

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

28th Feb to 6th Mar, 2022

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

Scheme/Programs/Institutions

Q.1) Consider the following statements about PM SVANidhi Scheme:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice.
2. SIDBI has been appointed as the implementation agency for scheme administration.

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 PM SVANidhi Scheme:

PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2020 as a Central Sector Scheme. Its purpose is to facilitate affordable working capital loans of up to ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy @7% on regular repayment. The street vendors are not required to pay any collateral for the loan. SIDBI has been appointed as the implementation agency for scheme administration. The scheme targets to cover 50 lakh street vendors, who had been vending on or before March 24, 2020. Source: EPIC September 2021

Q.2) Consider the following statements about INSPIRE Scheme:

1. It is managed by the Department of Science & Technology for the attraction of talent to science.
2. The scheme covers students in the age group of 10-32 years.

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 INSPIRE Scheme:

- INSPIRE is an innovative program sponsored and managed by the Department of Science & Technology for the attraction of talent to science.
- The objective of the scheme is to communicate to the youth of the country about the excitement of the creative pursuit of science, attract talent to the study of science at an early age.
- This will help build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R & D base.
- It believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for the identification of talent.
- The scheme covers students in the age group of 10-32 years and has three programs and five components. They are
 - Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS),
 - Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)
 - Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC).

Source: EPIC September 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements about National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

1. It has a target of 20% - 30% reduction of Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentration by 2024.
2. The National Clean Air Programme was launched in 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

- The National Clean Air Programme was launched in 2019.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and CPCB.
- It is a comprehensive initiative in partnership with various Ministries and States to improve air quality at city, regional and national level.
- It is a focused and time bound scheme to implement various sectoral policies, strengthen monitoring and enhance public participation in more than 100 cities for effective air quality management.
- It has a target of 20%–30% reduction of Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentration by 2024.

Source: EPIC September 2021

Q.4) “SVAMITVA Scheme”, recently seen in news is being implemented by which of the following institutions?

- a) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- b) SEBI
- c) Ministry of Earth Science
- d) NITI Aayog

ANS: A

Explanation: About SVAMITA Scheme:

- The acronym SVAMITA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme (100% by Union Government) implemented by Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj
- It is aimed at “providing ‘record of rights’ to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages and issuance of property cards to the property owners.”
- The government aims to provide such property cards to each household in the next three to four years in every village across the country.
- The plan is to survey all rural properties using drones and prepare GIS based maps for each village.

Source: EPIC September 2021

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):

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

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

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

ANS: A

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

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

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.6) Which of the following Multilateral Export-Control Regime is also called as London Club?

- a) Nuclear Suppliers Group
- b) MTCR
- c) Wassenaar arrangement
- d) Australia Group

ANS: A

Explanation: The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) first met in November 1975 in London, and is thus popularly referred to as the “London Club”. It is a Group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Source: The Hindu

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Sports Authority of India (SAI):

1. It is set up as a Society registered of Societies Act, 1860.
2. Sports Authority of India (SAI) was set up in 1984 to carry forward the legacy of the IXth Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982

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: About SAI:

- Sports Authority of India (SAI) was set up in 1984 to carry forward the legacy of the IXth Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982 under the Department of Sports.

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- SAI has been entrusted with the twin objectives of promoting sports and achieving sporting excellence at the national and international level.
- SAI was set up as a Society registered of Societies Act, 1860.
- SAI has played a significant role in shaping India's sports development by providing training to elite athletes and at the same time operating a number of schemes for the identification and development of young talent.
- The schemes are being implemented through various regional centres and training centres of SAI spread throughout the country.
- In addition to that, a number of academic programmes in physical education and sports are also offered by SAI.

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):

1. It is an intergovernmental organization and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention.
2. The OPCW is authorized to perform inspections to verify that signatory states are complying with the convention.
3. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: About Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):

- OPCW is an intergovernmental organization and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention. This convention has been in force since 1997 and 193 members.
- **Aim:** To achieve the vision of a world free of chemical weapons by implementing the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Powers:**
 - The OPCW is authorized to perform inspections to verify that signatory states are complying with the convention.
 - It can also perform testing of sites and victims of suspected chemical weapons attacks.
 - **Headquarters:** The Hague, Netherlands.
 - **Significance:** The OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Which among the following is not published by International Labor Organization (ILO)?

- a) Global Wage Report
- b) World Social Protection Report
- c) World Employment and Social Outlook
- d) Industrial Development Report

ANS: D

Explanation: ILO's flagship publications:

- Global Wage Report
- World Social Protection Report
- World Employment and Social Outlook

Industrial Development Report is published by UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

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

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

Source: Indian Express

Science and Technology

Q.1) Mosquirix, a new vaccine, recently seen in news would be used to treat which of the following diseases?

- a) SARS Covid-19
- b) Dengue
- c) Filariasis
- d) Malaria

ANS: D

Explanation: About Mosquirix:

A new vaccine “RTS,S/AS01 (RTS.S)” with trade name “Mosquirix” was endorsed by the WHO. This is the first vaccine to have shown the capability of significantly reducing malaria. Mosquirix has been developed by British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Banni Buffalo breed:

1. It is a breed of buffalo found primarily in Haryana.
2. Banni Buffaloes has higher milk production potentials and is also more disease resilient.

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: India’s first In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) calf of Banni breed of buffaloes was born at a farmer’s house in Gir Somnath district, Gujarat. It is a breed of buffalo found primarily in the Kutch district of Gujarat. Banni Buffaloes has higher milk production potentials and is also more disease resilient. They are also well-adapted to survive extreme weather conditions such as water scarcity, frequent droughts, low humidity and high temperatures.

This is the reason they were chosen to multiply the population of genetically superior buffaloes, resulting in higher milk yield.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.3) NASA's Mission Lucy, recently seen in news will explore which of the following?

- a) Jupiter Trojan Asteroids
- b) Asteroid “Bennu”
- c) Asteroids Ceres and Vesta
- d) Asteroid “Ryugu”

ANS: A

Explanation: About Mission Lucy:

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- Lucy is NASA's mission to explore the Jupiter Trojan Asteroids. It was launched on October 16 2021.
- It is a part of NASA's Discovery Programme focused on better understanding of planetary systems of the Solar System.
- The mission is named after 'Lucy', a 3.2 million-year-old ancestor who belonged to a species of hominins (which include humans and their ancestors).
- The mission is estimated to be over 12 years long, during the course of which the spacecraft will visit eight asteroids covering a distance of about 6.3 billion km to deepen the understanding of the "young solar system".

Dawn mission (NASA) orbited Ceres and Vesta the two largest worlds in the belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Hayabusa mission (JAXA-Japan) probed asteroid "Ryugu"

OSIRIS-REX (NASA) spacecraft probed asteroid "Bennu" and collected samples from there.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.4) "DigiSaksham" is a joint initiative by which of the following?

- a) Minister for Labour and Employment and TCS
- b) Minister for Labour and Employment and Microsoft India
- c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Microsoft India
- d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and TCS

ANS: B

Explanation: Ministry for Labour and Employment has launched DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills that are required in an increasingly technology driven era. This joint initiative with Microsoft India is an extension of the Government's ongoing programs to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.5) Which of the following statement about Diabetes is/are not correct?

- a) Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease
- b) It occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin
- c) Both a and b
- d) None

ANS: D

Explanation: About diabetes:

- Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.
- Type I diabetes: It mostly affects children of age 14-16 years. This type occurs when the body fails to produce sufficient insulin. They must take artificial insulin daily to stay alive.
- Type II diabetes: While the body still makes insulin, unlike in type I, the cells in the body do not respond to it as effectively as they once did. The population with 45 and above age group is the most affected with it.

This is the most common type of diabetes and it has strong links with obesity.

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- Diabetes affects the five major organs - Kidney, Heart, Blood vessels, Nervous System, and Eyes (retina).
- Responsible factors: Unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, harmful use of alcohol, overweight/obesity, tobacco use, etc.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis:

1. Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord.
2. It aims to eliminate epidemics of bacterial meningitis by 2040.
3. It aims to reduce deaths by 70 per cent and halve the number of cases by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Global Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis by 2030 was recently released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners.

- This is the first-ever global strategy to defeat meningitis.
- It aims to eliminate epidemics of bacterial meningitis and to reduce deaths by 70 per cent and halve the number of cases.
- Significance: The strategy could save more than 200,000 lives annually and significantly reduce disability caused by the disease.

About Meningitis

- Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord.
- It is predominantly caused by bacterial and viral infection.
- Meningitis caused by bacterial infection causes around 250,000 deaths a year and can lead to fast-spreading epidemics.
- It kills a tenth of those infected — mostly children and young people — and leaves a fifth with long-lasting disability.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. INS Vikrant has been indigenously built by Cochin Shipyard for the Indian Navy.
2. Cochin Shipyard Limited is the only shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

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 Vikrant

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- Vikrant is India's most complex warship (aircraft carrier) to have been indigenously built by Cochin Shipyard for the Indian Navy.
 - Cochin Shipyard Limited is the largest public sector shipyard and the only shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
 - Vikrant has more than 76% indigenous content.
 - It is the first time in the country that a ship the size of an Aircraft Carrier is completely modeled in 3D and production drawings extracted from the 3D model.
 - The IAC is the largest warship built in the country having a displacement of about 40,000 tonnes.
 - The Aircraft Carrier is a mini floating city, with a flight deck area covering the size of two football fields.
 - The vessel is named Vikrant after the decommissioned maiden carrier of the Navy.
 - It will have an air component of 30 aircraft, comprising MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 airborne early warning helicopters and the soon-to-be-inducted MH-60R multi-role helicopter, besides the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters.
 - The shipborne weapons include Barak LR SAM and AK-630, while it has MFSTAR and RAN-40L 3D radars as sensors.
 - At present, India has only one aircraft carrier, the Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya.
- Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) U.S. scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian have won the Nobel Medicine Prize 2021 for which of the following discovery?

- a) Covid-19 vaccination
- b) Receptors for temperature and touch
- c) Vaccine for malaria
- d) First successful pig to human heart transplant

ANS: B

Explanation: U.S. scientists David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian have won the Nobel Medicine Prize for discoveries on receptors for temperature and touch.

- The groundbreaking discoveries have allowed us to understand how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world.
- The pair's research is being used to develop treatments for a wide range of diseases and conditions, including chronic pain.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Ministry of Ayush has entered into an agreement with which of the following country undertake academic activities in the field of Ayurveda?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Germany
- c) Croatia
- d) Egypt

ANS: C

Explanation: Recently, paving the way for academic collaboration in India's traditional medicine systems, especially in the field of Ayurveda, between the two countries, the Ministry of Ayush has entered into an agreement with Croatia.

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- The two sides will undertake academic activities in the field of Ayurveda in collaboration with the identified institutions.
- There will be close cooperation and collaboration on research, including study design and execution, developing evidence-based guidelines for integrating Ayurvedic principles and practices with modern medicine, conducting lectures, workshops, seminars and conferences, and other such activities on Ayurveda.
- Both sides will also develop academic standards and courses in accordance with the needs of the institution, end users and stakeholders and develop Ayurvedic medical education guidelines for Ayurveda education in Croatia.
- This will promote academic research, clinical and educational activities, medical education, training, and competency building.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Indian Space Association (ISpA):

1. It is an industry body consisting of various stakeholders of the Indian space domain.
2. One of the main goals of the organization is to supplement the government's efforts towards making India a global leader in commercial space-based excursions.

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: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) in October, 2021.

- ISpA is the Premier Industry Association of Space and Satellite companies, which aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry.
- It will undertake policy advocacy and engage with all stakeholders in the Indian Space domain, including the Government and its agencies.
- ISpA will help in making India self-reliant, technologically advanced and a leading player in the space arena.
- ISpA is represented by leading home grown and global corporations with advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies.

Source: ForumIAS

Location/IR/Geography

Q.1) Mount Manipur, recently seen in news is located at which of the following place?

- a) Andaman and Nicobar
- b) Manipur
- c) Sikkim
- d) Myanmar

ANS: A

Explanation: Mount Manipur:

- The Government of India has renamed Mount Harriet of Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands to Mount Manipur.
- Mount Harriet is the third-highest island peak in the A&N Islands.
- It is the place where Manipur's Maharaja Kulchandra Singh and 22 other freedom fighters were imprisoned during the Anglo-Manipuri war (1891).
- Hence, Mount Harriet has been renamed as Mount Manipur to pay tribute to those freedom fighters of Manipur.
- The Anglo-Manipur War was an armed conflict between the British Empire and the Kingdom of Manipur.
- The war lasted between 31 March and 27 April 1891, ending in a British victory.
- This war also led to Manipur officially becoming a princely state under the indirect rule of the British crown.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.2) Exercise Indradhanush is a joint bilateral air exercise between which of the following pairs of nation?

- a) India and UK
- b) India and USA
- c) India and Australia
- d) India, UK and South Africa

ANS: A

Explanation: Exercise Indradhanush: It is a joint bilateral air exercise between India and the UK started in 2006.

Ajeya Warrior and other Indo-British Joint Exercises: The 6th Edition of India – UK Joint Military Training Exercise Ajeya Warrior was conducted at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand. The execution of joint military operations is done in a semi-urban environment. The exercise is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and sharing expertise with friendly foreign nations.

Passage Exercise (PASSEX): It was conducted between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group to ensure that the navies are able to communicate and cooperate in times of war or humanitarian relief.

Exercise Konkan: It is also a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the UK. The Exercise aims to consolidate interoperability and help cement the strong bonds of friendship between the two navies.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements about vertical farming:

1. In vertical farming, crops are grown indoors.
2. It does not require more 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: A

Explanation: About vertical farming:

- In vertical farming, crops are grown indoors, under artificial conditions of light and temperature.
- It aims at higher productivity in smaller spaces.
- It uses soil-less methods such as hydroponics, aquaponics and aeroponics.
- Vertical farming uses significantly less water and pesticides than traditional agricultural methods.
- Being indoors, the crops aren't subject to seasons and hence give high productivity year-round.

What are some issues associated with vertical farming?

- (1) Requires more energy and technology
- (2) **High cost of input:** Cameras and sensors gather millions of data points tracking the needs of the plants as they grow
- (3) **Skilled human resource:** This kind of hyper-controlled indoor agriculture requires an expensive labour force of engineers, plant scientists and computer programmers
- (4) **Luxury good:** Vertical farming also relies on urban real estate more expensive than rural farmland
- (5) **High-tech agriculture is still high-risk:** Because there is no soil or other barrier to protect the roots, even a small number of bacteria in the root chamber can harm the plants.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.4) 'Nord Stream Pipeline 2', recently seen in news, runs between which of the following countries?

- a) Germany and Russia
- b) Russia and Ukraine
- c) Ukraine and Belarus
- d) France and Spain

ANS: A

Explanation: A 1224 km, underwater **Nord Stream Pipeline 2** running from **Germany to Russia** across Baltic Sea has been completed. It provides the shortest, economical and environment friendly route to double Russia's gas export to Germany.

What is the utility of this pipeline?

- The NS2 has the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic meters of gas each year.
- It can also cover the needs of about 26 million households, and restock storage inventories.

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- With the increase in European gas prices because of various reasons like severe winter, post covid economy surge, many industries and food supply chains are under stress.
- The pipeline is intended to provide Europe with a sustainable gas supply while providing Russia with more direct access to the European gas market.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.5) Consider the following statements about National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

1. NDMA is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
2. Home minister acts as its chairperson.

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 National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

- NDMA is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
- The NDMA was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- **Composition:** Prime Minister as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.
- **Mandate:** Its primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.
- It is also the apex body to lay down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.
- **Vision:** To build a safer and disaster resilient India by a holistic, proactive, technology driven and sustainable development strategy that involves all stakeholders and fosters a culture of prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.6) Which of the following organisation/Institution has developed Geospatial Energy Map of India?

- a) ISRO
- b) Ministry of Power
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Both a and c

ANS: D

Explanation: About Geospatial Energy Map of India:

- NITI Aayog in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India with the support of Energy Ministries of Government of India.
- Provides a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country which enables visualization of energy installations through 27 thematic layers

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- Attempts to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation/transmission networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country.
- A unique effort aimed at integrating energy data scattered across multiple organizations and to present it in a consolidated, visually appealing graphical manner.
- Leverages latest advancements in web-GIS technology and open-source software to make it interactive and user friendly.
- Will be useful in planning and making investment decisions.
- Will also aid in disaster management using available energy assets.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):

1. It aims to link the Western part of China to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan, Pakistan.
2. It is not a part of Belt and Road Initiative.

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 China-Pakistan Economic Corridor:

- The CPEC is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China.
- It is intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial, and other infrastructure development projects.
- It aims to link the Western part of China (Xinjiang province) to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan, Pakistan via Khunjerab Pass in the Northern Parts of Pakistan.
- It will pave the way for China to access the Middle East and Africa from Gwadar Port, enabling China to access the Indian Ocean.
- CPEC is a part of the Belt and Road Initiative. The BRI, launched in 2013, aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.
- India has been severely critical of the CPEC, as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which is a disputed territory between India and Pakistan.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements about S-400 Triumph:

1. It is air-to-air missile system designed by Russia.
2. It is more dangerous than US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD).

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 S-400 Triumph anti-aircraft missile systems:

- The S-400 Triumph is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
- It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Recently a GI tagged sweet dish “Mihidana” has been exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The dish belongs to which of the following states?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Telangana
- c) West Bengal
- d) Assam

ANS: C

Explanation: In an effort to promote indigenous & Geographical Identification (GI) tagged products, first consignment of GI tagged sweet dish Mihidana sourced from Bardhaman, West Bengal has been exported to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

- Jaynagarer Moa: A century old sweet delicacy & GI certified - Jaynagarer Moa, prepared from popped-rice ball & fresh date-palm jaggery, is found in Jaynagar, West Bengal too.
- West Bengal's Bardhaman got the GI tag for the century-old sweetmeats in 2017.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to “Barail Range”:

1. It is the highest hill range in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The Barail Range is the watershed between the Brahmaputra and Manas rivers.

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 Barail is the highest hill range in Assam. It includes the North Cachar Hill Reserve Forest (RF) of Cachar district, Barail RF of Cachar and North Cachar Hills districts and the unclassified forests stretching from the Simleng river valley in the west to Laike in the east (in North Cachar Hills district).

The Barail Range is the watershed between the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. The terrain ranges from flat and undulating in the river valleys, to mountainous with steep slopes.

Source: NCERT XI India Physical Environment

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Doctrine of Proportionality:

1. It postulates that the nature and extent of the State's interference with the exercise of a right must be proportionate to the goal it seeks to achieve.
2. The Doctrine was laid down by SC in Puttaswamy Case.

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 Doctrine of Proportionality:

- Doctrine of Proportionality postulates that the nature and extent of the State's interference with the exercise of a right must be proportionate to the goal it seeks to achieve.
- In the Puttaswamy Judgment the SC laid down the 3 Fold Test for ascertaining proportionality;
 - Legality: The action must be sanctioned by law;
 - Legitimate Aim: The proposed action must be necessary in a democratic society for a legitimate aim;
 - Proportionality: The extent of such interference must be proportionate to the need for such interference.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.2) Which of the following statements about Abraham Accords is/are correct?

- a) It is a joint statement made between Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.
- b) It refers to the agreement reached between Israel, Bahrain and the UAE to normalize relations between them.
- c) Both a and b
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: About Abraham Accords:

- Abraham Accords are a joint statement made between Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates in August 2020.
- It also refers to the agreement reached between Israel, Bahrain and the UAE to normalize relations between them.
- Under the Accords, the UAE and Bahrain will establish embassies, exchange ambassadors, cooperate and work together with Israel across a range of sectors including tourism, trade, healthcare and security.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.3) The term 'Artemis Accords' recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Cooperation in exploration of extra territorial bodies.
- b) Transfer of technology under IPCC
- c) Trade negotiations in times of Covid-19
- d) None

ANS: A

Explanation: About Artemis Accords:

- Artemis Accords were signed in 2020 by 8 countries,
- The accords are an agreement to abide by a broad set of principles to guide the cooperation in civil exploration and the use of the Moon, Mars, comets and asteroids for peaceful purposes – ranging from mining resources to setting up lunar colonies,
- The salient principles listed in the Artemis Accords include Peaceful Purpose, Transparency (public disclosure of policies and plans), Interoperability, Emergency Assistance, Release of Scientific Data, Deconfliction of Activities etc.,
- Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States. Brazil, South Korea, New Zealand, and Ukraine joined later.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Tribal Advisory Council (TAC):

1. Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribal advisory council.
2. It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the women representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state assembly.

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: B

Explanation: About Tribes Advisory Council:

- Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribal advisory council to advice on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes.
- It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.
- A similar council can also be established in a state having scheduled tribes but not scheduled areas therein, if the president so directs.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Inter-State council:

1. Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.
2. Parliament can establish such a council to serve the public interest.

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to National Emergency (Article 352):

1. President proclaims a national emergency only after receiving a written recommendation from the cabinet.
2. President can declare a national emergency only on the actual occurrence of war or external aggression.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion. It may be noted that the president can declare a national emergency even before the actual occurrence of war or external aggression or armed rebellion, if he is satisfied that there is an imminent danger. The President, however, can proclaim a national emergency only after receiving a written recommendation from the cabinet³. This means that the emergency can be declared only on the concurrence of the cabinet and not merely on the advice of the prime minister. In 1975, the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi advised the president to proclaim emergency without consulting her cabinet. The cabinet was informed of the proclamation after it was made, as a fait accompli. The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 introduced this safeguard to eliminate any possibility of the prime minister alone taking a decision in this regard.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.7) In which of the following cases a member has to vacate his seat in the Parliament?

1. If his election is declared void by the court.
2. If he is expelled by the House.
3. If he is appointed to the office of governor of a state.

Select the correct option from codes below given:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A member has to vacate his seat in the Parliament:

- if his election is declared void by the court;
- if he is expelled by the House;
- if he is elected to the office of President or Vice-President; and
- if he is appointed to the office of governor of a state.

If a disqualified person is elected to the Parliament, the Constitution lays down no procedure to declare the election void. This matter is dealt by the Representation of the People Act (1951), which enables the high court to declare an election void if a disqualified candidate is elected. The aggrieved party can appeal to the Supreme Court against the order of the high court in this regard.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.8) Which of the following statements with respect to adjournment motion is correct?

1. It is introduced in the Parliament for a definite matter of urgent public importance.
2. It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
3. Rajya Sabha is also permitted to make use of the adjournment motion

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: B

Explanation: About Adjournment Motion:

- It is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance, and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
- As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device.
- It involves an element of censure against the government and hence Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.
- The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to the Constituent Assembly:

1. The Constituent Assembly was constituted under the scheme formulated by the Cripps Mission.
2. The members of the Constituent Assembly were elected directly.

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan. The features of the scheme were:

- The total strength of the Constituent Assembly was to be 389. Of these, 296 seats were to be allotted to British India and 93 seats to the Princely States. Out of 296 seats allotted to the British India, 292 members were to be drawn from the eleven governors' provinces and four from the four chief commissioners' provinces, one from each.
- Each province and princely state (or groups of states in case of small states) were to be allotted seats in proportion to their respective population. Roughly, one seat was to be allotted for every million population.
- Seats allocated to each British province were to be divided among the three principal communities—Muslims, Sikhs and general (all except Muslims and Sikhs), in proportion to their population.
- The representatives of each community were to be elected by members of that community in the provincial legislative assembly and voting was to be by the method of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
- The representatives of princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states.

It is thus clear that the Constituent Assembly was to be a partly elected and partly nominated body. Moreover, the members were to be indirectly elected by the members of the provincial assemblies, who themselves were elected on a limited franchise.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.10) Which of the following Article of Indian Constitution related to implementing the International law and treaty obligations?

- a) Article 48
- b) Article 49
- c) Article 50
- d) Article 51

ANS: D

Explanation: To promote international peace and security and maintain just and honorable relations between nations; to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, and to encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration (Article 51).

Source: Laxmikant

Economy

Q.1) The ratio of total agricultural output to total production inputs is known as:

- a) Agricultural Productivity
- b) Yield
- c) Total Factor Productivity
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation:

- **Agricultural Productivity:** Ratio of agricultural outputs to inputs. Agriculture productivity increases when more agricultural products are produced with the same amount or fewer resources.
- **Yield:** Output per unit of a single input. Yields can increase through productivity growth, or by applying more inputs, called input intensification. An increase in yield may or may not represent improvements in sustainability.
- **Total Factor Productivity:** IFPRI describes TFP as an indicator of how efficiently agricultural land, labor, capital, and materials (agricultural inputs) are used to produce a country's crops and livestock (agricultural output)—it is calculated as the ratio of total agricultural output to total production inputs. When more output is produced from a constant amount of resources, meaning that resources are being used more efficiently, TFP increases.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Regulation of the Pharma Sector in India:

1. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) enforces the Drug Price Control Order and regulates prices of medicines.
2. NPPA comes under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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: Regulation of the Pharma Sector in India:

- **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:** Regulates the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs in India.
- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** provides general information about drug regulatory requirements in India. It comes under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
- **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** enforces the Drug Price Control Order and regulates prices of medicines. It comes under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- **The Pharmacy Act, 1948** regulates the profession of Pharmacy in India.

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- **The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954** provides to control the advertisements regarding drugs; it prohibits the advertising of remedies alleged to possess magic qualities. Schedule Y of The Drugs and Cosmetics Act guides the requirements of clinical trials.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements about WTO:

1. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
2. WTO replaced General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in 2005.

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 World Trade Organization (WTO):

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations,
- The overall objective of the WTO is to help its members use trade as a means to raise living standards, create jobs and improve people's lives,
- The WTO operates the global system of trade rules and helps developing countries build their trade capacity,
- It also provides a forum for its members to negotiate trade agreements and to resolve the trade disputes,
- WTO promotes open and free trade and supports the integration of developing countries into the international trading system,
- WTO became operational from January 1, 1995 and replaced the earlier General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) through the Marrakesh Agreement of 1994.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.4) For which of the following sector, government of India has approved the setting up of PM MITRA parks?

- a) Textile
- b) Electric Vehicles
- c) Mobile Phones
- d) Solar Panels

ANS: A

Explanation: About "PM-MITRA" Scheme:

- The scheme aims to realize the vision of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat by positioning India strongly on the Global textiles map.
- It is inspired by the 5F vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister –Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- **Aim:** The scheme aims to create a world-class industrial infrastructure that would attract cutting-edge technology and boost FDI and local investment in the sector.

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- Sites for the scheme will be selected by a “Challenge Method”, based on objective criteria for Greenfield or Brownfield sites. The Centre is receiving proposals from states for the ready availability of contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcels of 1,000+ acres along with other textiles related facilities & ecosystems.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.5) Which of the following statement about Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021 is Not correct?

- a) India is among top five countries.
- b) 50% of global multi-dimensionally poor people are children.
- c) The Report is developed by World Bank.
- d) NITI Aayog is the nodal agency to monitor mechanisms of the Global MPI to drive reforms.

ANS: C

Explanation: About the Multidimensional Poverty Index:

- The report is developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2010 for UNDP’s Human Development Reports.
- NITI Aayog is the nodal agency that has been assigned the responsibility of leveraging the monitoring mechanism of the Global MPI to drive reforms.
- According to Global MPI 2020, India is 62nd among 107 countries with an MPI score of 0.123 and 27.91% headcount ratio, based on the NFHS 4 (2015/16) data.

Key findings of the Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021:

- The report mentions that there are 1.3 billion multidimensionally poor people globally.
- The top five countries are India (381 million), Nigeria (93 million), Pakistan (83 million), Ethiopia (77 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (56million).
- Women and children are most affected. 66% of poor households (836 million people) have women with less than six years of schooling. 50% of global multidimensionally poor people are children.
- In India, 83% (5 out of 6) multidimensionally poor people are from lower tribes or castes.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) is a digital platform developed jointly by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
2. NDLM will provide unique identification of all livestock.

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 National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM):

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- NDLM is a digital platform developed jointly by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and NDDB on the foundation of the existing Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH).
- The aim is to create a farmer-centric, technology-enabled ecosystem where the farmers are able to realize better income through livestock activities with the right information.
- The bedrock of NDLM will be the unique identification of all livestock, which will be the foundation for all the state and national level programmes, including domestic and international trade.
- Through NDLM, the farmers will be able to access the markets, irrespective of their location.
- This system will also include robust animal breeding systems, nutrition, disease surveillance, disease control programmes and a traceability mechanism for animals and animal products.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.7) “Lorenz Curve” related to which of the following?

- a) Inflation
- b) Tax revenue
- c) Income inequality
- d) Public debt

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.8) “Special Safeguard Mechanism” of WTO related to which of the following?

- a) Agriculture sector
- b) Automobiles sector
- c) Services sector
- d) Financial sector

ANS: A

Explanation: In recent times, India has become more conscious towards protecting its agricultural trade interests at the international platforms. At the 10th Ministerial Conference of the WTO (Nairobi, December 2015), the Government of India adopted the following approach towards agri-trade policy:

- A Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries.
- Public stockholding food for security purposes,
- A commitment to abolish export subsidies for farm exports, and
- Measures related to cotton.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Government e-Market place (GeM):

1. Government e Marketplace is an online marketplace for procurement of commonly used goods and services by government ministries, departments and CPSEs.
2. It functions under Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce.

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: C

Explanation: Government e Marketplace is an online marketplace setup in 2016 for procurement of commonly used goods and services by government ministries, departments and CPSEs. It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It is a National Procurement Portal of India. It functions under Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) “Most Favored Nation” provision related to which of the following?

- a) WTO
- b) IMF
- c) AIIB
- d) World Bank

ANS: A

Explanation: The WTO provides a rule based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system. The WTO rules envisage non-discrimination in the form of National Treatment and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to India's exports in the markets of other WTO Members. National Treatment ensures that India's products once imported into the territory of other WTO Members would not be discriminated vis-à-vis the domestic products in those countries. MFN treatment principle ensures that members do not discriminate among various WTO members.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Environment

Q.1) "Water Declaration" has been recently endorsed by which of the following organisation?

- a) UNCCD
- b) UNEP
- c) IPCC
- d) WMO

ANS: D

Explanation: About 'Water Declaration':

- World Meteorological Congress has endorsed the 'Water Declaration', wherein early warnings about floods and droughts will be available for people everywhere on the planet by 2030.
- The Congress also endorsed the Water and Climate Coalition for promoting sharing and access to integrated hydrological, cryosphere, meteorological and climate information.
- Only 40% of the countries have operational early flood and drought warning systems. More than half of the world's population will be living under water-stressed conditions by 2030.
- Water and Climate Coalition is aimed at accelerating the progress of water-related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG-6 (water and sanitation for all).

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.
- The World Meteorological Congress is the supreme body of the Organization which determines policy.
- Each member state and territory is represented by a Permanent Representative with WMO when Congress meets every four years.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.2) Consider the following statements about IRIS Initiative:

1. The IRIS initiative is a part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
2. The initiative is result of cooperation between India, the U.K. and Australia and included the participation of leaders of small island nations.

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 IRIS Initiative:

- India along with Australia, the UK and Small Island developing states (SIDS) launched the IRIS (Infrastructure for Resilient Island States) initiative.

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- The IRIS initiative is aimed at creating a coalition for putting in place infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen economic losses in island nations.
- Australia, India and the UK have committed an initial funding of \$10 million.
- According to a World Bank report titled 'Climate and Disaster Resilient Transport in Small Island Developing States', SIDS countries are highly susceptible to economic losses due to disasters, with average annual losses ranging from 1% to 10% of the gross domestic product (GDP).
- UN Global Assessment Report (2017) observes that SIDS countries account for two-thirds of the countries in the world that suffer the highest relative losses due to disasters.
- IRIS Initiative has been launched to support the capacity building to meet the needs of SIDS countries.

Small Island developing states (SIDS):

- SIDS is a distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of UN regional commissions that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.
- Factors like small population size, remoteness from international markets, high transportation costs, vulnerability to exogenous economic shocks and fragile land and marine ecosystems make SIDS particularly vulnerable to biodiversity loss and climate change because they lack economic alternatives.
- Most SIDS are situated in the Caribbean Sea, Pacific Ocean (Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia) and there are a few in Indian Ocean (Bahrain, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Singapore) and Atlantic Ocean (Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome).

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Phycoremediation:

1. It involves use of macroalgae or microalgae for the removal or biotransformation of pollutants.
2. It doesn't improve the PH of the water.

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 Phycoremediation:

- It is a type of bioremediation, which involves use of macroalgae or microalgae for the removal or biotransformation of pollutants.
- It improves the PH of the water.
- Lukha River in Meghalaya was rejuvenated using this technique.
 - Meghalaya's Pollution Control Board had attributed the river's pollution to 'acid mines' drainage and 'rat-hole coal mines'.
 - The rejuvenation was funded through the District Mineral Fund.
 - Lukha River drains the East Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya before flowing to the Assam's Barak Valley into the floodplains of Bangladesh.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.4) “Kunming Declaration”, recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Convention on Biological Diversity
- b) Bonn convention
- c) UNFCCC
- d) Rotterdam Convention

ANS: A

Explanation: The “Kunming Declaration” was adopted by over 100 countries in the ongoing virtual 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD).

- The theme of the COP-15 is “**Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth**”.
- COP15 is being held to review the achievement and delivery of the CBD’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
- The declaration calls upon the parties to “mainstream” biodiversity protection in decision-making and recognise the importance of conservation in protecting human health.
- Conference of Parties (CoP) is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.5) Madrid Protocol is related to which of the following?

- a) Antarctica Treaty
- b) Arctic Circle
- c) Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
- d) Plastic Pollution

ANS: A

Explanation: India and Antarctic Treaty:

- India signed the Antarctic Treaty on 19th August 1983 and soon thereafter received consultative status on 12th September 1983.
- The Madrid Protocol was signed by India which came into force on 14th January, 1998.
- India is one of the 29 Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty.
- India is also a member of Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programme (COMNAP) and Scientific Committee of Antarctica Research (SCAR).
- All these representations show the significant position that India holds among the nations involved in Antarctic research.
- The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was signed in Madrid on October 4, 1991 and entered into force in 1998.
- It designates Antarctica as a “natural reserve, devoted to peace and science”.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.6) Consider the following statements about National Tiger Conservation Authority:

1. It is responsible for implementation of the Project Tiger to protect endangered tigers.
2. It was established in 1972.

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 National Tiger Conservation Authority:**

- It was established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force which was constituted by the Prime Minister of India for re-organised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.
- The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 was amended in 2006 to provide for its constitution.
- It is responsible for implementation of the Project Tiger to protect endangered tigers.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Recently a 'micro snail species' has been found in which of the following state/UT?

- a) Andaman and Nicobar
- b) Karnataka
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Tripura

ANS: C

Explanation: Recently, researchers have discovered a micro snail species named *Georissa mawsmaiensis* in Mawsmai Cave in Meghalaya.

About the new snail species

- These snails are so small in size that an adult measures less than 2 millimetres in length.
- It has been discovered after 170 years.
- It was in 1851 that *Georissa saritta*, a member of the same genus as the latest find, was collected and described from the Musmai (Mawsmai today) valley near Cherrapunjee.
- The members of the *Georissa* genus are widely distributed across and reported from Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.
- However, they are confined to microhabitats consisting of limestone caves or karst landscapes formed by the dissolution of limestone.
- *Georissa* is found in soil or subterranean habitats in lowland tropical forest as well as high altitude evergreen forests or on rock surfaces rich in calcium.
- The new species is different in its shell morphology, starting from shell size variation to the presence of four very prominent spiral striations on body whorls of the shell.
- Until now, five snail species have been found from the caves of Meghalaya.

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) Project Snow Leopard (PSL) was launched in which of the following years?

- a) 2019
- b) 1972
- c) 2009
- d) 1992

ANS: C

Explanation: About Project Snow Leopard (PSL):

- It was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.
- Snow Leopard is in the list of 21 critically endangered species for the recovery programme of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.
- Snow Leopard conservation breeding programme is undertaken at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.9) Consider the following statements about Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:

1. It is located at the tri-junction of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
2. It is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

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 Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- It is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1st Biosphere Reserve in India) along with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the West, Bandipur National Park (Karnataka) in the North, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley in the South.
- **Flora:** The Reserve has tall grasses, commonly referred to as 'Elephant Grass'.
- Bamboo of the giant variety, valuable timber species like Teak, Rosewood, etc.
- There are several species of endemic flora.
- **Fauna:** Flagship Species: Tiger and Asian Elephant.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Palani Mountain Range”:

1. It is part of Eastern Ghats.
2. Kodaikanal hill station located in the Palani range.

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: Palni Hills, range of hills, an eastward extension of the Western Ghats, in southwestern Tamil Nadu state, southern India.

- The range is a continuation of the Anaimalai Hills in Kerala state. The Palanis are about 45 miles (70 km) wide and 15 miles (23 km) long.
- In the south the hills terminate abruptly in steep slopes. The upper Palanis, in the west, consist of rolling hills covered with coarse grasses; dense forests grow in the valleys.
- Peaks include Vandaravu, 8,376 feet (2,553 metres); Vembadi Shola, 8,221 feet (2,505 metres); and Karunmakadu, 8,042 feet (2,451 metres).
- The town of Kodaikanal is located in a high basin about 7,000 feet (2,150 metres) above sea level.
- Potatoes, beans, root crops, pears, and peaches are cultivated in and around the hill villages.

Source: NCERT XI India Physical Environment

Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) provides general information about drug regulatory requirements in India.
2. CDSCO under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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: Regulation of the Pharma Sector in India:

- **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:** Regulates the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs in India.
- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** provides general information about drug regulatory requirements in India. It comes under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
- **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** enforces the Drug Price Control Order and regulates prices of medicines. It comes under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- **The Pharmacy Act, 1948** regulates the profession of Pharmacy in India.
- **The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954** provides to control the advertisements regarding drugs; it prohibits the advertising of remedies alleged to possess magic qualities. Schedule Y of The Drugs and Cosmetics Act guides the requirements of clinical trials.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.2) The term 'Rules of Origin' is related to which of the following?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) IPCC
- c) WTO
- d) UNEP

ANS: C

Explanation: India recently amended the rules of origin requirement under the Customs Act. The burden of compliance is imposed on importers, which discourages imports.

Rules of Origin: The Rules of Origin determine whether a product originated in an FTA or a non-FTA country. The products from FTA countries attract preferential tariff rates, while non-FTA attract the Most Favored Nation rate.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (BIPA):

1. The objective of the BIPA is to promote and protect the interests of investors of either country in the territory of other country.
2. It is an initiative of International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: As part of the Economic Reforms Programme initiated in 1991, the foreign investment policy of the Government of India was liberalised and negotiations undertaken with a number of countries to enter into Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (BIPA) in order to promote and protect on reciprocal basis investment of the investors.

Government of India have, so far, (as by July 2012) signed BIPAs with 82 countries out of which 72 BIPAs have already come into force and the remaining agreements are in the process of being enforced. In addition, agreements have also been finalised and/or being negotiated with a number of other countries.

The objective of the BIPA is to promote and protect the interests of investors of either country in the territory of other country. Such agreements increase the comfort level of the investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment in all matters and provides for justifiability of disputes with the host country (it should be noted here that India is not a member of the World Bank group's body, the ICSID, serving the same purpose.

BIPA is India's version. While the former is a multilateral body, the latter is a bilateral one).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to International Development Agency (IDA):

1. It provides short term lending for the development of economic services.
2. India is the biggest beneficiary of the IDA support.

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About International Development Agency (IDA):

- The International Development Agency (IDA) which is also known as the soft window of the WB was set up in 1960 with the basic aim of developing infrastructural support among the member nations, long-term lending for the development of economic services.
- Its loans, known as credits are extended mainly to economies with less than \$895 per capita income.
- The credits are for a period of 35–40 years, interest-free, except for a small charge to cover administrative costs. Repayment begins after a 10-year grace period.

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- There was no human angle to its lending. But now there remain no hard and fast differences between the purposes for the IBRD and IDA lending.
- Every year developing nations make enough diplomatic attempts to carve out maximum loan disbursement for themselves.
- India had been the biggest beneficiary of the IDA support. The total support (IBRD + IDA) for India had been \$ 91.81 billion till date.

Source: World Bank

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Repo and Reverse Repo rate:

1. RBI introduced both Repo and Reverse Repo rate at the same time.
2. Repo and Reverse Repo rate instruments used to raise long term funds.

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About Repos and Reverse Repos:

- In the era of economic reforms there developed two new instruments of money market-repo and reverse repo.
- Considered the most dynamic instruments of the Indian money market they have emerged the most favored route to raise short-term funds in India.
- 'Repo' is basically an acronym of the rate of repurchase.
- The RBI in a span of four years, introduced these instruments-repo in December 1992 and reverse repo in November 1996.
- Repo allows the banks and other financial institutions to borrow money from the RBI for short-term (by selling government securities to the RBI).
- In reverse repo, the banks and financial institutions purchase government securities from the RBI (basically here the RBI is borrowing from the banks and the financial institutions).
- All government securities are dated and the interest for the repo or reverse repo transactions is announced by the RBI from time to time.
- The provision of repo and the reverse repo have been able to serve the liquidity evenness in the economy as the banks are able to get the required amount of funds out of it, and they can park surplus idle funds through it.
- These instruments have emerged as important tools in the management of the monetary and credit policy in recent years.

Source: The Hindu

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act:

1. Act was passed in before Independence.
2. It regulates the import, manufacture and distribution of drugs in India.

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: C

Explanation: The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is an Act of the Parliament of India which regulates the import, manufacture and distribution of drugs in India. The primary objective of the act is to ensure that the drugs and cosmetics sold in India are safe, effective and conform to state quality standards. The related Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 contains provisions for classification of drugs under given schedules and there are guidelines for the storage, sale, display and prescription of each schedule.

Source: EPIC October 2021

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to International Monetary Fund (IMF):

1. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system.
2. IMF raises its resource only through member countries.

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 International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.
- Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 189 countries that make up its near-global membership.
- The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other.
- The Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability.
- Most resources for IMF loans are provided by member countries, primarily through their payment of quotas.
- While quota subscriptions of member countries are the IMF's main source of financing, the Fund can supplement its quota resources through borrowing if it believes that they might fall short of members' needs.

Source: IMF

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to “Invest India”:

1. It is a national investment promotion and facilitation agency and promotes sector specific investments.
2. It was set up in 2009 as a non-profit venture under the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About Invest India:

- Invest India is the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, Invest India focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.
- In addition to a core team that focuses on sustainable investments, Invest India also partners with substantial investment promotion agencies and multilateral organizations.
- Invest India also actively works with several Indian states to build capacity as well as bring in global best practices in investment targeting, promotion and facilitation areas.
- Invest India, set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS):

1. It is a tax planning strategies that exploit mismatches and gaps that exist between the tax rules of different jurisdictions.
2. It is an initiative of World Economic Forum.

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT Correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About BEPS:

- BEPS is a term used to describe tax planning strategies that exploit mismatches and gaps that exist between the tax rules of different jurisdictions.
- It is an OECD initiative approved by the G20 to identify ways of providing more standardized tax rules globally.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to GreenCo Rating system:

1. It is developed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
2. It aims to facilitate companies to make a substantial improvement in their environmental performance thereby saving both natural and financial resources.

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: C

Explanation: About GreenCo Rating:

- GreenCo Rating has been developed by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- Its aim is to facilitate companies to make a substantial improvement in their environmental performance thereby saving both natural and financial resources.
- Under this, companies are evaluated on major environmental areas including- energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, resource conservation, green supply chain and life cycle assessment.
- Recently GreenCo Rating has been acknowledged in India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) document submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015.

Source: ForumIAS