March 2018

Question 11: Consider the following statements about the state X which was in news recently:

1. X has been tagged as the emerging 'flower state' of India.
2. X had recently launched Pushp Kranti Yojana for which it sought Rs 150 crore from the Union Agriculture Ministry.

Which among the following is X?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Assam
- (c) Himachal Pradesh *
- (d) Kerala

Explanation: Recently, the Pushp Kranti Scheme was in news as the Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Minister sought Rs. 150 crore from the Union Agriculture ministry for promotion of a scheme on protected cultivation of flowers to promote the agenda of Granth and development aggressively for the next 5 years. The state has been hailed as the emerging "flower state" of the country. Hence, answer is (c).

Question 12: Which of the following statements best describe the process of cold fusion?

- (a) Cold Fusion is a process in which hydrogen fusion occurs at room temperatures.
- (b) Cold Fusion is a process in which two nascent oxygen combines to form an oxygen molecule.
- (c) Cold Fusion is a hypothetical process in which two nascent oxygen atoms combine to form an oxygen molecule.
- (d) Cold Fusion is a hypothetical process in which hydrogen fusion occurs at room temperatures.

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Explanation: Cold Fusion Technology is at presently a hypothetical proposition that nuclear fusion of two hydrogen atoms can take place at room temperature. India was pursuing research into this technology some 25 years back when it was stopped because of the global criticism on the technique which evidently cannot happen at room temperatures. However, the scientist community in the country this week took tentative steps towards restarting research into this technology. Hence, the statement best describing process of cold fusion is (d).

Question 13: Arrange the following countries, as per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, in the increasing order of 'arms import' from different countries of the world:

1. India
2. Saudi Arabia
3. UAE
4. China
5. Algeria

Choose the correct alternative.

- (a) 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 *
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- (c) 5, 3, 2, 4, 1
- (d) 5, 3, 2, 1, 4

Explanation: As per the SIPRI Report, India turned out to be largest importer of arms in the world. The top importers of arms are India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, China and Algeria. Hence, in the increasing order it shall be Algeria, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and India. The correct answer accordingly will be (a).

Question 14: Consider the following statements about the No Confidence Motion which has been in news recently:

1. The Specific Procedures for for a motion of no-confidence has been laid down under Article 118 of the Constitution.

2. To introduce a no-confidence motion in the house, a written notice must be produced by a member of the house before 10 am which when read out by the speaker must be supported by at most 50 members.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: There is no mention of the motion of no-confidence in the Constitution. Article 118 permits each house of the Parliament to make its own rules of conduct for business. As per Rule 198 of the Lok Sabha, specific procedure for the motion of no-confidence are laid down. To introduce a no-confidence motion in the house, a written notice must be produced by a member of the house before 10 am which when read out by the speaker must be supported by at least 50 members. Hence, both the statements are incorrect.

Question 15: Which of the following countries has withdrawn itself from the International Criminal Court recently?

- (a) Vanuatu
- (b) Philippines *
- (c) Palestine
- (d) Palau

Explanation: Philippines is pulling its support from the International Criminal Court in protect against the baseless and outrageous attacks against the administration as well as violation of due process. The decision comes after the ICC said it could investigate Philippines President Duterte for alleged crimes against humanity involving extra-judicial killings resulting from his administrator's campaign against illegal drugs. Hence, the answer is (b).

Question 16: Which of the following statements about Diplomatic Relations is/are correct?

1. The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations provides for diplomatic and consular immunity to the diplomats working in the diplomatic missions and consulates, respectively, in the countries abroad.
2. While the diplomatic immunity spreads to both functional as well personal sphere, the consular immunity is largely a functional immunity.

Choose the correct alternative:

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

Explanation: The Diplomatic Immunity is provided under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Consular Immunity is provided under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The diplomatic immunity spans both the functional as well as personal dimensions whereas the consular immunity only spans the functional dimension. Hence, only the second statement is correct and the answer is (b).

Question 17: Consider the following statements about H-1B Visa which was in news recently:

1. H-1B VISA is an immigrant visa provided only to skilled workers for specialty occupations in the United States.
2. India is the largest recipient of H-1B Visa in the world.
3. The Visa is issued for a period of 3 years, extendable up to 6 years but cannot be extended beyond 6 years under any circumstance.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Explanation: H-1B Visa is a non-immigrant visa provided only to the skilled workers to be employed in any specialty occupation in the US. India is the largest recipient of the H-1B visa in the world. The Visa is issued generally for a period of 3 years and expandable up to 6 years in normal circumstances. However, if the occupation is proved of such character that essentially requires a stay beyond 6 years, the visa can be expanded beyond the period of 6 years as well. Hence, only the 1st and 3rd statements are incorrect and answer is (c).

Question 18: Which of the following ministries organise the Know India Programme?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- (c) Ministry of External Affairs *
- (d) Ministry of Culture

Explanation: Know India programme, is a scheme of Ministry of External Affairs for Persons of Indian Origin between the age group 18-30 years. The scheme was launched in 2004 and is a 3 week orientation programme. In 2016, the KIP scheme was revamped to extend the number of days from 21 to 25, including a 10 day visit to one or more states.

Question 19: Consider The following statements about ‘#YesIBleed Campaign’:

1. It is the campaign of Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The campaign aims to create a holistic approach to treat and create awareness about Haemophilia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation: ‘#YesIBleed campaign’ was recently launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The campaign intends to create a holistic approach towards the issue of menstrual hygiene. The campaign was launched on the occasion of ‘International Women’s Day’. Hence, only first statement is correct and answer is (a).

Question 20: India has been recently added as the 69th member of which of the following international organisation?

- (a) European Central Bank
- (b) African Development Bank
- (c) Asia Pacific Economic Forum
- (d) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development *

Explanation: India has become the 69th member of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The development will set stage in joint investment with Indian companies in EBRD’s regions of operations.