

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

May,
2020

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

Geography

Q.1) Which of the following “**River Basin**” is surrounded by Vamsadhara in the north, Champavathi and Peddagedda in the South, Godavari in the West and the Bay of Bengal in the east?

- a) Nagavali Basin
- b) Rushkuliya Basin
- c) Sarada Basin
- d) Subarnarekha Basin

Ans) A

Explanation: The River Nagavali is a medium sized east flowing river in peninsular India. It is surrounded by Vamsadhara in the north, Champavathi and Peddagedda in the South, Godavari in the West and the Bay of Bengal in the east. It drains parts of the districts of Kalahandi, Rayagada, Koraput of Orissa and Sirkakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh State. The total basin area is 9510 Sq. Km. the Nagavali originates near the Lakhbahal in Kalahandi district at an elevation of about 1300 m. The total length of the river run is 256 Km., out of which the first 161 Km., are in Orissa and the rest in Andhra Pradesh. The important tributaries are Barha, Suvarnamukhi, Vonigedda, Vegavathi and Relligedda.

Q.2) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about Andaman & Nicobar Islands?

- a) Duncan passage separates Little Andaman from South Andaman.
- b) Ten Degree Channel separates Great Andaman group from Nicobar group.
- c) Saddle peak in South Andaman is the highest peak.
- d) None.

Ans) C

Explanation: The Andaman Islands are divided into three main islands i.e. North, Middle and South. Duncan passage separates Little Andaman from South Andaman. The Great Andaman group of islands in the north is separated by the Ten Degree Channel from the Nicobar group in the south. Among the Nicobar Islands, the Great Nicobar is the largest. It is the southernmost island and is very close to Sumatra island of Indonesia. The Car Nicobar is the northernmost. Some of the islands are fringed with coral reefs. Many of them are covered with thick forests. Most of the islands are mountainous. Saddle peak (737 m) in North Andaman is the highest peak.

Q.3) “**Taklamakan Desert**” is located in which of the following country?

- a) Argentina
- b) South Africa
- c) Canada
- d) China

Ans) D

Explanation: Takla Makan Desert, Chinese (Pinyin) Taklimakan Shamo great desert of Central Asia and one of the largest sandy deserts in the world. The Takla Makan occupies the central part of the Tarim Basin in the Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang, western China. The desert area extends about 600 miles (960 km) from west to

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east, and it has a maximum width of some 260 miles (420 km) and a total area of approximately 123,550 square miles (320,000 square km). The desert reaches elevations of 3,900 to 4,900 feet (1,200 to 1,500 metres) above sea level in the west and south and from 2,600 to 3,300 feet (800 to 1,000 metres) in the east and north.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Red soils**” in India?

1. Red soil is formed as a result of weathering of metamorphic and igneous rocks.
2. It is rich in nitrogen content but lacks potash, humus and phosphate content.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

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

Ans) A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Red soil is formed as a result of weathering of metamorphic and igneous rocks. The red color of the soil comes from the high percentage of iron content. The soil's texture varies from being sandy to clayey, but it is mainly loamy.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Red soil is rich in potash content but lacks phosphate, humus and nitrogen content. The red soil is found in regions such as Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, some parts of Karnataka and southeast Maharashtra.

Q.5) “**Taptapani hot spring**” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Odisha

Ans) D

Explanation: Taptapani hot spring famous for a perennial hot spring of “**Medicinal Sulfuric Water**” which is located on the State Highways that connects Berhampur with Western Odisha. Being surrounded by a cluster of hills and thick forests, the serenity of nature at Taptapani is added by wonderful sights of sun rise, sun set moon lit night, tribal dance and music, chirps of birds and sight of wild animals.

Q.6) Which of the following is/are tributaries of “**Yamuna River**”?

1. Rishi Ganga Kunta
2. Hanuman Ganga
3. Tons
4. Giri

Choose the correct code from below given options:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) C

Explanation: The River Yamuna, a **major tributary of river Ganges**, originates from the **Yamunotri glacier near Banderpoonch peaks** in the Mussourie range of the lower Himalayas at an elevation of about 6387 meters above mean sea level in district Uttarkashi

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(Uttarakhand). In its first 170 km stretch, the **tributaries Rishi Ganga Kunta, Hanuman Ganga, Tons and Giri join the main river.**

Q.7) “Cho-la” pass is located in which of the following state?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Uttarakand

Ans) A

Explanation: Sikkim is a land of dramatic contours. Rugged mountains, deep valleys and dense forests consort with raging rivers, lakes and waterfalls to create a visual feast. The state has the steepest rise in altitude over the shortest distance and has within its 7,096 sq. kms the entire climatic range, from tropical to temperate to alpine. Located between these towering mountain ranges are **passes like Nathu-la, Jelep-la, Cho-la** and many others which were at one time important corridors of passage between Sikkim and Tibet.

Q.8) “Bhatin, Narwapahar and Turamdih” famous for which of the following?

- a) Bauxite mines
- b) limestone mines
- c) Thorium mines
- d) Uranium mines

Ans) D

Explanation: Jaduguda in Singhbhum Thrust Belt (in the state of Jharkhand, formerly part of Bihar) is the **first uranium deposit to be discovered in the country in 1951**. The discovery of uranium at Jaduguda in this belt paved the way for intensive exploration work and soon a few more deposits were brought to light in this area. Some of these deposits like **Bhatin, Narwapahar and Turamdih are well known uranium mines of the country.**

Q.9) “Apennine Mountain Range” is in which of the following continent?

- a) North America
- b) South America
- c) Antarctica
- d) Europe

Ans) D

Explanation: The Apennine mountain range stretches the length of the Italian Peninsula. In 2000, the Environment Ministry of Italy suggested extending the range to include the mountains of Northern Sicily. This addition would make the range 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) long, tying them in length with the Carpathians. It has one of the most intact ecosystems in the country. These mountains are one of the last natural refuges of the largest European predators like the Italian wolf and Marsican brown bear, which have gone extinct in other regions. The **highest point is Corno Grande at 2,912 meters** (9,553 feet.).

Q.10) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Sea Ice”?

1. It raises sea level when it melts.
2. It is one way that scientists study the effects of climate change.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

- a) 1 only

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

Ans) B

Explanation: Sea ice **forms when water in the oceans is cooled to temperatures below freezing**. Most sea ice forms in the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans. Sea ice:

- **Does not raise sea level** when it melts, because it forms from ocean water.
- Is **closely linked with our planet's climate**, so scientists are concerned about its recent decline.
- Fills a **central role in the lives and customs** of native Arctic people.
- Provides a **place for polar bears, seals, and other animals to live**.
- Is **one way that scientists study the effects of climate change**.

Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to “**Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park**”:

1. Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park is located in Tamil Nadu State.
2. Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park is developed on mythological themes of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, Vedas and Upanishads.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans) B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park has been established on modern concepts of Zoo Management wherein the animals are exhibited in wider and near natural enclosures resembling to their natural habitat. The Park is named after “Sri Venkateswara” the Lord of Seven Hills in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Statement 2 is correct: Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park is developed on Mythological theme. It highlights the role of wild animals in Mythology, ancient texts like the epics of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, Vedas and Upanishads. The message of nature conservation with all its diversity is conveyed emphasizing the role of animal and plant life in Indian culture. Depiction of Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, Narasimha avatharas which are the incarnations of Lord Vishnu at the entrance of the Zoo makes the visitor aware of the mythological theme in which the zoo is developed.

Q.2) “Project REGENERATE” is related to which of the following?

- a) Renewable energy production by least developed countries.
- b) Conservation of Mangroves.
- c) Conservation of Coral Reefs.
- d) Conservation of Soil.

Ans) C

Explanation: Recognising that sound coastal resource management is critical to sustainable development and climate adaptation, the Government of Maldives is developing and implementing policies to protect coral reefs and support marine management. Project REGENERATE is generously funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and works towards building capacity for marine management and climate change adaptation of ecosystems, local communities and government in the Maldives.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are **objectives** of “**Wild Life Protection Act, 1972**”?

1. Prohibition of hunting
2. Establishment of protected areas
3. Prohibition of taxidermy
4. Management of Zoos

Choose the correct code from below given options:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only

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- b) 1, 2, and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) D

Explanation: India has been implementing various laws to save the wildlife and the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 is one of them. THE OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Prohibition of hunting
- Protection and management of wildlife habitats
- Establishment of protected areas
- Regulation and control of trade in parts and products derived from wildlife
- Management of zoos
- WLPA is also against taxidermy, which is the preservation of a dead wild animal as a trophy, or in the form of rugs, preserved skins, antlers, horns, eggs, teeth, and nails.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct about **“Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF)”**?

1. TCAF supports developing countries in planning, implementing, and scaling up their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies.
2. TCAF is funded by World Bank’s Climate Change Fund Management Unit.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

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

Ans) D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) is an international finance facility piloting innovative, results-based carbon market mechanism under Article 6 of Paris Climate Change agreement. TCAF supports developing countries in planning, implementing, and scaling up their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies. As well, TCAF helps shape international carbon markets for the post-Kyoto era.

Statement 2 is correct: World Bank’s Climate Change Fund Management Unit is home to climate finance initiatives that deliver innovative and scalable climate and environmental action. Unit funds Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) to help shape environmental, energy, and climate change policy to reach meaningful scale and create a lasting, transformative social impact.

Q.5) “Rajbari National Park” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Mizoram
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Tripura

Ans) D

Explanation: Bison (Rajbari) National Park is located in the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura, and is one of the most popular National Parks in India. Spread over an area of 31.63 square kilometers, the Bison National Park is rich in its biodiversity. The picturesque surroundings and the wide array of wildlife species make the Bison (Rajbari) National Park

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in Tripura a major wildlife travel destination in India. At the Bison National Park, you will be able to spot different wild animal species such as Indian Gaur (bison), Golden langurs, deer, Pheasants and other rare wildlife species.

Q.6) With reference to the “**Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Asiatic lion is found only in the Gir National park and Sanctuary.
2. Maldharis are religious pastoral communities living in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary.

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

Ans) C

Explanation: Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Statement 1 is correct: Gir forests of Gujarat (India) are **the only place** where this race of lion's i.e. Asiatic lion is found in its natural habitat.

Statement 2 is correct: "Maldharis" are who have survived through the ages by having symbiotic relationship with the lion. They are **religious pastoral communities living in Gir**. Their settlements are called "**nesses**".

Q.7) Consider the following bio-geo-chemical cycles:

1. Phosphorous cycle
2. Nitrogen cycle
3. Sulphur cycle

Which of the above comes under Sedimentary bio-geo-chemical cycle?

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

Ans) C

Explanation: Biogeochemical cycles can be classed as gaseous, in which the reservoir is the air or the oceans (via evaporation), and **sedimentary, in which the reservoir is the Earth's crust**. Gaseous cycles include those of **nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, and water**; sedimentary cycles include those of **iron, calcium, phosphorus, sulphur** and other more earthbound elements.

Q.8) Consider the following protected areas:

1. Kanha
2. Panna
3. Satpuda
4. Sanjay

Which of the above is/are Tiger reserves located in Madhya Pradesh?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Ans) D

Explanation: Madhya Pradesh is also known as the '**Tiger State**' as it harbors **nearly 20%** of India's Wild Tiger Population and nearly 10% of the world's tiger population as per the current estimates. The six Tiger Reserves in MP are:

- Kanha Tiger Reserve
- Pench Tiger Reserve
- Panna Tiger Reserve
- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- Satpuda Tiger Reserve
- Sanjay Tiger Reserve

Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the temperate deciduous forests?

1. They are found between the Polar Regions and the tropics.
2. Temperate deciduous forests have four seasons.

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

Ans) C

Explanation: temperate deciduous forests.

Statement 1 is correct: Temperate deciduous forests are **located in the mid-latitude areas** which means that they are **found between the Polar Regions and the tropics**.

Statement 2 is correct: Temperate deciduous forests are **most notable because they go through four seasons**. Leaves change color in autumn, fall off in the winter, and grow back in the spring; this adaptation allows plants to survive cold winters.

Q.10) Consider the following:

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Methane
3. Nitrous oxide
4. Sulphur dioxide

Which of the above gases are released into the atmosphere due to burning of crop residues?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) C

Explanation: Burning of crop residues emits traces of **carbon dioxide, methane, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide and particulates** which affect human health. It is estimated that India annually emits 1,44,719 mg of total particulate matter from open burning of stubble.

Economy

Q.1) “CAMELS” is a technique for evaluating and rating the operations and performance of which of the following?

- a) Banks
- b) Trade Market
- c) Capital Market
- d) Insurance companies

Ans) A

Explanation: Acronym derived from the terms capital adequacy (C), asset quality (A), management (M), earnings (E), liquidity (L) and systems for control (S). The acronym is used as a technique for evaluating and rating the operations and performance of banks all over the world.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to **“Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)”**:

1. DRTs were created to facilitate the speedy recovery of debt payable to banks and other financial institutions by their customers.
2. DRTs were set up after the passing of SARFAESI Act, 2002.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

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

Ans) A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Debt Recovery Tribunals also known as DRTs were created to facilitate the speedy recovery of debt payable to banks and other financial institutions by their customers. The banks and financial institutions had been facing problems in recovery of loans advanced by them to individual people or business entities. Due to this, the banks and financial institutions started restraining themselves from advancing out loans. There was a need to have an effective system to recover the money from the borrower.

Statement 2 is incorrect: DRTs was set up after the passing of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDBBFI), 1993.

Q.3) Which of the following Statement is **NOT** correct about **“ENGEL’s LAW”**?

1. Law says that people spend a larger part of their budget on food as their income rises.
2. Law says that people spend a smaller part of their budget on luxury items as their income rises.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

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

Ans) C

Explanation: Engel's Law is an economic theory introduced in 1857 by Ernst Engel, a German statistician, stating that the percentage of income allocated for food purchases

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decreases as income rises. As a household's income increases, the percentage of income spent on food decreases while the proportion spent on other goods (such as luxury goods) increases.

Q.4) In economics, “**Fisher effect**” is the relationship between which of the following variables?

- a) Income & Inequality
- b) Growth & Inflation
- c) Trade & Development
- d) Inflation & Interest rate

Ans) D

Explanation: A concept developed by Irving Fisher (1867–1947) which shows relationship between inflation and the interest rate, expressed by an equation popular as the fisher equation, i.e., the nominal interest rate on a loan is the sum of the real interest rate and the rate of inflation expected over the duration of the loan: $R = r + F$; where R = nominal interest rate, r = real interest rate and F = rate of annual inflation.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to “**Local Area Banks (LABs)**”:

- 1. LABs were created to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit framework in the rural and semi-urban areas.
- 2. The minimum start-up capital of a Local Area Bank was fixed at Rs.5crore.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans) C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: In 1996 it was decided to allow the establishment of local banks in the private sector. These banks were expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit framework in the rural and semi-urban areas and provide efficient and competitive financial intermediation services in their area of operation.

Statement 2 is correct: The minimum start-up capital of a LAB was fixed at Rs.5crore. The promoters of these banks were required to bring in the entire minimum share capital up-front. It was also decided that a family among the promoter group could hold equity not exceeding 40% of the capital. The NRI contributions to the equity of the bank were not to exceed 40% of the paid-up capital.

Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct about “**Quantitative Easing**”?

- 1. It is a conventional monetary policy of a Central Bank.
- 2. It led to increase in the interest rates.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

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

Ans) C

Explanation: “Quantitative Easing”.

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Statement 1 is incorrect: Quantitative easing (QE) is a form of **unconventional monetary policy** of a central bank.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In Quantitative Easing central bank purchases longer-term securities from the open market in order to increase the money supply and encourage lending and investment. Buying these securities adds new money to the economy, and also **serves to lower interest rates** by bidding up fixed-income securities.

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to **“Financial Stability Development Council (FSDC)”**:

1. FSDC is an apex level forum set up by Government of India in 2010.
2. Niti Aayog chairman is also the member of FSDC.
3. Council monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy, including functioning of large financial conglomerates.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

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

Ans) C

Explanation: Financial Stability Development Council.

Statement 1 is correct: The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) were set up by the Government as the apex level forum in December 2010.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Chairman of the Council is the **Finance Minister** and its members include **Minister of State, in charge of Department** of Economic Affairs (DEA), the **heads of all Financial Sector Regulators** [Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)], Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), **Secretary**, Department of Revenue (DoR), Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and **Chief Economic Adviser**. Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, in-charge-of Financial Stability & Development Council, is the Secretary of the Council.

Statement 3 is correct: Without prejudice to the autonomy of Regulators, the Council monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy, including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues. It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.

Q.8) Which of the following commodities price index is/are included in the **“FAO Food Price Index”**?

1. Cereal Index
2. Vegetable oil Index
3. Dairy price Index
4. Meat index
5. Sugar Index

Choose the correct code from below given options:

- a) 1, 3 and 5 only
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

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Ans) D

Explanation: The FAO Food Price Index is a measure of the **monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities**. It consists of the average of **five commodity group** price indices (**Cereal, Vegetable oil, Dairy Price, Meat and Sugar indices**), weighted with the average export shares of each of the groups for 2002-2004.

Q.9) Which of the following statements is **NOT** correct about “**Blue chip stocks**”?

- Blue chip stocks are shares of well-recognized companies with a long history of sound financial performance.
- Blue chip stocks generally cost high.
- These are stocks that generally deliver superior returns in the short run.
- India’s leading blue chip companies today are State Bank of India (SBI), Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Coal India, and Reliance Industries.

Ans) C

Explanation: Blue Chip Stocks.

- Blue chip stocks are **shares of very large and well-recognised companies** with a long history of **sound financial performance**. These stocks are known to have capabilities to endure tough market conditions and give high returns in good market conditions.
- Blue chip stocks generally **cost high**, as they have good reputation and are often market leaders in their respective industries.
- Oliver Gingold**, who worked at Dow Jones, coined the phrase ‘Blue Chip’ in 1923. This term came into vogue after Gingold, while standing near the stock ticker at a brokerage firm, noticed that several stocks traded at \$200 or more per share. He called them ‘Blue Chip Stocks’ and wrote an article on them.
- Since then the term has been used to refer to highly-priced stocks, but now it is used more commonly to refer to high-quality stocks. These are **stocks that generally deliver superior returns in the long run**.
- As per market capitalisation, India’s leading blue chip companies today are **State Bank of India (SBI), Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Coal India, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ONGC, ITC, Sun Pharma, GAIL (India), Infosys, and ICICI Bank**.

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to “**Pigovian Tax**”:

- It is a tax placed on any good which creates negative externalities.
- Carbon tax is an example of Pigovian Tax.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) C

Explanation: Pigovian Tax.

Statement 1 is correct: A Pigovian tax is a **tax placed on any good which creates negative externalities**. The aim of a Pigovian tax is to make the price of the good equal to the social marginal cost and create a more socially efficient allocation of resources. It is named after the **economist Arthur Pigou** who developed the concept of externalities in the 1920s.

Statement 2 is correct: A **carbon tax aims to make individuals and firms pay the full social cost of carbon pollution**. In theory, the tax will reduce pollution and encourage more environmentally friendly alternatives.

History

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Major Rock Edicts of Asoka **Importance**

1. Rock Edict I : It Prohibits animal slaughter and bans festive gatherings.
2. Rock Edict III : It mentions and guides about Generosity to Brahmins.
3. Rock Edict V : Ashoka requests tolerance for all religions and sects.

Which of the following is/are **NOT** correctly matched?

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

Ans) D

Explanation: The important major rock edicts of Asoka are:

- **Major Rock Edict I** – It **Prohibits animal slaughter** and bans festive gatherings. He mentions that only two peacocks and one deer were being killed in Asoka’s kitchen which he wanted to be discontinued.
- **Major Rock Edict II** – This edict provides for **care for man and animals**. It also describes the presence of Pandyas , Satyapura and Keralputra Kingdoms of South India.
- **Major Rock Edict III** – It mentions and guides about **Generosity to Brahmins**. This edict was issued after 12 years of Asoka’s coronation
- **Major Rock Edict IV** – It says that **Dhammaghosa (sound of righteousness) is ideal to the mankind and not the Bherighosa** (sound of war)
- **Major Rock Edict V** – It concerns about the **policy of people towards their slaves**. “Dhammamahamatras” are mentioned in this edict as appointees of the state.
- **Major Rock Edict VI** – This describes the **King’s desire to stay informed about the conditions of the people of his regime** constantly. Welfare measures for the people.
- **Major Rock Edict VII** – Ashoka requests **tolerance** for all religions and sects.

Q.2) “**Kaundi Adigal and Manimegalai**” related to which of the following?

- a) Temple construction style
- b) Female ascetics
- c) Ancient books of Sangam age
- d) None

Ans) B

Explanation: The **status of women** in **Sangam society** was not equal to that of men. The Sangam society consisted of different kinds of women. There were married women who had settled down as dutiful housewives. There were **female ascetics** belonging to Buddhist or Jain tradition like **Kaundi Adigal and Manimegalai** and also a large number of courtesans.

Q.3) “*India’s safety, and Britain’s too, lies in the orderly and timely British withdrawal from India*”- said by which of the following?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Subhash Chandra Bose

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- c) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- d) Mahatma Gandhi

Ans) D

Explanation: The **World War II situation** was discouraging in 1942. The **Japanese Army** had attacked Burma and was marching towards Assam. **Mahatma Gandhi** said, "India's safety and Britain's too, lies in the orderly and timely British withdrawal from India." So they decided to launch a movement upon the British to quit India.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to "**Nagara style of architecture**":

1. It Started from 2nd Century A.D in North India.
2. Presence of Mandapas in front of the principle shrine is one of the prominent features of Nagara style.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans) B

Explanation: Nagara Style of Architecture

Statement 1 is incorrect: From **fifth century A.D.** onwards, a distinct style of temple architecture developed in **the northern part of India**, known as the **Nagara style of architecture**.

Statement 2 is correct: Some of the features of Nagara style are:

- The temples generally followed the **Panchayatan style** of temple making, which consisted of subsidiary shrines laid out in a crucified ground plan with respect to the principal shrine.
- **Presence of assembly halls or mandaps** in front of the principal shrine.
- Outside the garbhagriha, **images of the river goddesses**, Ganga and Yamuna, were placed.
- There were **no water tanks or reservoirs** present in the temple premises.

Q.5) "**A Nation in Making**" book written by which of the following personality?

- a) Dadabhai Naoroji
- b) Pherozshah Mehta
- c) Surendranath Banerjee
- d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Ans) C

Explanation: **Sir Surendranath Banerjee** (1848–1925) was one of the founders of modern India and a proponent of autonomy within the British Commonwealth. He served as an **Indian Civil Service officer** till 1874, before becoming a teacher. He founded Ripon College, later renamed after him, in Calcutta and worked on the idea of nationalism. He purchased **The Bengalee**, a newspaper he edited for 40 years to propagate his nationalist viewpoint. He **was twice appointed the president of Indian National Congress**, appealed to the British to modify the 1905 Partition of Bengal, and in 1921 he was knighted and accepted office **as minister of Local Self-government in Bengal**. **He retired to write his autobiography, A Nation in Making in 1925.**

Polity

Q.1) Which of the following is/are “**legislative powers**” of President in India?

1. He can summon or prorogue and dissolve the Lok Sabha.
2. He can preside over the joint sitting of both the houses of Parliament.
3. He can address the Parliament at the commencement of the first session of each year.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

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

Ans) C

Explanation: Legislative powers of President.

- He can **summon or prorogue** the Parliament and **dissolve** the Lok Sabha.
- He can also **summon a joint sitting** of both the Houses of Parliament, which is **presided over by the Speaker** of the Lok Sabha.
- He can **address the Parliament at the commencement of the first session after each general election and the first session** of each year.

Q.2) “**Article 72**” of Indian constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Pardoning Powers of President
- b) Extent of executive power of the Union
- c) Discharge of President’s functions in other contingencies
- d) Council of ministers to aid and advice President

Ans) A

Explanation: Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the **President to grant pardons** to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the:

- Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law;
- Punishment or sentence is by a court martial (military court); and
- Sentence is a sentence of death.

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to “**National Integration Council**”:

1. It constituted in 1971 by Indira Gandhi.
2. Prime Minister is the chairman of the council.

Which of the following statements above is/are **NOT** correct?

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

Ans) A

Explanation: National Integration Council.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The National Integration Council (NIC) was **constituted in 1961**, following a decision taken at a **national conference on “unity in diversity”**, convened by the Central government, at New Delhi.

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Statement 2 is correct: NIC consisted of the **prime minister as chairman**, central home minister, chief ministers of states, seven leaders of political parties, the **chairman of the UGC**, two educationists, the commissioner for SCs and STs and seven other persons nominated by the prime minister.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to “**Southern African Customs Union (SACU)**”:

1. SACU is the world’s oldest customs union.
2. Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland are the member countries of the SACU.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

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

Ans) A

Explanation: Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

Statement 1 is correct: The Southern African Customs Union (SACU), an African regional economic organization, is the **world's oldest customs union**, founded in 1910.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Its members include **Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland**. The five member states maintain a common external tariff, share customs revenues and coordinate policies and decision-making on a wide range of trade issues.

Q.5) Which of the following is/are “**Specialized Agencies**” of United Nations (UN)?

1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
2. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
3. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
4. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Choose the correct code from below given options:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Ans) D

Explanation: UN specialized agencies are international organizations that coordinate their work with the United Nations through negotiated agreements. There are

currently 17 specialized agencies:

- Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (**ICAO**)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (**IFAD**)
- International Labour Organization (**ILO**)
- International Maritime Organization (**IMO**)
- International Monetary Fund (**IMF**)
- International Telecommunications Union (**ITU**)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**)
- Universal Postal Union (**UPU**)

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World Bank Group:

- **IBRD:** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **IDA:** International Development Association
- **IFC:** International Finance Corporation
- World Health Organization (**WHO**)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**)
- World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**)
- World Tourism Organization (**UNWTO**)

Q.6) Which of the following are contained in the form of **oath of the Governor** of India?

1. To faithfully execute the office
2. To preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law
3. To devote himself to the service and well-being of the state
4. To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) A

Explanation: Oath of the Governor: Before entering upon his office, the governor has to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation. In his oath, the governor swears:

- (a) to faithfully execute the office;
- (b) to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law; and
- (c) to devote himself to the service and well-being of the people of the state.

The oath of office to the governor is administered by the chief justice of the concerned state high court and in his absence, the senior-most judge of that court available. Every person discharging the functions of the governor also undertakes the similar oath or affirmation.

Q.7) Consider the following statements about “**Notified area committee**”:

1. It is established by a notification in the government Gazette.
2. At least half of the members in the notified area committee are elected.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: A notified area committee is created for the administration of two types of areas—a fast developing town due to industrialisation, and a town which does not yet fulfil all the conditions necessary for the constitution of a municipality, but which otherwise is considered important by the state government. Since it is established by a notification in the government gazette, it is called as notified area committee.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Its powers are almost equivalent to those of a municipality. But unlike the municipality, it is an entirely nominated body, that is, all the members of a notified area committee including the chairman are nominated by the state government. Thus, it is neither an elected body nor a statutory body.

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Q.8) Article 350B of Indian Constitution has provision relating to which of the following?

- a) Language to be used in representations for redress of grievances.
- b) Special officer for linguistic minorities.
- c) Directive for development of the hindi language.
- d) Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. Later, the States Reorganisation Commission (1953-55) made a recommendation in this regard. Accordingly, the Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350-B in Part XVII of the Constitution.

Q.9) Which of the following country is **not** a member of **Treaty of Asuncion**?

- a) Brazil
- b) USA
- c) Argentina
- d) Uruguay

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Mercosur is a regional integration process. It was created in 1991 by the Treaty of Asunción, which was signed by the heads of state of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Several other countries were later admitted as associate members, and in 2006 the presidents of the four member countries approved full membership for Venezuela. Mercosur is headquartered in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Q.10) Which of the following conventions is/are **Not** signed by India?

1. Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)
2. Comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT)

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

Ans) C

Explanation: The foreign policy of India is opposed to arms race and advocates disarmament, both conventional and nuclear. India has been using the UNO platform to check the arms race and to achieve disarmament. India took the initiative of holding a six-nation summit at New Delhi in 1985 and made concrete proposals for nuclear disarmament.

However, by not signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968 and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) of 1996, India has kept its nuclear options open. India opposes NPT and CTBT due to their discriminatory and hegemonistic nature. They perpetuate an international system in which only five nations (USA, Russia, China, UK and France) can legitimately Posses nuclear weapons.

Science and Technology

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Nuclear Fuel Complex**” (NFC)?

1. NFC is the only organization in India which caters to the fuel requirements of nuclear power reactors.
2. NFC is the only organization in the world today to have a comprehensive manufacturing cycle from ore to core.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

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

Ans) C

Explanation: Nuclear Fuel Complex.

Statement 1 is correct: Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad is an industrial unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. NFC is the **only organization in India** which caters to the fuel requirements of nuclear power reactors.

Statement 2 is correct: Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad was conceived in late 60's as a pivotal **industrial arm of the Department of Atomic Energy** with the mandate to fuel the nuclear power program of Govt. of India. An ISO certified organization, **NFC is the only organization in the world today to have a comprehensive manufacturing cycle from ore to core**, involving processing of both Uranium & Zirconium streams under the same roof.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to “**Vitrification technology**”:

1. It can be used to contain High Level Waste (HLW) of Nuclear Spent Fuel.
2. At present India imports this technology from Russia.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans) A

Explanation: Vitrification Technology.

Statement 1 is correct: The immobilisation of HLW requires the formation of an insoluble, solid waste form that will remain stable for many thousands of years. In general borosilicate glass has been chosen as the medium for dealing with separated HLW. The stability of ancient glass for thousands of years highlights the suitability of borosilicate glass as a matrix material. This type of process, referred to as **vitrification**. Most HLW, other than spent fuel itself, arises in a liquid form from the reprocessing of spent fuel. This **HLW comprises highly-radioactive fission products and some transuranic elements with long-lived radioactivity**. To allow incorporation into the glass matrix the waste is initially calcined (dried) to a granular powder. The product is then incorporated into molten glass, poured into a robust stainless steel canister about 1.3 metres high, and allowed to

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cool, forming a solid matrix. The containers are then welded closed and are ready for storage and final disposal.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India is one of the few countries to have mastered the technology of vitrification. Over the years **BARC has developed the technology for vitrification of HLW**. India has a unique distinction of having operating **vitrification plant at Tarapur and Trombay**. In our existing plant at Trombay vitrification process is essentially batch operation consisting of heating and fusing of pre-concentrated waste and glass forming additives and is carried out in melters based on induction heating.

Q.3) “CODIS” is related to which of the following?

- a) Food Preservation Index
- b) DNA index system
- c) Carbon Dioxide measurement Index
- d) Biomass Index

Ans) B

Explanation: CODIS is the acronym for the **Combined DNA Index System** and is the generic term used to describe the **FBI’s program of support for criminal justice DNA databases as well as the software used to run these databases**. The National DNA Index System or NDIS is considered one part of CODIS, the national level, containing the DNA profiles contributed by federal, state, and local participating forensic laboratories.

Q.4) “JUICE Mission” is going to launch by which of the following Space Agency?

- a) NASA
- b) ROSCOSMOS
- c) French Space Agency
- d) European Space Agency

Ans) D

Explanation: JUICE, also known as the **JUpter ICy moons Explorer**, is a **European Space Agency mission intended to explore Jupiter and three of its icy moons: Europa, Callisto and Ganymede**. A single orbital spacecraft, with no lander, will be the first to orbit Ganymede, and one of a handful of spacecraft to visit the Jupiter system since the 1970s. JUICE is targeted to launch in June 2022 aboard an Ariane 5 spacecraft. It will take more than 7.5 years to get to Jupiter, using gravity assists from Venus and Earth to speed the spacecraft up and get it into the outer solar system. The spacecraft is expected to be inserted in Jupiter's orbit in January 2030, starting a 2.5-year observation session of Jupiter's moons, as well as the planet's atmosphere and magnetosphere.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to “Prithvi Missile”:

1. India's indigenously developed ballistic missile produced by the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
2. It is a surface-to-surface short range ballistic missile.

Which of the following codes below given is correct?

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

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Ans) C

Explanation: Prithvi Missile.

Statement 1 is correct: The Prithvi was India's first indigenously developed ballistic missile produced by the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).

Statement 2 is correct: Prithvi is a road-mobile, surface to surface short range ballistic missile (SRBM) powered by a single-stage, two engines, and liquid-fuel. Development of the Prithvi began in 1983, and it was first tested fired on February 25, 1988.

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