

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

22th to 28th March, 2021

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Society & Welfare

Q.1) The “Ananthsayanam Ayyangar Committee, Justice Venkatchaliah Commission, Balkrishna Sidke Renke and Idate Commission” related to which of the following?

- a) De-notified tribes
- b) Education
- c) Primary health
- d) Rural women empowerment

ANS: A

Explanation: The committees/commissions related to De-notified/criminal tribes.

- The Ananthsayanam Ayyangar Committee (gave a comprehensive report on how CTA worked throughout India), the CTA was repealed in August 1949 and former “criminal tribes” were de-notified in 1952, when the Act was replaced with the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952 of Government of India.
- In 2002, Justice Venkatchaliah Commission recommended for strengthening the programmes for economic and educational development of De-Notified Tribes (DNTs).
- National Commission for De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes was constituted in 2005 under the chairmanship of Balkrishna Sidke Renke, to study the socio-economic conditions of these groups.
- Another National Commission for De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes chaired by Bhiku Ramji Idate was constituted in 2015 for a three-year period. It submitted its report viz “Voices of the Denotified, Nomadic & SemiNomadic Tribes” in 2018.

Source: The Hindu

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA):

1. It is a not-profit banking agency established in 2017.
2. It is established to mobilise extra-budgetary resources for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions under Central Government.

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: HEFA has been set up on 31st May 2017 by the Central Government as a non-profit, Non Banking Financing Company (NBFC).

HEFA was established to mobilize extra-budgetary resources for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions under Central Government.

NOTE: The Government has approved the authorised equity capital expansion of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to Rs. 10,000 crore, with Government equity of Rs. 6000 crore.

- An amount corresponding to 10% of the Government equity would be contributed by the partner institution, Canara Bank.

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- All Centrally Funded Educational Institutions in Higher Education, School Education and Medical Education sectors are eligible to avail of loans through HEFA.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022:

1. Qualitatively upgrade the research and academic infrastructure in India to global best standards by 2022.
2. To create separate Institutes of National Importance for girls.
3. To cater to the requirements of the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, and medical institutions like AIIMSs in a faster time frame.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The RISE by 2022 is an attempt to translate the objectives into action plan by making available resources from the market. The objectives of RISE by 2022 are:

- Qualitatively upgrade the research and academic infrastructure in India to global best standards by 2022.
- Make India into an education hub by making available high quality research infrastructure in Indian higher educational institutions.
- To allow access of HEFA funding to institutions like Central Universities, AIIMS, IISERs and newly created Institutes of National Importance, without creating any additional burden to the students.
- To bring greater accountability and speed in execution of infrastructure projects and avoid all cost/time over-runs, moving from the block-grant mode to project-mode for all infrastructure projects.
- To cater to the requirements of the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, and medical institutions like AIIMSs in a faster time frame.

Source: Indian Express

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the report “Healthy States, Progressive India”:

1. It was prepared by NITI Aayog with the help of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
2. It ranks states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes.

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 report has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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It ranks states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other.

Source: NITI Aayog

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the World Population Prospects 2019 report:

1. It is published and released by United Nations (UN).
2. According to the report, India is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country by 2050.

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 key message from the UN's World Population Prospects 2019 report is that national leaders must redouble their efforts to raise education, health and living standards for people everywhere.

- India is projected to become the most populous country by 2027 surpassing China, and host 1.64 billion people by 2050;
- The world as a whole could be home to 8.5 billion people in just over a decade from now, and the number could go up to 9.7 billion by mid-century.
- The largest increases in population between 2019 and 2050 will take place in: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States of America (In descending order of the expected increase).
- The UN report shows migration to countries with a falling ratio of working-age people to those above 65 will be steady, as those economies open up to workers to sustain economic production.
- Japan has the lowest such ratio, followed by Europe and the Caribbean; in over three decades, North America, Eastern and Southeastern Asia will join this group.
- India meanwhile will have a vast number of young people and insufficient natural resources left for exploitation. Preparing for the changes and opportunities migration offers will depend on a skills revolution.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC):

1. It is a government undertaking owned by both Central and state governments.
2. It is an apex corporation for the all round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependants throughout India.
3. It is the nodal agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

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

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ANS: C

Explanation: National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation(NSKFDC), A wholly owned Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (M/o SJ&E) was set up on 24th January 1997 as a Company “Not for Profit” under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.

- NSKFDC is in operation since October, 1997, as an Apex Corporation for the all round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependants throughout India, through various loan and non-loan based schemes.
- Apart from operating various loan and non-loan based schemes for the upliftment of the target group, NSKFDC is playing a vital role in elimination of manual scavenging - the worst surviving symbol of untouchability.
- NSKFDC has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the Dr. Ambedkar scheme for Social integration through Inter Caste Marriages:

1. It is applicable to 1000 couples annually.
2. Each couple gets 5 lakh rupees.
3. To avail the scheme, one of the couple should belong to either schedule caste or schedule tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Under the Dr. Ambedkar scheme for Social integration through Inter Caste Marriages scheme, 500 couples can apply annually. Each couple gets Rs 2.5 lakh, of which Rs 1.5 lakh is paid up-front. The balance amount is kept as a fixed deposit and released to the couple after three years

- The number of couples who can avail the scheme in a state depends on its Scheduled Caste population as per the 2011 census.
- Among the beneficiary couple, one of the spouses should belong to Scheduled Caste and the other to a Non-Scheduled Caste.
- It shall be the discretion of the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment & Chairman of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation to sanction the incentive to the Couple.

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) The Sanitation is related to which of the following List of Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution?

- a) Union list
- b) State List
- c) Concurrent list
- d) None

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ANS: B

Explanation: The State List lists subjects under which the legislature of a state may make laws. Public order, police, public health and sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries, betting and gambling are some of the subjects that come under the state.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) The *Time to Care* report, sometimes in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Wealth Inequality
- b) Climate change
- c) Financial exclusion
- d) Refugees

ANS: A

Explanation: India's richest 1% hold more than four-times the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70% of the country's population, while the total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full-year budget.

- Releasing the study *Time to Care*, ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), rights group Oxfam also said the world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 per cent of the planet's population.
- The report flagged that global inequality is shockingly entrenched and vast and the number of billionaires has doubled in the last decade, despite their combined wealth having declined in the last year.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) The "Bru/Reang community", sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- a) Manipur
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Mizoram

ANS: D

Explanation: Twenty-three years after ethnic clashes in Mizoram forced 37,000 people of the Bru (or Reang) community to flee their homes to neighbouring Tripura, an agreement has been signed to allow them to remain permanently in the latter state.

- The agreement among the Bru leaders and the governments of India, Tripura, and Mizoram, signed in New Delhi on January 16, gives the Bru the choice of living in either state.
- In several ways, the agreement has redefined the way in which internal displacement is treated in India.

Source: Indian Express

Society & Development

Q.1) The Government of India launched “Shilpgram and Octave” is related to which of the following?

- a) Environmental Conservation
- b) Defense Radars
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) Cultural Promotion

ANS: D

Explanation: To preserve & promote various forms of folk art and culture of the tribals throughout the country including West Bengal, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur.

These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes all over the country on regular basis. These ZCCs under Ministry of Culture are also implementing a number of schemes for promoting the folk/tribal art and culture, details of which are as below:

- **Theatre Rejuvenation:** To promote theatre activities including stage shows and Production oriented workshops, etc. Honorarium Up to Rs. 30,000/- per show excluding TA & DA is paid. The groups finalized on the basis their credentials as well as the merit of project submitted by them.
- **Research & Documentation:** To preserve promote and propagate vanishing visual and performing art forms including folk, tribal and classical in the field of music, dance, theatre, literature, fine arts etc. in print/ audio – visual media. The art form is finalized in consultation with state Cultural Department.
- **Shilpgram:** To promote folk and tribal art and crafts of the zone by organizing seminar, workshops, exhibitions, craft fairs, design development and marketing support to the artisans living in the rural areas.
- **Octave:** To promote and propagate the rich cultural heritage of North East region comprising of eight States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura to the rest of India.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana (DDU-GKY):

1. It is launched by Ministry of Skill Development in 2014
2. Its aim is to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce

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 Government has informed that around 4.39 lakh candidates have been trained during 2018-19 and 2019-20 under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

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It was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) as a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). Scheme aim is to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana:

1. It is a compulsory and contributory pension scheme
2. Ministry of finance is the nodal ministry to implement the scheme

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: C

Explanation: National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons (originally proposed name was, Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Scheme) has been launched on 12.09.2019. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme.

- The traders in the age group of 18-40 years with an annual turnover, not exceeding Rs.1.5 crore and who is not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS/PM-SYM or an income tax payer, can join the scheme.
- Under the scheme, 50% monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government. Subscribers, after attaining the age of 60 years, are eligible for a monthly minimum assured pension of Rs.3,000/-.
- As the Scheme has been launched on 12th September, 2019. It envisages a coverage of about 50 lakh enrolments under the Scheme for 2019-20.
- In order to achieve this, various measures including celebration of Pension Week/ Pension Saptah have been taken.
- All State/UT Governments were requested for popularizing and bringing more awareness about the Scheme.
- The progress of the Scheme is being reviewed regularly in the Ministry at senior level with State/UT Governments, for taking initiatives under Mission Mode. Ministry of Labour & Employment is the nodal ministry to implement the scheme.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):

1. PMBJP campaign launched by Ministry of Health to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses
2. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

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ANS: B

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.

- PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name Jan Aushadi Campaign.
- Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to National Career service (NCS) Scheme:

1. National Career Service (NCS) is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Career Service is a Five Year Mission Mode Project launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 20th July, 2015. The project is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment.

- National Career Service (NCS) is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India.
- It works towards bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance, agencies providing training and career counselling.
- The NCS project reaches out to the people of this country through its three essential pillars i.e. a well designed ICT based portal which is NCS portal, Country wide set up of Model Career Centers and Inter-linkage with all the states through employment exchanges.
- The digital centralized portal provides a wide range of career related services including job search, job matching, rich career content, career counselling, information on Job Fairs, services of local service providers like drivers, plumbers, etc. for households and various other services. This portal facilitates registration of Job Seekers, Employers, Skill Providers, Career Counsellors, Local Service Providers (LSP's), Career Centers, Placement Organisations, Households (for availing the services of the LSP's) and Government Departments.

Source: The Hindu

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF):

1. It was established by Indira Gandhi in 1971
2. The fund is recognized as a Trust under the Societies Registration Act of 1860

Which of the following codes below given 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: In pursuance of an appeal by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in January, 1948, the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan.

- The resources of the PMNRF are now utilized primarily to render immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities like floods, cyclones and earthquakes, etc. and to the victims of the major accidents and riots.
- Assistance from PMNRF is also rendered, to partially defray the expenses for medical treatment like heart surgeries, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment and acid attack etc.
- The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support. The corpus of the fund is invested in various forms with scheduled commercial banks and other agencies.
- Disbursements are made with the approval of the Prime Minister. PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament.
- The fund is recognized as a Trust under the Income Tax Act and the same is managed by Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.7) Article 350B of Indian Constitution has provision relating to which of the following?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

- Later, the States Reorganisation Commission (1953-55) made a recommendation in this regard.
- Accordingly, the Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350-B in Part XVII of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Which of the following acts relevant provisions are subsumed by Code on Wages Bill, 2019?

1. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
2. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
3. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.
4. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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ANS: A

Explanation: Lok Sabha passed the Code on Wages Bill, 2019, which amends and consolidates laws relating to wages/bonus and universalizes the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.

- At present, the provisions of both Minimum Wages Act and Payment of Wages Act apply to workers below a particular wage ceiling working in Scheduled Employments only.
- “This Bill would ensure Right to Sustenance for every worker and intends to increase the legislative protection of minimum wage from existing about 40% to 100% workforce.”
- A release issued by the Ministry noted that the Code on Wages Bill, 2019, subsumes relevant provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
- After the enactment of the Bill, all these four Acts will get repealed.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the “Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019”:

1. It defines golden hour as the time period of up to two hours.
2. It requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in 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: The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 15, 2019. The Bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety.

The Act provides for grant of licenses and permits related to motor vehicles, standards for motor vehicles, and penalties for violation of these provisions.

Compensation for road victims: The central government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour.

- The Bill defines golden hour as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
- The central government may also make a scheme for providing interim relief to claimants seeking compensation under third party insurance.
- The Bill increases the minimum compensation for hit and run cases as follows: (i) in case of death, from Rs 25,000 to two lakh rupees, and (ii) in case of grievous injury, from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000.

Compulsory Insurance: The Bill requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.

Good Samaritans: The Bill defines a good samaritan as a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident.

- The assistance must have been (i) in good faith, (ii) voluntary, and (iii) without the expectation of any reward.

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- Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.

Recall of Vehicles: The Bill allows the central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users.

Taxi aggregators: The Bill defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state further they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Source: PRSINDIA

Q.10) Which of the following provisions of the constitution is/are related to “secular state of India”?

1. The term secular was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1978.
2. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship
3. The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws

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: The Constitution of India stands for a secular state. Hence, it does not uphold any particular religion as the official religion of the Indian State. The following provisions of the Constitution reveal the secular character of the Indian State:

- The term ‘secular’ was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
- The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship.
- The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws (Article 14).
- The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of religion (Article 15).
- Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of public employment (Article 16).
- All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion (Article 25).
- Every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the right to manage its religious affairs (Article 26).
- No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion of a particular religion (Article 27).

Source: Laxmikanth

Society & Welfare - II

Q.1) “Lorenz curve” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Unemployment
- b) Inflation
- c) Inequality
- d) Climate Change

ANS: C

Explanation: A graph showing the degree of inequality in income and wealth in a given population or an economy.

- It is a rigorous way to measure income inequality. In this method (for example), personal incomes in an economy are arranged in increasing order; the cumulative share of total income is then plotted against the cumulative share of the population.
- The curve’s slope is thus proportional to per capita income at each point of the population distribution.
- In the case of complete equality of income, the Lorenz curve will be a straight line and with greater curvature the inequality rises proportionally—the Gini Coefficient measures this inequality.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) “Grihini Suvidha Yojana” is launched by which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Sikkim
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: D

Explanation: Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana launched in 2018, it aimed to cover households left out under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Except families having a pensioner, income taxpayer or any member employed with the government, board, corporation etc, all households of the state without an LPG connection were eligible.

Source: The Hindu

Q.3) “e – Sampada” is recently in news is launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- b) Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

ANS: D

Explanation: The Ministry of Urban Affairs launched a new Web Portal and Mobile App, e-Sampada which provides a single window for all these services including allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, office space allotment to government organisations in 28 cities and venues like 5, Ashoka Road for social functions.

In its endeavour to provide ‘One Nation, One System’, the erstwhile four websites (gpra.nic.in, eawas.nic.in, estates.gov.in, holidayhomes.nic.in), and two Mobile Apps (m-

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Awasthi & Ashoka) of the Directorate of Estates have been integrated into one, which paves the way for all services on the same platform throughout the country.

Source: The New Indian Express.

Q.4) Recently, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) revived the 1000 year old Monpa Handmade Paper of which of the following state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Tripura
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Odisha

ANS: C

Explanation: Due to the committed efforts of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the 1000-year old heritage art – the Monpa Handmade Paper of Arunachal Pradesh – which was driven to the extinction, has come to life once again.

- The art of making Monpa handmade paper originated over 1000 years ago. Gradually the art became an integral part of local custom and culture in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Once produced in every household in Tawang, this handmade paper was a major source of livelihood for the locals. However, the handmade paper industry almost disappeared in the last 100 years; prompting KVIC to plan revival of this ancient art.

Source: Press Information Bureau

Q.5) With reference to the “Municipal bonds”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a kind of debt instrument where investors offer loans to local governments.
2. Surat was the first city in south Asia to launch a municipal bond.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: A municipal bond is a kind of debt instrument where investors offer loans to local governments.

They are issued by civic bodies for specific projects and usually have a 10-year tenure. The ULB pays the annual interest on the bonds to the investor at the decided rate.

- Ahmedabad was the first city in south Asia to launch a municipal bond of Rs 100 crore in 1998, which was completely subscribed.
- Surat Municipal Corporation was the second city in Gujarat to announce bonds in 2018, to fund a sewage treatment project worth Rs 450 crore.
- The Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) is expected to launch municipal bonds in January, and will become the third Urban Local Body (ULB) in Gujarat to use this method to raise money to fund development work sanctioned under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

Source: Indian Express

Q.6) With reference to the “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan project”, which of the following is/are eligible to adopt a heritage?

1. Individuals

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2. Non Governmental Organizations

3. Public sector companies

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: The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India runs the “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project which is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and State/ UTs Government for developing tourism amenities at heritage/ natural/ tourist sites spread across India for making them tourist friendly, in a planned and phased manner which I started in September 2017.

The project aims to encourage companies from public sector, private sector, trusts, NGOs, individuals and other stakeholders to become ‘Monument Mitras’ and take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced tourist amenities at these sites as per their interest and viability in terms of a sustainable investment model under CSR. They would also look after the Operation & Maintenance of the same.

Source: Indian Express

Q.7) With reference to the “Sentinelese”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The population of Sentinelese is shown increasing trend in last decade.
- 2. Sentineles are Negrito tribes who inhabited the North Sentinel Island of Andaman.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Population growth of Sentinelese does not show any improvement in the last Decade.

- The Sentinelese, with a population of about 50 to 100 on the North Sentinel Island, are not only among the most isolated of nearly 70 PVTGs across the country.
- The Andaman Islands are home to four ‘Negrito’ tribes namely the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinelese.
- Nicobar Islands are home to two ‘Mongoloid’ tribes – the Shompen and Nicobarese.

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) “Global Pravasi Rishta Portal” is recently seen in news is launched by?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of External Affairs
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- d) Ministry of Culture

ANS: B

Explanation: Ministry of External Affairs has launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and app in order to connect with nearly 3.12 crore Indians across the world.

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It acts as a dynamic communication platform by facilitating a three-way communication between the Indian Missions (meaning the embassies), external affairs ministry and Indian diaspora.

Source: Indian Express

Q.9) “Human Freedom Index 2020” is released by which of the following?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Transparency International
- c) United Nations
- d) Fraser Institute

ANS: D

Explanation: The Human Freedom Index 2020 has been jointly released by Fraser Institute in Canada and the Cato Institute in the United States.

- The index presents a broad measure of human freedom, understood as the absence of coercive constraints.
- It uses a 0 to 10 scale to measure personal freedom based on parameters such as rule of law, safety and security, identity and relationships, freedom of movement, economic freedom, and ability of individuals to make their own economic decisions without government or crony interference.
- New Zealand has topped the index followed by Switzerland and Hong Kong. India has been placed at the 111th spot out of 162 countries.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) Recently, India and which of the following country jointly launched “Virtual Vaccines Hub”?

- a) France
- b) Germany
- c) United Kingdom
- d) United States of America

ANS: C

Explanation: India and the UK Government have launched a Virtual Vaccines Hub. It aims to distribute vaccines for Covid-19 and other deadly viruses by sharing knowledge on clinical trials and regulatory approvals and get vaccines to people who need them most in a safe, secure and energy-efficient way.

Source: Times of India

Disaster Management

Q.1) Disaster Management act was enacted in which of the following year?

- a) 2000
- b) 2005
- c) 2007
- d) 2014

ANS: B

Explanation: The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been enacted by the Parliament of India for the effective management of disasters.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

1. It is the apex constitutional body for disaster management in India.
2. Home minister is the chairperson of NDMA.

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 National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.

The NDMA was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with Prime Minister as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding National Disaster Responsive Force (NDRF):

1. It functions under ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It consists of both military and Para-military battalion forces.

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: Today NDRF is a distinguished, unique Force across the country functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, within the overall command, control and leadership of the Director General, NDRF.

- At present, National Disaster Response Force consists of 12 battalions, three each from the BSF and CRPF and two each from CISF, ITBP and SSB.

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- Each battalion have 18 self-contained specialist search and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics.
- The total strength of each battalion is 1,149. All the 12 battalions have been equipped and trained to respond natural as well as man-made disasters.
- Battalions are also trained and equipped for response during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

Source: <http://www.ndrf.gov.in/about-us>

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA):

1. Disaster management act provides for constitution of DDMA for every district of a state.
 2. It is headed by local elected representative.
 3. It is responsible for planning, coordination and implementation of disaster management.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Section 25 of the DM Act provides for constitution of DDMA for every district of a state.

- The District Magistrate/ District Collector/Deputy Commissioner heads the Authority as Chairperson besides an elected representative of the local authority as Co-Chairperson except in the tribal areas where the Chief Executive Member of the District Council of Autonomous District is designated as Co-Chairperson.
- Further in district, where Zila Parishad exists, its Chairperson shall be the Co-Chairperson of DDMA.
- The District Authority is responsible for planning, coordination and implementation of disaster management and to take such measures for disaster management as provided in the guidelines.
- The District Authority also has the power to examine the construction in any area in the district to enforce the safety standards and to arrange for relief measures and respond to the disaster at the district level.

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Q.5) The “Ring of Fire” is often seen in news is located around which of the following Ocean?

- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Arctic Ocean
- c) Antarctic Ocean
- d) Atlantic Ocean

ANS: A

Explanation: Since 1970, more than two million people have been killed by natural disasters in the ‘Ring of Fire’ region around the Pacific Ocean, an average of 43,000 a year, as per the United Nations (UN).

Source: The Hindu

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding National Hydrology Project:

1. It was started in 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and is supported by the World Bank.

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: National Hydrology Project was started in 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme with 100% grant to implementing agencies on pan India basis.

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and is supported by the World Bank.
- It has a budget outlay of Rs. 3680 crore to be spent over a period of 8 years.

Aim:

- To improve the extent, reliability and accessibility of water resources information.
- To strengthen the capacity of targeted water resource management institutions in India.
- To facilitate acquisition of reliable information efficiently this would pave the way for an effective water resource development and management.

Project Beneficiaries:

- Central and state implementing agencies responsible for surface and/or groundwater planning and management, including river basin organizations.
- Users of the Water Resources Information System (WRIS) across various sectors and around the World.

Source: <http://nhp.mowr.gov.in/HomeNew/NHPIIndexnew.aspx>

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Sendai Framework Agreement:

1. It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).
2. The timeline for agreement is 2015 to 2030.

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 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.

- The Sendai Framework works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements, including The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and ultimately the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).

Source: <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

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Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Disaster Management in India:

1. Constitution of India does not explicitly mention the word Disaster.
2. Central government used the concurrent subject to pass disaster management act.

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: Constitution of India does not have any explicit provision on the subject of disaster management. ... As a result, the subject of disaster management failed to secure a place in the elaborate scheme of division of vital subjects between the centre and states.

- As far as the DM Act is concerned, the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution does not have an explicit entry on disaster management.
- Hence, Parliament had to trace its legislative competence for passing the DM Act to the Concurrent List entry on “Social security and social insurance; employment and unemployment”.

Source: <https://vidhilegalpolicy.in/blog/covid-19-and-the-need-for-clear-centre-state-roles/>

Q.9) Which of the following factors are affecting the ocean salinity?

1. Evaporation
2. Freezing of Ice
3. Rivers
4. Wind flow

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: D

Explanation: All waters in nature, whether rain water or ocean water, contain dissolved mineral salts. Salinity is the term used to define the total content of dissolved salts in sea water. Factors affecting ocean salinity are mentioned below:

- The salinity of water in the surface layer of oceans depends mainly on evaporation and precipitation.
- Surface salinity is greatly influenced in coastal regions by the fresh water flow from rivers, and in Polar Regions by the processes of freezing and thawing of ice.
- Wind, also influences salinity of an area by transferring water to other areas.
- The ocean currents contribute to the salinity variations. Salinity, temperature and density of water are interrelated. Hence, any change in the temperature or density influences the salinity of water in an area.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the Storm Surge:

1. Storm surge is the abnormal rise in seawater level during a storm, measured as the height of the water above the normal predicted astronomical tide.
2. The amplitude of the storm surge at any given location depends on the orientation of the coast line with the storm track, the intensity, size, speed of the storm, and the local bathymetry.

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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: Storm Surge.

- Storm surge is the abnormal rise in seawater level during a storm, measured as the height of the water above the normal predicted astronomical tide.
- The surge is caused primarily by a storm's winds pushing water onshore.
- The amplitude of the storm surge at any given location depends on the orientation of the coast line with the storm track;
- The intensity, size, and speed of the storm; and the local bathymetry.

Source: NOAA

Science & Technology

Q.1) The Government of India launched a prestigious programme “National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)” to provide broadband services to rural areas. On which principle the optical fibre works?

- a) Polarisation
- b) Total internal reflection
- c) Total internal refraction
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Optical fibre is a device which works on the principle of total internal reflection by which light signals can be transmitted from one place to another with negligible loss of energy.

Source: The Hindu

Q.2) Recently which state police has adopted a unique bar-coding software - Trakea - to ensure that thousands of forensic reports that form the backbone of the criminal investigation system?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Haryana

ANS: D

Explanation: Haryana Police has adopted a unique barcoding software — Trakea — to ensure that thousands of forensic reports that form the backbone of the criminal investigation system and subsequent trials in the courts of law, are not tampered with.

- According to the police, Trakea ensures foolproof security of the samples collected from the scene of crime, and the forensic analysis reports, and is different from traditional methods that the state police force has been following for decades.
- Haryana Police claims it is the country’s first police force to have introduced this unique barcoding for forensic reports.

Source: The Hindu

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding e-waste clinic in India:

1. India’s first e-waste clinic has been inaugurated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
2. It would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.
3. The clinic is set up in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules adopted in 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: India's first e-waste clinic has been inaugurated in Bhopal and will enable segregation, processing and disposal of electronic waste from both household and commercial units.

- It was set up by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation and the Central Pollution Control Board.
- The e-waste clinic is developed on the bases of a three-month pilot project and, if successful, more clinics will be built throughout the country.
- The clinic is set up in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules adopted in 2016.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.4) Recently a Bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program has commenced between the Indian Patent Office (IPO) and which of the following?

- a) Switzerland Patent Office
- b) Japan Patent Office
- c) The United States Patent and Trademark Office
- d) The National Industrial Property Institute (France)

ANS: B

Explanation: A Bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program has commenced between the Indian Patent Office (IPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) is a set of initiatives for providing accelerated patent prosecution procedures by sharing information between some patent offices.

Source: The Hindu

Q.5) According to the Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT), Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) comprised a suite of seven minerals. Which of the following minerals are consists of BSM?

1. Limonite
2. Rutile
3. Zircon
4. Strontium
5. Monazite

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: According to the Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT) Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) comprised a suite of seven minerals.

- They are limonite, rutile, leucoxene (titanium being mineral), zircon (zirconium being mineral), garnet, sillimanite and monazite (a proscribed substance under the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 since it covers uranium and thorium).
- The suites of BSM were also called atomic minerals. Except garnet and sillimanite, others were prescribed substances under the Atomic Energy Act.

Source: The Hindu

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Q.6) The SCOJtEx-2019 is a four-day long exercise, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Army exercise
- b) High Altitude military exercise
- c) Naval exercise
- d) Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue exercise

ANS: D

Explanation: India had always been the first respondent in situations of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management (HADR) in the subcontinent said by Indian Home Minister.

- Addressing the 10th meeting of the Heads of Departments of SCO member-States, he called on the Shanghai Cooperation organisation (SCO) members to make a concerted, synchronised effort towards securing people from disasters.
- Minister expressed the confidence that the four-day Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue (SCOJtEx)-2019, held in November 2019, and the ministerial meeting would help in finalizing an action plan for managing disasters for the year 2020-21.

Source: The Hindu

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the microdot technology:

1. It involves spraying of thousands of nano dots carrying registration information on vehicles.
2. The microdots are adhesive and they become permanent fixtures which cannot be removed without damaging the asset.

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 microbot technology involves spraying of thousands of nano dots carrying registration information on vehicles.

- These nano-size metal particles carry information like the registration number and chassis number of the vehicle.
- The dots are sprayed at many different spots on the vehicle, so that even if the vehicle is stolen and sold for parts, it can be traced.
- The microdots are adhesive and will become permanent fixtures/affixation which cannot be removed without damaging the asset, which is the vehicle itself.

Source: Indian Express

Q.8) The Elastocaloric effect is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Cooling
- b) Aero-dynamics
- c) Nuclear power
- d) Wind energy

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ANS: A

Explanation: When rubbers bands are twisted and untwisted, it produces a cooling effect. This is called the “elastocaloric” effect, and researchers have suggested that it can be used in a very relevant context today.

- Researchers from multiple universities, including Nankai University in China, have found that the elastocaloric effect, if harnessed, may be able to do away with the need of fluid refrigerants used in fridges and air-conditioners.
- These fluids are susceptible to leakages, and can contribute to global warming. In the elastocaloric effect, the transfer of heat works much the same way as when fluid refrigerants are compressed and expanded.
- When a rubber band is stretched, it absorbs heat from its environment, and when it is released, it gradually cools down.
- In order to figure out how the twisting mechanism might be able to enable a fridge, the researchers compared the cooling power of rubber fibres, nylon and polyethylene fishing lines and nickel-titanium wires.
- They observed high cooling from twist changes in twisted, coiled and super-coiled fibres.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) “Truenat” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) CoVID – 19 testing kit
- b) Tuberculosis (TB) testing kit
- c) Malaria testing kit
- d) Japan encephalitis testing kit

ANS: B

Explanation: In a Rapid Communication published on January 14 – 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) had mentioned that the India-made Truenat MTB, a molecular diagnostic test to diagnose pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB and rifampicin-resistant TB, has high diagnostic accuracy.

- Truenat MTB has “high diagnostic accuracy as initial test to diagnose TB and to sequentially detect rifampicin resistance”, says the WHO Communication.
- Truenat MTB will be used as an initial test to diagnose TB thus replacing sputum smear microscopy.
- Truenat is developed by the Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics.
- The company was provided with technical assistance and resources by the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) to help commercialize Truenat. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had assessed and validated the diagnostic tool.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.10) The term “Juice Jacking” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Cyber attacks
- b) Fibre extracting method
- c) Automobile lubricant
- d) Crude oil extraction

ANS: A

Explanation: Mobile phones can get infected through a type of cyber attack called Juice Jacking. A USB port is not simply a power socket, you can also use it to transfer and sync your data.

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- A hacker can tamper with a USB charging port at a public charging station to steal passwords and export data.
- The main way to avoid juice jacking is to stay away from public charging stations or portable wall chargers.
- Carry a personal charger or a power bank or use USB condoms which are adaptors that allow the power transfer but don't connect the data transfer pins.
- Switch off your phone or lock your phone and then plug it into the charging port. But this technique only works on few mobile models

Source: The Hindu

ForumIAS

Various Security Forces & Their Mandate & Miscellaneous

Q.1) Which of the following is the oldest Para-military organization in India?

- a) Assam Rifles
- b) Central Reserve Police Force
- c) Central Industrial Security Force
- d) Sashastra Seema Bal

ANS: A

Explanation: The Assam Rifles is India's oldest paramilitary force which has been at the forefront of keeping India safe for nearly 19 decades.

Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/rajnath-singh-greets-personnel-on-186th-rising-day-of-assam-rifles20210324104702/>

Q.2) Which of the following Para-military force guards the Indo-Nepal border?

- a) Central Reserve Police Force
- b) Central Industrial Security Force
- c) Indo-Tibetan Border Police
- d) Sashastra Seema Bal

ANS: D

Explanation: The border patrol teams have also been asked to remain extra alert in Uttarakhand near the Kalapani area.

While the ITBP guards the India-China border, the SSB guards the Indo-Nepal and Bhutan border — to heighten vigilance.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/sep/03/amid-lac-standoff-forces-at-nepal-border-told-to-be-extra-alert-mha-sources>.

Q.3) Which of the following Para-military force was called as the Crown Representative Police?

- a) CISF
- b) SSB
- c) CRPF
- d) ITBP

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the premier central police force of the Union of India for internal security.

Originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939, it is one of the oldest Central Para military forces (now termed as Central Armed Police Force).

Source: <https://crpf.gov.in/history-crpf.htm>

Q.4) Which agency is a federal contingency world class force to deal with anti-terrorists activities in all its manifestations?

- a) National Security Guard
- b) Anti-terrorists Squad
- c) Central Reserve Police Force

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d) Research & Wing Analysis

ANS: A

Explanation:

NSG is Federal Contingency World Class Zero Error Force to deal with anti-terrorist activities in all its manifestation. The NSG is a Force specially equipped and trained to deal with specific situations and is therefore, to be used only in exceptional circumstances to thwart serious acts of terrorism.

Ethos : The Ethos of the NSG is premised on the following:-

- Pursuit for excellence
- Lead from the front.
- Zero Error.
- Speed, surprise, stealth, precision and accuracy are its hall marks.

Source: <https://www.nsg.gov.in/about-us/about-nsg>

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Central Industrial Security Force:

1. It was established by executive resolution.
2. It provides security to the premises staff along with the security of property and establishments.

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: CISF is an armed force of the Union established under an Act of Parliament, "Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968 (50 of 1968)".

- In the year 1969, the strength of the force established with the help of 3129 personnel, was increased to 1,41,421 as of 01.03.2020.
- CISF has 12 reserve battalions, 08 training institutes and 63 other formations.
- According to the mandate, CISF provides security to the premises staff along with the security of property and establishments.
- CISF is providing security to the strategic establishment, including the Department of Space, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Airports, the Delhi Metro, the ports, the historical monuments and the basic areas of Indian economy such as petroleum and natural gas, electricity, coal, steel and mining.
- CISF is providing protection to some private sector units and important government buildings in Delhi.
- Presently, CISF is also providing security to the protected persons classified as Z Plus, Z, X, Y.
- CISF is the only force with a customized and dedicated fire wing.

Source: <https://www.cisf.gov.in/cisfeng/about-us/>

Q.6) Which of the following force is a compensatory cost force?

- a) CISF
- b) SSB
- c) CRPF

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d) NSG

ANS: A

Explanation: CISF is a compensatory cost force.

Source: <https://www.cisf.gov.in/cisfeng/about-us/>

Q.7) Which force is deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh covering 3488 km of Indo-China Border?

- a) CRPF
- b) CISF
- c) SSB
- d) ITBP

ANS: D

Explanation: ITBPF was raised on 24 Oct, 1962. Presently, ITBP is deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh covering 3488 km of Indo-China Border and manning Border Outposts on altitudes ranging from 9000' to 18700' in the Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of the Indo-China Border.

- ITBPF is a specialized mountain force and most of the officers and men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers.
- Being the first responder for natural disaster, ITBPF has been carrying out numerous rescue and relief operations across the country.

Source: <https://www.itbpolice.nic.in/indexenglish.html>

Q.8) “Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Chhattisgarh

ANS: C

Explanation: Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary was set up in 1978 to the southwest of Hazaribagh in the Chhotanagpur plateau area.

- It covers an area of about 211 sq. kms. The terrain is undulating and dissected by rivers and streams.
- Located in the south-west part of Chatra district, Lawalong sanctuary has a rich wildlife, including tiger and bison.
- Different species of birds and serpents are also found here.
- A variety of wildlife including Tiger, Panther, Hyena, Spotted Deer, Wild Boar, Nilgai are available in this sanctuary.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) Which of the following is/are consists of “River valleys” of Arunachal Pradesh?

1. The Siang Valley
2. The Kameng Valley
3. The Tirap Valley

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: All three valleys are located in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Rivers constitute an important part of the topography of the state. Arunachal Pradesh is divided into five major river valleys: 1. The Siang Valley 2. The Kameng Valley 3. The Subansiri Valley 4. The Lohit Valley 5. The Tirap Valley.
- These valleys are named after the important rivers of the state.
- The major rivers and their tributaries traversing the state are Siang, Kameng, Subansiri, Subansiri, Lohit, Tirap etc.
- All these and other countless rivers and rivulets are fed by snow from the Himalayas. Therefore, mostly these small rivulets are perennial in nature.

Source: Shodhganga

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “The World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)”:

1. It advances environmental law around the globe by providing specialized knowledge and assistance to strengthen the legal foundations of the conservation of nature and sustainable development.
2. WCEL functions as an integral part of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

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 World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) advances environmental law around the globe by providing specialized knowledge and assistance to strengthen the legal foundations of the conservation of nature and sustainable development through the conceptual advancement of environmental principles, norms, and laws, and by building the capacity of communities to benefit from the environmental rule of law.

WCEL functions as an integral part of the IUCN Environmental Law Programme (ELP) that includes close collaboration with the Environmental Law Centre (ELC).

Source: UNFCCC

Revision

Q.1) 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 under-nutrition; and child mortality, the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

Source: The Hindu

Q.2) 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).

Source: World Bank

Q.3) “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 CABE 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.

Source: Spectrum

Q.4) 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.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.5) 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

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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.

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

Source: The Hindu

Q.6) 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) “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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Which of the following committee (s) is/are related to Defence in British India?

- 1. Skeen Committee
- 2. Chatfield Committee
- 3. Babington Smith Committee

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: The crucial link between the founding of a military academy and the attainment of independence was acutely realized by a section of Indian leadership in the days of struggle for independence, whose concerted efforts resulted in the recommendations of the Montague Chelmsford Reforms Committee that enabled ten Indians for receiving training at Sandhurst for induction as commissioned officers;

- Setting up of the Skeen Committee in 1925 and later holding of Round Table Conference in London in 1930, which recommended the establishment of the Indian Sandhurst.
- As a follow up action, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, the then Commander-in-Chief of India, to work out modalities for establishment of an Indian Sandhurst.
- In Jul 1931, the committee recommended establishment of a military academy for induction of 40 Gentlemen Cadets (GC) in each term comprising 15 as Direct Entries, 15 from the ranks through Kitchner College, Nowgaon and 10 from princely states.
- The training span was initially envisaged for three years but later reduced to two and a half years.

Source: Spectrum

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Q.9) Which of the following Act (s) is/are passed during the period of Indira Gandhi?

1. The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act.
2. Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA).
3. Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP).

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: Important acts were passed during the period of Indira Gandhi.

- Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971 (MISA): A controversial law which gave the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and law enforcement gave absolute power to search and seize properties without a warrant, put individuals under preventive detention and use wiretapping.
- Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP): The objective of the Act was to restrict monopolistic trade activities and to maintain the economy of the country in balance. In short, the law was to make sure that the wealth of the country does not remain concentrated in the hands of the rich.
- Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA): What is now popularly known as FEMA, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 was called FERA back in 1973. The Act aimed to regulate foreign payments and investments and the conversion of foreign exchange.
- The Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973: Acquisition, transfer of right, title and interest of the owners of coal mines was covered under the law.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

| Committee | : | Organization |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. Sivaraman Committee | : | NABARD |
| 2. B.D. Kumar Committee | : | EXIM Bank |
| 3. Sukomoy Chakravarty committee | : | SIDBI Bank |

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: The B.D. Kumar Committee, which submitted its report in 1975, recommended for setting up of an export-import Bank type institution to finance and promote exports of engineering goods and turnkey projects.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at the insistence of the Government of India, constituted a Committee to Review the Arrangements For Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development (CRAFICARD) to look into these very critical aspects.

- The Committee was formed on 30 March 1979, under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, former member of Planning Commission, Government of India.
- Its recommendation was formation of a unique development financial institution which would address these aspirations and formation of National Bank for

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Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was approved by the Parliament through Act 61 of 1981.
Source: ForumIAS

ForumIAS