

Q1. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the BrahMos?

1. It is jointly developed by the DRDO and NPOM, an aerospace enterprise of Russia.
2. It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant engine in the first stage and a liquid ramjet in the second.
3. It can be launched from land, water and air.

Select 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: D

Explanation:

In News- Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the BrahMos missile.

Statement 1 is correct: BrahMos missile is a supersonic cruise missile which is jointly developed by the DRDO and NPOM, a leading aerospace enterprise of Russia. Brahmos is named after the rivers Brahmaputra of India and Moskva of Russia.

Statement 2 is correct: BrahMos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine as its first stage which brings it to supersonic speed and then gets separated. The liquid ramjet or the second stage then takes the missile closer to 3 Mach speed in cruise phase.

Statement 3 is correct: It can be launched from submarines, warships, fighter jets or land.

Q2. With reference to the recently released annual "Crime in India" 2019 report, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against the SCs in 2019.

3. Most of the crimes against the women were recorded in the state of Bihar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

In News- The National Crime Record Bureau have recently released a report titled “Crime in India”, 2019.

Statement 1 is not correct: Crime in India Report is published annually by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). It shows the crime statistics in the country.

Statement 2 is correct: According to the finding of the report, the Crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) saw an increase of over 7% and 26% respectively in the year 2019 compared to 2018. o Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against the SCs in 2019, followed by Rajasthan and Bihar.

Statement 3 is not correct: From 2018, the rate of crime against women has risen by 7.3%. India recorded an average of 87 rape cases every day in 2019. Assam reported the highest rate of crimes against women. Uttar Pradesh also had the highest number of crimes against girl children under the POCSO Act, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Q3. With respect to the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), consider the following statements:

- 1. El Nino events are sometimes referred to as the warm and wet half phase of ENSO and La Nina as the cold phase of the ENSO.
- 2. Under the El Nino event, the surface temperature of the Pacific ocean increases more than usual causing heavy rainfalls in Australia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation:

In News- The deviations from the normal surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean can have a large-scale impact on the global weather conditions, and the monsoon climate of the Indian subcontinent also gets affected with these temperature fluctuations.

Statement 1 is not correct: ENSO is a single climate phenomenon, it has three states or phases. The two opposite phases are El Niño and La Niña. El Niño is the warming of the ocean surface, or above-average sea surface temperatures (SST), in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. And, La Niña is basically the opposite of an El Niño: Ocean temperatures along the eastern half of the tropical Pacific cool down and that part of the world dries out.

Statement 2 is not correct: During an El Niño event, the surface of the tropical Pacific Ocean gets warmer than usual, particularly at the equator and along the coasts of South and Central America. Warm oceans lead to low-pressure systems in the atmosphere above, which in turn leads to a lot of rain for the western coasts of South America.

Q4. With reference to the Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a viral hemorrhagic fever mainly caused by the Mosquito Aedes.
2. It is zoonotic in character and can be transmitted to humans through contact with an infected animal.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not correct**?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- Recently, Maharashtra's Palghar district has been put on alert against Congo fever.

Statement 1 is not correct: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a viral infection, usually spread through the bite of a tick. It is caused by a virus named nairovirus, from the family of Bunyaviridae. The disease was first characterized in the Crimea in 1944 and was given the former name. However, in 1969, the virus caused illness in Congo and was named Congo Fever thereafter.

Statement 2 is correct: The virus that causes Congo Fever is a tick-borne virus. Hard ticks, especially from the family of Hyalomma, are a vector for CCHF virus. The virus can be found in various wild and domestic animals. The virus is transmitted to humans through contact with an infected tick, or animal blood. The virus can be transmitted within humans when a healthy person comes in contact with blood, or body fluids from an infected person. Improper sterilization of medical equipment in hospitals, reuse of injection needles, and use of contaminated medical supplies can also lead to transmission.

Q5. Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) is often in the news, consider the following statements in this regard:

1. It is a UN initiated international think tank to resolve the global conscience about terrorism.
2. India is a founding member of GCTF.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

In News- International Energy Security Conference 2020 was recently organised by Global Counter-Terrorism Council (GCTC).

Statement 1 is not correct: GCTF's is international apolitical, multilateral counter-terrorism (CT) platform of 29 countries and European Union (EU) with an overarching mission of reducing the vulnerability of people worldwide to terrorism by preventing, combating, and

prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism. It was launched officially in New York on 22 September 2011.

Statement 2 is not correct: It was launched in 2011. India is a founding member of GCTF. Its mission is to reduce the vulnerability of people worldwide to terrorism by preventing, combating, and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism.

