

ForumIAS

F

## Prelims Marathon

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

---

*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

---

---

## *Schemes/Programs/Institutions*

---

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP) scheme:**

1. The scheme would be implemented solely by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. There is no monthly income cap for an eligible person.

**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: About Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP) scheme:**

- **Objective:** To assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhancing their economic potential.
- **Implementation:** Through implementing agencies such as NGOs, National Institutes under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and ALIMCO (a PSU that manufactures artificial limbs).
- **Eligibility:** A person satisfying all the following conditions are eligible:
  - Indian citizen of any age
  - Has 40% disability or more (must have the requisite certificate)
  - Monthly income, not more than Rs.20000.
  - In the case of dependents, income of parents/guardians should not exceed Rs.20000.
  - Must not have received assistance during the last 3 years for the same purpose from any source. However, for children below 12years of age, this limit would be one year.

Source: EPIC August 2021

**Q.2) Which of the following portal/APP has been launched to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis?**

- a) 'PM-DAKSH' Portal
- b) 'Adi-Prashikshan' Portal
- c) AVRODH APP
- d) UMANG APP

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About the Portal and App:**

- **Developed by:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with NeGD (National E-Governance Division).

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

- **Objective:** To make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis.
- The youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programmes more easily.

Source: EPIC August 2021

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about MPLADS:**

1. It is a Central sponsored scheme.
2. It was launched in 2014.

**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: About MPLADS**

- Launched in 1993, it is a central sector scheme for MPs to recommend works of developmental nature in their constituencies
- **Objective:** Creating durable community assets based on locally felt needs.
- **Parent Body:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)
  - The funds – Rs. 5 crore/annum/MP – under the scheme are non-lapsable.
  - Funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities.
  - MPs have only recommendatory role and the district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, select the implementing agencies & monitor it.

Source: EPIC August 2021

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about “Seekho Aur Kamao” Scheme:**

1. It is a skill development Central sector scheme for minorities.
2. It ensures 75% placement, out of which 50% should be in organized sector.

**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 Seekho aur Kamao Scheme:**

- It is a skill development Central sector scheme for minorities (youth of 14 – 35 years) and aimed at providing employment and employment opportunities, improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
- In the last 7 years appx. 3.92 lakh persons have been benefitted under this employment-oriented scheme.
- It ensures 75% placement, out of which 50% should be in organized sector.
- Post placement support of Rs. 2000/- per month is provided to placed trainees for two months as placement assistance.

Source: EPIC August 2021

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana:**

1. This will replace National Health Mission.
2. It aims to strengthen of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

**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:** In the Budget speech of FY 21-22, 'Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana' (PMASBY) scheme has been announced on 1st February, 2021, for an outlay of about Rs. 64,180 Cr over six years (till FY 25-26).

This will be in addition to the National Health Mission.

The main interventions under the scheme, to be achieved by FY 2025-26, are:

- Support for 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States
- Establishing 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres in all the States.
- Setting up of Integrated Public Health Labs in all districts and 3382 Block Public Health Units in 11 High Focus states;
- Establishing Critical Care Hospital Blocks in 602 districts and 12 Central Institutions;
- Strengthening of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), its 5 regional branches and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units;
- Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal to all States/UTs to connect all public health labs;
- Operationalisation of 17 new Public Health Units and strengthening of 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry, that is at 32 Airports, 11 Seaports and 7 land crossings;
- Setting up of 15 Health Emergency Operation Centres and 2 mobile hospitals;
- Setting up of a National Institution for One Health, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories and 4 regional National Institutes for Virology.

Source: EPIC August 2021

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services):**

1. It is launched by MSME.
2. It aims to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants.

**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**

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

**Explanation:** Recently, the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched an online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services).

• The idea of TAPAS was conceptualised at a time when exploring the online medium for work and education had become imperative due to the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic.

### **About the initiative**

- It is an initiative of National Institute of Social Defense (NISD) whereby various courses in the field of social defence for the capacity building of stakeholders are offered.
- **Objective:** To impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants.
- It is a standard MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform with course material such as filmed lectures and e-study material.
- MOOC is a free Web-based distance learning program that is designed for the participation of large numbers of geographically dispersed students.

Source: EPIC August 2021

### **Q.7) Consider the following statements about E-Shram Portal:**

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It aims at building a national database for Unorganised Workers to ensure targeted delivery and social security.

**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:** E-Shram Portal launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment aims at building a national database for Unorganised Workers to ensure targeted delivery and social security.

### **About the Portal:**

- 38 Crore unorganised workers will be registered.
- Coverage includes Construction Workers, Migrant Workers, Street Vendors, Domestic Workers, Milkmen, Truck drivers, Fishermen, Agriculture Workers and similar others.
- Database will be authenticated by Aadhar.
- E-Shram Card to be accepted across the country and accidental insurance coverage for a year is given.

Source: EPIC August 2021

### **Q.8) "RoDTEP Scheme", recently seen in news is related to which of the following sector?**

- a) Exports
- b) Health
- c) Education
- d) Poverty alleviation

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The RoDTEP scheme was announced by Union Government in 2019 to boost exports by allowing reimbursement of taxes and duties, which are not exempted or refunded under any other scheme.

- At present, embedded duties and taxes, which are not refunded under any other scheme, range from 1-3%.
- Under the scheme, rebate of these taxes will be given in the form of duty credit/electronic script.

Source: EPIC August 2021

**Q.9) 'Yuktdhara Portal', recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- Geospatial Planning
- Inter-linking of river project
- Dairy produce
- Petroleum

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The “Yuktdhara” is a new Geospatial Planning Portal that will serve as a repository of assets (Geotags) created under various national rural development programmes, i.e., MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc., along with field photographs using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.

The name given is very apt as word ‘Yukt’ is derived from Yojanam, the planning and ‘Dhara’ indicates the flow.

It is a culmination of untiring joint efforts of ISRO and Ministry of Rural development made towards realizing a G2G service for rural planning in support of decentralized decision making.

Source: EPIC August 2021

**Q.10) 'Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP)', recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- Petroleum
- Alcohol
- Real estate
- Arms and Ammunition

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In an attempt to boost domestic hydrocarbon production, the petroleum and natural ministry launched the sixth bid round under the liberal Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP).

Earlier, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Policy framework on reforms in the exploration and licensing sector for enhancing domestic exploration and production of oil and gas.

**About Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)**

- The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) replacing the erstwhile New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) were approved in 2016.

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

- The Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) along with the National Data Repository (NDR) was launched in June 2017 as the key drivers to accelerate the Exploration and Production (E&P) activities in India.
- Under OALP, companies are allowed to carve out areas they want to explore oil and gas in.
- Companies can put in an expression of interest (EOI) for any area throughout the year but such interests are accumulated thrice in a year.
- The areas sought are then offered for bidding.
- This policy is different from the past where the government identified areas and offered them for bidding.

Source: EPIC August 2021

ForumIAS

---

## *Science and Technology*

---

**Q.1) India' ISRO has been collaborating on 'LUPEX, a robotic lunar mission' with which of the following organization?**

- a) NASA
- b) ROSCOSMOS
- c) JAXA
- d) EUSPA

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** LUPEX is a robotic lunar mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The mission aims to send a lunar rover and lander to explore the South Pole region of the Moon in 2024.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Fragile X syndrome (FXS):**

1. Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is a genetic disorder.
2. The syndrome is the leading inherited cause of autism.

**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:** Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is a genetic disorder. It is also known as Martin-Bell syndrome or Marker X syndrome. The syndrome is the leading inherited cause of autism in 4% of the population worldwide. The syndrome is caused by changes in a gene called FMR1, which makes an important protein (FMRP). This protein is required for brain development. Children with Fragile X syndrome make too little or none of it. The symptoms are learning difficulty, speech delay, aggressive behaviour, hyperactivity, attention deficit, problems in motor skills, etc.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.3) PRANA Portal, recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Air Pollution
- b) Life Insurance
- c) Polymetallic Nodules exploration
- d) Artificial intelligence

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: PRANA Portal for air pollution:** The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched 'PRANA' ([prana.cpcb.gov.in](http://prana.cpcb.gov.in)) Portal. It has been developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in partnership with Knowledge Lens (a B2B product company). PRANA stands for Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in non-Attainment cities. It is a portal for monitoring the implementation of the National Clean Air Program



(NCAP). It will support tracking of physical as well as financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate information on air quality management efforts under NCAP to the public.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.4) Xenon1T Experiment, recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Nuclear fission experiment
- b) Dark matter Experiment
- c) Robotics
- d) Artificial intelligence

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Xenon1T Experiment:** The XENON1T experiment is the world's most sensitive dark matter experiment and was operated deep underground at the INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.

**Dark Energy and Dark Matter:**

- The visible matter makes up less than 5% of the universe.
- The rest of the Universe is made of dark matter (27%) and dark energy (68%).
- Dark energy is the mysterious form of energy that makes up about 68% of the universe.
- Dark energy has been noted as “the most profound mystery in all of science”. While dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together, dark energy repels and causes the expansion of our universe. Both components are invisible.
- More is known about dark matter, since its existence was suggested as early as the 1920s, while dark energy wasn't discovered until 1998.
- Large-scale experiments like XENON1T have been designed to directly detect dark matter, by searching for signs of dark matter 'hitting' ordinary matter while dark energy is more elusive.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.5) With reference to Nipah virus, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a zoonotic virus.
2. The only available vaccine is the antiviral drug Ribavirin.

**Which of the above statements is/are Not correct?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

**About Nipah Virus:**

- Nipah Virus(NiV) is a zoonotic virus. The first outbreaks of the Nipah virus among humans was reported from Malaysia (1998) and Singapore (1999).
- **Host Reservoir of Nipah Virus:** The animal host reservoir for this virus is known to be the fruit bat, commonly known as flying fox. Fruit bats are known to transmit this virus to other animals like pigs, and also dogs, cats, goats, horses and sheep.

**How does it spread?**

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

- It is a zoonotic virus, meaning it has been transmitted from animals to human beings.
- The transmission happens mainly through direct contact with these animals or through the consumption of food contaminated by the saliva or urine of these infected animals.
- Person-to-person transmission is not fully established yet.

**Symptoms of Nipah Virus infection:** Fever, respiratory symptoms including cough, sore throat, aches, fatigue and encephalitis. The death rate for Nipah virus is 70%.

**Treatment for Nipah Virus infection:** There is no vaccine against Nipah virus. The only available treatment is supportive cough care. Ribavirin, an antiviral drug, was used to treat encephalitis in 2018.

Source: EPIC September 2021

### **Q.6) Consider the following statements about Inspiration4 Mission:**

1. Inspiration4 is the world's first all-civilian mission to orbit.
2. The mission involves circling the Earth for three days, and then splashing down into the Indian Ocean.
3. The flight will be privately operated by SpaceX.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Inspiration4:**

- Inspiration4 is the world's first all-civilian mission to orbit.
- The flight will be privately operated by SpaceX (US Private Space Company) using a previously-flown Crew Dragon capsule launched to low Earth orbit.
- Inspiration4 will blast off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on September 15.
- The mission involves circling the Earth for three days, and then splashing down into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Inspiration4 will orbit the Earth at 575km, higher than the International Space Station (408km) and the Hubble space telescope (547km).
- This will be the farthest distance travelled by a crewed mission since 2009, when astronauts last went to repair the Hubble.
- The mission will raise awareness and funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in US.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.7) "REX MKII", recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Space Launch Vehicle
- b) Indian Super-computer
- c) Army Robot
- d) Humanoid Robot

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About REX MKII**

- The army robot is capable of patrolling battle zones, tracking infiltrators, and opening fire on enemy targets.
- It is operated by an electronic tablet and can be equipped with two machine guns, cameras and sensors.
- It shall provide logistical assistance to troops by carrying ammunition supplies, critical medical equipment, water, and food, as well as evacuating injured personnel on stretchers.
- The system can also gather intelligence through a situation-awareness system
- The unmanned vehicle is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield.
- These semi-autonomous machines allow armies to protect their soldiers, while critics fear this marks another dangerous step toward robots making life-or-death decisions.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about hypersonic missile:**

1. These are able to travel at velocities of at least five times the speed of sound -- Mach 5.
2. India recently became 4th nation to possess a hypersonic missile.

**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:**

**What is a hypersonic missile?**

- Hypersonics are defined as being able to travel at velocities of at least five times the speed of sound -- Mach 5, or more than 6,100 kilometres (3,800 miles) per hour.
- They can also manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles.
- By cutting flight times, they also reduce the opportunity to respond.
- Depending on the design, they can be capable of carrying nuclear warheads or conventional only, and have the potential to alter the strategic balance.

**Which countries possess them?**

**Russia, USA and China**

- Russia is generally seen as the world leader in technology so far, developing a range of new hypersonic weapons that
- In July it successfully tested the Zircon, a ship-launched hypersonic missile travelling at seven times the speed of sound.

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

- It already has Avangard hypersonic glide vehicles and the air-launched Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles in its arsenal.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.9) “Artemis Accords”, recently seen in news, is related to which of the following?**

- a) Political commitment to return humans to the Moon.
- b) Exploration mission in Arctic Region
- c) Mineral exploration in South China Sea
- d) De-weaponisation of world

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Artemis Accords:**

The Artemis Accords are a political commitment between governments participating in the Artemis Program, an American-led effort to return humans to the Moon by 2024, and to ultimately expand and deepen space exploration.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about Waste Management Technology Program:**

1. It has been launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
2. It was launched in 2015 in alignment with Swachh Bharath Abhiyan.

**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 Waste Management Technology Program:**

- It has been launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) in 2015 in alignment with Swachh Bharath Abhiyan.
- The aim of the program is to promote the development of suitable technologies with the potential to clean the environment from the huge number of residuals generated by industrial development and consumption lifestyles.

Source: EPIC September 2021

---

## *Location/IR/Geography*

---

**Q.1) From which state among the following, 'Judima, a local rice wine' has received GI tag?**

- a) Assam
- b) Goa
- c) West Bengal
- d) Bihar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Judima:**

- Judima has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Judima is a rice wine made from sticky rice (glutinous rice called Bora) which is steamed and mixed with traditional herbs called Thembra (Acacia pennata).
- The wine is a specialty of the Dimasa tribe of the state of Assam.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Khavda Renewable Energy Park:**

1. It will be the world's largest renewable energy park built in state of Rajasthan.
2. It will be a hybrid renewable energy park, as it will produce power using both solar energy and wind energy.

**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 Khavda Renewable Energy Park:**

- Khavda Renewable Energy Park is the world's largest renewable energy park in Gujarat's Kutch. The Park will be built along the Indo-Pak border at Khavda.
- The Park will generate 30GW of clean energy. It will be a hybrid renewable energy park, as it will produce power using both solar energy and wind energy.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.3) Consider the following countries:**

1. Australia
2. China
3. Japan

India holds 2+2 dialogue with which of the above countries?

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** '2+2 Dialogue' is a term adopted in foreign diplomacy that implies a dialogue between two countries' Defence and External Affairs ministries. The goal of the 2+2 dialogue is to facilitate the highest-level dialogue on the bilateral, regional, and global issues between the countries. India holds such talks with the US, Japan and Australia.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.4) Consider the following countries:**

1. UK
2. USA
3. India
4. Japan

Which among the above is not a part of diamond democracies?

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: What is Quad?** Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) is a forum of India, US, Japan, and Australia. It is called as "diamond democracies". It is founded with the objective of free and open Indo – Pacific and to ensure prosperity in the region.

**What is the background of Quad?** Quad as an idea was first formulated during Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief in Tsunami of 2004.

Later, Japan proposed it as an "arc of democracy". However, it was only in November 2017 Quad was formally established.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.5) Brahmani is a major seasonal river in which of the following states?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Odisha

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About Brahmani River:**

- The Brahmani is a major seasonal river in the Odisha state of eastern India.
- The Brahmani is formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers.
- Together with the river Baitarani, it forms a large delta before emptying into the Bay of Bengal at Dhamra.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.6) "Qeqertaq Avannarleq", a tiny island, recently seen in news is located off the coast of which of the following?**

- a) Iceland
- b) New Zealand
- c) Greenland
- d) Alaska

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Qeqertaq Avannarleq:**

- It is a tiny, uninhabited and previously unknown island discovered recently off the coast of Greenland.
- Measuring 60×30 metres and with a peak of three metres above sea level, it has now become the new northernmost piece of land on Earth.
- Before this, Oodaaq was marked as the Earth's northernmost terrain.
- The discovery comes as a battle is looming among Arctic nations, the US, Russia, Canada, Denmark and Norway for the control of the North Pole and of the surrounding seabed, fishing rights and shipping routes exposed by melting ice due to climate change.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.7) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Sea bordering</b>	<b>country</b>
1. Adriatic Sea	Albania
2. Black Sea	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5. Red Sea	Syria

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Countries bordering Adriatic sea:** The Adriatic Sea is a part of the Mediterranean Sea positioned between the eastern coastline of Italy, and countries of the Balkan Peninsula, from Slovenia, south through Croatia, Montenegro, and to Albania. The southern boundary of the sea ends in the Strait of Otranto between Albania and Italy's Salento Peninsula. Immediately south of that strait the Ionian Sea begins.

**Countries bordering Black sea:** The Black Sea lies between southeastern Europe and Asia Minor. Excluding its northern arm, the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea occupies about 168,500 square miles (436,400 square kilometers). It is connected to the Aegean Sea through the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles, and has been of critical importance to regional commerce throughout the ages. This major inland sea is bordered by six countries — Romania and Bulgaria to the west; Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia to the north and east; and Turkey to the south. Additionally, it is impacted by another 10 nations through the five major rivers that empty into the Black Sea, the largest of which is the Danube River.

**Countries bordering Caspian sea:** The five countries Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Iran share their boundary with the Caspian Sea

**Countries bordering Mediterranean Sea:** The countries surrounding the Mediterranean in clockwise order are Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco; Malta and Cyprus are island countries in the sea.

**Countries bordering Red sea:** There are six countries (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti) bordering the Red Sea.

Source: Atlas

**Q.8) “Pichavaram mangrove” forest is located in which of the following state?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Pichavaram mangrove is one of the largest mangrove in India, situated at Pichavaram near Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu. Pichavaram ranks among the one of the most exquisite scenic spot in Tamil Nadu and home of many species of Aquatic birds.

Source: ICSE – Total Geography and ‘The Hindu’

**Q.9) Recently, which of the following country led a UN resolution to set up a separate convention on cybercrime?**

- a) Israel
- b) Iran
- c) China
- d) Russia

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Russian proposal entitled “Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes” was recently put forth in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

- India voted in favour of a cybercrime resolution led by Russia in a committee of the United Nations General Assembly.



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

- The resolution seeks to set up new cyber norms considered as counter alternative to the US backed Budapest Accord.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities:**

1. It is a multilateral agreement between the nuclear weapon states.
2. It is entered into force in 1971.

**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:** Both India and Pakistan have exchanged their list of nuclear installations under the bilateral agreement.

- The list was handed over in accordance with Article-II of the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India, signed on December 31, 1988, the Foreign Office (FO).
- The agreement was entered into force on January 27, 1991, provides, inter alia, that the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.

Source: ForumIAS

---

## *Polity*

---

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about 7th schedule of Indian Constitution:**

1. It distributes the legislative subjects between the Union and States.
2. Social Security, Education and Electricity are some of subjects of state list.

**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 Seventh Schedule distributes the legislative subjects between the Union and States. Both the Union and the State Legislatures are empowered to enact laws on the Concurrent List.

At present, Concurrent List has 47 subjects, including subjects like Criminal Law and Procedure, Contracts, Bankruptcy, and Insolvency, Economic and Social Planning, Social Security, Education, Shipping in Inland Waterways, Forests, Electricity, Price Control, Acquisition of Property, Marriage and Divorce etc. Education and Forests were transferred to the Concurrent List in 1976 through the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET):**

- 1 The NEET is a qualifying test for only graduate medical course in India.
- 2 The exam is conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA).

**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 Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET):**

- The Medical Council of India (MCI) and Dental Council of India (DCI) in 2012 had introduced the common medical entrance examination or NEET. Later, it has been statutorily incorporated under Section 10D of the Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act. The Supreme Court also upheld the validity of the law.
- The NEET is a qualifying test for any graduate and postgraduate medical course in India. The NEET is mandatory for all Indian institutions except certain institutions including AIIMS, PGIMER, and JIPMER.
- The exam is conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA).
- The NEET exam is conducted online and in 11 languages. These include English, Hindi, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Marathi, Urdu, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada, and Assamese.

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

- Medical colleges in a particular state have 85% seats reserved for the native students and 15% (All India Quota) seats for the students from other states.

Source: EPIC September 2021

### **Q.3) Which among the following publishes World Happiness Report?**

- a) World Bank
- b) UNDP
- c) UN
- d) Global Happiness Organization

**ANS: C**

#### **Explanation: About World Happiness Report:**

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations released the World Happiness Report 2021, a day before the International Happiness Day. This year it focuses on the effects of Covid-19 and how people all over the world have fared. The World Happiness Report ranks 149 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.

The rankings are based on polling (Gallup World Poll) which looks at six variables:

- Gross Domestic Product per Capita (Purchasing Power Parity).
- Social Support.
- Healthy life expectancy at birth.
- Freedom to make life choices.
- Generosity.
- Perceptions of corruption.
- Respondents are asked to rate their own current lives on a 0-10 scale.

Source: EPIC September 2021

### **Q.4) Which of the following states/UTs tabled a bill to ensure 'Right to Sit'?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Delhi
- d) Gujarat

**ANS: B**

#### **Explanation:**

The Tamil Nadu Government has tabled a bill in the State Assembly that recognizes workers 'right to sit'. Kerala is the only other State to have legislated on the 'right to sit' in 2018. The bill seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947. The amendment makes it mandatory for business establishments to provide seating arrangements for their employees who stand for long hours. The bill, if passed, will ensure a chair to each worker and a whole lot of dignity besides helping the employees avoid the discomfort and health issues that arise from standing throughout the day.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are example/examples of direct democracy?**

1. Referendum
2. Recall
3. Initiative

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Democracy is of two types: direct and indirect. In direct democracy, the people exercise their supreme power directly as is the case in Switzerland.

- There are four devices of direct democracy, namely, Referendum, Initiative, Recall and Plebiscite.
- In indirect democracy, on the other hand, the representatives elected by the people exercise the supreme power and thus carry on the government and make the laws.
- This type of democracy, also known as representative democracy, is of two kinds: parliamentary and presidential.
- The Indian Constitution provides for representative parliamentary democracy under which the executive is responsible to the legislature for all its policies and actions.
- Universal adult franchise, periodic elections, rule of law, independence of judiciary, and absence of discrimination on certain grounds are the manifestations of the democratic character of the Indian polity.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding right to property:**

1. It was deleted from the list of Fundamental Rights by the 1st Amendment Act, 1951.
2. It is made a legal right under Article 276-A in Part XII of the Constitution.

**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 right to property was deleted from the list of Fundamental Rights by the 44th Amendment Act, 1978.

- It is made a legal right under Article 300-A in Part XII of the Constitution.
- So at present, there are only six Fundamental Rights.

Source: Laxmikanth.

**Q.7) Which of the following Article of Indian Constitution says that directive principles are fundamental in the governance of the country?**

- a) Article 37
- b) Article 42
- c) Article 48
- d) Article 51

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Constitution (Article 37) itself says that these principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.

Source: Laxmikanth.

**Q.8) Which of the following amendment/amendments is/are NOT comes under Article 368?**

- 1. Simple Majority
- 2. Special Majority
- 3. Special Majority with half of the states ratification

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Article 368 provides for two types of amendments, that is, by a special majority of Parliament and also through the ratification of half of the states by a simple majority.

- But, some other articles provide for the amendment of certain provisions of the Constitution by a simple majority of Parliament, that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting (similar to the ordinary legislative process).
- Notably, these amendments are not deemed to be amendments of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.9) The funds under Statutory Grants to the states are charged upon which of the following?**

- a) Consolidated Fund of India
- b) Contingency Fund of India
- c) Public Accounts of India
- d) Both A & B

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Article 275 empowers the Parliament to make grants to the states which are in need of financial assistance and not to every state.

- Also, different sums may be fixed for different states. These sums are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India every year.

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

- Apart from this general provision, the Constitution also provides for specific grants for promoting the welfare of the scheduled tribes in a state or for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas in a state including the State of Assam.
- The statutory grants under Article 275 (both general and specific) are given to the states on the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.10) With reference to the qualifications of the Vice President, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. He should have completed 30 years of age.
3. He should be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** To be eligible for election as Vice-President, a person should fulfill the following qualifications:

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should have completed 35 years of age.
- He should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.

Source: Laxmikanth

---

## *Economy*

---

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Account Aggregator (AA):**

1. Account Aggregator is a non-banking financial company that facilitates sharing of financial information in a real-time manner between regulated entities.
2. The licence for Account Aggregators (AAs) is issued by SEBI.

**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: Account Aggregator:** is a non-banking financial company that facilitates sharing of financial information in a real-time manner between regulated entities.

- The Account Aggregator is engaged in the business of providing the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.
- It is also engaged in consolidating, organizing and presenting such information to the customer or any other financial information as may be specified by the bank.
- The licence for Account Aggregators (AAs) is issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Account aggregator systems will act as an intermediary to collect data from Financial Information Providers (FIP) like Bank, NBFC, mutual funds that hold the consumer's personal financial data. The data will be shared with the Financial Information Users (FIU) like the lending bank that wants access to the borrower's data to determine if the borrower qualifies for a loan. Banks can play a dual role – as a FIP and as an FIU. However, for sharing customer data, the bank or financial institution will have to take the customer's consent.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.2) Which of the following describes Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)?**

- a) It is a precursor to an FTA.
- b) It is a scheme for Horticulture produce.
- c) It is a scheme to ensure MSP for farmers.
- d) It deals with crop failure due to hail storm.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** An early harvest deal is a precursor to an FTA, in which the trading partners reduce tariff barriers on limited goods to promote trade.

What are the reasons for India's poor success in converting EHS into full-fledged FTAs?

1. Higher domestic tariffs: India has higher domestic tariffs in some of the most trade dynamic sectors, relative to other developing countries,
2. India hesitates to offer "more" preferential tariff lines in its FTAs,
3. Industrial lobby from domestic sectors limits the potential of trade liberalization,
4. Persisting Issues in the negotiations of trade: For example, liberalization of the dairy sector was among the major contributory factors for India's withdrawal from the RCEP.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.3) NIRF Rankings is related to which of the following?**

- a) Education
- b) Health
- c) Financial services
- d) Automobile

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: NIRF Rankings:** The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Education. The objective of the Framework is to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence.

The institutions are assessed and ranked based on five parameters

1. Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR),
2. Research and Professional Practice (RP),
3. Graduation Outcomes (GO),
4. Outreach and Inclusivity (OI),
5. Peer Perception.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about Shoonya Initiative:**

1. Shoonya is an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and the industry.
2. It is an initiative by Ministry of Heavy Industries.

**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: Shoonya Initiative:** NITI Aayog along with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), an independent non-profit organization has launched Shoonya Initiative. Shoonya is an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and the industry. It aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and creates consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution delivery.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.5) Which of the following has issues first-ever Euro denominated green bond issuance from India?**

- a) Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)
- b) Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd
- c) L & T Finance Limited
- d) Aditya Birla Finance Limited

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Euro Green Bond:** Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has issued its maiden Euro Green Bond. It is the first-ever Euro denominated green bond issuance from India. It is



the first-ever Euro issuance by an Indian NBFC and the first Euro bond issuance from India since 2017.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.6) Which among the following economic recoveries, the recession period is longest?**

- a) W Shaped Recovery
- b) K shaped recovery
- c) L shaped recovery
- d) U shaped recovery

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Types of Economic Recoveries:**

- **V shaped:** The economy experiences a sharp decline but then bounces back almost immediately to its pre-recession level.
- **U shaped:** The economy declines and then spends a significant period of time at the trough before improving.
- **W shaped:** This is also known as a double-dip recession. There is a brief economic comeback but then the economy falls a second time.
- **L shaped:** L-shaped recovery has the lengthiest recession period of all. The long period of recession is dubbed as depression. After a sharp decline, GDP begins to increase, but recovery is very gradual and lengthy. It can take years for the economy to get back to where it was pre-downturn.
- **K shaped:** One segments of the economy recovers rather quickly (more like V or U-shaped recovery) while the other segment recovers much slowly (like L shaped). The divergence between the two segments is similar to two lines of the letter K. Many economists predict that economic recovery post COVID pandemic will Be K shaped.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.7) A report titled, “Global Risks Report” has been released by which of the following organization/institution?**

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) UNCTAD

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Global Risks Report:**

- The World Economic Forum recently released the Global Risks Report 2022.
- Cybersecurity, pandemic, climate change and space advancements are the emerging risks to global economy.
- The global economy is to shrink by 2.3% by 2024. However, in developing countries this is to be 5.5%. In rich countries, it will be 0.9%.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about UNCTAD's Investment Trends Monitor:**

1. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India were 26 per cent higher as compared to 2020.
2. FDI flows to South Asia decreased by 24 per cent.

**Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Investment Trends Monitor:**

- According to the recent Investment Trends Monitor Report issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows increased by 77 per cent to an estimated USD 1.65 trillion in 2021, from USD 929 billion in 2020.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India fell by 26 per cent in 2021, compared to 2020. In 2020, FDI to India was recorded at USD 64 billion. This was 27 per cent more compared to USD 51 billion in FDI in 2019.
- FDI flows to South Asia decreased 24 per cent to \$54 billion in 2021 from \$71 billion in 2020.

**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):**

- **Establishment:** UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established in 1964.
- **Headquarter:** It is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.
- **Objective:** It promotes development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.9) "Lorenz curve" is associated to 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: Ramesh Singh

**Q.10) “Tarapore committee” recommendations related to which of the following area?**

- a) Currency Convertibility
- b) Administrative Price Mechanism
- c) Insurance sector
- d) Trade sector

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** India’s foreign exchange earning capacity was always poor and hence it had all possible provisions to check the foreign exchange outflow, be it for current purposes or capital purposes (remember the draconian FERA). But the process of economic reforms has changed the situation to unidentifiable levels.

- **Current Account:** Current account is today fully convertible (operationalized on 19 August, 1994). It means that the full amount of the foreign exchange required by someone for current purposes will be made available to him at official exchange rate and there could be an un prohibited outflow of foreign exchange (earlier it was partially convertible).
- **Capital Account:** After the recommendations of the S.S. Tarapore Committee (1997) on Capital Account Convertibility, India has been moving in the direction of allowing full convertibility in this account, but with required precautions.

Source: ForumIAS

---

## *Environment*

---

**Q.1) Which of the following state/UT have adopted black-necked crane, an endangered species as the State bird?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Ladakh
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Odisha

ANS: B

Explanation: Ladakh recently adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as the State animal and the State bird. Black-necked crane, only found in the Ladakh region, was the State bird of J&K before August 5, 2019.

**About Black-necked crane**

- It has a conspicuous red crown that adorns the head.
- The juveniles have a brownish head and neck and plumage is slightly paler than that of an adult.
- The bird is revered by the community of Monpas (Major Buddhist ethnic group of Arunachal Pradesh) as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama (Tsangyang Gyatso).
- **Habitat and Breeding Grounds:** The high altitude wetlands of the Tibetan plateau, Sichuan (China), and eastern Ladakh (India).
- In Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, it only comes during the winters.
- **Threats:** Damage to the eggs and chicks; Loss of habitat due to humans Development Projects; Increased grazing pressure on the limited pastures near the wetlands.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.2) "Neelakurinji", a flower recently in news, blooms in which of the following state/UT?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Manipur
- c) Leh
- d) Andaman and Nicobar

ANS: A

**Explanation:** Neelakurinji flowers have bloomed in Kodagu district of Karnataka after 12 years. This kind of mass flowering is known as gregarious flowering.

**About the flower**

- It is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Locally known as Kurinji, the flowers grow at an altitude of 1,300 to 2,400 metres.
- Nilgiri Hills, which literally means the blue mountains, got their name from the purplish blue flowers of Neelakurinji that bloom only once in 12 years.
- Kurinjimala Sanctuary of Kerala protects the kurinji in approximately 32 km<sup>2</sup> core habitat in Kottakamboor and Vattavada villages in Idukki district.
- Kurinji Andavar temple located in Kodaikanal of Tamil Nadu dedicated to Tamil God Murugan also preserves these plants.

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

- The Paliyan tribal people living in Tamil Nadu used it as a reference to calculate their age.
- Karnataka has around 45 species of Neelakurinji and each species blooms at intervals of six, nine, 11 or 12 years.
- Besides the Western Ghats, Neelakurinji is also seen in the Shevroy in the Eastern Ghats, Sanduru hills of Bellary district in Karnataka.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.3) Which of the following states will set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Government of Tamil Nadu will set up India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay Dugong.

**About the Conservation Reserve**

- The Conservation Reserve will cover an area of 500 kms.
- The proposed conservation area has the highest concentration of dugongs in the country. The reserve will span the northern part of the Palk Bay from Adirampattinam to Amapattinam.
- AS part of the CAMPA-Dugong Recovery Project, various surveys were conducted in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar, from November 2016 to March 2019.
- Gulf of Mannar is a shallow bay area between the south eastern end of Tamil Nadu and western Sri Lanka.

**About Dugongs**

- The dugong, also called the sea cow, is a herbivorous mammal.
- It is the only living representative of the once-diverse family Dugongidae.
- The dugong is strictly a marine mammal.
- They graze on seagrass and come to the surface to breathe.
- They are found in over 30 countries and in India are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about Pollen calendar:**

1. Pollen calendars represent the time dynamics of airborne pollen present in a particular geographical area.
2. Chandigarh became first Indian city to get its pollen calendar.

**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:** Recently, Chandigarh got its first Pollen calendar, arguably the first for any city in India.

**What is a Pollen Calendar?**

- Pollen calendars represent the time dynamics of airborne pollen present in a particular geographical area.
- They yield readily accessible visual details about various airborne pollen present throughout the year in a single picture.
- Pollen calendars are location-specific, with concentrations closely related to locally distributed flora.
- Europe, UK and the US are using regional pollen calendars in a big way to prevent and diagnose allergic rhinitis/hay fever and predict the timing and severity of the pollen season.

**Significance of a pollen calendar:**

- A pollen calendar provides a clear understanding for clinicians, as well as people with allergies to identify the potential allergy triggers and help to limit their exposure during high pollen load season.
- The early advisories can be prepared and disseminated through media channels to the citizens

**About Chandigarh's Pollen calendar**

- The pollen calendar for Chandigarh was prepared by studying airborne pollen and its seasonal variations for about two years.
- The study highlights the variability of crucial pollen types in different seasons. Spring and autumn are two seasons when airborne pollen dominates.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.5) Consider the following protected areas:**

1. Orang National Park
2. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve
3. Gorumara National Park

Which of the site given above is/are known to have rhinos in India?

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There are three species of rhino in Asia: Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran.

- India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world
- Two greatest threats: Poaching for the horns and habitat loss
- The five rhino range nations: India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia.
- These Nations have signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species.

**Protection Status**

- IUCN Red List
- Javan and Sumatran Rhino: Critically endangered
- Greater one-horned rhino: vulnerable
- All three are listed under Appendix I (CITES).

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

- Greater one-horned rhino: Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

**In India, rhinos are mainly found in:**

- Assam: Kaziranga National Park (NP), Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Orang NP and Manas NP
- West Bengal: Jaldapara NP and Gorumara NP
- Uttar Pradesh: Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.6) Consider the following countries:**

1. Hungary
2. Slovenia
3. Albania
4. Romania
5. Croatia

Which of the above countries is/are part of the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve'?

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Recently, Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) was declared as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**About MDD:**

- The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia. The total area of the reserve is a million hectares - in the so-called 'Amazon of Europe', which is now the largest riverine protected area in Europe.
- The biosphere "represented an important contribution to the European Green Deal (climate action plan) and contributed to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the Mura-Drava-Danube region."
- The strategy's aim is to revitalise 25,000 km of rivers and protect 30% of the European Union's land area by 2030.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about OSOWOG initiative:**

1. The idea was first mooted by India at ISA.
2. The project has been taken up under the technical assistance programme of the World Bank.

**Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** OSOWOG initiative:

Recently, the One Sun One World One Grid Declaration (OSOWOG) was jointly released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the COP26 Climate Meet in Glasgow.

**About the project:**

- The concept of OSOWOG, which the British have called a green grid, pitches the idea of a transnational solar grid, from which different countries can draw power.
- The OSOWOG idea was first floated by the Indian Prime Minister in 2018 during the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is “the Sun never sets” and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- The project has been taken up under the technical assistance programme of the World Bank.

**Aim:** By 2050, a single power grid of renewable energy is accessible across continents with production in one continent and distribution of power in another.

**The 3 Phases of the Plan:**

- First Phase: It will entail inter-connectivity within the Asian continent.
- Second Phase: It will add Africa.
- Third Phase: It is about global interconnection.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.8) Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, recently designated as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention is located in which state?**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Rajasthan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Wetlands

- Wetlands are areas intermediate in character between deepwater and terrestrial habitats, also transitional in nature, and often located between them.
- Recently Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been listed as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary is a freshwater wetland near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch, was formed following the creation of a bund (dike) in 1920 by the then ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Nawanagar to protect farmlands from saltwater ingress.
- The sanctuary is now part of Marine National Park, Jamnagar, and the first marine national park in the country.

Source: EPIC September 2021



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

Q.9) 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: ForumIAS

**Q.10) With reference to the moist deciduous forests, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. These are more pronounced in the regions which record rainfall of 100 - 200 cm.
2. White cedar, hollock and kail are the main species found in these forests.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Moist deciduous forests are more pronounced in the regions which record rainfall of 100-200 cm.

- These forests are found in the northeastern states along the foothills of Himalayas, eastern slopes of the Western Ghats and Odisha.
- Teak, sal, shisham, hurra, mahua, amla, semul, kusum, and sandalwood etc. are the main species of these forests.

Source: NCERT XI – India Physical Environment

---

## *History/ Art and Culture*

---

**Q.1) Which of the following is/are the Delhi proposals of Muslim League?**

1. Joint electorates in place of separate electorates with reserved seats for Muslims.
2. One third representation of Muslims in Central Legislative Assembly.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Earlier, in December 1927, a large number of Muslim leaders had met at Delhi at the Muslim League session and evolved four proposals for their demands to be incorporated into the draft constitution. These proposals, which were accepted by the Madras session of the Congress (December 1927), came to be known as the 'Delhi Proposals'.

These were:

- joint electorates in place of separate electorates with reserved seats for Muslims;
- one-third representation to Muslims in Central Legislative Assembly;
- representation to Muslims in Punjab and Bengal in proportion to their population;
- Formation of three new Muslim majority provinces— Sindh, Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.2) "The Indian Socialist", journal was written by whom among the following?**

- a) Bhagat Singh
- b) Batukeshwar Dutt
- c) Chandrashekhar Azad
- d) Shyamji Krishna Verma

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Indian Sociologist was published by Shyamji Krishna Verma, who was an Indian, lawyer, revolutionary fighter and a journalist who led the formation of the "The Indian Sociologist" in London and Indian home rule society which promoted the cause of self rule in British India. He was also the founder of India House, a nationalist organization which promoted nationalist views among Indian students in Britain. He used this monthly journal to express his views on British and Indian politics, therefore the Government of London barred Krishna Verma and he fled from London to Paris, after the printers of the newspaper were persecuted. When Krishna Verma moved to Paris, from 1907 to 1914 the journal was edited by him in Paris.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are the objectives of Arya Samaj?**

1. It fixed the minimum marriageable age at twenty-one years for boys and fifteen years for girls.
2. To promote social services like helping the people in crises like floods, famines and earthquakes.

**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:** Dayananda subscribed to the Vedic notion of chaturvarna system in which a person was not born in any caste but was identified as a brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya or shudra according to the occupation the person followed.

- The Arya Samaj fixed the minimum marriageable age at twenty-five years for boys and sixteen years for girls.
- Swami Dayananda once lamented the Hindu race as “the children of children”.
- Inter-caste marriages and widow remarriages were also encouraged.
- Equal status for women was the demand of the Samaj, both in letter and in spirit.
- The Samaj also helped the people in crises like floods, famines and earthquakes.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.4) The Parliament of Religions at Chicago, is attended by Swami Vivekananda was held in which of the following year?**

- a) 1885
- b) 1893
- c) 1778
- d) 1867

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** At the Parliament of Religions held at Chicago in 1893, Swami Vivekananda made a great impression on people by his learned interpretations.

- The keynote of his opening address was the need for a healthy balance between spiritualism and materialism.
- Envisaging a new culture for the whole world, he called for a blend of the materialism of the West and the spiritualism of the East into a new harmony to produce happiness for mankind.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) “No religion, no caste, no God for mankind” was coined by?**

- a) E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker
- b) Sri Narayana Guru
- c) Sahadaran Ayyapan
- d) Swami Vivekananda

**ANS: C**

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

**Explanation:** During the 1920s in South India, the non-brahmins organised the Self-Respect Movement led by E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker. There were numerous other movements demanding that the ban on the entry of lower castes into temples be lifted.

- Sri Narayana Guru in Kerala led a lifelong struggle against upper caste domination.
- He coined the slogan “one religion, one caste, one God for mankind”, which his disciple Sahadaran Ayyapan changed into “no religion, no caste, no God for mankind”.

Source: EPIC September 2021

**Q.6) Arrange the above political organizations in chronological order of their formation.**

1. Poona Sarvajanik Sabha
2. Madras Mahajan Sabha
3. Indian National Association

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Political Associations before Indian National Congress:

- 1836—Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha and Zamindari Association or Landholders’ Society
- 1843—Bengal British India Society
- 1851—British Indian Association
- 1866—East India Association
- 1870—Poona Sarvajanik Sabha
- 1875—Indian League
- 1876—Indian Association of Calcutta or Indian National Association
- 1885—Bombay Presidency Association
- 1884—Madras Mahajan Sabha

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India.

**Q.7) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Book</b>
1. Dayanand Saraswati	Satyarth Prakash
2. Henry Vivian Derozio	Precepts of Jesus
3. Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Gift to Monotheists

**Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Rammohan Roy believed in the modern scientific approach and principles of human dignity and social equality.

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

- He put his faith in monotheism. He wrote Gift to Monotheists (1809) and translated into Bengali the Vedas and the five Upanishads to prove his conviction that ancient Hindu texts support monotheism.
- In his Precepts of Jesus (1820), he tried to separate the moral and philosophical message of the New Testament, which he praised, from its miracle stories.
- He earned the wrath of missionaries over his advocacy to incorporate the message of Christ into Hinduism.
- Dayananda's views were published in his famous work, Satyarth Prakash (The True Exposition).
- His vision of India included a classless and casteless society, a united India (religiously, socially and nationally), and an India free from foreign rule, with Aryan religion being the common religion of all.
- He took inspiration from the Vedas and considered them to be 'India's Rock of Ages', the infallible and the true original seed of Hinduism. He gave the slogan "Back to the Vedas".

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

**Q.8) Consider the following pairs about revolt of 1857:**

<b>Centre of revolt</b>	<b>Leader</b>
1. Bareilly	Khan Bahadur
2. Delhi	Maulvi Ahmadullah
3. Baghpat	General Bakht Khan

**Which of the above given pair is/are not correctly matched?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Centres of Revolt and Leaders

- Delhi - General Bakht Khan
- Kanpur - Nana Saheb
- Lucknow - Begum Hazrat Mahal
- Bareilly - Khan Bahadur
- Bihar - Kunwar Singh
- Faizabad - Maulvi Ahmadullah
- Jhansi - Rani Laxmibai
- Baghpat - Shah Mal

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

**Q.9) Which among the following treaty was signed the earliest?**

- a) Treaty of Sagauli
- b) Treaty of Lhasa
- c) Treaty of Gandamak
- d) Durand Agreement

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Relations of British India with Neighboring Countries:

- Anglo-Nepal Relations (Treaty of Sagauli, 1816)
- Anglo-Burma Relations
  - a. First Anglo-Burma War, 1824-26
  - b. Second Anglo-Burma War, 1852
  - c. Third Anglo-Burma War, 1885
- Anglo-Tibetan Relations
  - a. Treaty of Lhasa (1904)
- Anglo-Afghan Relations
  - a. Forward Policy of Auckland
  - b. First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842)
  - c. John Lawrence's Policy of Masterly Inactivity
  - d. Lytton and the Policy of Proud Reserve
- Second Anglo-Afghan War (1870-80)
  - a. Treaty of Gandamak (May 1879)
- North-West Frontier
  - b. Durand Agreement (1893)

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.

**Q.10) Who among the following founded Vikramasila University?**

- a) Dharmapala
- b) Mahapala
- c) Gopala I
- d) Vikramapala

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Dharmapala proved to be a great patron of Buddhism.

- He founded the Vikramasila monastery in Bhagalpur district in Bihar, which developed into a great centre of Buddhist learning and culture.
- He built a grand vihara at Somapura in modern Paharapura (presentday Bangladesh).
- Dharmapala also built a monastery at Odantapuri in Bihar.
- He patronised Harisbhadra, a Buddhist writer.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.