

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

22nd to 28th June,  
2020

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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## History

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**Q.1)** The term “**Godkaris**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Tax collectors
- b) Village heads
- c) Temple priests
- d) Army personnel

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** The hardships caused by administrative reorganization in the Kolhapur state after 1844 caused deep resentment.

- The **godkaris (the hereditary military class which garrisoned Maratha forts)** were disbanded.
- Faced with the specter of unemployment the Gadkaries rose in revolt and occupied the forts of Samangarh and Bhudargarh.

**Q.2)** The “**Gagging Acts**” was passed by different Governor Generals of India to suppress all nationalist sentiments. The Acts are related to which of the following?

- a) Printing and Press
- b) Education
- c) Army
- d) repressive tax

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** During the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the “**Gagging Act**” had been passed by Lord Canning, which sought **to regulate the establishment of printing presses and to restrain the mad of printed mater.**

- All **presses had to have a license from the government with distinction between publications in English and other regional languages.**
- The Gagging Act also held that no printed material shall impugn the motives of the British Raj, tending to bring it hatred and contempt and exciting unlawful resistance to its orders.
- When the British Government found that the Gagging Act was not potent enough to repress all nationalist sentiments, it created a more forcible law, designed in part by Sir Alexander John Arbuthnot and Sir Ashley Eden, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal; known as **Vernacular Press Act.**
- Lord Lytton brought Vernacular Press Act came in to force in 1878. It was repealed by Lord Ripon in 1882.

**Q.3)** The “**Indore process**” in British period is related to which of the following?

- a) Municipal Administration
- b) Bio-fertilizers
- c) Primary health
- d) None

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** According to ICAR, the Indore research station was set up where the Institute for Plant Industry (IPI) used to exist.

## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

IPI was established in the 1920s by the Maharaja of Indore, ostensibly to study cotton.

- But it also seems to have been a way to offer a research position to Albert Howard, a British agricultural scientist who first came to India in 1905 to work as imperial economic botanist at Pusa.
- **He started studying their traditional methods- of animals raised alongside crops, with their wastes, and other plant wastes forming the only fertilisers.**
- Howard was an expert in fungi and he theorised that traditional methods nurtured fungi and microbes in the soil, leading to better soil health than what was created by artificial means.
- Howard's theories would lay the principles for the organic farming movement, but they proved too radical for his colleagues at the time.
- But Howard realised that the princely states offered more liberties than the directly British ruled provinces. Indore gave him a chance to continue his research without leaving India.
- **Howard developed and popularised what he called the Indore process, a method of combining animal and plant wastes to ensure rapid decomposition into a form that could be used in farming -- a scientific system for composting.**

**Q.4)** Who among the following introduced the **issue of currency notes of the denominations of five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, five hundred and one thousand rupees?**

- a) James Wilson
- b) Sir William Wilson Hunter
- c) Mansfield
- d) Babington Smith

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The institution of paper money was first introduced into India in 1839, when the presidency banks (Calcutta, Bombay & Madras) were authorized to issue notes payable to bearer of demand within their circle.

- The idea of transferring the issue and management of paper currency under government control was first conceived by James Wilson.
- Thus, the Bill for the establishment of a **Government Paper Currency in India was first introduced on 3rd March 1860 by James Wilson.**
- By Act XIX of 1861, paper currency, under government management was lawfully set up in India
- **Wilson's scheme provided for the issue of currency notes of the denominations of five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, five hundred and one thousand rupees.**

**Q.5)** The book **Satyarth Prakash (Light of Truth)** was written by which of the following?

- a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- b) Swami Dayanand
- c) Debendranath Tagore
- d) Keshab Chandra Sen

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** The **Satyarth Prakash (The light of Truth)** is the masterpiece of Swami Dayanand Saraswati.

- As the great writer of this masterpiece Swami Dayanand was a symbol of ultimate morality and spiritualism and was a sage of standing.

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020

- This book (Satyarth Prakash) is, indeed, an encyclopedia of the various contemporary social religious and political currents cross-currents and movements going on at the time of the writer's life.
- To go it further, the writer has not spared the past events and guiding philosophies, which has polluted the human mind and deteriorated the man's quest for true knowledge and right way of life.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Abolition of Slavery in India**:

1. Charter Act of 1813 had urged the Company to take steps to ameliorate the conditions of slaves.
2. Slavery was abolished in 1843 in British India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** Slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1833 and a clause was inserted in the Charter Act of 1833 requiring the Governor-General-in-Council to abolish slavery in India as soon as it could be safely and conveniently carried out. Act V of 1843 declared slavery illegal in India and all existing slaves were emancipated without any compensation to the slave-owners.

**Q.7)** Which of the following is/are **NOT** correctly matched?

<b>Organization</b>	:	<b>Founder/President</b>
1. South India Liberal Federation	:	C N Annadurai
2. Bahishkrit Hitkarni Sabha	:	Jyotirao Phule
3. Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam	:	Narayana Guru

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** The Justice Party, earlier **South Indian Liberal Federation**, was a political party in the Madras Presidency of British India. It was established in 1916 by **Natesa Mudaliar and co-founded by T. M. Nair and P. Theagaraya Chetty** as a result of a series of non-Brahmin conferences and meetings in the presidency.

**Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha** is a central institution formed by **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar** for removing difficulties of the untouchables and placing their grievances before government.

**S.N.D.P. means Sri Narayana Guru Dharma Paripalana Yogam or sangam.** Narayana Guru through his socio religious teachings and writings has become so famous in the socio-religions and political scenario of Kerala during 19th century that all the young people turned towards the reformative movements of Sri Narayana Guru and voluntarily they have redesignated their former youth association (it's called Vivatu sangha) as **S.N.D.P. It was registered as a joint stock company in January 1903 with Sri Narayana Guru as life time president.**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**Q.8)** Lord Cornwallis had introduced many reforms to organize the civil services and to check corruption in East India Company. Which of the following is/are **measures introduced by Lord Cornwallis?**

1. Raising the civil servants' salary.
2. Strict enforcement of rules against private trade.
3. Enforcing promotions through merit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** Cornwallis (governor-general, 1786-93) was the first to bring into existence and organise the civil services. He tried to check corruption through—

- raising the civil servants' salary,
- strict enforcement of rules against private trade,
- debarring civil servants from taking presents, bribes etc.,
- Enforcing promotions through seniority.

**Q.9)** "Political freedom is the life breath of a nation; to attempt social reform , educational reform, industrial expansion, the moral improvement of the race without aiming the first and foremost at political freedom, is the very height of ignorance and futility" – is said by which of the following?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- c) B R Ambedkar
- d) Aurobindo Ghose

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** Sri Aurobindo was renowned and important personality in the history of the Indian resurgence and Indian nationalism.

- Aurobindo had a versatile brilliance. He was a great poet, a thoughtful thinker, a distinguished metaphysician, a great prophet and a passionate patriot.
- He wrote effective texts that represented the crystallization of the new and rising soul of India and given a spiritual message for humankind.
- He wrote that "**Political freedom is the life-breath of a nation. To attempt social reform, educational reform, industrial expansion, the moral improvement of the race without aiming first and foremost at political freedom, is the very height of ignorance and futility.**"
- The primary requisite for national progress, national reform, is the habit of free and healthy national thought and action which is impossible in a state of servitude."

**Q.10)** The term "Nineteen Memorandum" of National Movement of India is related to which of the following Indian National Congress Session?

- a) Nagpur Session - 1920
- b) Lucknow Session - 1916
- c) Lahore Session - 1929
- d) Harpiura Session – 1938

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** The **Lucknow Session** of the congress is memorable for it marked the re-union of Moderate and Extremist parties after the Surat split (1907).

- Another noteworthy development was the Congress League Pact for acceptance of a united scheme of Constitutional reforms.
- **Nineteen elected members of the Governor-General's Legislative Council prepared a memorandum, popularly known as 'Nineteen Memorandum',** containing a different set of proposals and submitted it to the Viceroy in November 1916.

Their main recommendations were:

- all the Legislative Councils should have a substantial majority of elected members;
- the Legislative Councils should be large in size and enjoy larger powers in respect of legislation and finance;
- fiscal autonomy should be conceded to India; the provincial governments should be made autonomous;
- a full measure of Local-Self Government should be immediately granted.

## *Economy*

**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Comparative Advantage**:

1. It refers to an economy's ability to produce goods and services at a lower opportunity cost than that of trade partners.
2. It is a foundational principle in the theory of international trade.
3. The law of Comparative Advantage was propounded by John Maynard Keynes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** Comparative advantage is an economic term that refers to **an economy's ability to produce goods and services at a lower opportunity cost than that of trade partners.**

- A comparative advantage gives a company the ability to sell goods and services at a lower price than its competitors and realize stronger sales margins.
- The **law of comparative advantage is popularly attributed to English political economist David Ricardo and his book "On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation" in 1817, although it is likely that Ricardo's mentor James Mill originated the analysis.**
- One of the most important concepts in economic theory, comparative advantage is a fundamental tenet of the argument that all actors, at all times, can mutually benefit from cooperation and voluntary trade. It is also a **foundational principle in the theory of international trade.**

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **entrepreneurship ecosystem in India**:

1. India has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest entrepreneurship ecosystem in the world.
2. The level of education and the quality of physical infrastructure will influence entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

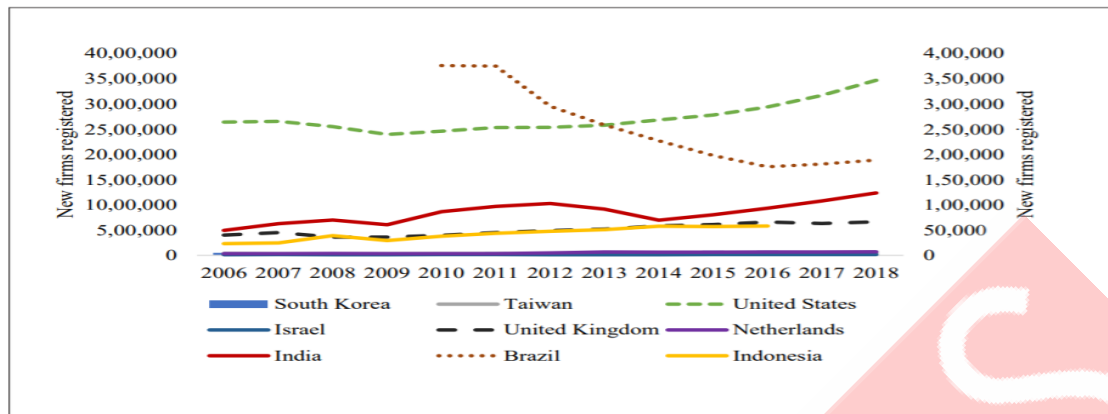
**ANS) B**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is incorrect: The chart clearly establishes that **India has the 3rd largest entrepreneurship ecosystem in the world.**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**Figure 1: Comparison of entrepreneurial activity (new firms) across countries**



Source: World Bank's EODB Entrepreneurship Data, Business Formation Statistics of the U.S. Census Bureau and Survey Calculations  
Note: Secondary axis for India, Brazil and, Indonesia

Statement 2 is correct: **Literacy, education, physical infrastructure** are the key areas that will foster entrepreneurship and thereby job creation and wealth creation.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Creative destruction**:

1. It refers to the incessant product and process innovation mechanism by which new production units replace outdated ones.
2. It was coined by Joseph Schumpeter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** Creative destruction refers to **the incessant product and process innovation mechanism by which new production units replace outdated ones.**

- This restructuring process permeates major aspects of macroeconomic performance, not only long-run growth but also economic fluctuations, structural adjustment and the functioning of factor markets.
- Over the long run, the **process of creative destruction accounts for over 50 per cent of productivity growth.**
- At business cycle frequency, restructuring typically declines during recessions, and this add a significant cost to downturns.
- Obstacles to the process of creative destruction can have severe short- and long-run macroeconomic consequences.
- It **was coined by Joseph Schumpeter** (1942), who considered it 'the essential fact about capitalism'.

**Q.4)** The **market capitalization** is the aggregate valuation of the company based on which of the following?

- a) Current share price and outstanding stocks
- b) Fixed share price and outstanding stocks
- c) Current share price
- d) Outstanding stocks



**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** Market capitalization is the aggregate valuation of the company based on its **current share price and the total number of outstanding stocks**. It is calculated by multiplying the current market price of the company's share with the total outstanding shares of the company.

**Q.5)** The **Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI)** is related to which of the following?

- a) Sustainable Development
- b) International Trade
- c) Market Concentration
- d) Financial Institutions

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) is a **common measure of market concentration** and is used to determine market competitiveness, often pre- and post-Merger & Acquisition transactions.

- It is calculated by squaring the market share of each firm competing in a market and then summing the resulting numbers. It can range from close to zero to 10,000.
- Regulators use the HHI Index using the 50 largest companies in a particular industry to determine if that industry should be considered competitive or as close to being a monopoly.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **wilful default in India**:

1. The RBI defines wilful defaulter as a firm that has defaulted in meeting its repayment obligations even though it has the capacity to honour these obligations.
2. The cut-off limit of wilful default is fixed by Central government.
3. From 2009 to 2018 the money owed by wilful defaulters has constantly decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) A**

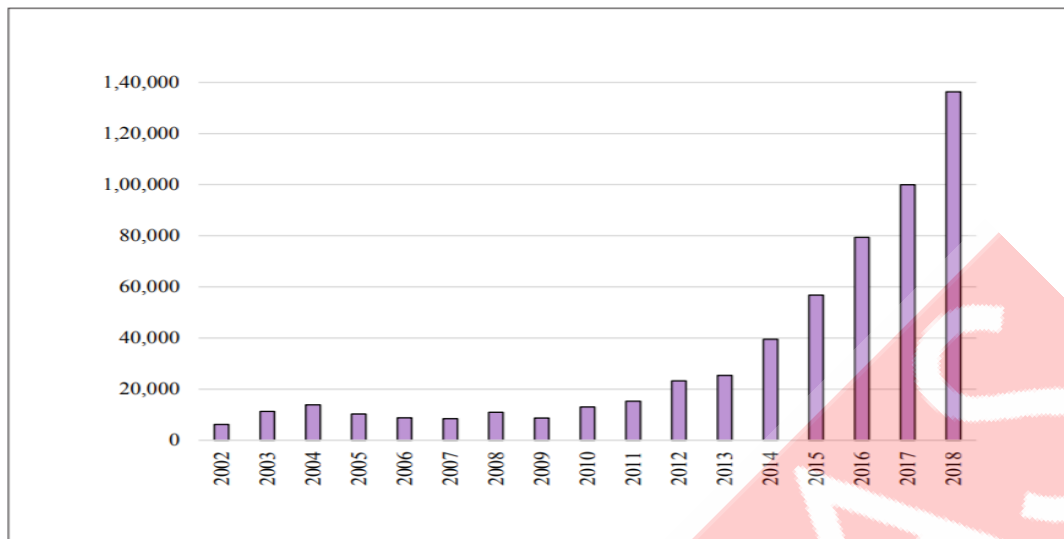
**Explanation:** Simply, default means non-payment of a loan availed by a borrower. A wilful defaulter is an entity or a person that has not paid the loan back despite the ability to repay it.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Wilful default occurs when firms take loans, divert the proceeds out of the firm for the personal benefit of owners, default on loans and declare bankruptcy, thereby expropriating a range of stakeholders – lenders, minority shareholders, employees, regulators and state coffers.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the penal measures would normally be attracted by all the borrowers identified as wilful defaulters or the promoters involved in diversion / siphoning of funds, keeping in view the present limit of Rs.25 lakh fixed by the Central Vigilance Commission for reporting of cases of wilful default by the banks / FIs to RBI, any wilful defaulter with an outstanding balance of Rs.25 lakh or more, would attract the penal measures.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** From 2009 to 2018 the money owed by wilful defaulters has constantly increased.

**Figure 16: Aggregate outstanding amount owed by wilful defaulters (₹ crores)**



Source: TransUnion CIBIL Suits Filed database

**Q.7)** The **Economic Freedom of the World** report is released by which of the following?

- Fraser Institute
- World Economic Forum
- World Trade Organization
- The Heritage Foundation

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The **Fraser Institute** produces the annual Economic Freedom of the World report in cooperation with the Economic Freedom Network, a group of independent research and educational institutes in nearly 100 countries and territories.

It's the world's premier measurement of economic freedom, measuring and ranking countries in five areas:

- size of the government,
- legal structure and security of property rights,
- access to sound money,
- freedom to trade internationally and regulation of credit,
- labour and business.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955**:

1. It was enacted to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain goods considered as essential commodities.
2. The Act itself does lay out Rules and Regulations to issue Control Orders related to dealer licensing, regulate stock limits, restrict movement of goods and requirements of compulsory purchases.
3. Food and civil supply authorities in States execute the provisions of the Act.

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

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2 only

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 was **enacted to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain goods considered as essential commodities.**

- The **Act itself does not lay out Rules and Regulations** but allows the States to issue Control Orders related to dealer licensing, regulate stock limits, and restrict movement of goods and requirements of compulsory purchases under the system of levy.
- The Act also provides for action to confiscate the stock seized; to suspend/ cancel licences, if any and impose punishments like imprisonment.
- The Act also gives the power to fix price limits, and selling the particular commodities above the limit will attract penalties.
- Most of the powers under the Act have been delegated by the Central Government to the State Governments with the direction that they shall exercise these powers.
- **Food and civil supply authorities in States** execute the provisions of the Act.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)**:

1. The first National List of Essential Medicines of India was prepared and released in 1976.
2. The list is prepared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** The National list of essential medicines is one of the key instruments in balanced healthcare delivery system of a country which inter alia includes accessible, affordable quality medicine at all the primary, secondary, tertiary levels of healthcare.

- The **first National List of Essential Medicines of India was prepared and released in 1996.**
- The **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), prepared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, is a list of medicines considered essential and high priority for India's health needs.
- DPCOs are issued by the Government, in **exercise of the powers conferred under section 3 of the ECA** to ensure that the medicines listed under NELM are available at a reasonable price to the general public.

**Q.10)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

**Conditional cash transfer scheme : Country**

1. Bolsa Familia : Brazil
2. Oportuni dades : Argentina
3. Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino : Indonesia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** It may be noted that internationally, there is a move towards conditional cash transfers (CCTs), aimed at tackling problems of food insecurity and poverty and for nudging people towards improved health and education levels.

**Box 4: Examples of Successful Conditional Cash Transfer Schemes**

Country	Year	Modalities	Impact
Brazil: <i>Bolsa Familia</i>	2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers 25 per cent of total population</li> <li>Eligible beneficiaries below income level of \$60 and further identified through household surveys</li> <li>Size of transfer – R\$15-95</li> <li>Access payments through banks, lottery offices, retail stores using debit card</li> <li>Conditions – Minimum 85 per cent attendance and compulsory attending of health checkups for women and children</li> <li>Cost of scheme – 0.5 per cent of GDP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 per cent of benefits went to identified beneficiaries</li> <li>Decline in households that are food inadequate</li> <li>Decrease in number of children malnourished</li> <li>Increase in food consumption</li> <li>Over 60 per cent transactions made through non-bank agencies</li> </ul>
Mexico: <i>Oportunidades</i>	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on geographically poor regions. Households identified in these regions using marginal index</li> <li>Covers 20 per cent of total Population</li> <li>Cost of scheme – 0.4 per cent of GDP</li> <li>Size of transfer – 235 pesos (average)</li> <li>Payments made bimonthly</li> <li>Benefits can be withdrawn from bank branches and authorized non-financial agencies</li> <li>Conditions – Minimum attendance requirement and mandatory health check ups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 per cent of benefits went to poorest 20 per cent of the population</li> <li>12 per cent decrease in incidence of illnesses</li> <li>Increase in enrollment of children into schools and reduction in dropout rates</li> <li>Increase in likelihood of women deciding on how benefits to be spent</li> </ul>
Philippines: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers 20 per cent of total population</li> <li>Beneficiaries identified through Household surveys</li> <li>Cost of scheme – 0.5 per cent of GDP</li> <li>Conditions- Minimum attendance requirement and mandatory health check -ups, participate in monthly community-based Family Development Sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 million Filipinos benefited</li> <li>Program has led to a poverty reduction of 1.4 percentage points per year</li> <li>10.18 million children currently benefit from CCT</li> <li>Drastic decrease in alcoholism in 4Ps households (spending on vices was lower by 39 per cent)</li> </ul>

Source: World Bank FAQ (2017), ICRIER(2017)

## *Polity*

**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Election Commission of India**:

1. It is a Permanent and Independent body.
2. It deals with elections to parliament, state legislature and local bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The Election Commission is a **permanent and an independent body** established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

- Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of **elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.**
- Thus, the Election Commission is an all-India body in the sense that it is common to both the Central government and the state governments.
- It **must be noted here that the election commission is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states.**

NOTE: Elections to local bodies are dealt by state election commission.

**Q.2)** Which of the following are guidelines for declaring a language as **Classical Language**?

1. High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
2. A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
3. The literary tradition can be original and borrowed from another speech community.
4. The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** According to information provided by the Ministry of Culture in the Rajya Sabha in February 2014, the guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded **history over a period of 1500-2000 years**;
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a **valuable heritage by generations of speakers**;
- The **literary tradition be original and not borrowed** from another speech community;

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020

• The classical language and literature being **distinct from modern**, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots. Currently, six languages enjoy the 'Classical' status: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

**Q.3)** Which of the following cases is/are related to **Preamble** of the Indian Constitution?

1. Berubari Union case (1960).
2. Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973).
3. LIC of India vs Consumer Education and Research Centre (1995).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** One of the controversies about the Preamble is as to whether it is a part of the Constitution or not.

- In the **Berubari Union case (1960)**, the Supreme Court said that the Preamble shows the general purposes behind the several provisions in the Constitution, and is thus a key to the minds of the makers of the Constitution.
- Further, where the terms used in any article are ambiguous or capable of more than one meaning, some assistance at interpretation may be taken from the objectives enshrined in the Preamble. Despite this recognition of the significance of the Preamble, the Supreme Court specifically opined that Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.
- In the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, the Supreme Court rejected the earlier opinion and held that Preamble is a part of the Constitution. It observed that the Preamble is of extreme importance and the Constitution should be read and interpreted in the light of the grand and noble vision expressed in the Preamble.
- In the **LIC of India case (1995)** also, the Supreme Court again held that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

**Q.4)** Under which of the following **Articles of Indian Constitution**, the Supreme Court has recognized the **right to information** as a fundamental right of citizens?

1. Article 14
2. Article 19
3. Article 21

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** The country's law on our right to information was enacted in 2005.

- However, since 1975, in multiple judgments, the Supreme Court has recognized the right to information as a fundamental right of citizens under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution on our freedom of speech and expression.

## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

- This has been read together with **Articles 14, 19 and 21** to guarantee our right to equality, right to freedom of speech and expression, and our right to life and liberty, respectively.
- It was those judgments, together with the RTI movements by citizens, which culminated in the RTI Act of 2005.
- This was an Act of Parliament that set forth a practical regime and framework to grant citizens this right and replaced the erstwhile Freedom of Information Act, 2002.

**Q.5)** “The Constituent Assembly was composed roughly along the lines suggested by the plan proposed by the committee of the British cabinet, known as the Cabinet Mission”. Which of the following is/are **features of the Cabinet Mission**?

1. Each Province and each Princely State or group of States were allotted seats proportional to their respective population roughly in the ratio of 1:1,00,000.
2. The seats in each Province were distributed among the three main communities, Muslims, Sikhs and general, in proportion to their respective populations.
3. Members of each community in the Provincial Legislative Assembly elected their own representatives by the method of First Past the Post System.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** Formally, the Constitution was made by the Constituent Assembly which had been elected for undivided India. It held its first sitting on 9 December 1946 and reassembled as Constituent Assembly for divided India on 14 August 1947.

Its **members were chosen by indirect election by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies** that had been established under the Government of India Act, 1935.

The **Constituent Assembly was composed roughly along the lines suggested by the plan proposed by the committee of the British cabinet, known as the Cabinet Mission.**

According to this plan:

- Each Province and each Princely State or group of States were **allotted seats proportional to their respective population roughly in the ratio of 1:10,00,000**. As a result the Provinces (that were under direct British rule) were to elect 292 members while the Princely States were allotted a minimum of 93 seats.
- The seats in each Province were distributed among the **three main communities, Muslims, Sikhs and general**, in proportion to their respective populations.
- Members of each community in the Provincial Legislative Assembly elected their own representatives by the **method of proportional representation** with single transferable vote.
- The method of selection in the case of representatives of Princely States was to be determined by consultation.

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **First Past the Post system (FPTP)**:

1. Under FPTP the country is divided into small geographical units are called as constituents.
2. Voters vote for party.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The candidate who secures the highest number of votes in constituency is declared elected.

- The winning candidate need not secure a majority of the votes. This method is called the First Past the Post (FPTP) system.
- In the electoral race, the candidate who is ahead of others, who crosses the winning post first of all, is the winner. This method is also called the Plurality System.
- This is the method of election prescribed by the Constitution.

Comparison of FPTP and PR system of election	
<b>FPTP</b>	<b>PR</b>
The country is divided into small geographical units called constituencies or districts	Large geographical areas are demarcated as constituencies. The entire country may be a single constituency
Every constituency elects one representative	More than one representative may be elected from one constituency
Voter votes for a candidate	Voter votes for the party
A party may get more seats than votes in the legislature	Every party gets seats in the legislature in proportion to the percentage of votes that it gets
Candidate who wins the election may not get majority (50%+1) votes	Candidate who wins the elections gets majority of votes.
Examples: U.K., India	Examples: Israel, Netherlands

**Q.7)** Consider the following **judicial powers and functions of the Parliament**:

1. It can impeach the President for the violation of the Constitution.
2. It can remove the Vice-President from his office.
3. It can punish its members or outsiders for the breach of its privileges or its contempt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The **judicial powers and functions of the Parliament** include the following:

- It can **impeach the President** for the violation of the Constitution.
- It can **remove the Vice-President** from his office.
- It **can recommend the removal of judges** (including chief justice) of the Supreme Court and the high courts, chief election commissioner, comptroller and auditor general to the president.



## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020

- It can **punish its members or outsiders for the breach of its privileges** or its contempt.

**Q.8)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

<b>Articles of Indian Constitution</b>	:	<b>Organization</b>
1. Article 21	:	National Green Tribunal
2. Article 279	:	Goods & Service Tax Council
3. Article 323A	:	Central Administrative Tribunal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**ANS) D**

**Explanation: National Green Tribunal (NGT):** The NGT was established in the year 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010 to dispose of civil cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources, including enforcement of any legal rights related to the environment (National Green Tribunal). The Act was enacted through the Parliament of India, under the provision of **Article 21** of the Constitution of India, which emphasizes the right to live in a clean and healthy environment.

**Goods & Service Tax Council:** As per **Article 279A** (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A. The notification for bringing into force Article 279A with effect from 12th September, 2016 was issued on 10th September, 2016.

**Central Administrative Tribunal:** The Central Administrative Tribunal had been established under **Article 323 - A** of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.

**Q.9)** Which **types of questions** are asked in **Question Hour** of Parliament?

- Starred Questions
  - Un-starred Questions
  - Short Notice Questions
  - Questions addressed to private members
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** Members have a right to ask questions to elicit information on matters of public importance within the special cognizance of the Ministers concerned. The questions are of four types:—

- **Starred Questions-** A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House and is required to be distinguished by him/her with an asterisk. Answer to such a question may be followed by supplementary questions by members.

## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

- **Unstarred Questions-** an Unstarred Question is one to which written answer is desired by the member and is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House by Minister. Thus it is not called for oral answer in the House and no supplementary question can be asked thereon.
- **Short Notice Questions-** A member may give a notice of question on a matter of public importance and of urgent character for oral answer at a notice less than 10 days prescribed as the minimum period of notice for asking a question in ordinary course. Such a question is known as 'Short Notice Question'.
- **Questions to Private Members-** A Question may also be addressed to a Private Member (Under Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha), provided that the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, Resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that Member is responsible. The procedure in regard to such questions is same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a Minister with such variations as the Speaker may consider necessary.

### NOTE:

The List of Starred, Unstarred, Short Notice Questions and Questions to Private Members are printed in green, white, light pink and yellow colour, respectively, to distinguish them from one another.

### **Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Quorum**:

1. It is the minimum number of members to be present at the sitting of house for valid transaction of its business.
  2. It is one-tenth of the total number of members in each house excluding presiding officer.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2

### **ANS) A**

**Explanation:** Article 100 of the Constitution of India stipulates that at least 10% of total number of members of the House must be present to constitute the quorum to constitute a meeting of either House of Parliament.

- It means that there must be at least 55 members present in the Lok Sabha and 25 members present in the Rajya Sabha, if any business is to be conducted.
- Quorum also includes the presiding officer of the particular house (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha).
- If there is no quorum during a meeting of the House, it is the duty of the presiding officer either to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.

## *Science and technology*

**Q.1)** The **polarimetry technique** is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- Optical activity
- Measuring ozone
- Electricity measurement
- Pollen Carbon Dating method

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** Polarimetry is a sensitive, nondestructive technique for measuring the optical activity exhibited by inorganic and organic compounds.

- A compound is considered to be optically active if linearly polarized light is rotated when passing through it.
- A team of astronomers has discovered that the closest known brown dwarf, Luhman 16A, shows signs of cloud bands similar to those seen on Jupiter and Saturn.
- The researchers used an instrument on the Very Large Telescope in Chile to study polarised light from the Luhman 16 system. Polarisation is a property of light that represents the direction that the light wave oscillates.
- The polarimetry technique is not limited to brown dwarfs. It can also be applied to exoplanets orbiting distant stars. The atmospheres of hot, gas giant exoplanets are similar to those of brown dwarfs.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Black Hole**:

- A black hole is a place in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out.
- The super-massive black hole at the center of the Milky Way galaxy is called Sagittarius A.
- The Sun is not a big enough star to make a black hole.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** A black hole is a place in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out. The gravity is so strong because matter has been squeezed into a tiny space. This can happen when a star is dying.

- The largest black holes are called "supermassive." These black holes have masses that are more than 1 million suns together. Scientists have found proof that every large galaxy contains a supermassive black hole at its center.
- The supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way galaxy is called Sagittarius A. It has a mass equal to about 4 million suns and would fit inside a very large ball that could hold a few million Earths.
- Even if a black hole the same mass as the sun were to take the place of the sun, Earth still would not fall in.
- The black hole would have the same gravity as the sun. Earth and the other planets would orbit the black hole as they orbit the sun now.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

- The sun will never turn into a black hole. The sun is not a big enough star to make a black hole.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Supermoon**:

1. It is used to refer to a full moon 90 percent or closer to Apogee.
2. It has no precise astronomical definition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** Full moons can occur at any point along the Moon's elliptical path, but when a full moon occurs at or near the perigee, it looks slightly larger and brighter than a typical full moon. That's what the term "supermoon" refers to.

- **Because supermoon is not an official astronomical term**, there is no definition about just how close to perigee the full moon has to be in order to be called "super."
- Generally, **supermoon is used to refer to a full moon 90 percent or closer to perigee.**
- A more accurate and scientific term is "perigee syzygy." Syzygy is the alignment of three celestial bodies, in this case the Sun, Moon and Earth.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **drug diclofenac**:

1. It is steroidal and anti-inflammatory drug administered to cattle.
2. Indian Vulture -Gyps Indicus feeds mostly from carcasses of dead animals and reached up to the verge of extinction because of veterinary drug diclofenac.

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

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** From millions, the population of the three Gyps species has been recently estimated to be about 20,000, i.e., 12,000 long-billed, 6,000 white-rumped and the rarest being the slender-billed vulture at 1,000.

- By 2000, **the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared all these three species in its highest risk category – Critically Endangered.**
- An avian population decline can be due to many factors – poaching, epidemics, habitat destruction – but none explained the rapidity, scale and expanse of the decline across South Asia.
- Initially, biologists reckoned that bioaccumulation of pesticides as a potential cause for the loss of vultures, like DDT that had poisoned bald eagles in the US in the 1960s.
- Ultimately, it took the minds of many nations – an international team of over a dozen scientists under the aegis of the Peregrin Fund, and tests on vulture carcasses in Pakistan – to pin the culprit down to **diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) administered to cattle.**
- **Vultures feeding on the carcasses of animals recently treated with drug suffered renal failure that caused visceral gout and death.**

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020

- It is a fast-acting, effective painkiller and also soothes fevers. Plus, it's cheap — costing about Rs 20, or less than half-a dollar for a dose.

**Q.5)** Which of the following is/are type/types of **vaccines**?

1. Live-attenuated vaccines
2. Inactivated vaccines
3. Toxoid vaccines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** There are several different types of vaccines. Each type is designed to teach your immune system how to fight off certain kinds of germs — and the serious diseases they cause. There are 4 main types of vaccines:

**Live-attenuated vaccines:** Live vaccines use a weakened (or attenuated) form of the germ that causes a disease.

- Because these vaccines are so similar to the natural infection that they help prevent, they create a strong and long-lasting immune response. Just 1 or 2 doses of most live vaccines can give you a lifetime of protection against a germ and the disease it causes.
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR combined vaccine) Varicella (chickenpox) Influenza (nasal spray) Rotavirus Yellow fever are examples of Live-attenuated vaccines.

**Inactivated vaccines:** use the killed version of the germ that causes a disease.

- Inactivated vaccines usually don't provide immunity (protection) that's as strong as live vaccines.
- So you may need several doses over time (booster shots) in order to get ongoing immunity against diseases. Polio (IPV) Hepatitis A Rabies is examples of In-activated vaccines.

**Subunit, recombinant, polysaccharide, and conjugate vaccines:** use specific pieces of the germ — like its protein, sugar, or capsid (a casing around the germ).

- Because these vaccines use only specific pieces of the germ, they give a very strong immune response that's targeted to key parts of the germ.
- They can also be used on almost everyone who needs them, including people with weakened immune systems and long-term health problems.
- Hepatitis B, Influenza (injection), Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), Pertussis (part of DTaP combined immunization), Pneumococcal, Meningococcal and Human papillomavirus (HPV) are examples of Subunit and recombinant vaccines.

**Toxoid vaccines** use a toxin (harmful product) made by the germ that causes a disease.

- They create immunity to the parts of the germ that cause a disease instead of the germ itself.
- That means the immune response is targeted to the toxin instead of the whole germ.
- Diphtheria, tetanus (part of DTaP combined immunization) are examples of Toxoid vaccines.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Aerosols**:

1. They are minute particles suspended in the atmosphere.
2. Cold climate with dry periods decreases the concentration of Aerosols in the Atmosphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** **Aerosols are minute particles suspended in the atmosphere.** When these particles are sufficiently large, we notice their presence as they scatter and absorb sunlight.

- **Their scattering** of sunlight can reduce visibility (haze) and redden sunrises and sunsets. Aerosols interact both directly and indirectly with the Earth's radiation budget and climate.
- As a direct effect, the aerosols scatter sunlight directly back into space.
- As an indirect effect, aerosols in the lower atmosphere can modify the size of cloud particles, changing how the clouds reflect and absorb sunlight, thereby affecting the Earth's energy budget
- Aerosols come from both natural and human sources—and sometimes both at once. Dust, for example, is scoured from deserts, the dried-out edges of rivers, dry lakebeds, and more.
- **Its concentrations in the atmosphere rise and fall with climate; in cold, dry, periods in the planet's history like the last ice age, more dust filled the atmosphere than during warmer stretches of Earth's history.**

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **nucleotide of DNA**:

1. It is made up of three parts consists of phosphate group, a 5-carbon sugar, and a nitrogenous base.
2. The four nitrogenous bases in DNA are adenine, cytosine, guanine, and uracil.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** A nucleotide is an organic molecule that is the building block of DNA and RNA.

- They also have functions related to cell signaling, metabolism, and enzyme reactions.
- **A nucleotide is made up of three parts: a phosphate group, a 5-carbon sugar, and a nitrogenous base.**
- **The four nitrogenous bases in DNA are adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine.**
- **RNA contains uracil, instead of thymine.**
- A nucleotide within a chain makes up the genetic material of all known living things.
- They also serve a number of functions outside of genetic information storage, as messengers and energy moving molecules.

**Q.8) Hydro-dynamic trapping, Solubility trapping and Mineral trapping** is related to which of the following?

- Carbon sequestration
- Deep sea mineral exploration
- Shale gas exploration
- Bio-diesel extraction

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** In recent years, fundamental research has focused increasingly on the short and long term effects of CO<sub>2</sub> injection into reservoirs to assess the feasibility of **CO<sub>2</sub> storage** on a commercial scale.

- Sequestration** processes involve different trapping mechanisms according to the hydrodynamic, physical and chemical conditions in the formation.
- It is common to divide these mechanisms into four different categories: **hydrodynamic trapping, residual trapping, solubility trapping, and mineral trapping.**

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **composite materials**:

- A composite material is a combination of two materials with different physical and chemical properties.
  - They are used in the development of Agni missile and Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** A composite material is a **combination of two materials** with different physical and chemical properties.

- When they are combined they create a material which is specialised to do a certain job, for instance to become stronger, lighter or resistant to electricity.
- They can also improve strength and stiffness.
- The reason for their use over traditional materials is because they improve the properties of their base materials and are applicable in many situations.
- Use of composite materials in **indigenously developed aircraft (Tejas), missiles (Agni) and in defense and civilian sectors** is poised for big growth, where Indian companies are set to get into manufacturing mode.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Neutrino**:

- The neutrino is a tiny elementary particle which is part of the atom.
- Neutrino has a very tiny mass and with electrical charge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** Proton, neutron, and electron are tiny particles that make up atoms.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

- The **neutrino is also a tiny elementary particle, but it is not part of the atom.** Such particles are also found to exist in nature.
- **Neutrino has a very tiny mass and no charge.** It interacts very weakly with other matter particles.
- So weakly that every second trillions of neutrinos fall on us and pass through our bodies unnoticed.
- Neutrinos come from the sun (solar neutrinos) and other stars, cosmic rays that come from beyond the solar system, and from the Big Bang from which our Universe originated.
- They can also be produced in the lab.

ForumIAS



## Geography

**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

<b>Mechanism/Process</b>	:	<b>Rock</b>
1. Mechanically formed sedimentary rock	:	Sandstone
2. Organically formed sedimentary rock	:	Rock salt
3. Chemically formed sedimentary rock	:	Shale

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** Sedimentary rocks are formed by the accumulation of sediments. There are three basic types of sedimentary rocks.

- **Clastic sedimentary rocks** such as breccia, conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, and shale are formed from mechanical weathering debris.
- **Chemical sedimentary rocks**, such as rock salt, iron ore, chert, flint, some dolomites, and some limestone, form when dissolved materials precipitate from solution.
- **Organic sedimentary rocks** such as coal, some dolomites, and some limestone, form from the accumulation of plant or animal debris.

**Q.2)** Which of the following are examples of **Fold Mountains**?

- 1. Himalayas
- 2. Rockies
- 3. Alps

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** Fold Mountains are created through a process called orogeny. An orogenic event takes millions of years to create a fold mountain.

- When a tectonic plate gets pressure from two sides, it gets folded. Some of its portion becomes elevated and forms the mountains.
- The depressions form the valleys. **The Himalayas, the Rockies, the Andes and the Alps are examples of Fold Mountain.**
- They are the young mountains of the world and hence they have some of the highest peaks of the world.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Caldera**:

- 1. It is a large depression formed when a volcano erupts and collapses.
- 2. Crater Lake is an example of Caldera

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** A **caldera** is a large depression formed when a volcano erupts and collapses.

- During a volcanic eruption, magma present in the magma chamber underneath the volcano is expelled, often forcefully.
- When the magma chamber empties, the support that the magma had provided inside the chamber disappears.
- As a result, the sides and top of the volcano collapse inward. Calderas vary in size from one to 100 kilometers (0.62 to 62 miles) in diameter.
- Some calderas form a lake as the bowl-shaped depression fills with water. A **famous example is Crater Lake, in Oregon.**
- This caldera formed about 7,000 years ago when a stratovolcano, Mt. Mazama, violently erupted.
- For several thousand years after this eruption, smaller volcanic eruptions continued inside the caldera.
- One of these eruptions was so large it formed an island in Crater Lake named Wizard Island.

**Q.4)** Which of the following is **NOT** part of Great lakes of North America?

- a) Victoria
- b) Ontario
- c) Michigan
- d) Erie

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The Great Lakes are, from west to east: Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario.

- They are a dominant part of the physical and cultural heritage of North America.
- Shared with Canada and spanning more than 750 miles (1,200 kilometers) from west to east, these vast inland freshwater seas provide water for consumption, transportation, power, recreation and a host of other uses.
- The Great Lakes are one of the world's largest surface freshwater ecosystems.

**Q.5)** The term "**bog-bursts**" is related to which of the following?

- a) Glacial flow
- b) River flow
- c) Soil flow
- d) None

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** When the soil is completely saturated with water the individual particles are almost suspended in the water and move easily over one another and over the underlying rock. The soil acts like a liquid and a **soil-flow** occurs.

In areas of peat soils, the peat absorbs much moisture. However if saturation point is reached the peaty soil may flow down-slope. In **Ireland such flows are known as bog-bursts.**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**Q.6)** The term **isohyet** is related to which of the following?

- a) Temperature
- b) Rainfall
- c) Atmospheric pressure
- d) Sea level

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** An **isohyet** is also known as isohyetal line, and it is a line on a map which connects points that have the same amounts of precipitation in a given period or for a particular storm. The method used in estimating average rainfall across a particular area is known as an isohyetal method.

- **Isotherm:** a line on a map connecting points having the same temperature at a given time or on average over a given period.
- **Isobar:** A line drawn on a weather map connecting points of equal pressure is called an isobar. The isobars are generated from mean sea level pressure reports and the pressure values are given in millibars.

**Q.7)** Which of the following clouds are patchy gray or white clouds that often have a dark **honeycomb-like appearance**?

- a) Cumulus clouds
- b) Stratocumulus clouds
- c) Altocumulus clouds
- d) Cirrus clouds

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** All clouds are made up of basically the same thing: water droplets or ice crystals that float in the sky.

But all clouds look a little bit different from one another, and sometimes these differences can help us predict a change in the weather.

- **Cirrus clouds** are delicate, **feathery clouds** that are made mostly of ice crystals. Their wispy shape comes from wind currents which twist and spread the ice crystals into strands.
- **Altocumulus clouds** have several patchy white or gray layers, and seem to be made up of many small rows of **fluffy ripples**. They are lower than cirrus clouds, but still quite high. They are made of liquid water, but they don't often produce rain.
- **Cumulus clouds** look like fluffy, white **cotton balls in the sky**. They are beautiful in sunsets, and their varying sizes and shapes can make them fun to observe!
- **Stratocumulus clouds** are patchy gray or white clouds that often have a dark **honeycomb-like appearance**.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Savanna Climate**:

1. It has alternate wet and dry seasons similar to monsoon climate but has considerably less annual rainfall.
2. It is confined within the tropics.

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

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** Savanna Climate.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Savanna Climate is a type of climate has alternate wet and dry seasons similar to monsoon climate but has considerably less annual rainfall. Also, there is no distinct rainy season like in monsoon climate.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is confined within the tropics and is best developed in Sudan, hence its name the Sudan Climate.

**Q.9)** Which of the following is/are ideal conditions for **temperature inversion**?

1. Long days, so that the outgoing radiation is greater than the incoming radiation.
2. Clear skies, which allow unobstructed escape of radiation.
3. Calm and stable air, so that there is no vertical mixing at lower levels.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** Temperature inversion is a reversal of the normal behavior of temperature in the troposphere, in which a layer of cool air at the surface is overlain by a layer of warmer air. (Under normal conditions, temperature usually decreases with height).

Ideal Conditions for Temperature Inversion:

- **Long nights**, so that the outgoing radiation is greater than the incoming radiation.
- **Clear skies**, which allow unobstructed escape of radiation.
- **Calm and stable air**, so that there is no vertical mixing at lower levels.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Aridisols**:

1. Aridisols are soils that are composed mainly of organic materials.
2. These soils occupy nearly 19 per cent of the earth's land surface.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** Aridisols are **largest single soil order** occurs in dry regions of the world.

- These soils occupy **nearly 19 per cent of the earth's land surface**.
- Pale and light near the surface, deficit in moisture.
- **These soils are lack in organic matter**.
- Salinisation is the main problem of these soils.
- Salinisation complicates farming in Aridisols.

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## *Environment*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Gandhi Solar Park**:

1. It was inaugurated at United Nations headquarters by the Indian Prime Minister during the commemorative event (Gandhi's 150 birth anniversary).
2. It has 193 solar panels, each representing a member of United Nations.
3. It can generate 100 kilo-watt per hour.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** In a first of its kind symbolic effort by India at the UN, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a **50KW 'Gandhi Solar Park'**, a gesture that highlights India's willingness to go beyond the talk on climate change.

- At a contribution of about one million dollars, India has gifted solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the UN Headquarters here, **one panel each for every 193 UN Member State.**
- Modi will remotely inaugurate the solar park at the UN Headquarters and the 'Gandhi Peace Garden' during a special commemorative event marking Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

**Q.2)** Which of the following country officially declared the **death of a Glacier**?

- a) Canada
- b) Iceland
- c) Finland
- d) Norway

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** In Iceland, people commemorated the loss of the glacier Okjokull.

- The glacier was officially declared dead in 2014 at the age of 700, when it was no longer thick enough to move. It has been reduced to a small patch of ice atop a volcano.
- The people walked up the volcano northeast of the capital Reykjavik to lay a plaque which carries a letter to the future.
- The plaque reads "Okjokull is the first Icelandic glacier to lose its status as glacier."

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **#FridaysforFuture movement**:

1. It is an initiative of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
2. It demands first Friday in a month to use renewable energy appliances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** #FridaysForFuture is a movement that began in August 2018, after 15-year-old Greta Thunberg and other young activists sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for three weeks, to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.

- 'Thunberg' called for a strike every Friday until the Swedish parliament revised its policies towards climate change.
- Gradually, students and adults from across the world started mobilising and demonstrating in front of parliaments and local city halls in their respective countries.

**Q.4)** Recently which of the following country was passed the **Zero-Carbon Act**?

- a) Australia
- b) New Zealand
- c) Japan
- d) Sweden

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** New Zealand's Parliament passed The Zero-Carbon Act, which will commit New Zealand to zero carbon emissions by 2050 or sooner, as part of the country's attempts to meet its Paris climate accord commitments.

- The Act is not a separate legislation but is an amendment to the existing Climate Change Responses Act, 2002.
- According to the New Zealand government, this is the first legislation in the world to make a legally binding commitment to living within 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming.

**Q.5)** According to the Central Water Commission report, 2/3rd of the water quality stations spanning India's major rivers showed contamination by one or more heavy metals. Which of the following is the **most common contaminant metal** found in Indian rivers?

- a) Arsenic
- b) Lead
- c) Iron
- d) Nickel

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** India's rivers have a heavy metal contamination problem. According to The Hindu, samples taken from **two-thirds of water quality stations on major rivers** revealed the presence of a heavy metal (or in some cases more than one) beyond limits specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

- The Central Water Commission (CWC) collected a total of 442 surface water samples, of which 287 were polluted by heavy metals.
- "Samples from 101 stations had contamination by two metals, [and] six stations saw contamination by three metals".
- **The most common heavy metal found was iron**, and above safe limits in 156 samples. Lead, nickel, chromium, cadmium and copper were the other metals.

**Q.6)** With reference to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019, arrange the following states in **descending order in terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area**:

1. Arunachal Pradesh

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

2. Mizoram
3. Manipur
4. Meghalaya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1-2-4-3
- b) 1-2-3-4
- c) 2-1-3-4
- d) 2-1-4-3

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar today released the biennial “India State of Forest Report (ISFR)”, in New Delhi.

- The report is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country including wall-to-wall forest cover mapping in a biennial cycle.
- Starting 1987, ISFR 2019 is the 16th report in the series.
- **Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country** followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of **forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).**

**Q.7)** The ‘reverse bundling’ scheme is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Power
- b) Contour bonding
- c) Bio-diesel
- d) Organic farming

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has proposed a draft policy for the supply of round-the-clock power to distributors through a mix of renewable energy and electricity generated in coal-based thermal power plants.

- Addressing issues of intermittency, limited hours of supply and low capacity utilisation of transmission infrastructure, the draft power policy provides for ‘**reverse bundling**’—**high-cost thermal power clubbed with cheaper renewable energy.**
- A power generating firm will have to supply electricity that consists of at least 51 percent of renewable energy and the rest drawn from thermal sources.
- The generator will supply renewable energy complemented with thermal power in round-the-clock manner, keeping at least 80 percent availability on an annual basis, the draft said.

**Q.8)** Recently which of the following country has **killed 10000 camels** as preventive measure to overcome drought?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Iraq
- c) Australia
- d) Mongolia

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** Culling is a practice of segregating organisms from a group according to desired or undesired characteristics and then reducing that population by selective slaughter.

- In **Australia**, camels will be shot by professional firearms experts from helicopters. It is being done to **prevent the animals from drinking too much water** in the drought-affected regions.
- According to reports, 10,000 camels will be shot today after an order from the Aboriginal leaders in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands.
- The camels are being culled because according to locals they have been wrecking havoc searching for water sources.
- Another reason for the culling is being stated as the **greenhouse gas emissions**.
- Camels reportedly **emit methane equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide per year**.

**Q.9)** Recently the Supreme Court allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to a suitable habitat in India. From which of the following **African country** India is importing the cheetah?

- a) Congo
- b) Kenya
- c) Ethiopia
- d) Namibia

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** The Supreme Court allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to a suitable habitat in India.

- With India's own cheetahs vanishing, a plea for this had been filed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), seeking permission to **introduce the African cheetah from Namibia**.
- Before Namibia, India had approached Iran for Asiatic cheetahs, but had been refused.
- The **Asiatic cheetah is classified as a "critically endangered" species** by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to survive only in Iran.
- In 1947, Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya (now in Chhattisgarh) reportedly killed the last known Asiatic cheetah in India.
- In **1952, the cheetah was officially declared extinct from India**.

**Q.10) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following state?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Gujarat

**ANS) B**

**Explanation: Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary is a hidden gem hiding amidst Vindhyan Hills in the state of Madhya Pradesh.**

- This wildlife sanctuary is a well kept secret and is a safe haven for a large number of flora and fauna.
- **Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Barkheda, Madhya Pradesh is underway to become India's second home for the Asiatic lion.**



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

- The species, whose only refuge in the country has been Gujarat's Gir forest, numbered in 523 in 2015.
- To prevent decline—and possible extinction—in a single habitat due to natural disasters, epidemics, decline in prey or retaliatory killings, an action plan is being implemented to relocate a number of lions to Kuno, a former royal hunting ground.

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## *Reports & commissions*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following are the dimensions of **Social Mobility Index**?

1. Technology
2. Education
3. Protections and Institutions
4. Environmental protection

Select the correct answer using the code 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:** **Social Mobility Index is newly compiled, released by the World Economic Forum** ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF in January 2020.

- India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a new Social Mobility Index compiled by the World Economic Forum, while Denmark has topped the charts.
- Measuring countries across five key dimensions distributed over 10 pillars — **health; education (access, quality and equity); technology; work (opportunities, wages, conditions); and protections and institutions** (social protection and inclusive institutions) — shows that fair wages, social protection and lifelong learning are the biggest drags on social mobility globally.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019**:

1. It is released by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
2. India has improved its GHI score continuously from 2000 to 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** The GHI has been brought out almost every year by **Welthungerhilfe** (lately in partnerships with Concern Worldwide) since 2000.

- In 2018, **India was ranked 103 out of 119 countries**. In 2000, the country was ranked 83 out of 113 countries. Now, with 117 countries in the fray, it has dropped to 102.
- **India is ranked 102 of 117 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2019**, behind its neighbours Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- **It's GHI score has also decelerated — from 38.9 in 2005 to 32 in 2010 and then from 32 to 30.3 between 2010 and 2019.**
- The GHI score is calculated on **four indicators** — **undernourishment; child wasting**, the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (that is, who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under-nutrition); **child stunting**, children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020

under-nutrition; and **child mortality**, the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

**Q.3)** Which of the following report/reports is/are released by **World Bank**?

1. Global Economic Prospect Report.
2. Global Financial Development Report.
3. Global Financial Stability Report.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS) B**

**Explanation:** Both Global Economic Prospect Report and Global Financial Development Report are released by World Bank.

NOTE: Global Financial Stability Report is released by International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **SDG India Index 2019**:

1. It is a single measurable Index to map the progress of States & UTs towards 2030 SDGs.
2. It is developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Ministry of Welfare & Social Justice.
3. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are the only northern states to equal or more in rankings with southern states.

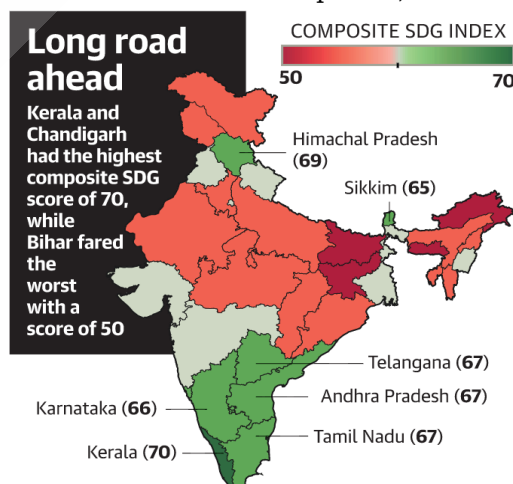
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** SDG India Index is a single measurable Index to map the progress of States & UTs towards 2030 SDGs.

- The **index is released by NITI Aayog, it is developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).**
- Kerala tops states in progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goals, while Bihar is at the bottom of Niti Aayog's SDG Index.
- **Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim have joined all the southern states** in the top tier of front runners who scored more than 65 points, out of a possible 100.



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020**

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL)**:

1. It is designed and developed by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
2. Rajasthan tops the Index followed by Gujarat and Karnataka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL).**

- **Karnataka has been given the first rank in the index**, followed by Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
- **SARAL has been designed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in association with Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).**
- The index captures five key aspects — robustness of policy framework, implementation environment, investment climate, consumer experience and business ecosystem.

**Q.6)** “**Sargent plan**” during British period in India is related to which of the following?

- a) Education
- b) Finance
- c) Partition
- d) Railways

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The goal of the Sargent plan was the reorganization of the entire education system of India. The commission under the chairmanship of the John Sargent submitted its report to the Central Advisory Board of Education C.A.B.E in (1944). This scheme of post war educational development was mainly focused on the quality enhancement of higher education (ie. university system).

Recommendations-

- Pre-primary basic school for 3-6 years age group.
- Compulsory and free education for 6-14 year age group.
- High school education of two types – Academic & Technical and Vocational.
- Refresher courses for teachers and better salary for them.
- Abolition of intermediate courses.
- Standard of the universities must be raised.
- Admission should be restricted so only the capable students can go for the higher education.

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **financial stability report (FSR)**:

1. It is released biannually by Reserve Bank of India.
2. It is approved by sub-committee of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) before it is published.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**ANS) C**

**Explanation:** The **Financial Stability Reports (FSR)**, published by Reserve Bank of India, after approved by FSDC Sub-Committee since its inception, taking inputs from financial sector regulators i.e. RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI including Ministry of Finance, are periodic exercise for reviewing the nature, magnitude and implications of risks that may have a bearing on the macroeconomic environment, financial institutions, markets and infrastructure.

- These reports will also assess the resilience of the financial sector through stress tests.
- FSR is a biannual publication.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth (CCIG)**:

1. It was created in 2014 to promote capital investment and growth of the economy.
2. It is headed by finance minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS) D**

**Explanation:** In June 2019, the Union government formed two cabinet committees — one on Investment, the other on Employment and Skill Development.

**The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees** of the Cabinet and sets out the specific functions assigned to them. He can add or reduce the number of committees.

**Investment:** The Cabinet Committee on Investment will “identify key projects required to be implemented on a time-bound basis”, involving investments of Rs 1,000 crore or more, or any other critical projects, as may be specified by it, with regard to infrastructure and manufacturing.

- It will prescribe time limits for giving requisite approvals and clearances by the ministries concerned in identified sectors.
- It will also monitor the progress of such projects.

**Employment:** The Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development is supposed to provide “direction to all policies, programmes, schemes and initiatives for skill development aimed at increasing the employability of the workforce for effectively meeting the emerging requirements of the rapidly growing economy and mapping the benefits of demographic dividend”.

- It is required to enhance workforce participation, foster employment growth and identification, and work towards removal of gaps between requirement and availability of skills in various sectors.
- The panel will set targets for expeditious implementation of all skill development initiatives by the ministries and to periodically review the progress in this regard.

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FOURTH WEEK), 2020

The addition of the two committees is indicative of the new focus areas for the government. The goal of both is new jobs.

**Q.9)** Which of the following committee is related to **anti-defection law**?

- a) Halim Committee
- b) Santhanam Committee
- c) Bhagwan Sahay Committee
- d) None

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms, the Law Commission of India and the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has recommended a review of the anti-defection law.

- The issues arising out of the decisions given by different Presiding Officers and the interpretation of the law by various courts were discussed at the Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India as well.
- In view of the near unanimity among the Presiding Officers for a review of the law, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi constituted in October 1998 a **Committee of Presiding Officers headed by the Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim**, to go into different aspects of the matter.
- The Committee presented its Report in February 2003 recommending inter alia that the provisions relating to splits and mergers be deleted from the Tenth Schedule; the terms 'voluntarily giving up membership' and 'political party' are defined; and that a time frame is laid down for decisions on the anti-defection cases.

**Q.10)** “**Public Interest Foundation & Others vs Union of India 2018**” case is related to which of the following?

- a) Criminalisation of Politics
- b) Gender Inequality
- c) Right to Privacy
- d) Right to Education

**ANS) A**

**Explanation:** The Supreme Court's constitution bench, in its judgment in Public Interest Foundation & Others v Union of India, 2018 explains its limitations in preventing those **charged with heinous offences from becoming legislators and finds that Parliament alone is competent to do so.**

It satisfies itself by appealing to Parliament to make a law for this purpose on priority and issues a few directions to the Election Commission and the political parties to make the disclosure of the criminal antecedents of candidates contesting elections sufficient and clear to the voters, so that the latter could be warned not to vote the candidates, charged with serious offences.