

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2022

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*HISTORY*  
*ECONOMICS*  
*POLITY*  
*SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*  
*GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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## *History/ Art and Culture*

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**Q.1) Which of the following fort has been described as Gibraltar of the East in British Gazette?**

- a) Raigarh Fort
- b) Saraighat Fort
- c) Kangra Fort
- d) Fort William

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Raigad Fort:**

- Raigad is a hill fort situated in the Raigad district in Maharashtra. The British Gazette states the fort was known to early Europeans as the Gibraltar of the East.
- Its decisive feature is a mile and a half flat top, which has adequate room for buildings. In its prime, the fort had 300 stone houses and a garrison of 2,000 men.

**Importance of Raigad Fort:**

- The fort, which was earlier called Rairi, was the seat of the Maratha clan Shirke in the 12th century.
- The fort changed hands a number of times from the dynasty of Bahaminis to the Nizam Shahis and then the Adil Shahis.
- In 1656, Chhatrapati Shivaji captured it. The fort not only helped Shivaji challenge the supremacy of the Adil Shahi dynasty but also opened up the routes towards Konkan for the extension of his power.
- Raigad fort had emerged as the seat of Shivaji's government.
- Shivaji was coronated at Raigad by Gagabhatt where he took on the title of Chhatrapati.

**Source:** EPIC December 2021

**Q.2) Consider the following:**

1. Chhau Dance
2. Durga Puja
3. Kumbh Mela
4. Bharatnatyam

**Which of the above mentioned enjoys status of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritages?**

- 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:** Recently, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has inscribed 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

With the inscription of Durga Puja, India now have 14 intangible cultural heritage elements on the prestigious UNESCO Representative List of ICH of Humanity.

The other 13 intangible cultural heritage elements are:

## LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGES IN INDIA

Recognized by UNESCO

- 1. BUDDHIST CHANTING**  
The sacred texts chanted by the Buddhist monks (priests) in the Ladakh region. Each of the Buddhist sects has several forms of chanting.
- 2. KALBELIA**  
A folk song and dance form of Rajasthan. 'Khanjar' percussion instrument and the 'Phongi', a woodwind instrument are used during the performance. Kalbelia songs disseminate mythological knowledge through stories. At times, the lyrics are spontaneously composed and improvised during the performance.
- 3. CHHAU DANCE**  
A tradition from eastern India that enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana, local folklore and abstract themes. It is closely connected to the regional festivals specifically the Chaitra Parva.
- 4. KOODIYATTAM**  
A Sanskrit theatrical tradition practised in a province of Kerala, traditionally performed in theatres called as Kutampalams located in the Hindu temples.
- 5. KUMBH MELA**  
The festival of a sacred pitcher where the pilgrims bathe or take a dip in the sacred river.
- 6. MUDIYETT**  
A ritual dance drama from the state of Kerala, based on a mythological tale of the battle between Danka - the demon and goddess Kali.
- 7. NAWRUZ**  
The Persian New year celebrated worldwide. It involves street performances of music and dance, public rituals involving water and fire, traditional sports and the making of handicrafts.
- 8. RAMLILA**  
The traditional performance of Ramayana performed across North India during the festival of Dussehra. Most representatives are those performed in Satna, Vrindavan, Varanasi, and Rameswar.
- 9. RAMMAN**  
A religious festival in honour of the tutelary god, Bhumiya Devta practised in the villages of Saloor-Dungre in the state of Uttarakhand. Each of the caste and occupational groups has distinctive roles in the festival.
- 10. SANKIRTANA**  
Includes a set of arts performed to mark religious occasions and various stages in the life of the Vaishnava people of the Manipur plains.
- 11. TRADITIONAL BRASS AND COPPER CRAFT OF UTENSIL MAKING**  
The craft of the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru constitutes the traditional technique of manufacturing brass and copper utensils in Punjab.
- 12. VEDIC CHANTING**  
The tradition of Vedic chanting, chanted during sacred rituals and recited daily by the Vedic communities known not only for the rich content of its oral literature but also for the ingenious techniques employed by the Brahmin priests.
- 13. YOGA**  
The art of unifying the mind with body and soul for greater spiritual, mental and physical well-being. It consists of a series of poses, meditation, controlled breathing, word chanting etc.

**Source:** EPIC December 2021

### Q.3) Which of the following is/are consequences of 1857 revolt?

1. No religious interference from British officials.
2. Number of Indian soldiers was decreased.

**Choose the correct code from below given options:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Consequences of 1857 revolt:**

- As per the Queen's proclamation, the era of annexations and expansion had ended and the British promised to respect the dignity and rights of the native princes.
- The Indian states were henceforth to recognise the paramountcy of the British Crown and were to be treated as parts of a single charge.
- The people of India were promised freedom of religion without interference from British officials.
- The proclamation also promised equal and impartial protection under law to all Indians, besides equal opportunities in government services irrespective of race or creed.
- It was also promised that old Indian rights, customs and practices would be given due regard while framing and administering the law.

## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- The Army, which was at the forefront of the outbreak, was thoroughly re-organised and British military policy came to be dominated by the idea of “division and counterpoise”.
- The British could no longer depend on Indian loyalty, so the number of Indian soldiers was drastically reduced even as the number of European soldiers was increased.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.4) “Angkor Vat”- the world’s largest Hindu temple located in which of the following country?**

- a) Thailand
- b) Singapore
- c) Myanmar
- d) Cambodia

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Deep in the jungles of Cambodia, the world’s largest Hindu temple – the Angkor Vat is situated. However, it is just one of the many Hindu temples in South East Asia. The sea-faring activities of the Chola Empire, Kaling Empire etc. brought the religion in these parts and gave rise to many Hindu dynasties – the Champa civilisation in Vietnam, the Khmer empire in Indochina and the Majapahit Empire in Java.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect British India freedom movement:**

1. Ramosi Peasant Force established by Savarkar brothers.
2. Mitra mela organized Chapekar brothers.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The first of the revolutionary activities in Maharashtra was the organisation of the Ramosi Peasant Force by Vasudev Balwant Phadke in 1879, which aimed to rid the country of the British by instigating an armed revolt by disrupting communication lines.

It hoped to raise funds for its activities through dacoities. It was suppressed prematurely. During the 1890s, Tilak propagated a spirit of militant nationalism, including use of violence, through Ganapati and Shivaji festivals and his journals Kesari and Maharatta.

Two of his disciples—the Chapekar brothers, Damodar and Balkrishna—murdered the Plague Commissioner of Poona, Rand, and one Lt. Ayerst in 1897. Savarkar and his brother organised Mitra Mela, a secret society, in 1899 which merged with Abhinav Bharat (after Mazzinni’s ‘Young Italy’) in 1904.

Soon Nasik, Poona and Bombay emerged as centres of bomb manufacture. In 1909, A.M.T. Jackson, the Collector of Nasik, who was also a well-known indologist, was killed by Anant Lakshman Kanhere, a member of Abhinav Bharat.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to “Navroz festival”:**

1. It is celebrated mostly by Buddhist community.
2. In India, the Navroz festival is celebrated twice a year.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Navroz festival:**

- Navroz is a Persian New Year festival celebrated by Parsis, followers of Zoroastrianism and various other communities.
- In India, the Navroz festival is celebrated twice a year.
- The first according to the Iranian calendar and the second according to the Shahen Shahi calendar which is followed by people in India and Pakistan.
- The festival is celebrated for health, wealth, prosperity and productivity.
- The central feature of the festival is to visit the Fire Temple and offer prayers to the deities.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.7) Which of the following Governor General of India established Fort William College to recruit civil servants?**

- a) Cornwallis
- b) Wellesley
- c) Ripon
- d) William Bentinck

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In 1800, Wellesley (governor-general, 1798-1805) set up the Fort William College for training of new recruits. In 1806 Wellesley's college was disapproved by the Court of Directors and instead the East India College was set up at Hailey bury in England to impart two years' training to the recruits.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Indian Factory Act 1891?**

1. Reduced maximum working hours for children to 7 hours a day.
2. Provided weekly holiday for woman and children only.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About the Indian Factory Act, 1891:**

- increased the minimum age (from 7 to 9 years) and the maximum (from 12 to 14 years) for children,
- reduced maximum working hours for children to 7 hours a day,
- fixed maximum working hours for women at 11 hours per day with an one-and-a-half hour interval (working hours for men were left unregulated),
- Provided weekly holiday for all.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.9) “Poverty and UnBritish Rule in India” book written by which of the following?**

- a) Dadabhai Naoroji
- b) Romesh Chandra Dutt
- c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- d) M G Ranade

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Dadabhai Naoroji, the ‘Grand Old Man of India’, who after a brilliant analysis of the colonial economy put forward the theory of economic drain in Poverty and UnBritish Rule in India.

- Other economic analysts included Justice Mahadeo Govind Ranade, Romesh Chandra Dutt (The Economic History of India), Gopal Krishna Gokhale, G. Subramaniya Iyer and Prithwishchandra Ray.
- The essence of nineteenth century colonialism, they said, lay in the transformation of India into a supplier of foodstuffs and raw-materials to the metropolis, a market for metropolitan manufacturers and a field for investment of British capital.
- These early nationalist analysts organised intellectual agitations and advocated a complete severance of India’s economic subservience to Britain and the development of an independent economy based on modern industries.

**Source:** EPIC December 2021

**Q.10) “Mohiniattam or Mohiniyattam” is an Indian classical dance form that evolved in which of the following state?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About Mohiniyattam:**

- Mohiniattam or Mohiniyattam is an Indian classical dance form that evolved in the state of Kerala, India, and is counted among the two popular dance arts of the state, the other being Kathakali.
- Although its roots date back to the age-old Sanskrit Hindu text on performing arts called 'Natya Shastra', similar to other Indian classical dance forms, Mohiniattam adheres to the Lasya type that showcases a more graceful, gentle and feminine form of dancing.
- Mohiniattam derives its name from the word 'Mohini', a female avatar of Lord Vishnu. Conventionally a solo dance performed by female artists, it emotes a play through dancing and singing where the song is customarily in Manipravala which is a mix of Sanskrit and Malayalam language and the recitation may be either performed by the dancer herself or by a vocalist with the music style being Carnatic.

**Source:** ForumIAS

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## *Scheme/ Programmes/ Institutions*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about National Technical Textiles Mission:**

1. Its implementation period is from FY20-21 to FY29-30.
2. The Mission aims to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles.

**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: About National Technical Textiles Mission:**

- The Mission aims to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles and improve the penetration level of technical textiles in the country.
- Its implementation period is from FY20-21 to FY23-24. India shares nearly 6% of the world market size of USD 250 billion.
- The penetration level of technical textiles is low in India at 5-10%, against 30-70% in advanced countries.
- Under the project, the Ministry of Textiles has cleared 20 strategic research projects in the areas of Specialty fibres and Geotextiles.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO):**

1. Its primary function is compilation of the National Atlas of India in English only.
2. It is headquartered in Chennai.
3. It functions under Ministry of Earth Science.

**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: About National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO):**

- NATMO was established in 1997.
- It is a subordinate department under the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.
- Its primary function is compilation of the National Atlas of India in Hindi, English and other regional languages. It is headquartered in Kolkata.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022



**Q.3) Consider the following statements about International Cooperative Alliance (ICA):**

1. International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) was founded in 1895.
2. ICA is a United Nations Organization.

**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: B**

**Explanation: About International Cooperative Alliance (ICA):**

- International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) was founded in 1895.
- It is an independent, non-governmental association that unites, represents and serves the co-operatives worldwide.
- ICA is not a United Nations Organization. However, the ICA enjoys General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC).
- ICA has 4 regional offices managing the regions: Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe.
- It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. International Co-Operative Alliance Asia And Pacific (ICAAP) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have released a policy recommendation handbook on SAHAKAR PRAGYA Good Practices for Cooperatives.
- The Handbook is a compendium of guidelines, resources, methodologies, key learning, case studies of the best performing cooperatives in India and abroad and the outcome and impact.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about Asian Clearing Union (ACU):**

1. Its objective is to facilitate payments among member countries that help in economizing on the use of foreign exchange reserves, reducing transfer costs and promoting trade among the participating countries.
2. India is not a member.

**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: About Asian Clearing Union (ACU):**

- Asian Clearing Union (ACU) was established in 1974 at the initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).
- Its objective is to facilitate payments among member countries that helps in economizing on the use of foreign exchange reserves, reducing transfer costs and promoting trade among the participating countries.

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- Its members include the Central Banks and the Monetary Authorities of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. ACU is headquartered in Tehran, Iran.
- India has recently confirmed a \$400 million currency swap with Sri Lanka while deferring another \$500 million due for settlement to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

### **Q.5) Which of the following statements about Africa50 is not correct?**

- a) It is an infrastructure investment platform
- b) It is a platform for 50 African nations.
- c) POWERGRID has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50 to develop the Kenya Transmission Project.
- d) All are correct.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Africa50:**

- Africa50 is an infrastructure investment platform that contributes to Africa's economic growth by developing and investing in infrastructure projects and mobilizing public and private sector capital.
- Currently, Africa50 has 31 shareholders comprising 28 African countries, the African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), and Bank Al-Maghrib. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50 to develop the Kenya Transmission Project.
- The Project aims to develop power transmission lines in Kenya under a PPP framework.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

### **Q.6) Consider the following statements about Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO):**

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia.
2. Ukraine is one of its member states.

**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: About Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO):**

- It is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia that consists of select post-Soviet Union States.
- It originated from the conclusion of the Collective Security Treaty, which was signed in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on May 15, 1992 by the heads of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- The treaty entered into force on April 20, 1994. As of today it has 6 member States: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.

## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- The organisation is based on the principle of collective security or the idea of 'one for all and all for one'; aggression against any one state in the organisation is considered to be an aggression against all other states.
- This is also the principle on which NATO, the UN and earlier the League of Nations were founded.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

### **Q.7) Consider the following statements about New Development Bank (NDB):**

1. NDB is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries.
2. Egypt is the latest nation to join the NDB.

**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: About New Development Bank (NDB):**

- Egypt is the latest nation to join the NDB. Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay had joined in September 2021.
- NDB is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.
- It aims to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development.
- The Bank got observer status in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018. The present members include Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Uruguay and Egypt.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

### **Q.8) Blue Berets or Blue Helmets, recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Small habitable island nations
- b) UN Peacekeeping forces
- c) Water treatment technology
- d) Anomalies in Earth's exosphere.

**ANS: B**

### **Explanation: About UN Peacekeeping Forces:**

- UN Peacekeeping Forces were created in 1945.
- They are often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets.
- Their purpose is to provide security, political, and peace-building support to countries under conflicts. The forces help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.

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**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- They are guided by three basic principles:
  - Consent of the parties;
  - Impartiality;
  - Non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate.
- Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the UN Security Council.
- Member states contribute their manpower for Peacekeeping forces on a voluntary basis. The US has never contributed ground troops but contributes >25% of the UN's Peacekeeping budget.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.9) The term “2010 Strategic Concept” is related to which of the following?**

- NATO
- Warsaw Pact
- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)
- START treaty

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

- Strategic Concepts lay down the Alliance's core tasks and principles, its values, the evolving security environment and the Alliance's strategic objectives for the next decade.
- The 2010 Strategic Concept defines NATO's cores tasks as: collective defense, crisis-management and cooperative security.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.10) Which of the following treaty/treaties is/are related to European Union?**

- Treaty of Lisbon
- Treaty of Nice
- Treaty of Amsterdam

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About European Union:**

- The European Union is based on the rule of law.
- This means that every action taken by the EU is founded on treaties that have been approved voluntarily and democratically by all EU member countries.
- A treaty is a binding agreement between EU member countries. It sets out EU objectives, rules for EU institutions, how decisions are made and the relationship between the EU and its member countries. The main treaties are:
- Treaty of Lisbon: Signed on 13 December 2007, to make the EU more democratic, more efficient and better able to address global problems, such as climate change, with one voice.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- Treaty of Nice: Signed on 26 February 2001, to reform the institutions so that the EU could function efficiently after reaching 25 member countries.
- Treaty of Amsterdam: Signed on 2 October 1997, to reform the EU institutions in preparation for the arrival of future member countries.

**Source:** ForumIAS

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## *Science and Technology*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Global Women's Health Tech Awards:**

1. The Award was launched by World Bank.
2. Its aim is to recognize innovative start-ups that leverage technology to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.

**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: About Global Women's Health Tech Awards:**

- The Award was launched in August, 2021 by the World Bank and the Consumer Technology Association (CTA).
- Its aim is to recognize innovative start-ups that leverage technology to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.
- The awards are given under three categories: Reproductive Health and Pregnancy, Adolescent Health, and Women Safety and Security. The two start-ups namely NIRAMAI Health Analytics and InnAccel Technologies have received the award this year.
- These two start-ups have received support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and BIRAC.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.2) Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science and Technology has been inaugurated at which of the following place?**

- a) Karnal, Haryana
- b) Chandigarh University, Mohali
- c) Punjab University
- d) Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science and Technology:**

- The Centre has been inaugurated by the Defence Minister at the Chandigarh University, in Mohali, Punjab.
- The Centre has been named after India-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla, who lost her life in the 2003 Columbia shuttle disaster.
- The objective of the Centre is to train students in space science, satellite development and meeting future challenges in space research.
- The centre will also be the ground control station for Chandigarh University's Student Satellite (CUSat) along with a Geo-Spatial Centre for research.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about Environmental DNA (e-DNA):**

1. eDNA is DNA that is collected from a variety of environmental samples such as soil, seawater, snow or air and also directly sampled from an individual organism.
2. It can also aid in tracking long-distance migratory birds and other birds' flying patterns.

**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: About Environmental DNA (e-DNA):**

- Environmental DNA or eDNA is DNA that is collected from a variety of environmental samples such as soil, seawater, snow or air rather than directly sampled from an individual organism.
- Some sources of eDNA include faeces, mucus, gametes, shed skin, carcasses and hair. Airborne e-DNA could help understand the composition of animal communities and detect the spread of non-native species.
- It can also aid in tracking long-distance migratory birds and other birds' flying patterns. It can help boost biodiversity conservation efforts across the world.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.4) Chips to Start-up Programme (C2S) is being driven by which of the following?**

- a) Ministry of Skill Development
- b) MSME
- c) Ministry of Electronics and Information (MeitY)
- d) AICTE

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Chips to Start-up Programme (C2S):**

- The Programme aims to train 85,000 qualified engineers in the area of Very-large-scale Integration (VLSI) and Embedded System Design.
- It is being driven by the Ministry of Electronics and Information (MeitY).

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.5) With respect to Technical Textile, Which of the following statement is not correct?**

- Technical textiles are products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.
- Technical textiles include textiles for automotive applications, medical textiles, geotextiles, agro-textiles and protective clothing.
- National Technical Textiles Mission has been launched by Ministry of Science and technology.
- National Technical Textiles Mission's implementation period is from FY20-21 to FY23-24.

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Technical Textiles:**

- Technical textiles are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.
- Technical textiles include textiles for automotive applications, medical textiles (e.g., implants), geotextiles (reinforcement of embankments), agro-textiles (textiles for crop protection), and protective clothing (e.g., heat and radiation protection for fire fighter clothing, molten metal protection for welders, bulletproof vests, and spacesuits).

**About National Technical Textiles Mission**

- The Mission aims to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles and improve the penetration level of technical textiles in the country.
- Its implementation period is from FY20-21 to FY23-24.
- India shares nearly 6% of the world market size of USD 250 billion. The penetration level of technical textiles is low in India at 5-10%, against 30-70% in advanced countries.
- Under the project, the Ministry of Textiles has cleared 20 strategic research projects in the areas of Specialty fibres and Geotextiles.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.6) Which of the following statements about IC15 is/are correct?**

- IC15 will measure the performance of the 15 most widely traded crypto-currencies.
- SEBI has launched IC15 as India's first cryptocurrency index.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About India's first Cryptocurrency Exchange:**

- IC15 CryptoWire has launched India's first cryptocurrency index, IC15.
- It will measure the performance of the 15 most widely traded cryptocurrencies listed on leading crypto exchanges by market capitalization.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022



**Q.7) The term ‘Automatic Generation Control (AGC)’, recently seen in news, is related to which of the following?**

- a) Augmented Reality
- b) Power sector
- c) PSLV Mark III
- d) 5G Telecommunication

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Automatic Generation Control (AGC):**

- AGC has been launched by the Union Ministry of Power and New and Renewable energy.
- Its aim is to ensure power balancing in real-time to keep supply and demand in sync for power generated through renewable energy.
- It is being operated by Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) through the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC).
- Through AGC, NLDC can send signals to more than 50 power plants in the country every 4 seconds to maintain the frequency and reliability of the Indian Power System.
- This will ensure more efficient and automatic frequency control for handling variable and intermittent renewable generation.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.8) Which of the following statement about UV-C Disinfection Technology is/are correct?**

1. It has been developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
2. UV-C deactivates viruses, bacteria, fungus and other bio-aerosols etc. with appropriate dosages using 254 nm UV light.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About UV-C Disinfection Technology:**

- Ultraviolet-C or UV-C Disinfection Technology has been developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- The technology is meant for the mitigation of airborne transmission of COVID-19.
- UV-C deactivates viruses, bacteria, fungus and other bioaerosols etc. with appropriate dosages using 254 nm (nanometre) UV light.
- The disinfection system can be used in auditoriums, large conference rooms, classrooms, malls etc. which provides a relatively safer environment for indoor activities in the current pandemic.
- It can also be used in buildings, transport vehicles, etc.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.9) The ability of certain materials to generate an electric charge in response to applied mechanical stress is termed as?**

- a) De Haas–van Alphen effect
- b) Haas effect
- c) Piezoelectrical Effect
- d) Raman effect

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Piezoelectrical Effect:**

- Piezoelectric Effect is the ability of certain materials to generate an electric charge in response to applied mechanical stress.
- The piezoelectric effect is very useful in many applications that involve the production and detection of sound, generation of high voltages, electronic frequency generation and ultra-fine focusing of optical assemblies.
- The effect is also used in igniting mechanism for cigarette lighters. Indian scientists have recently proposed an efficient way to induce piezoelectric delta phase in polymer nanoparticles.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.10) Which of the following statements about Heartbeat Stars is/are not correct?**

1. Heartbeat Star refers to special type of binary stars.
2. As they move apart, the light variation falls and becomes almost flat.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About Heartbeat Stars:**

- Heartbeat Star refers to special type of binary stars. Each star travels in a highly elliptical orbit around a common centre of mass.
- The distance between the two stars varies drastically as they orbit each other.
- When the stars are at their closest, there is a sudden increase in the brightness, with amplitude going up significantly.
- As they move apart, the light variation falls and becomes almost flat.
- This results in alternating peaks and troughs in their light curves.
- This pattern resembles the appearance of heart beat on an electrocardiogram of the human heart.
- Scientists have recently discovered a binary star named HD73619 in the Cancer constellation.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

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## *Location/ IR/ Geography*

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**Q.1) Which of the following statements about Mahakali River is/are correct?**

1. It joins Ghagra River in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of Ganga.
2. Tanakpur hydro-electric project is on Mahakali River.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Mahakali River:**

- It is also known as Sharda River or Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand.
- It joins Ghagra River in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of Ganga.
- River Projects: Tanakpur hydro-electric project, Chameliya hydro-electric project, Sharda Barrage.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet has cleared a plan to build a new bridge connecting India and Nepal over the Mahakali River and link Dharchula in Uttarakhand with Nepal's Dharchula.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Exercise Sea Dragon:**

1. It is an annual China-led, multinational exercise.
2. It focuses on Anti-submarine warfare tactics.

**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: About Exercise Sea Dragon:**

- It is an annual US-led, multinational exercise with a focus on Anti-submarine warfare tactics.
- It involves participation from navies of 6 countries United States, India, Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about Red Sanders:**

1. It is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Meghalaya.
2. It has again been listed in the 'endangered' category in the IUCN Red List.

**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: About Red Sanders:**

- Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is a tree species found in thorny scrub, dry deciduous forests. It is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.
- Some contiguous patches in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka also see some wild growth.
- Red Sanders is known for its therapeutic properties. It is also used to make furniture, woodcraft and musical instruments.
- A tonne of Red Sanders costs between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore in the international market.
- It has again been listed in the 'endangered' category in the IUCN Red List. It faces threats due to illegal smuggling, over harvesting, and due to invasive species.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about India's First Open Rock Museum:**

1. It has been inaugurated in the campus of the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad.
2. The Museum has been set up with an aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser-known facts about rocks.

**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: About India's First Open Rock Museum:**

- India's First Open Rock Museum has been inaugurated in the campus of the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad.
- The Museum has been set up with an aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser-known facts about rocks.
- The museum displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about the BrahMos Missile:**

1. It has been developed through a joint collaboration between India and Russia.
2. It is one of the fastest supersonic cruise missiles in the world with maximum speed of Mach

**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: About the BrahMos Missile:**

- BrahMos Missile (PJ-10) has been developed through a joint collaboration between India and Russia.
- It is a medium range ramjet supersonic cruise missile. The Missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against the surface and sea-based targets.
- It is one of the fastest supersonic cruise missiles in the world with maximum speed of Mach 4 (i.e., 4 times the speed of sound in air).
- The range of the missile was originally capped at 290 km as per obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- Following India's entry into the MTCR club in 2016, the range has been extended to 450 km and to 600 km.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.6.)Which of the following agreement/treaties is related to the framework set by the Outer Space Treaty?**

1. The Rescue Agreement of 1968.
2. The Liability Convention of 1972.
3. The Moon Agreement of 1979.

**Select the correct answer using the codes 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: About UN's intervention in Space Issues:**

- The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs was created in 1958 to service the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS).
- It has been serving as a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
- Several multilateral treaties have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to enable the orderly conduct of activities in outer space. The cornerstone of these is the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

**Associated Agreements and Treaties**

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- Four other treaties were also adopted to reinforce the framework set by the Outer Space Treaty. These treaties are:
- The Rescue Agreement of 1968 requires States to assist an astronaut in case of accident, distress, emergency or unintended landing.
- The Liability Convention of 1972 establishes the standards of liability for damage caused by space objects.
- The Registration Convention of 1975 requires States to register all objects launched into outer space with the United Nations.
- The Moon Agreement of 1979 elaborates on the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty as they apply to the Moon and other celestial bodies.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.7) Kalapani Dispute, recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) India and Nepal
- b) India and Bhutan
- c) India and Bangladesh
- d) India and Pakistan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Kalapani Dispute:**

- Kalapani is located at an altitude of 3600m on the Kailash Mansarovar route. It borders Uttarakhand in India and Sudurpaschim Pradesh in Nepal.
- Since the Indo-China war of 1962, Kalapani has been controlled by India's Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- The 1816 Treaty of Sagauli signed between British India and Nepal defined river Mahakali as the western border of Nepal.
- However, discrepancy in locating the source of the Mahakali river led to boundary disputes between India and Nepal with each country producing maps supporting their own claims.
- India claims that the river begins in Kalapani as this is where all its tributaries merge.
- On the other hand, Nepal claims not only the Kalapani region but also Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh as parts of its territory. All three areas are to the east of the river Kali.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.8) Which one of the following statements regarding cotton is incorrect?**

- a) Cotton is tropical crop
- b) Cotton is grown in rabi crop
- c) Cotton requires clean sky during following stage
- d) None of the above

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Cotton:**

- Cotton is a tropical crop grown in Kharif season in semi-arid area of the country.
- Cotton requires clear sky during flowering stage.

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- India ranks fourth in the world in the production of cotton after china, USA and Pakistan and account for about 8.3 percentage of production of cotton in the world.

**Source:** NCERT

**Q.9) The term 'aus', 'aman' and 'boro' are related to:**

- a) Tribes in northeast region
- b) Local names of the three season in Punjab
- c) Names of local winds in northern India
- d) Three rice crops in one agricultural year

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Rice cultivation:**

- Rice is a staple food for the overwhelming majority of population in india.
- It is biseasonal crop means it can grow in Kharif as well as Rabi season.
- In himalayas and north western parts of the country, it is grown as a kharif crop during southwest monsoon season.
- However in southern states and west bangal the climate condition allows the cultivation of two or three crops of rice in an agricultural year.
- In west bengal farmers grow three crops of rice called 'aus', 'aman' and 'boro'.

**Source:** NCERT

**Q.10) Strait of Gibraltar connects which of the following water bodies?**

- a) Red sea and Arabian Sea
- b) Atlantic sea and Mediterranean Sea
- c) Aegean sea and Sea of Marmara
- d) Sea of Japan and sea of Okhotsk

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

The strait of Gibraltar is narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Gibraltar and peninsular Spain in Europe from morocco and Ceuta Africa.

**Source:** Atlas

## *Polity*

**Q.1) With reference to property rights of daughters, consider the following statements:**

1. The daughters will get the property of the father by survivorship.
2. Daughters have coparcenary rights by birth.

**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 Supreme Court has ruled that the daughters will have equal rights to their father's property even prior to the enactment of the Hindu Succession Act (HSA) of 1956.

**Implications of the Judgment:**

- The Supreme Court conferred daughters with equal right to father's self-acquired property even prior to codification of Hindu Personal Laws and enactment of the Hindu Succession Act in 1956. The Court said that the law of inheritance would apply to partition of properties even if the father had died intestate (without making any Will) before 1956;
- The daughters will get the property of the father as a matter of inheritance and not by survivorship which was applicable before 1956. Daughters would, thus, inherit the property in preference to other claimants (e.g., sons of the brother of deceased father). The Supreme Court was hearing a case concerned with the right of the daughter to inherit the self-acquired property of her father in the absence of any other legal heir;
- The Supreme Court in 2020 clarified that daughters had coparcenary rights by birth. Coparcenary refers to a person who has the capacity to assume a legal right in ancestral property.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.2) With reference to the Article 178 of Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. Every Legislative Assembly of a State shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speakers.
2. The constitution says that the Governor shall fix a date to elect the Speaker on the recommendation of the Chief 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: A**

**Explanation: About Article 178:**



## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- Every Legislative Assembly of a State shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speakers thereof..
- The Constitution assigns no role to the Governor in the election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- The State Legislative Assemblies formulate their own rules regarding the election. Maharashtra Assembly has a rule that the Governor shall fix the date of election of the Speaker.
- Rule 6: The Governor shall fix a date to elect the Speaker on the recommendation of the Chief Minister and the Secretary shall send to every member notice of the date so fixed.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.3) Which of the following Article of Indian constitution says that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advice the Governor?**

- a) Art 161
- b) Art 152
- c) Art 163
- d) Art 165

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Article 163:**

- There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advice the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is by or under this constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.
- If a question arises that whether the Governor should act on his discretion in a particular matter, the Governor's decision in his discretion shall be final.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.4) Consider the following Provisions related to the Election Commissioners:**

1. The number of Election Commissioners is decided by the Council of Ministers.
2. CEC can only be removed in a manner like a Judge of the Supreme Court.

**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: About Provisions related to the Election Commissioners:**

- Article 324 of the Constitution of India lists down the provisions related to the Election Commission and its Officers.
- Article 324(2) states that the number of Election Commissioners (other than the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)) is decided by the President of India.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- Article 324(5) states that while the CEC can only be removed in a manner like a Judge of the Supreme Court; other Election Commissioners can be removed on the recommendation of the CEC.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Customary International Law:**

1. It refers to international obligations arising from established international practices, as opposed to obligations arising from formal written conventions and treaties.
2. They are non-binding legal rules that have developed on global or region levels through continued practice.

**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: B**

**Explanation: About Customary International Law:**

- According to the University of Cornell, Customary International Law refers to international obligations arising from established international practices, as opposed to obligations arising from formal written conventions and treaties;
- Customary international law results from a general and consistent practice of states that they follow from a sense of legal obligation;
- They are binding legal rules that have developed on global or region levels through continued practice;
- Examples of customary international laws include the doctrine of non-refoulement and the granting of immunity for visiting Heads of State.
- In legal terminology, Municipal law is the national, domestic, or internal law of a sovereign state. Municipal law includes national state, provincial, territorial, regional, or local law.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.6) The Central Vigilance Commission was established under the recommendation of which of the following?**

- a) Punchi Commission
- b) Venkata Chellaiih Committee
- c) Santhanam Committee
- d) Second ARC commission

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):**

- CVC is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.
- It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government.
- Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64).

**Source:** Laxmikanth

**Q.7) “Article 323B” of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?**

- a) Special officer for Linguistic minorities
- b) Tribunal for the adjudication of election disputes
- c) Central Administrative Tribunal
- d) Interstate Council

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Article 323B:**

- It empowers the appropriate legislature (Parliament or state legislature) to establish a tribunal for the adjudication of election disputes.
- It also provides for the exclusion of the jurisdiction of all courts (except the special leave appeal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court) in such disputes.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.8) The official campaign of elections ends before in how many hours?**

- a) 12 hours
- b) 24 hours
- c) 48 hours
- d) 72 hours

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The official campaign lasts at least two weeks from the drawing up of the list of nominated candidates, and officially ends 48 hours before polling closes.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission:**

1. It was established under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
2. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

**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: The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC):**

- India is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- Its head office is in New Delhi. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

**Source:** Governance in India by Laxmikanth

**Q.10) The term Principle of Non-Refoulement often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Economic offender
- b) Refugees
- c) Right to property
- d) Right to Information

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law:**

- It prohibits states from forcibly returning refugees to conditions that caused them to flee their homes in the first place, where they would be likely in danger of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

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## *Economy*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about AT1 Bonds:**

1. These are secured bonds that have perpetual tenure.
2. These bonds are typically used by banks to bolster their core or tier-1 capital.

**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: About AT1 Bonds:**

- AT1 Bonds stand for additional tier-1 bonds. These are unsecured bonds that have perpetual tenure i.e., the bonds have no maturity date.
- These bonds are typically used by banks to bolster their core or tier-1 capital. These bonds were introduced by the Basel accord after the global financial crisis.
- These bonds offer higher returns to investors but compared with other debt products, these instruments carry a higher risk as well.
- AT1 bonds are subordinate to all other debt and only senior to common equity.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):**

1. AGR is a fee-sharing mechanism between the government and the telecom companies.
2. It is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees.

**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: About Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):**

- AGR is a fee-sharing mechanism between the government and the telecom companies who shifted to the 'revenue-sharing fee' model in 1999, from the 'fixed license fee' model.
- It is basically the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- It is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees that are fixed between 3-5% and 8% respectively.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.3) With reference to the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), which of the following statements is incorrect?**

- a) It is a system through which investors can sue countries for discriminatory practices concerning foreign direct investment.
- b) The protection provided by ISDS acts as a lever to boost foreign investment.
- c) ISDS is an instrument of public international law
- d) India accepted the proposal for a global investment pact.

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS):**

- Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) or investment court system (ICS) is a system through which investors can sue countries for discriminatory practices concerning foreign direct investment.
- The protection provided by ISDS acts as a lever to boost foreign investment. ISDS is an instrument of public international law and is included in a number of bilateral investment treaties (BITs).
- ISDS often takes place under international arbitral tribunals governed by different rules or institutions, such as the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIA), or the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

**What new proposal has been made?**

- The EU and Canada have got into an investment agreement in which they have got the much contentious ISDS which allows corporates to take sovereign governments to international arbitration.
- They now want it to be the template for a multilateral agreement.
- Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) or investment court system (ICS) is a system through which individual companies can sue countries for alleged discriminatory practices.
- ISDS is a neutral, international arbitration procedure. Like other forms of commercial, labour, or judicial arbitration, ISDS seeks to provide an impartial, law-based approach to resolve conflicts.
- The proposal for a global investment pact, made at an informal breakfast meeting of Trade Ministers of select countries in Davos, was rejected by India, Brazil, Japan and Argentina.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about the Green Energy Corridor Project for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS):**

1. It aims at synchronizing electricity produced from renewable sources.
2. The GEC-Intra State Transmission System(InSTS) project is sanctioned in 2020-21.

**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: B**

**Explanation: About the Green Energy Corridor Project for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS):**

- The Green Energy Corridor(GEC) Project aims at synchronizing electricity produced from renewable sources such as solar and wind with conventional power stations in the grid.
- The GEC-Intra State Transmission System(InSTS) project was sanctioned in 2015-16, for evacuation and integration of the renewable energy capacity through setting up of transmission lines and increasing transformation capacity of substations.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. These are electronic receipts issued on the basis of a deposit of underlying physical gold.
2. Gold Exchange would be an international platform for buying and selling EGRs issued against physical gold.

**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: About the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) and Gold Exchange:**

- These are electronic receipts issued on the basis of a deposit of underlying physical gold. EGRs would pave the way for the operationalization of a gold exchange in India.
- Gold Exchange would be a national platform for buying and selling EGRs issued against physical gold.
- Investors can trade in EGRs on stock exchanges and the proposed gold exchange.
- The transaction in a gold exchange has been divided into three parts:
  - a) Conversion of physical gold into EGR;
  - b) Trading of EGR on a stock exchange;
  - c) Conversion of EGR into physical gold.
- SEBI would regulate the entire ecosystem of the proposed gold exchange. It would be the sole regulator for the exchange, including for vaulting, assaying gold quality and fixing delivery standards.

**Key features of the Gold Exchange**

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- Stock exchanges can launch contracts of different denominations for trading and conversion of EGR into gold.
- SEBI has brought in fungibility and interoperability between vault managers for the ease of investors.
- Physical gold deposited at one location can be withdrawn from a different location of any vault manager.

### **Benefits of Gold Exchange**

Gold exchange is expected to offer a lot of benefits such as efficient and transparent price discovery, investment liquidity and assurance in the quality of gold. It is also expected to create a national pricing structure for gold. It will also promote compliance among market participants.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.6) The Silver line project is sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following state?**

- a) Goa
- b) Karnataka
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: The Kerala Rail Development Corporation (KRDCL):**

- It is confident that the 66,405-crore Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod semi-high-speed rail corridor project (named Silver Line) for which year 2024 has been set as the deadline, will be economically feasible and attain operational break-even within 10 years of being commissioned.
- Of the total cost of the 532-km project, around 50% will be loan at less than 1% interest from multilateral lending agencies such as KfW, AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank), JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), or ADB (Asian Development Bank).
- Repayment is assured since there will be a rate of return of 8.1% on the investment.
- The balance amount will be raised from equity and (subordinate) debt from the State and Central governments.

**Source:** ForumIAS



**Q.7) Arrange the following conventions in chronological order of its establishment:**

1. Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
2. World Intellectual Property Organization
3. Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

- The importance of intellectual property was first recognized in the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883) and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886).
- Both treaties are administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (1967).

**Source:** WIPO

**Q.8) 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:** ForumIAS

**Q.9) SampoornaBima Gram Yojana is implemented by which of the following?**

- a) Department of Agriculture
- b) Department of Cooperation
- c) Department of Finance
- d) Department of Posts

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

- SampoornaBima Gram Yojana aims to provide affordable life insurance services to people living in rural areas of the country through the postal network.
- It will identify at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) in each of the revenue districts of the country and cover all households with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy.
- All villages under SansadAdarsh Gram Yojana would also be covered under the scheme to turn them into SampoornaBeema Gram.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Index of Industrial Production (IIP)”:**

1. IIP is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
2. The Base year of IIP is 2011 - 12.

**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 Index of Industrial Production (IIP):**

- It is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
- The index is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme. It is implemented six weeks after the reference month ends, i.e. a lag of six weeks.
- The Base Year of the Index of Eight Core Industries has been revised from the year 2004-05 to 2011-12 from April, 2017.

**Source:** ForumIAS

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## *Environment*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Cheetah in India:**

1. Cheetah became extinct in independent India in 1952.
2. Government is planning to translocate cheetah to Kuno Palpur National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

**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: About Re-Introduction of Cheetah in India:**

- The Cheetah became extinct in independent India in 1952.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is planning to translocate around 8-12 cheetahs from South Africa, Namibia and Botswana to Kuno Palpur National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- This could be the world's first intercontinental cheetah translocation project.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Asian Waterbird Census:**

1. The census is conducted by Wetlands International.
2. In India, AWC is coordinated by the Wetlands International South Asia and the Zoological Survey of 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: A**

**Explanation: About Asian Waterbird Census:**

- Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) was started in 1987.
- It is an annual exercise to count the waterbirds and monitor the wetlands for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along the Central Asian Flyway.
- The census is conducted by Wetlands International and forms part of a global waterbird monitoring programme called the International Waterbird Census (IWC).
- In India, AWC is coordinated by the Wetlands International South Asia and the Bombay Natural History Society.

## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- The 2022 census showed fall in the species density in Okhla Bird Sanctuary (from 73 in 2021 to 47 in 2022) and Sanjay Lake while it increased in Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary (from 38 to 45).

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.3) Eucalyptus, poplar, willow, miscanthus and switchgrass are examples of which of the following category?**

- a) Invasive Species
- b) Bioenergy Crops
- c) Carnivorous plants
- d) Endemic species of Western Ghats

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Bioenergy Crops**

- Bioenergy is the energy derived from recently living material such as wood, crops, or animal waste.
- Bioenergy crops are defined as any plant material used to produce bioenergy.
- These crops have the capacity to produce large volumes of biomass, high energy potential and can be grown in marginal soils.
- Some examples of bioenergy crops: Eucalyptus, poplar, willow, miscanthus and switchgrass.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.4) A report on India's climate has been released by which of the following institution?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- c) India Meteorological Department
- d) ISRO

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released its report on India's climate.

**Key Findings of the Report**

1. 2021 has been the fifth-warmest year since 1901, and the decade 2012-2021, was the warmest on record;
2. 11 of the 15 warmest years on record were between 2007 and 2021;
3. India's averaged annual mean temperature from 1901-2021 showed an increasing trend, particularly in the case of maximum temperature;
4. In 2021, the annual mean land surface air temperature was 0.44 degrees Celsius above the long period average (LPA). LPA is based on temperatures between 1981 and 2010.

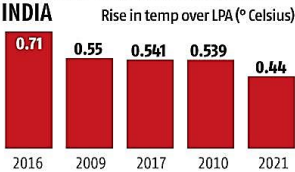
**Effects of rising average temperature**

- It has a cascading effect on extreme weather events, crop patterns, and urban disaster management.
- Heavy rainfall and flood-related incidents: It claimed over 750 lives with 215 in Maharashtra, 143 in

## **PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- Uttarakhand, 55 in Himachal Pradesh, 53 in Kerala and 46 in Andhra Pradesh.

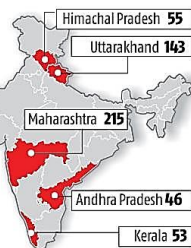
### **WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD IN INDIA**



### **DEATHS DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER IN 2021**

No. of deaths

Note: LPA: Long period average  
Source: India Meteorological Department report



**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.5) Which of the following institution publishes the Climate Change Performance Index?**

- UNESCO
- World Bank
- Germanwatch
- UNDP

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI):**

- The Climate Change Performance Index published by Germanwatch, CAN International and the NewClimate Institute evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 56 countries and the EU.
- The Climate Change Performance Index is an independent monitoring tool of countries' climate protection performance.
- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables the comparability of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- On the basis of standardised criteria, the index evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 56 countries and the EU that are, together, responsible for nearly 90 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.6) Under which of the following Act, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) established?**

- a) The Indian Forest Act, 1927
- b) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- c) The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- d) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI):**

- The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.
- Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960), the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.
- From ensuring that animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to provide grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues, the Board has been the face of the animal welfare movement in the country for the last 50 years.
- The Board consists of 28 Members.
- The term of office of Members is for a period of 3 years.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to Malabar Civet:**

1. It is endemic to Western Ghats.
2. According to IUCN it is critically endangered animal.

**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: About Malabar Civet:**

- The Malabar large spotted civet is one of the world's rarest mammals.
- According to IUCN red list it is critically endangered animal.
- The Malabar large spotted civet's original habitat was found in the evergreen rain forest belt in the Western Ghats of southwest India, where it lived in wooded plains and adjoining hill slopes.
- Natural forests have almost completely disappeared in the entire stretch of the coastal Western Ghats due to human activities.
- The present vegetation consists mostly of plantations.
- The cashew plantations are the least disturbed.
- They are not weeded and have a dense understory of shrubs and grasses.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (FOURTH WEEK), 2022**

- For a terrestrial species such as the Malabar large spotted civet, these thickets can provide important cover.
- However, it is likely that the cashew plantations are a 'refuge' rather than a preferred habitat.
- Furthermore, most captures of this species in the last 30 years have been in valleys, around riparian areas.
- This suggests possible dependence on shallow waterways where the civet forages at night.

**Source:** The Hindu

**Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to Coal bed methane (CBM) in India:**

1. It is a conventional form of natural gas found in coal deposits or coal seams.
2. It is considered as an alternative source for augmenting India's energy resource.

**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: About Coal bed methane (CBM):**

- CBM, like shale gas, is extracted from what are known as unconventional gas reservoirs — where gas is extracted directly from the rock that is the source of the gas (shale in case of shale gas and coal in case of CBM).
- The methane is held underground within the coal and is extracted by drilling into the coal seam and removing the groundwater.
- The resulting drop in pressure causes the methane to be released from the coal.
- It is considered as an alternative source for augmenting India's energy resource.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.9) "Dachigam national park" is located in which of the following State/Union Territory?**

- a) Pondicherry
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Dachigam National Park is located 22 km from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. The name literally stands for 'ten villages', which could be in memory of the ten villages that were relocated in order to create the park. The Park is only 141 sq. kms. and roughly rectangular in shape, approximately 23.5km by 6km. It is best considered as two sections - Upper and Lower Dachigam. Lower Dachigam, in the west, comprises approximately a third of the total area and is the area most accessible to a visitor. Upper Dachigam in the east extends over the higher reaches and is a good day's trek from the nearest road head. Dachigam was

initially established to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to Srinagar city. A protected area since 1910, it was declared as a national park in 1981. The park is best known as the home of the hangul, or Kashmir stag.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs):**

1. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are toxic and flammable chemicals containing atoms of carbon, chlorine, and fluorine.
2. CFCs are used in the manufacture of aerosol sprays, blowing agents for foams and packing materials.

**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: About Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs):**

- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are nontoxic, nonflammable chemicals containing atoms of carbon, chlorine, and fluorine.
- They are used in the manufacture of aerosol sprays, blowing agents for foams and packing materials, as solvents, and as refrigerants.
- CFCs are classified as halocarbons, a class of compounds that contain atoms of carbon and halogen atoms.
- Individual CFC molecules are labeled with a unique numbering system.
- For example, the CFC number of 11 indicates the number of atoms of carbon, hydrogen, fluorine, and chlorine (e.g. CCl<sub>3</sub>F as CFC-11).
- The best way to remember the system is the "rule of 90" or add 90 to the CFC number where the first digit is the number of carbon atoms (C), the second digit is the number of hydrogen atoms (H), and the third digit is number of the fluorine atoms (F).

**Source:** EPIC January 2022