

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Brucellosis is a viral disease that mainly infects cattles.
2. It is a highly contagious zoonotic disease.
3. It is also known as Mediterranean fever.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

In News- Recently, Several thousand people in northwest China tested positive for the bacterial disease named Brucellosis

Statement 1 is not correct but 2 & 3 are correct: It is a bacterial disease caused by various Brucella species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs among others. It also known as Malta fever or Mediterranean fever. Humans generally acquire the disease through direct contact with infected animals or eating, drinking contaminated animal products or by inhaling airborne agents. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that person-to-person transmission of brucellosis is “extremely rare” but some symptoms may reoccur or never go away.

Q2. A web-form namely 'SPICe+' was in the news recently, it is an initiative of which of the following ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: B

In News- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified and deployed a web-form namely 'SPICE+' as a part of Govt of India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiatives.

Option B is correct: SPICE+ Portal offers 10 services by three Central Government Ministries and Departments (Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance), one State Government (Maharashtra) and various Banks. Thus it saves the procedure, time and cost for Starting a Business in India.

Q3. Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform was launched recently by which of the following organisation?

- (a) G20 Nations
- (b) United Nation
- (c) BRICS
- (d) WWF

Answer: A

In News- During the Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries, the Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform was launched recently.

Option A is correct: It is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at creating a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, innovation and capacity building in all facets of coral reef conservation, restoration, and adaptation, and strengthen ongoing efforts and commitments made to enhance coral reefs conservation and their further degradation.

Q4. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Budapest Convention of 2004?

1. It is an international treaty seeking to address the problem of illegal trade in armaments across the nations.
2. India is a signatory to this convention.

Select 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: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct: The Budapest Convention is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations. It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between State Parties to this treaty.

Statement 2 is not correct: India did not participate in the negotiation of the Convention. India's is concerned due to data sharing with foreign law enforcement agencies as it infringes on national sovereignty.

Q5. With reference to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements:

1. India is one of the founding member states of the bank.
2. India is the second-largest shareholder in AIIB.
3. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.

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: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is an international financial institution proposed by China. It has officially approved 57 nations as prospective founding members, with Sweden, Israel, South Africa, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Portugal and Poland the latest to be included. Countries accepted as AIIB founding members include China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Myanmar, the Philippines, Pakistan, Britain, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany and Spain.

Statement 2 is correct: China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %). The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank.

Statement 3 is correct: AIIB has now grown to 102 approved members overall around the world.

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