

Que-1 What is the Inter-State Council?

1- It is a mechanism that was constituted “to support Centre-State and Inter-State coordination and cooperation in India”.

2- The Inter-State Council was established under Article 363 of the Constitution, which states that the President may constitute such a body if a need is felt for it.

3- In 1988, the Sarkaria Commission suggested the Council should exist as a permanent body, and in 1990 it came into existence through a Presidential Order.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-2 With reference to Indian Penal Code (IPC), Section 295A, consider the following statements

1- Section 295A defines and prescribes a punishment for deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.

2- Section 295A has been invoked on a wide range of issues from penalising political satire and seeking bans on or withdrawal of books to even political critique on social media.

3- Section 295A is one of the key provisions in the IPC chapter to penalise religious offences.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-3 As per a recent report named ‘Migration in India 2020-21’, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), who are ‘Temporary visitors’ and ‘migrants’

1- ‘Temporary visitors’ have been defined as the ones who arrived in households after March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 30 days or more but less than 1 year.

2- ‘Migrants’ have been defined as those, for whom the last usual place of residence, any time in the past, is different from the present place of enumeration.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-4 With reference to recent Reserve Bank's 'Payments Vision 2025' document, consider the following statements

1- The core theme of the vision documents is 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everlasting' (4Es).

2- An objective to provide every user with safe, secure, fast, convenient, accessible, and affordable e-payment options.

3- It seeks a three-fold jump in the number of digital payments, is progressive and aims to establish India as a powerhouse of payments globally.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Countries across the globe were urged to come forward and make commitments to attain net zero carbon emissions by 2050 during the 26th Conference of Parties (CoP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Glasgow, Scotland in 2021. India also attended the conference and committed to two major goals. They are

1- It would supply 80 per cent of its energy needs through renewable sources by 2030.

2- Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-6 Consider the following statements about PM eVIDYA

1- It unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access for imparting education by using technology to minimise learning losses.

2- The PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the NITI Aayog.

3- Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) has been awarded with the UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in Education for the year 2021.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 The current account essentially refers to two specific sub-parts:

1- Import and Export of goods — this is the “trade account”.

2- Import and export of services — this is called the “invisibles account”.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 Consider the following statements about Azooxanthellate corals

1- They are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae.

2- They derive nourishment from the sun.

3- These groups of corals are deep-sea representatives, with the majority of species reporting from between 200 m to 1000 m.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (b)

- The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution, which states that the President may constitute such a body if a need is felt for it.
- The Council is basically meant to serve as a forum for discussions among various governments.
- The main functions of the Council are inquiring into and advising on disputes between states, investigating and discussing subjects in which two states or states and the Union have a common interest, and making recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action.
- The Prime Minister is the chairman of the Council, whose members include the Chief Ministers of all states and UTs with legislative assemblies, and Administrators of other UTs. Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Centre’s Council of Ministers, nominated by the Prime Minister, are also its members.

2- (c)

- Section 295A is one of the key provisions in the IPC chapter to penalise religious offences. The chapter includes offences to penalise

damage or defilement of a place of worship with intent to insult the religion (Section 295); trespassing in a place of sepulture (Section 297); uttering, words, etc, with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person (Section 298); and disturbing a religious assembly (Section 296).

- The state often invokes Section 295A along with Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, which penalises promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony and Section 505 of the IPC that punishes statements conducing to public mischief.

3- (b)

- 'Temporary visitors' have been defined as the ones who arrived in households after March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months.
- The all-India migration rate was 28.9 per cent for July 2020-June 2021, with 26.5 per cent migration rate in rural areas and 34.9 per cent in urban areas.
- Females recorded a higher share of migration rate of 47.9 per cent, with

48 per cent in rural areas and 47.8 per cent in urban areas. The migration rate for males was seen at 10.7 per cent, with 5.9 per cent in rural areas and 22.5 per cent in urban areas.

- Among females, the highest level of migration rate was seen at 86.8 per cent for marriage, while 49.6 per cent of the males migrated in search of employment, to take up better employment/business/proximity to place of work, or loss of job/closure of unit/lack of employment opportunities.
- During July-June 2020-21, 9.2 per cent persons migrated due to migration of parent/earning member of the family, with 17.5 per cent males and 7.3 per cent females migrating for this reason.

4- (d)

- The core theme of the vision documents is 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everytime' (4Es).
- As per the RBI, total digital payments have increased by 216% and 10% in terms of volume and value, respectively, for the month of March 2022 when compared to March 2019.
- On the other hand, usage of paper instruments has come down significantly during the same period,

with its share in total retail payments registering a decline from 3.83% to 0.88% in terms of volume and from 19.62% to 11.47% in terms of value.

- The PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the Ministry of Education on 17th May, 2020.

5- (d)

- It would supply 50 per cent of its energy needs through renewable sources by 2030.
- Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

7- (c)

- If a country imports more goods (everything from cars to phones to machinery to food grains etc) than it exports, it is said to have a trade account deficit. A deficit implies that more money is going out of the country than coming in via the trade of physical goods. Similarly, the same country could be earning a surplus on the invisibles account — that is, it could be exporting more services than importing.

6- (b)

- The PM eVIDYA has been initiated as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the Ministry of Education.
- Use of ICT under a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA by the Department of School education, Ministry of Education, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic wins UNESCO's recognition.
- Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), a constituent unit of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) under Department of School Education and Literacy (DOSEL), Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India has been awarded with the UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education for the year 2021.

- If, however, the net effect of a trade account and the invisibles account is a deficit, then it is called a current account deficit or CAD. A widening CAD tends to weaken the domestic currency because a CAD implies more dollars (or foreign currencies) are being demanded than rupees.

8- (b)

- They derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of plankton.
- Zooxanthellate corals, meanwhile, are restricted to shallow waters.

- There are about 570 species of hard corals found in India and almost 90% of them are found in the waters surrounding Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The pristine and oldest ecosystem of corals share less than 1% of the earth's surface but they provide a home to nearly 25% of marine life.
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GES
REPORTER