

Q1. Indra 2020 is a military exercise between India and which of the following nations?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Russia
- (d) Malaysia

Answer: C

Option C is correct: The 11th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Russian Navy has happened in the Bay of Bengal from 04 and 05 September 2020. It was started in 2003, Ex INDRA NAVY epitomises the long-term strategic relationship between the Indian and the Russian Navy.

Q2. Recently, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) as a trilateral approach to trade was mooted by Japan, it is initially among the which of the following nations?

- (a) India and USA
- (b) Australia and USA
- (c) India and Australia
- (d) India, Australia and USA

Answer: C

Option C is correct: The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) is proposed by Japan as a trilateral approach to trade, with India and Australia. It could also potentially involve other Asian and Pacific Rim nations in the later years. The initiative is at the strategy stage and is expected that participants can realise trade benefits amid COVID-19 and trade tensions between China and the United States threatening supply chains.

Q3. Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to Renati Cholas?

1. They were ruled over Renadu region, present-day Kadapa district in the state of Andhra Pradesh
2. They were originally independent, later forced to the suzerainty of the Eastern Chalukyas.

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: C

Explanation:

In News- A rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district. It was assigned to the 8th Century A.D. when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.

Statement 1 is correct: The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region, the present-day Kadapa district. The earliest of this family was Nandivarman (500 AD). Renandu Cholas were the feudatories of the Chola dynasty.

Statement 2 is correct: They were originally independent, later forced to the suzerainty of the Eastern Chalukyas.

Q4 With reference to BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. BRICS nations have adopted the Brasilia Declaration.
2. New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) are the outcomes of the Johannesburg Declaration.
3. The first summit of BRICS took place in Brazil in 2009.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- Recently, the virtual meeting happened between the member nations of the BRICS nation, they have expressed concern at the rise of violence and continuing conflicts in different parts of the world that have significant impact at both the regional and international levels.

Statement 1 is correct: The 11th BRICS Summit took place from 13th-14th November 2019 in Brasilia, Brazil. The theme of the 2019 BRICS summit is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future." BRICS countries adopted the Brasilia Declaration. BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. In 2001, the British economist, Jim O'Neill, coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.

Statement 2 is not correct: BRICS's New Development Bank and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement agreements signed in Fortaleza in 2014.

Statement 3 is not correct: The BRICS was officially formed in 2006, originally including Brazil, Russia, India and China. Its first summit took place in Russia in 2009.

Q5. With reference to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance established by the Treaty of Brussels.
2. North Macedonia became NATO's latest member in the year 2020.
3. It is headquartered in Washington, USA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is not correct: It is an intergovernmental military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Statement 2 is correct: Since its founding, the admission of new member states has increased the alliance from the original 12 countries to 30. The most recent member state to be added to NATO was North Macedonia on 27 March 2020.

Statement 3 is not correct: It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

Q6. With reference to the ‘Bradykinin storm’ phenomenon, consider the following statements:

1. This phenomenon helps to understand how the virus affects the human body like in case of COVID-19.
2. Bradykinin is a compound that is related to pain sensation and lowering blood pressure in the human body.

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: C

Option C is correct: A supercomputer’s recent analysis of data on the contents collected earlier from the lungs of patients with the COVID-19 infection has showed that a phenomenon called a ‘bradykinin storm’ might explain how the virus works in the body, including some of the more puzzling extreme events. Bradykinin is a compound that is related to pain sensation and lowering blood pressure in the human body. According to the researchers, “SARS-CoV-2 uses a human enzyme called ACE2 like a ‘Trojan Horse’ to sneak into the cells of its host. ACE2 lowers blood pressure in the human body and works against another enzyme known as ACE (which has the opposite effect).” The analyses further found that the virus caused the levels of ACE to fall in the lungs, and consequently pushed up the levels of ACE2.