

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

11th - 17th May,
2020

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

History

Q.1) Which of the following Governor General of India introduced the '**Non-Regulation System**'?

- a) Lord William Bentinck
- b) Lord Mayo
- c) Lord Dalhousie
- d) Lord Ellenborough

ANS) C

Explanation: Dalhousie's chief aim was the consolidation of British rule in India. So he adopted the principle of centralization. For the newly acquired territories he devised the 'Non-Regulation System' under which commissioners were appointed to deal with the administrative problems. They were made responsible to the Governor-General in the Council. He handed over all other powers relating to justice, police, and land revenue to the District Magistrates.

Q.2) The term '**mirasdars**' is related to which of the following?

- a) Blacksmith
- b) Security Guards
- c) Village volunteers
- d) Hereditary peasant Proprietors

ANS) D

Explanation: The word **mirasdars** of Arabic origin. As mentioned in the Marathi documents, it refers to hereditary or transferable right or patrimony (bop roti) obtained by descent, purchase, or gift, etc. The **mirasdars were the holders of land under the mirasi tenure**. They owned the village land and could exact rent in money or service from persons who lived on their land.

Q.3) With reference to the changes made with Indian army after 1857 revolt, which of the following statement is **NOT** correct?

- a) The East India Company's European forces were merged with the Crown troops.
- b) The proportion of Europeans to Indians in the army was raised and fixed at one to two in the Bengal Army, Madras and Bombay armies.
- c) European troops were kept in key geographical and military positions.
- d) The older policy of excluding Indians from the officer corps was strictly maintained.

ANS) B

Explanation: The Indian army was carefully reorganized after 1858. Some changes were made necessary by the transfer of power to the Crown. The **East India Company's European forces were merged with the Crown troops**. But the army was reorganized most of all to prevent the recurrence of another revolt. The rulers had seen that their bayonets were the only secure foundation of their rule. Several following steps were taken to minimize, if not completely eliminate, the capacity of Indian soldiers to revolt –

- The domination of the army by its European branch was carefully guaranteed.
- The proportion of Europeans to Indians in the army was raised and fixed at one to two in the Bengal Army and two to five in the Madras and Bombay armies.

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- The **European troops were kept in key geographical and military positions**. The crucial branches of the army like artillery and, later in the 20th century, tanks, and armored corps were put exclusively in European hands.
- The older policy of excluding Indians from the officer corps was strictly maintained. Till 1914, no Indian could rise higher than the rank of a subedar.
- The organization of the Indian section of the army was based on the policy of “balance and counterpoise” or “divide and rule” so as to prevent its chances of uniting again in an anti-British uprising.
- **Discrimination** on the basis of caste, region, and religion was practiced, in recruitment to the army.

Q.4) Tansen who was a great singer and musician resided in whom among the following Mughal ruler?

- a) Aurangzeb
- b) Humayun
- c) Shah Jahan
- d) Akbar

ANS) D

Explanation: Tansen was a vocalist and instrumentalist who created many ragas. He was initially the court singer of King Ram Chand of Rewa State. It is said that Emperor Akbar made him into his own musician after learning about his extraordinary musical skills. He went on to become one of the Navaratnas (Nine Gems) in the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar.

Q.5) The monolithic Bull-capital of Ashoka is found at which of the following place?

- a) Sarnath
- b) Sanchi
- c) Rampurva
- d) Kalinga

ANS) C

Explanation: The bull capital of Ashoka from Rampurva, Bihar, also belonging to the third century B.C. is an interesting study as it is a mixture of Persian and Indian elements. The lotus capital is entirely formalistic. The motifs on the abacus are beautiful decorative elements like the rosette, palmette and the acanthus ornaments, none of them Indian. However, the crowning element of the bull capital, that is the bull proper, is a master-piece of Indian craftsmanship, showing a humped bull, well modelled, with its soft flesh beautifully represented, with its strong legs, sensitive nostrils and the ears cocked as if it were listening.

Economy

Q.1) 'An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations' is a book written by which of the following economist?

- a) Adam Smith
- b) John Maynard Keynes
- c) David Ricardo
- d) John Nash

ANS) A

Explanation: On March 9, 1776, "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations"—commonly referred to simply as "The Wealth of Nations"—was first published. Smith, a Scottish moral philosopher by trade, wrote the book to describe the industrialized capitalist system that was upending the mercantilist system.

Q.2) Which of the following is/are **features of Mixed economy**?

- 1. Co-existence of public and private sector.
- 2. Economic planning.
- 3. Control of monopoly power.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Mixed economy is a golden mixture of capitalism and socialism. Mixed economy has following main features:

- 1. Co-existence of Private and Public Sector
- 2. Personal Freedom
- 3. Private Property is allowed
- 4. Price Mechanism and Controlled Price
- 5. Control of Monopoly Power
- 6. Economic Planning

Q.3) Which of the following is/are the pillars of the '**Gross National Happiness Index**'?

- 1. Decentralization
- 2. Sustainable socio-economic development
- 3. Cultural preservation
- 4. Environmental conservation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: **Gross National Happiness** is a term coined by His Majesty the Fourth King of **Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck** in the 1970s. The concept implies that sustainable

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development should take a holistic approach towards notions of progress and give equal importance to non-economic aspects of wellbeing. The **concept of GNH has often been explained by its four pillars: good governance, sustainable socio-economic development, cultural preservation, and environmental conservation.**

Q.4) The term '**Commanding heights of Indian economy**' is related to which of the following?

- a) Public Sector Undertakings
- b) Agriculture
- c) Public Sector Banks
- d) Foreign capital

ANS) A

Explanation: India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, inspired by the then Soviet Union-pioneered model of state sponsored growth, who mooted the idea of placing the government—and within it the **state-owned and state-run PSUs**—as the **commanding heights of the Indian economy**. It was documented in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 and found articulation in the benchmark Second Five Year Plan. Till the beginning of the 1980s, the PSUs continued to be the commanding heights.

Q.5) Which of the following is/are part of **core industries group** in India?

- 1. Steel
- 2. Cement
- 3. Coal
- 4. Petrol
- 5. Natural gas

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: The eight core industries, including coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity, comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Q.6) The term '**Monnet plan**' is related to which of the following?

- a) Germany
- b) Russia
- c) United Kingdom
- d) None

ANS) D

Explanation: After converting to a mixed economy by the mid-1940s, **France commenced its first six year plan in 1947, which got popularity as the Monnet Plan** (he was the first chairman of the General Planning Commission and the then Cabinet Minister for planning in France).

Q.7) With reference to the '**Gandhian plan**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

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1. It was prepared by Lala Sri Ram.
 2. The Plan laid more emphasis on agriculture, cottage and village-level industries.
- 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) B

Explanation: Gandhian plan.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Espousing the spirit of the Gandhian economic thinking, Sriman Narayan Agarwal formulated The Gandhian Plan in 1944.

Statement 2 is correct: The plan laid more emphasis on agriculture. Even if he referred to industrialisation, it was to the level of promoting cottage and village-level industries.

Q.8) 'Kheragat Report' is related to which of the following?

- a) Primary Health
- b) Cottage industries
- c) Rural credit
- d) Agriculture development

ANS) D

Explanation: The idea for the need of a planned development of India became more and more popular by the decade of the 1940s. It was under this popular pressure that the Government of India started taking some planned actions in this direction. In the 1940, we see several area-specific reports being published. Area wise Report which associated with planning like Gadgil Report on Rural Credit, **Kheragat Report on Agricultural Development**, Krishnamachari Report on Agricultural Prices, Saraiya Report on Cooperatives.

Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct about 'Fifth five year plan'?

1. The time period for Fifth five year plan was 1974-79.
2. Plan focus was on growth and employment.
3. Plan was abruptly ended before completing its tenure.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: The fifth **Plan (1974–79) has its focus on poverty alleviation and self-reliance**. The Janata Party came to power with a thumping victory in 1977. As the government of the time had then complete say in the central planning in India, how could the new government continue with the Fifth Plan of the last government which had still more than one year to reach its completion.

Q.10) With reference to the 'District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established in 1980.

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2. It has been the principal organ at the District level to oversee the implementation of different poverty alleviation programmes.

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: DRDA.

Statement 1 is correct: The Centre established DRDA in 1980.

Statement 2 is correct: The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) has traditionally been the principal organ at the District level to oversee the implementation of different poverty alleviation programmes.

Q.11) The term “**J-curve effect**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Inflation
- b) Economic growth
- c) Balance of trade
- d) Sustainable development

ANS) C

Explanation: The J-curve effect is often cited in economics to describe, for instance, the way that a **country's balance of trade** initially worsens following a devaluation of its currency, then quickly recovers and finally surpasses its previous performance.

Q.12) With reference to the “**Indian Depository Receipts (IDR)**”, which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct?

- 1. IDR is a mechanism that allows investors in India to invest in listed foreign companies.
- 2. IDRs are denominated in Indian Rupees and issued by a Domestic Depository in India.

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) D

Explanation: Indian Depository Receipts (IDR).

Statement 1 is correct: An IDR is a mechanism that allows investors in India to invest in listed foreign companies, including multinational companies, in Indian rupees. IDRs give the holder the opportunity to hold an interest in equity shares in an overseas company.

Statement 2 is correct: IDRs are denominated in Indian Rupees and issued by a Domestic Depository in India. They can be listed on any Indian stock exchange. Anybody who can invest in an IPO (Initial Public Offer) is/are eligible to invest in IDRs.

Q.13) “Programme for Country Partnership (PCP)” is related to which of the following?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) UNIDO
- c) World Bank
- d) WEF

ANS) B

Explanation: The **PCP is UNIDO's innovative model for accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States**. Aligned with the national development agenda and focused on sectors with high growth potential, the programme supports a country in achieving its industrial development goals. The PCP rests on a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the host government. It builds synergies with ongoing government and partner interventions relevant to industrial development. **The PCP is also designed to leverage additional investment in selected priority sectors**. As such, it is a model that facilitates the mobilization of partners and resources to achieve larger development impact. For **UNIDO, the PCP serves to operationalize the Organization's mandate and SDG 9**. At the same time, it is a model that can be used to implement other SDGs too.

Q.14) With reference to the “**Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS)**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established in 2018.
2. Its main focus is harnessing the Fourth Industrial Revolution's transformation of manufacturing to the regeneration of the global economy.
3. It is a Joint initiative of WEF, UNIDO and United Arab Emirates.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: The Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) was established in 2015 to build bridges between manufacturers, governments and NGOs, technologists, and investors and to harness the Fourth Industrial Revolution's transformation of manufacturing to enable the regeneration of the global economy. A joint initiative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), GMIS is a platform that presents the manufacturing sector with an opportunity to contribute towards global good.

Q.15) “**External Sector Report**” is released by which of the following?

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) International Monetary Fund

ANS) D

Explanation: The **External Sector Report, produced annually since 2012, is a key part of the IMF's surveillance**. External assessments are arrived at by integrating multilateral and country-specific perspectives, while ensuring individual economy assessments add up to a coherent, multilaterally consistent view.

Q.16) The term “**Seigniorage**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Inflation tax
- b) Corporate tax
- c) Banking tax
- d) None

ANS) A

Explanation: Inflation erodes the value of money and the people who hold currency suffer in this process. As the governments have authority of printing currency and circulating it into the economy (as they do in the case of deficit financing), this act functions as an income to the governments. This is a situation of sustaining government expenditure at the cost of people's income. This looks as if inflation is working as a tax. That is **how the term inflation tax is also known as seigniorage**. It means, inflation is always the level to which the government may go for deficit financing—level of deficit financing is directly reflected by the rate of inflation.

Q.17) “A graphic curve which advocates a relationship between inflation and unemployment in an economy”- describes which of the following?

- a) Gini-coefficient
- b) Laffer Curve
- c) Lorenz curve
- d) Phillips curve

ANS) D

Explanation: Phillips curve is a graphic curve which advocates a relationship between inflation and unemployment in an economy. As per the curve there is a ‘trade off’ between inflation and unemployment, i.e., an inverse relationship between them. The curve suggests that lower the inflation, higher the unemployment and higher the inflation, lower the unemployment. During the 1960s, this idea was among the most important theories of the modern economists. This concept is known after the economists who developed it—Alban William Housego Phillips (1914–75).

Q.18) With reference to the “**effects of inflation**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Inflation redistributes wealth from creditors to debtors.
2. Rising inflation indicates rising aggregate demand.

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: There are multi-dimensional effects of inflation on an economy both at the micro and macro levels. It redistributes income, distorts relative prices, destabilizes employment, tax, saving and investment policies, and finally it may bring in recession and depression in an economy.

Statement 1 is correct: Inflation redistributes wealth from creditors to debtors, i.e., lenders suffer and borrowers benefit out of inflation.

Statement 2 is correct: Rising inflation indicates rising aggregate demand and indicates comparatively lower supply and higher purchasing capacity among the consumers.

Q.19) “**Veblen Effect**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Theory of Production
- b) Theory of Supply
- c) Theory of Consumption
- d) Theory of Exchange

ANS) C

Explanation: Named after the **American economist Thorstein Bunde Veblen (1857–1929), this is a theory of consumption** which suggests that consumers may have an 'upward-sloping demand curve' as opposed to a 'downward-sloping demand curve' because they practice conspicuous consumption (a downward - sloping demand curve means that the quantity demanded varies inversely to the price i.e. demand falls with price rise).

Q.20) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**small finance banks**”?

1. Small finance banks are universal banks.
2. Small Finance Banks was recommended by the Nachiket Mor committee on financial inclusion.

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) B

Explanation: Small finance banks.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Differentiated Banks (niche banks) are banks that serve the needs of a certain demographic segment of the population. **Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks are examples of differentiated banks in India.**

Statement 2 is correct: Small Finance Banks was recommended by the Nachiket Mor committee on financial inclusion.

Polity

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the '**Regulating Act of 1773**'?

1. The Act laid the foundations of central administration in India.
2. The Act provided for the establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta and Madras.
3. The Act permitted the servants of the Company to participate in private trade.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Features of the Regulating act of 1773:

- It designated the Governor of Bengal as the 'Governor-General of Bengal' and created an Executive Council of four members to assist him. The first such Governor-General was Lord Warren Hastings.
- It made the governors of Bombay and Madras presidencies subordinate to the governor-general of Bengal (Centralization), unlike earlier, when the three presidencies were independent of one another.
- It provided for the **establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta (1774)** comprising one chief justice and three other judges.
- It **prohibited** the servants of the Company from engaging in any private trade or accepting presents or bribes from the 'natives'.
- It **strengthened the control of the British Government** over the Company by requiring the Court of Directors (governing body of the Company) to report on its revenue, civil, and military affairs in India.

Q.2) With reference to the '**Constituent Assembly**', which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct?

1. It was constituted according to the principles of Cripps mission.
2. The representatives of princely states were elected by the people on limited franchise.

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 Constituent Assembly.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the **Cabinet Mission Plan**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The representatives of princely states were to be **nominated** by the heads of the princely states.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are '**unitary features**' of Indian union?

1. Single Constitution
2. Integrated Judiciary

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3. Flexibility of Constitution

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: The Indian Constitution also contains a large number of unitary or non-federal features, viz., a strong Centre, single Constitution, single citizenship, flexibility of Constitution, integrated judiciary, appointment of state governor by the Centre, all-India services, emergency provisions, and so on.

Q.4) With reference to the 'Indian Constitution', which of the following features is/are borrowed from Australian Constitution?

- 1. Freedom of trade.
- 2. Joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament
- 3. The language used in the Preamble

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: The features borrowed from Australian Constitution are:

- Concurrent List
- Freedom of trade
- Commerce and intercourse
- Joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament
- The language used in the Preamble

Q.5) With reference to the 'Preamble', which of the following words is/are found in the Original Preamble?

- 1. Justice
- 2. Liberty
- 3. Fraternity
- 4. Socialist

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: The Preamble is called the introduction letter of the Indian Constitution. The preamble was amended by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1976, in which three new words Socialist, Secular, and Integrity were added.

Q.6) 'Article 3' of Indian constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Citizenship

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- b) Name and territory of the union
- c) Formation of new states
- d) Definition of state

ANS) C

Explanation: Article 3 authorizes the Parliament to:

- form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state,
- increase the area of any state,
- diminish the area of any state,
- alter the boundaries of any state, and
- alter the name of any state.

Q.7) The term '**Coffee Club**' is related to which of the following?

- a) Informal group of coffee exporting countries.
- b) Informal group to promote UN permanent security membership.
- c) Informal group that is holding back reforms to the United Nations Security Council.
- d) Informal group to promote indigenous coffee production.

ANS) C

Explanation: An informal "coffee club", comprising 40-odd member states, has been instrumental in holding back reforms to the United Nations Security Council over the past six years. Most members of the club are middle-sized states who oppose bigger regional powers grabbing permanent seats in the UN Security Council. The prime movers of the club include Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Argentina and Pakistan. While Italy and Spain are opposed to Germany's bid for Security Council's permanent membership, Pakistan is opposed to India's bid. Similarly, Argentina is against Brazil's bid and Australia opposes Japan's. Canada and South Korea are opposed to developing countries, often dependent on their aid, wielding more power than them at the UN.

Q.8) '**Article 267**' of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Consolidated fund of India
- b) Public Account of India
- c) Contingency fund of India
- d) National Disaster Fund of India

ANS) C

Explanation: The Constitution of India provides for the following three kinds of funds for the Central government:

1. Consolidated Fund of India (Article 266)
2. Public Account of India (Article 266)
3. Contingency Fund of India (Article 267)

Q.9) With reference to the '**Department of Political and Peace-building Affairs (DPPA)**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It plays a central role in United Nations efforts to prevent deadly conflict and build sustainable peace around the world.
2. It was established on 1 January 2019 following the reform of the United Nations peace and security infrastructure.

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: Department of Political and Peace-building Affairs (DPPA).

Statement 1 is correct: The Department of Political and Peace-building Affairs (DPPA) plays a central role in United Nations efforts to prevent deadly conflict and build sustainable peace around the world. DPPA monitors and assesses global political developments with an eye to detecting potential crises and devising effective responses. The Department provides support to the Secretary-General and his envoys in their peace initiatives, as well as to UN political missions around the world.

Statement 2 is correct: The Department was established on 1 January 2019 following the reform of the United Nations peace and security infrastructure, which brought together the former Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the United Nations Peace-building Support Office.

Q.10) With reference to the 'UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It promotes financial inclusion in least developed countries.
2. UNCDF contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 17 on the means of implementation.

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: UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF): The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) **makes public and private finance work for the poor** in the world's 47 least developed countries.

Statement 1 is correct: UNCDF's financing models work through two channels: **financial inclusion** that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives; and by showing how localized investments—through fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance—can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development.

Statement 2 is correct: By strengthening how finance works for poor people at the household, small enterprise, and local infrastructure levels, **UNCDF contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 17 on the means of implementation.**

Science and technology

Q.1) The term '**Pat-INFORMED**' is related to which of the following?

- a) WEF
- b) World Bank
- c) AIIB
- d) WIPO

ANS) D

Explanation: The **Patent Information Initiative for Medicines (Pat-INFORMED)** provides a service to the global health community, particularly those involved in procurement of medicines, by facilitating easy access to medicine patent information. The data is provided directly by the biopharmaceutical companies and **hosted by WIPO**.

Q.2) Which of the following treaty/convention is related to the Protection of the Olympic Symbol against the use for commercial purpose?

- a) Nairobi Treaty
- b) Washington Treaty
- c) Paris Convention
- d) Rome Convention

ANS) A

Explanation: All States party to the **Nairobi Treaty** are under the obligation to protect the Olympic symbol – five interlaced rings – against use for commercial purposes (in advertisements, on goods, as a mark, etc.) without the authorization of the International Olympic Committee.

Q.3) 'Project Devil' is initiated by Defense Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) to develop which of the following?

- a) Indigenous air-craft carrier
- b) Stealth Frigates
- c) Surface Radars
- d) Missile development

ANS) D

Explanation: During the 1970s, the DRDL started two other **missile programs** Project Valiant and Project Devil. Project Valiant attempted to develop a long-range ballistic missile and Project Devil tried to reverse engineer a Soviet SA-2 surface-to-air missile.

Q.4) Which of the following countries have signed Civil Nuclear Agreement with India?

1. Czech Republic
2. Japan
3. United Kingdom
4. Namibia
5. Israel

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

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

ANS) D

Explanation: India's civil nuclear accords aim to develop mutually beneficial economic, scientific and technical cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. **There are 14 countries with which India has forged such agreements: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Russia, South Korea, United Kingdom, US and Vietnam.** A central tenet of these agreements is the focus on the "peaceful purposes" of nuclear power; this entails the "use of information, nuclear material, equipment or components in such fields as research, power generation, medicine, agriculture and industry."

Q.5) With reference to the 'Heavy water (D2O)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is used as both coolant and moderator in the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).
 - 2. India is the largest importer of Heavy Water in the world.
- 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: A

Explanation: Heavy water is nothing but D2O. Its uses are as a coolant as well as moderator in Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs). India is the largest producer of best quality Heavy Water in the world and is not only meeting in-house Heavy water requirements for the Indian Nuclear Power Program but is also exporting to various countries.

Q.6) The term 'sesbania rostrata' is related to which of the following?

- a) Green manure crop
- b) Wild banana
- c) High yield mango
- d) Wild tamarind

ANS) A

Explanation: Using radiation induced mutations and/or hybridization, **Sesbania rostrata crops is being carried out by Baba Atomic Research Centre (BARC).** A late flowering mutant (TSR-1) in Sesbania has been developed with the potential to produce more biomass before flowering and offers an excellent material for **green manuring.**

Q.7) The term 'MELISA' is related to which of the following?

- a) Satellite mission
- b) Blood test
- c) Malaria eradication in Eastern Africa
- d) None

ANS) B

Explanation: MELISA is an **optimized, clinically validated blood test** which establishes allergy to a number of different metals from a single blood test. MELISA can also diagnose active Lyme disease.

Q.8) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about Shourya Missile?

- a) It is a hypersonic missile.
- b) Shourya missile is the land-variant of India's K-15 missile.
- c) Its operational range is more than 3000km.
- d) None.

ANS) C

Explanation: The Shaurya is a **hypersonic surface-to-surface ballistic missile**, developed by Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) of India. It is one of the top 10 missiles in its class with advanced navigation systems, propulsion system and control technologies. The **Shaurya is actually a land variant of Indian K-15 submarine launched missile**. The Shaurya is 6.2 t canister launched missile, with a 10 m length, and 0.74 m diameter. It boasts **an intermediate operational range of 700 to 1900 km** and a payload weight of 180 to 1000 kg.

Q.9) With reference to the '**Sophia- human-like robot**', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. She is the world's first robot citizen.
- 2. She is the first robot Innovation Ambassador for the UNDP.

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: Hanson Robotics' most **advanced human-like robot, Sophia**, personifies our dreams for the future of AI. As a unique combination of science, engineering, and artistry, Sophia is simultaneously a human-crafted science fiction character depicting the future of AI and robotics, and a platform for advanced robotics and AI research. The character of Sophia captures the imagination of global audiences. **She is the world's first robot citizen and the first robot Innovation Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme.**

Q.10) Which of the following statements is/are correct about '**Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act**'?

- 1. The act was enacted in 2001.
- 2. Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority was established in 2005.

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: Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act.

Statement 1 is correct: India enacted the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act in 2001 for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new plant varieties.

Statement 2 is correct: Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority was established in New Delhi in November, 2005 as per provision under the Act. The Authority

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has made landmark achievement in last ten years. Registration of plant varieties was started by the Authority with twelve crop species in 2007 and now 114 crop species are covered under the umbrella of PPV&FRA for granting IPR.

ForumIAS

Geography

Q.1) With reference to the 'Major ports in India', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Kolkata port is the only riverine port in India.
2. Vishakhapatnam port is India's deepest land locked port.

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: Major ports in India.

Statement 1 is correct: Kolkata is the **only riverine major port** in India. Known for twin dock systems viz., Kolkata Dock System (KDS) on the eastern bank and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) on the western bank of river Hooghly.

Statement 2 is correct: Vishakhapatnam is India's deepest landlocked port handling crude oil and petroleum products.

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about 'Golden Quadrilateral'?

1. It is a network of highways connecting India's four top metropolitan cities, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, thereby, forming a quadrilateral.
2. It was launched in 2001 as part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

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: Golden Quadrilateral.

Statement 1 is correct: Golden Quadrilateral is a network of highways connecting India's four top metropolitan cities, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, thereby, forming a quadrilateral.

Statement 2 is correct: The largest highway project in India, the Golden Quadrilateral project was **launched in 2001** as part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

Q.3) With reference to the 'rubber cultivation in India', which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct?

1. It grows well in temperature conditions between 15-25 degrees centigrade.
2. Rainfall should be between 200 cm and 400 cm.

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) A

Explanation: Rubber cultivation in India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Rubber grows well in places whose temperature does not go below 21 degrees centigrade, and where humidity and heat is quite high. It grows well in temperature conditions between 25 to 35 degrees centigrade.

Statement 2 is correct: Rainfall should be between 200cm and 400cm. It should not be less than 152cm. Rainfall must be fairly evenly distributed throughout the year because strong seasonal rainfall is unsustainable. Long dry spell and low temperature are very harmful for the crop.

Q.4) Which of the following crops is/are grown in 'kharif season'?

1. Rice
2. Maize
3. Jute
4. Mustard

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: The kharif crops are associated with the Southwest Monsoon. They are sown in the months of June and July and harvested in autumn months, i.e., in September and October. **Important kharif crops are rice, jowar, bajra, ragi, maize, sugarcane, cotton and jute.**

Q.5) 'Charmanvati' is the ancient name of which of following River?

- a) Yamuna River
- b) Sabarmati River
- c) Tapti River
- d) Chambal River

ANS) D

Explanation: The **Chambal River, called Charmanvati in ancient times**, is the largest of the rivers flowing through and Rajasthan State. This is a major tributary of Yamuna which is 960 km long. Located in Central India, the river comprises a significant portion of the Greater Gangetic Drainage System.

Q.6) The term 'Ekman Spiral' is related to which of the following?

- a) Milky Way
- b) Cyclone
- c) Coriolis Effect
- d) Jet stream

ANS) C

Explanation: The Ekman spiral, named after Swedish scientist Vagn Walfrid Ekman (1874-1954) who first theorized it in 1902, is a consequence of the Coriolis Effect. When surface water molecules move by the force of the wind, they, in turn, drag deeper layers of water molecules below them. Each layer of water molecules is moved by friction from the shallower layer, and each deeper layer moves more slowly than the layer above it, until the

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movement ceases at a depth of about 100 meters (330 feet). Like the surface water, however, the deeper water is deflected by the Coriolis Effect-to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere. As a result, each successively deeper layer of water moves more slowly to the right or left, creating a spiral effect. Because the deeper layers of water move more slowly than the shallower layers, they tend to “twist around” and flow opposite to the surface current.

Q.7) Which of the following is **NOT** a cold ocean current?

- a) Canary Current
- b) Kuroshio Current
- c) California Current
- d) Benguela Current

ANS) B

Explanation: Cold currents flow toward the equator on the eastern side of ocean basins. Examples of cold ocean currents include the Canary Current in the North Atlantic, the California Current in the North Pacific, and the Benguela Current in the South Atlantic.

Q.8) Which of the following landmasses are separated by ‘**Bass Strait**’?

- a) Australia and Tasmania Islands
- b) South Korea and Japan
- c) United Kingdom and France
- d) Mexico and Cuba

ANS) A

Explanation: The Bass Strait is a sea strait separating Tasmania from the south of the Australian mainland, specifically the state of Victoria. The strait was named after George Bass after he and Matthew Flinders passed through it while circumnavigating Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) in the Norfolk in 1798-99. At Flinders’ recommendation in 1800, the Governor of New South Wales named the stretch of water between the mainland and Tasmania “Basses Strait”. Later it became known as Bass Strait.

Q.9) ‘Shipki La’ pass is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Shipki La is a mountain pass and border post on the India-Tibet border. It is **located in Kinnaur district in the state of Himachal Pradesh**, India, and Tibet Autonomous Region in People’s Republic of China. Sutlej River enters India (from Tibet) through this pass. It is an offshoot of the ancient Silk Road. It is a border post for trade with China.

Q.10) Consider the following statements about National Waterways in India:

1. National Waterway Number 1 (NW 1) is located on Ganga river between Agra and Haldia.
2. National Waterway Number 6 (NW 6) is located on Yamuna river between Delhi and Allahabad.

Which of the above given statement is/are **not** correct?

- a) 1 only

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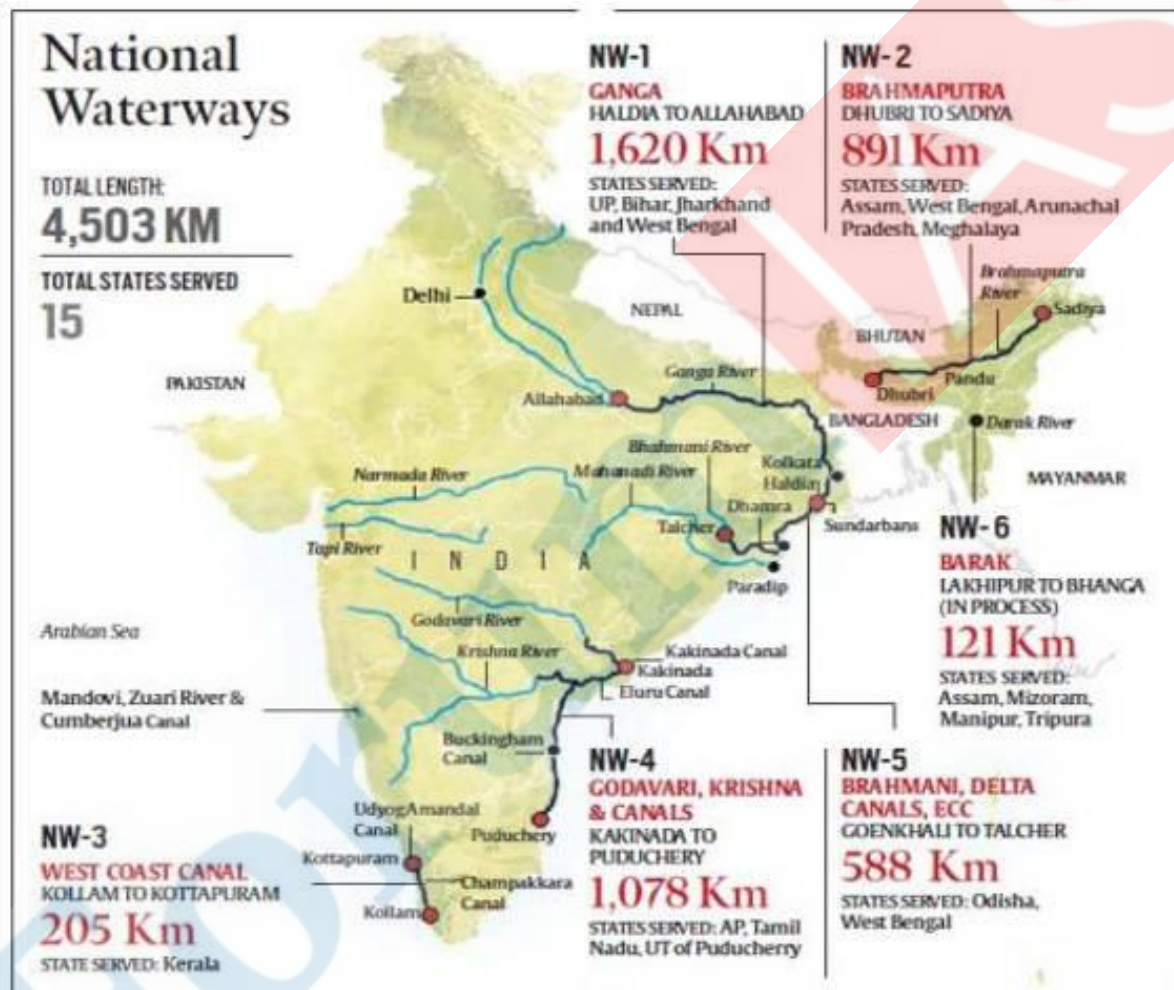
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS) C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: National waterway Number 1 is on the Ganga - Bhagirathi - Hooghly river system between Haldia (Sagar) & Allahabad (1620 km).

Statement 2 is incorrect: National Waterway Number 6 is located on Barak river between Lakhimpur and Bhanga.



Environment

Q.1) With reference to the '**Kaziranga National Park**', which of the following statements is/are **NOT** correct?

1. Kaziranga National Park was formed in 1908 on the recommendation of Mary Curzon.
2. Park is located in the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots – Golaghat and Nagaon district.
3. The park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None

ANS) D

Explanation: One of the most sought after wildlife holiday destinations in India, Kaziranga National park's 430 square kilometer area sprinkled with elephant-grassy meadows, swampy lagoons, and dense forests is home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros, approximately 2/3rd of their total world population. **Formed in 1908** on the recommendation of **Mary Curzon**, the park is located in the **edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots – Golaghat and Nagaon district**. In the year **1985**, the park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Q.2) Which of the following countries is/are part of **coral triangle**?

1. Indonesia
2. Australia
3. Malaysia
4. The Philippines

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 only

ANS) B

Explanation: The Coral Triangle is one of the most important reef systems in the world. It covers 132,636 km across six countries; Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. It occupies just 1.5% of the world's total ocean area, but represents 30% of the world's coral reefs.

Q.3) The term '**Morges Manifesto**' is related to which of the following?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNFCCC
- c) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- d) Global environment facility

ANS) C

Explanation: WWF came into existence on 29 April 1961, when a small group of passionate and committed individuals signed a declaration that came to be known as the **Morges Manifesto**.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Autotrophs”?

1. 2 Autotrophs form the base of an ecosystem’s energy pyramid.
2. Green algae, archaeobacteria and plants are the examples of Autotrophs.

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: Autotrophs.

Statement 1 is correct: Autotrophs are organisms that can produce their own food, using materials from inorganic sources. The word “autotroph” comes from the root words “auto” for “self” and “troph” for “food.” **They form the base of an ecosystem’s energy pyramid**, and provide the fuel that all the heterotrophs (organisms that must get their food from others) need to exist.

Statement 2 is correct: Plants, Green algae, and bacteria or archaeobacteria are the examples of autotrophs.

Q.5) “Faith for Earth” initiative is launched by which of the following?

- a) UNEP
- b) IUCN
- c) UNFCCC
- d) World Bank

ANS) A

Explanation: Following a series of initiatives and conventions organized in partnership with faith-based organizations, **UN Environment launched the Faith for Earth Initiative in November 2017**. The goal of Faith for Earth is to strategically engage with faith-based organizations and partner with them to collectively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and fulfill the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. Faith for Earth has three main goals: to inspire and empower faith organizations and their leaders to advocate for protecting the environment, to green faith-based organizations’ investments and assets to support the implementation of SDGs, and to provide them with knowledge and networks to enable their leaders to effectively communicate with decision-makers and the public.

Q.6) With reference to the “Ganga Action Plan (GAP)”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Ganga action plan was launched by Indira Gandhi in 1981.
2. Resource recovery options like production of methane for energy generation is the objective of GAP.

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) B

Explanation: The Ganga action plan was, launched by Shri Rajeev Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India on 14 Jan. 1986 with the main objective of pollution abatement, to improve the water quality by Interception, Diversion and treatment of domestic sewage and present toxic and industrial chemical wastes from identified grossly polluting units entering in to the river. The other objectives of the Ganga Action Plan are as under.

- Control of non-point pollution from agricultural runoff, human defecation, cattle wallowing and throwing of un-burnt and half burnt bodies into the river.
- Research and Development to conserve the biotic, diversity of the river to augment its productivity.
- New technology of sewage treatment like Up-flow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket (UASB) and sewage treatment through afforestation has been successfully developed.
- Rehabilitation of soft-shelled turtles for pollution abatement of river have been demonstrated and found useful.
- Resource recovery options like production of methane for energy generation and use of aquaculture for revenue generation have been demonstrated.
- To act as trend setter for taking up similar action plans in other grossly polluted stretches in other rivers.

Q.7) “One Number- One Colour-One Description” is related to which of the following?

- a) Water Pollution
- b) Air Pollution
- c) Noise Pollution
- d) All of the above

ANS) B

Explanation: The Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change launched ‘The National **Air Quality Index**’ (AQI) in New Delhi. The Air Quality Index is considered as ‘**One Number- One Colour-One Description**’ for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity.

Q.8) “Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI)” is related to which of the following convention?

- a) Stockholm Convention
- b) Rotterdam Convention
- c) Vienna Convention
- d) Basel Convention

ANS) D

Explanation: The total mass of all mobile phones produced worldwide is tens of thousands of tonnes per year, and accessories represent tens of thousands of tonnes more. Also, the fastest-growing markets for new and used mobile phones are in many developing countries. The result of that growth is waste when such phones reach the end of their lives. The issue of wastes from discarded mobile phones is, therefore, a significant one due to their sheer quantity globally and the possibility of pollution as well as the loss of valuable resources. In 2002 the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) was launched, when the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention established a working group consisting of experts from Parties and Signatories interested in a sustainable partnership on the environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile telephones as well as representatives of mobile phone manufacturers and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

Q.9) “Chirang- Ripu Elephant Reserve” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Manipur
- d) Mizoram

ANS) B

Explanation: Ripu and Chirang are vital habitats that serve as a corridor linking Manas National Park, Assam with Buxa in West Bengal, and also the forests of Bhutan, especially important for Asian Elephants *Elaphas maximus*. These forests are already part of the **Chirang- Ripu Elephant Reserve of Assam**.

Q.10) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscape**”?

- 1. It is a multilateral fund supported by donor governments.
- 2. It promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+).

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: BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL).

Statement 1 is correct: The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) is a multilateral fund, supported by donor governments and managed by the World Bank.

Statement 2 is correct: It promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+), and from sustainable agriculture, as well as smarter land-use planning, policies and practices.