



UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs 12-02-2024

Q1:

Consider the following Taxes:

- 1. Securities Transaction tax**
- 2. Corporate Tax**
- 3. Excise Tax**
- 4. Capital Gains Tax**

How many of the above are included in Direct Taxes?

A: Only one

B: Only two

C: All three

D: All four

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Direct Tax Definition:

A tax directly imposed on an individual's income, payable to the government without the ability to transfer it to others.

Direct Taxes in India:

Income Tax:

Imposed on individuals based on earnings, with various tax brackets dictating rates.

Annual filing required, with potential for payment or refund.

Corporate Tax: Applies to companies' profits, with fixed rates set by the government.

Securities Transaction Tax (STT): Levied on securities transactions on recognized stock exchanges, increasing transaction costs.



Capital Gains Tax: This type of direct tax in India is payable on income earned from the sale of investments or assets.

Q2:

Consider the following pairs:

PVTGs	States
Parengi Porja	Andhra Pradesh
Kathodi	Gujarat
Maram Naga	Nagaland
Lodhas	West Bengal

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?

A: Only one pair

B: Only two pairs

C: Only three pairs

D: All four pairs

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

PVTGs	States
Parengi Porja	Andhra Pradesh

Kathodi	Gujarat
Maram Naga	Manipur
Lodhas	West Bengal

Q3:

Consider the following statements regarding PM SVANidhi:

- 1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.**
- 2. The Scheme is available, by law, for beneficiaries belonging to all States/UTs.**

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: (d)

Explanation:

Funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, this Central Sector Scheme aims to support street vendors by offering working capital loans, encouraging timely repayments, and rewarding digital transactions. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**



It introduces a third-term loan of up to ₹50,000 alongside existing loans of ₹10,000 and ₹20,000, all without requiring collateral. Microfinance Institutions, Non-Banking Financial Companies, and Self Help Groups are eligible lending agencies due to their presence among the urban poor. Beneficiaries from states/UTs with enacted schemes under the Street Vendors Act, 2014, including Meghalaya with its own regulations, can participate. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

Q4:

SWATI Portal, recently seen in news, is:

A: an online platform for missing girls

B: an online platform for women in STEMM fields

C: an dashboard for launch of SWATI missiles digitally

D: an online platform for migrants from neighbouring countries

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

"SWATI" (Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation) is an interactive database Portal highlighting Indian women's achievements in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine). Developed by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi, it addresses the gender gap in these fields. SWATI aims to inspire women in STEMM by showcasing their accomplishments nationally and internationally. It fosters collaboration among scientists, researchers, and startups, promoting knowledge sharing and mentorship. By empowering women in STEMM, SWATI strives to create a more inclusive scientific community, encouraging innovation and advancement in science and technology.

Hence option (b) is correct.

Q5:

Which of the following best explains Brumation?

A: Reduced activity and metabolism during harsh conditions, similar to hibernation but shorter.

B: Winter dormancy in reptiles and amphibians to conserve energy.



C: Insect development pauses to sync with environmental changes.

D: Summer dormancy to prevent dehydration, common in hot and dry conditions.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Torpor: A period of reduced activity and metabolic rate, often occurring in response to harsh environmental conditions.

Brumation: Dormancy observed in reptiles and amphibians during colder months to conserve energy due to their dependence on environmental temperature.

Diapause: Interruption of insect development in response to environmental pressures, acting like a pause button on their life cycle to synchronize with favourable conditions.

Aestivation: Dormancy in response to hot and dry conditions, common in summer, aimed at preventing dehydration and involving metabolic slowdown in animals, particularly invertebrates and fish.