

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Conscription:**

1. It is a compulsory enrollment for service in a country's armed forces.
2. The Indian constitution has a provision in Article 23 that allows the government to mandate Conscription.
3. In India conscription was mandated in the year 1976 during the emergency period.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Conscription is the compulsory enrollment for service in a country's armed forces.
- It has existed at least from the time of the Egyptian Old Kingdom (27th century BCE).
- The 1st comprehensive nationwide conscription was instituted by the French Republic in the wars following the French Revolution and was institutionalized by Napoleon after he became emperor in 1803.
- India - India has always had a voluntary armed force without any conscription laws.
- The Indian constitution has a provision in Article 23 that allows the government to mandate Conscription in the interest of national security and public welfare.
- However, India has never applied this provision.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA):**

1. All members of the European Union are members of the EFTA.
2. Members of the EFTA are restricted only to the continent of Europe.
3. Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is the agreement that promotes investment between member countries.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- It was set up in 1960 by its then 7 Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.
- Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is a type of trade agreement that aims to promote trade and investment between two or more countries.
- It typically covers a wide range of issues related to trade, including the reduction or elimination of tariffs, the removal of non-tariff barriers, and the facilitation of investment and services trade.
- The TEPA negotiations between EFTA states and India aim to enhance trade and economic cooperation between the two parties.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to the State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) Report, 2024:**

1. It is released biannually by the NITI Aayog.
2. India is the third largest digitized country in the world after the US and China.
3. The ranking is based on the 5 pillars of Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect and Sustain (CHIPS) framework.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: b

Explanation:

- State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) Report, 2024 is released by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
- The report is based on a new approach to measure digitalization by recognizing the scale of the network and depth of use of technology at the economy wide level to arrive at its conclusions.
- Other established global indices that focus entirely on the average users are:
  - E-Government Development Index (EGDI) of the United Nations
  - Network Readiness Index (NRI) of Harvard University
  - ICT Development Index (IDI) of International Telecommunication Union
- The ranking is based on a 5 pillar Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect and Sustain (CHIPS) framework that measures the entire spectrum of digital transformation.
- India is the third largest digitized country in the world after the US and China.
- However, at the level of individual users, India is ranked 12th in terms of digitalization among the G20 countries.

**Q: Which of the following statements corresponds to the term Simian, recently in news:**

- a) Various species of monkeys that live all over the world.
- b) New species of plant that is endemic to Western Ghats.
- c) Disputed island that is located in the South China Sea.
- d) 21 million years old fossil record.

Ans: a

Explanation:

The simians, anthropoids, or higher primates are an infraorder of primates containing all animals traditionally called monkeys and apes.

They are classified into two subdivisions, the platyrrhines (New World monkeys) and the catarrhines (Old World monkeys and apes, including humans).

Simians live all over the world.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Crustaceans:**

1. They are a group of invertebrates with soft exoskeleton and segmented body.
2. All crustaceans are aquatic animals.
3. Crustaceans include squid, mussels and octopus.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Crustaceans are a group of invertebrate animals and make up a very large group of the Arthropods.
- Mostly they are free-living freshwater or marine animals (e.g. Crabs, lobsters, shrimps) but some are terrestrial (e.g. woodlice), some are parasitic (e.g. fish lice) and some do not move (e.g. barnacles).
- They have a hard exoskeleton (carapace), a segmented body that is bilaterally symmetrical, more than four pairs of jointed appendages and an open circulatory system.
- Gills are used for respiration and a pair of green glands are used to excrete wastes.
- Parhyale odian - It is a new species of marine amphipod — a shrimp-like crustacea found in Odisha' Chilika Lake, Asia's biggest brackish water lagoon.

- It has 13 pairs of legs and differs from all other 15 species by having a stout robust seta — a spine-like structure.
- The new species has been named Parhyale odian after Odisha's native language, Odia.
- Amphipods do not have a carapace and also serve as indicators for studying the impact of climate change and health of coastal ecosystem.