Forum AS

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

18th April to 23rd April, 2022

PRELIMS

Q.1) What are the advantages of Vertical Farming?

- 1. Increases Photosynthesis
- 2. Reduces transportation cost
- 3. Low Initial capital costs for establishment

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: a

- Statement 1 is correct- By Vertical Farming, food crops can be cultivated easily in urban areas by planting in vertically stacked layers in order to save space and use minimal energy and water for irrigation. Vertical farming can permit crops to be grown through out the year. It uses L.E.D lights so photosynthesis can occur all day.
- Statement 2 is correct-Since vertical farming system can be easily done in cities so this will reduce transportation costs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** High initial capital costs for establishing the vertical farming system is the major problem. In addition there are costs of erecting the structures along with its automation like automated racking and stacking systems, programmable LED lighting systems, climate control system, etc.

Q.2) With reference to medicinal plants in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Rajasthan has the largest area under medicinal plants while Madhya Pradesh leads in production.
- 2. e-CHARAK acts as a platform to enable information exchange between various stakeholders involved in the medicinal plants 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

Answer: C

Both statements are correct.

- Among the states, Rajasthan has the largest area under medicinal plants while Madhya Pradesh leads in production. The other states that account for significant areas and p<mark>roduc</mark>tion of these plants and their value-enhanced products include Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar. Many other states, too, possess ample potential for herbal farming but much of that remains untapped.
- e-CHARAK, an electronic platform for interaction between various stakeholders in the medicinal plants sector. This portal, developed jointly by the Ayush ministry's NMPB and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), allows sale, purchase and sharing of material as well as knowhow between different stakeholders.



Q.3) Which of the following can cause cost-pull inflation in an economy?

- 1. Rise in government expenditure
- 2. Increase in profit margin by firms
- 3. Increase in prices of imports

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: b

- Rise in govt expenditure will increase the aggregate demand so it'll lead to demand pull inflation.
- If firms decide to increase their profit margin, it results in increase in prices of goods and services. It usually happen when a single company id major supplier of the goods (monopoly).
- Increase in prices of inputs which are imported can lead to rise in overall price of goods

Source: Article

Q.4) With reference to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), consider the following statements:

- 1. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- 2. It can register a case on its own like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

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

Answer: d

Both statements are incorrect.

- ED functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Enforcement directorate cannot register a case on its own, it is required by the agencies such as CBI or state police to register an offense based on which the ED Case Information Report is filed by Enforcement Directorate.



Q.5) With reference to comets, consider the following statements:

- 1. Short period comets are found in the Kuiper Belt.
- 2. The tail of a comet is made up of dust particles and electrically charged gas molecules.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

- Comets are mostly found way out in the solar system. Some exist in a wide disk beyond the orbit of Neptune called the Kuiper Belt. These are called short-period comets. They take less than 200 years to orbit the Sun.
- Other comets live in the Oort Cloud, the sphere-shaped, outer edge of the solar system that is about 50 times farther away from the Sun than the Kuiper Belt. These are called long-period comets because they take much longer to orbit the Sun.

Source: Article

Q.6) South Asia Economic Focus report is released by which of the following organizations?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) World Bank
- d) New Development Bank

Answer: C

Recently, the World Bank in its report South Asia Economic Focus (Bi- Annual) cut its economic growth forecast for India and the whole South Asian region.

South Asia Economic Focus describes recent economic developments, analyses the economic impact on South Asia of the war in Ukraine, presents growth forecasts, provides risk scenarios, and concludes that reshaping economies goes hand in hand with reshaping norms.

Source: Indian Express

Q.7) With reference to parboiled rice, consider the following statements:

- 1. Parboiling increases the nutrient value of rice.
- 2. The parboiling rice milling unit requires a higher investment than a raw rice milling unit.
- 3. Parboiled rice has a lower resistance to insects and fungi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A



Statement 1 is correct: Parboiling increases the nutrient value of the rice.

Statement 2 is correct: Parboiling rice milling unit requires a higher investment than a raw rice milling unit.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Parboiled rice has a higher resistance to insects and fungi.

Source: <u>Indian Express</u>

Q.8) With reference to Khajuraho Group of Monuments, consider the following statements;

- 1. These temples are famous for their vesara-style architecture.
- 2. Most Khajuraho temples were built by the Chandela dynasty.
- 3. These are group of Hindu and Jain temples.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: The temples are famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures. They are located in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh. They are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Statement 2 is correct: Most Khajuraho temples were built between 885 AD and 1050 AD by the Chandela dynasty.

Statement 3 is correct: These are group of Hindu and Jain temples.

Source: PIB

Q.9) The first of its kind India's seaweed park is going to be established in which of the following state?

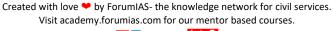
- a) Bihar
- b) West Bengal
- c) Gujarat
- d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: D

The Centre would establish a seaweed park with special economic zone status in Tamil Nadu. The project will be the first of its kind in India and will come up under the PM Kisan Sampada Yojana.

Note: Seaweed, or macroalgae, refers to thousands of species of macroscopic, multicellular, marine algae.

Source: AIR





Q.10) With reference to **public debt**, consider the following statements:

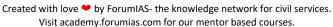
- 1. Austerity measures are followed to overcome the Sovereign Debt Crisis.
- 2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is responsible for managing India's public debt at national and state level.

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

Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: Austerity measures refers to economic policies implemented by governments to reduce government spending in order to reduce public debt and shrink the budget deficit. Some of such measures include increasing taxes, reducing spending on government programs, reducing the salaries and wages of government employees, etc. **Statement 2 is incorrect**: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is responsible for managing India's public debt, especially debt denominated in the domestic currency. The debt of the state governments, on the other hand, is managed by the RBI under bilateral agreements. Source: ForumIAS Blog





Environment

Q.1) With reference to vaquita porpoise, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the world's smallest cetacean.
- 2. It is listed as critically endangered in the IUCN red list of species.
- 3. One of its habitats is along India's Western coast

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

Answer: a

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The vaquita (Phocoena sinus) is the world's smallest cetacean. Its name means "little cow" in Spanish.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: It is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN red list of species.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** They are found only in the northern Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) in Mexico. Most commonly seen in shallow waters up to 50m deep.

Source: Article

Q.2) With reference to Nitrogen, consider the following statements:

- 1. Without nitrogen plants grow slowly and produce smaller flowers and fruits.
- 2. Excessive nitrogen accumulation in streams and lakes can result in Eutrophication

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Without nitrogen, an essential nutrient, plants grow slowly and produce smaller flowers and fruits. Their leaves turn yellowish and are less nutritious to insects, birds and animals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** When excessive nitrogen accumulates in the streams, inland lakes and coastal bodies of water, it could sometimes result in eutrophication, leading to harmful algal blooms, dead zones and fish kills.



Q.3) With reference to Groundwater, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is more resilient to the effects of climate change than surface water.
- 2. India takes into account the contribution of groundwater to the national gross domestic product.

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

Answer: a

- **Statement 1 is correct**: Groundwater is more resilient to the effects of climate change than surface water.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The contribution of groundwater to national gross domestic product is not measured in India yet.

Source: Article

Q.4) Arrange the following lakes from North to South:

- 1. Victoria
- 2. Edward
- 3. Tanganyika

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: b

The correct order from North to South is -

- Lake Edward
- Lake Victoria
- Lake Tanganyika

Source: Article

Q.6) With reference to Haemophilia, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a medical condition, mostly inherited, in which the ability of blood to clot is severely reduced.
- 2. There is no proper treatment available for Haemophilia.

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

Answer: A



Statement 1 is correct: Haemophilia is a medical condition, mostly inherited, in which the ability of blood to clot is severely reduced, so that even a minor injury can cause severe bleeding.

The most common type of Haemophilia is called Haemophilia A. This means the person does not have enough clotting factor VIII (factor eight).

Haemophilia B is less common. A person with Haemophilia B does not have enough factor IX (factor nine).

Statement 2 is incorrect: The main treatment for Haemophilia is Replacement Therapy. Concentrates of clotting factor VIII (for Haemophilia A) or clotting factor IX (for Haemophilia B) are slowly dripped or injected into a vein. These infusions help replace the clotting factor that is missing or low.

Source: <u>Indian Express</u>

International Relations

Q.7) With reference to **State Sponsors of Terrorism tag**, consider the following statements:

- 1. This tag is designated by the United Nations Security Council.
- 2. Sanctions can be placed on countries and persons that engage in certain trade with designated countries.

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: The US Secretary of State (the minister primarily in charge of foreign relations) has the power to designate countries that "have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism" as "State Sponsors of Terrorism".

As of now, there are four countries on the list of state sponsors of terrorism. These are Syria, Iran, North Korea and Cuba.

Statement 2 is correct: Sanctions can also be placed on countries and persons that engage in certain trade with designated countries.

Source: Indian Express

Q.8) With reference to ammonia, consider the following statements:

- a) It is a colourless gas and is used as an industrial chemical in the production of fertilisers, plastics, etc.
- b) Ammonia can occur naturally in the environment.
- c) Ammonia is not toxic to fishes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A



Statement 1 is correct: Ammonia is a colourless gas and is used as an industrial chemical in the production of fertilisers, plastics, synthetic fibres, dyes and other products.

Statement 2 is correct: Ammonia occurs naturally in the environment from the breakdown of organic waste matter.

Statement 3 is incorrect: If the concentration of ammonia in water is above 1 ppm it is toxic to fishes.

Source: Indian Express

Q.9) With reference to Commemorative Stamps, consider the following statements:

- 1. No stamp can be issued on a living personality.
- 2. Proposals for issue of Commemorative Postage Stamps can be sent by any citizen of India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

Commemorative postage stamps are issued on subjects/ themes / institutions / personalities / events that have a national or international stature or have made national/international contribution or impact.

No stamp can be issued on a living personality.

The personalities on whom commemorative postage stamp may be issued should be of national or international importance.

Also, the occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th /25th /50th /100th death anniversary.

Proposals for issue of Commemorative Postage Stamps may be sent by any citizen of India Stamps on personalities shall not exceed 10% of the Annual Issue Programme.

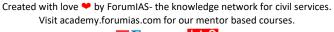
Source: Article

Q.10) Ecowrap Report is released by which of the following organisations?

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- c) State Bank of India
- d) Down To Earth

Answer: C

State Bank of India's (SBI) Economic Research Department has released the Ecowrap Report. Source: Business Standard





PRELIMS

Q.1) Which of the following is an example of plasma state of matter?

- a) Aurora
- b) Welding arcs
- c) Lightening

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: d

• Nearly all the visible matter in the universe exists in the plasma state, occurring predominantly in this form in the Sun and stars and in interplanetary and interstellar space. Auroras, lightning, and welding arcs are also plasmas; plasmas exist in neon and fluorescent tubes, in the crystal structure of metallic solids, and in many other phenomena and objects. The Earth itself is immersed in a tenuous plasma called the solar wind and is surrounded by a dense plasma called the ionosphere.

Source: Article

0.2) With reference to PM Gati Shakti, consider the following statements:

- 1. The plan is going to make use of spatial planning tools with ISRO's satellite imagery.
- 2. Natural gas pipeline network is not covered under the plan.

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

Answer: a

- **Statement 1 is correct**: It will leverage technology extensively, including spatial planning tools with ISRO's satellite imagery. This will be used for real-time monitoring of projects.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: The government was aiming at adding over 200 airports, helipads, and water aerodromes over the next 4-5 years besides nearly doubling the existing operational natural gas pipeline network, which is about 17,000 km (According to PNGRB as of June 30 2021). India is also targeting an increase in cargo handling at Indian ports and national waterways.



Q.3) With reference to Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It allows duty-free imports of capital goods subject to an export obligation.
- 2. Second-hand capital goods, without any restriction on age, may also be imported under this scheme.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

- **Statement 1 is correct**: Scheme allows import of capital goods for pre-production, production and post-production (including CKD/SKD thereof as well as computer software systems) at 3% customs duty, subject to an export obligation equivalent to 8 times of duty saved on capital goods imported under EPCG scheme, to be fulfilled in 8 years reckoned from Authorization issue-date.
- Statement 2 is correct: The capital goods shall include spares (including refurbished/reconditioned spares), tools, jigs, fixtures, dies and moulds. Second hand capital goods, without any restriction on age, may also be imported under the EPCG Scheme. The export obligation can also be fulfilled by the supply of ITA-1 items to the DTA, provided the realisation is in free foreign exchange.

Source: Article

Q.4) Which of the following rights have been included under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. Right to housing
- 2. Right against solitary confinement
- 3. Right to pollution-free water and air

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

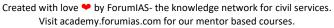
Ans.) d

Explanations

Though there is no legal right in India which guarantees adequate housing, the Supreme Court, has expanded the scope of Article 21 of the Constitution to include right to housing in it.

According to the order from the Supreme Court —Right against solitary confinement is one of the rights that fall under Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution.

Article 21 of the Constitution of India, provides for right to life and also right to live with human dignity. The right to clean environment and further, pollution free water has been protected under the broad rubric of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21.





Q.5) With reference to Pardoning power of president, Consider the following statements:

- 1. Respite means delay allowed in the execution of a sentence especially that for a death sentence for a temporary period.
- 2. Remission means reducing the quantum or degree of punishment of the convicted person considering special circumstances.

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

Answer: d

- A reprieve means a delay allowed in the execution of a sentence especially that for a death sentence for a temporary period. The purpose of it enables the guilty person to seek presidential pardon or any other legal remedy to prove himself innocent. Respite which means reducing the quantum or degree of punishment of the convicted person considering special circumstances such as in the case of pregnancy, the death penalty may be commuted to imprisonment for life.
- Remission means changing the quantum of the punishment without changing its nature. Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides the power to suspend or remit sentences of punishment by the appropriate government. It states that the appropriate government with or without conditions may at any time accept, suspend or remit the punishment for an offence wholly or any part of the punishment.

Q.6) With reference to Polio, consider the following statements:

- 1. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person mainly through the faecal-oral route.
- 2. Polio is not a fatal disease.
- 3. There is no cure, but it can be prevented through Immunisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Statement 1 is correct: The virus is transmitted by person-to-person mainly through the faecal-oral route and less frequently, by a common vehicle (for example, through contaminated water or food).

Statement 2 is incorrect: In rare cases, polio infection causes permanent loss of muscle function (paralysis). Polio can be fatal if the muscles used for breathing are paralysed or if there is an infection of the brain.

Statement 3 is **correct**: There is no cure, but it can be prevented through Immunisation.

Source: Indian Express



Q.7) Which of the following is /are part of capital goods?

- 1. Buildings
- 2. Machinery
- 3. Vehicles

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: D

Capital goods are physical assets that a company uses in the production process to manufacture products and services that consumers will later use.

Capital goods include buildings, machinery, equipment, vehicles, and tools.

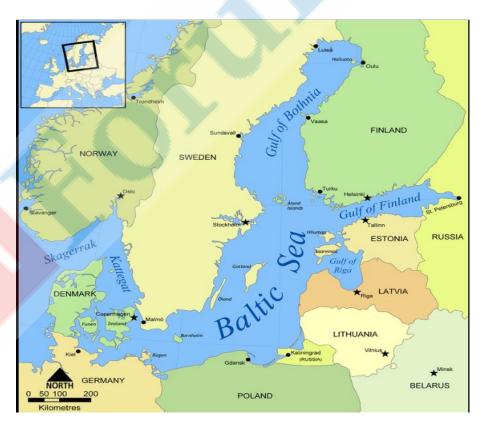
Capital goods are not finished goods, instead, they are used to make finished goods.

Source: **Business Standard**

Q.8) Gulf of Bothnia is located between which of the following countries?

- a) Turkey and Greece
- b) United States and Russia
- c) Sweden and Finland
- d) Great Britain and Europe

Answer: C



Source: PIB

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Q.9) Which of the following statements explains the Poison pill strategy?

- a) The company will pay the acquirer to go away and stop threatening the company with a hostile takeover.
- b) Company spinning off its most valued asset, in order to make the acquisition less desirable for the acquirer.
- c) Existing shareholders, excluding the acquiring entity, purchase additional shares at a discounted rate.
- d) Company will prevent a hostile takeover by initiating a reverse takeover.

Answer: C

Poison Pill is a corporate defense strategy utilized by a target company to prevent or discourage hostile takeover attempts. Under this mechanism, existing shareholders, excluding the acquiring entity purchase additional shares at a discounted rate making it difficult for the acquirer to establish a majority stake in the company.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) With reference to Precast Concrete, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is reinforced concrete that is cast away from the building site and assembled on site.
- 2. These concretes can reduce carbon emission/reduced noise & air pollution.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

It is reinforced concrete that is cast away from the building site and assembled on site. **Advantages of Precast Concrete: 1)** All-weather and fast construction, **2)** Reliable quality & enhanced performance durability, **3)** Minimum user time delay and **4)** Reduced carbon emission/reduced noise & air pollution due to reduced construction activities at the site. Source: PIB





ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Ariosoma indicum sometimes seen in news is a species of?

- a) Spider
- b) Snake
- c) Lizard
- d) Eel

Answer: d

- A group of Indian scientists have discovered a new species of eel from among specimens collected from the Kalamukku and Digha Mohana fishing harbours in Kerala and West Bengal respectively. Their study was published in the *Journal of Fish Biology* March 30, 2022.
- The newly discovered eel belongs to the Congrid eels group and has been named Ariosoma indicum. The term Indicum means that it was found in India, Anil Mohapatra, senior scientist with the Zoological Survey of India's Gopalpur-on-Sea centre and coauthor of the paper told this reporter.

Source: Article

Q.2) With reference to rice production in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. In terms of nutritional content, rice is poor in nitrogenous substances.
- 2. India is the world's largest rice producer.

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

Answer: a

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rice is poor in nitrogenous substances with average composition of these substances being only 8% and fat content or lipids only negligible, i.e., 1% and due to this reason, it is considered as a complete food for eating.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: India is the world's second-largest rice producer after China.

Source: Article

Q.3) With reference to James Webb Space Telescope, consider the following statements:

- 1. It will make observations primarily in the infrared range.
- 2. Its operating temperature is less than that of the Hubble telescope.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.



- Statement 1 is correct: The JWST will observe primarily in the infrared range and provide coverage from 0.6 to 28 microns.
- Statement 2 is correct: The operating temperature of JWST is around minus 233 degree Celsius, while Hubble operates at 20 degree Celsius.

Source: Article

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

- 1. As a boy, he was called Tyag Mal because of his ascetic nature.
- 2. Raja Ram Singh sought his help to broker a truce with the Ahom king.
- 3. He preached against the tradition of worshipping at the graves of pirs and fagirs.

Which of the following personality is described in the statements above?

- a) Guru Tegh Bahadur
- b) Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- c) Guru Gobind Singh
- d) Hari Singh nalwa

Answer: a

- As a boy, Tegh Bahadur was called Tyag Mal because of his ascetic nature. He spent his early childhood in Amritsar under the tutelage of Bhai Gurdas, who taught him Gurmukhi, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Indian religious philosophy, while Baba Budha trained him in swordsmanship, archery and horse-riding.
- While the guru was on the way back from Dhaka, Raja Ram Singh sought his help to broker a truce with the Ahom king. Gurdwara Dhubri Sahib on the banks of the Brahmaputra commemorates this peace accord. The guru was also honoured at Guwahati's Kamakhya temple.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur who started travelling extensively through Malwa and Majha, first came into conflict with the authorities when he started questioning the tradition of worshipping at the graves of pirs and faqirs. He preached against this practice, and urged his followers to be 'nirbhau' (fearless) and 'nirvair' (without envy).

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Ways and Means Advances:

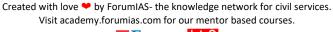
- 1. It is a long-term loan facility for the government with RBI.
- 2. The facility is exclusive to the Union Government.
- 3. RBI charges interest equal to repo rate on loans given under WMA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** It is a temporary short term loan facility offered by RBI to the government where the term of loan is just 90 days. The WMA scheme was designed to meet temporary mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** WMA is not exclusive to the Union government but is also available to state governments.





• **Statement 3 is correct.** Interest rate for WMA is currently charged at the repo rate. If the WMA is extended for more than 90 days, it will be treated as an overdraft which is charged above repo rate.

Q.6) INS Vagsheer was recently seen in news is a

- a) Nuclear submarines
- b) Kalvari class submarines
- c) Newly proposed aircraft carrier
- d) Off shore patrol vehicle

Answer: B

The sixth and last submarine of the Indian Navy's Kalvari class submarines of Project 75 named Vagsheer has been launched recently.

The first of the Project - 75 submarines was commissioned into the Navy in December 2017 and presently four submarines of this Project are in commission in the Indian Navy. The fifth submarine is progressing with the Sea Trials and is likely to be delivered this year. The sixth submarine will now commence setting to work of various equipment and their harbour trials. The crew will thereafter sail the submarine for the rigorous Sea Acceptance Trials after which the submarine would be delivered to the Indian Navy by late next year.

Source: PIB

Q.7) With reference to Colombo Security Conclave, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Ministry level meeting on territorial security.
- 2. India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka are the members of the conclave.

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka began a National Security Advisor (NSA)-level trilateral meeting on maritime security cooperation in 2011.

Following a halt from 2014-2019, the trilateral meeting was resumed in 2020, when the decision was taken to establish the Colombo Security Conclave(CSC).

The conclave aims to forge closer cooperation on maritime and security matters among the the member countries.

Statement 2 is correct: Mauritius was included as a new member of the conclave in the recent fifth edition of Colombo Security Conclave.

With this, India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka became the members of the conclave. Source: PIB



Q.8) Consider the following statements;

- 1. He became a monk at the age of 18.
- 2. He was nicknamed "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungle) by local villagers for his heroic exploits.
- 3. His discontent towards the British led to the Rampa Rebellion.

Which of the following personality is described in the statements above?

- a) Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy
- b) Kalluri Chandramouli
- c) Alluri Sitarama Raju
- d) Gottipati Brahmaiah

Answer: C

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) With reference to Cape Town Convention, consider the following statements;

- 1. The convention intends to standardize transactions involving movable property.
- 2. India is not a party to this convention.

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

Answer: a

Statement 1 is correct: The Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, or Cape Town Convention is an international treaty intended to standardize transactions involving movable property.

The treaty creates international standards for registration of contracts of sale, security interests, leases and conditional sales contracts, and various legal remedies for default in financing agreements, including repossession and the effect of particular states' bankruptcy laws.

The Convention and the Protocol, were adopted under the joint auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

Statement 2 is incorrect: India is a party to the convention.

Source: The Hindu



Q.10) With reference to Digital Banking Units(DBUs), consider the following statements:

- 1. DBUs can enable last-mile financial inclusion.
- 2. A bank can offer specialized digital products at any time all year from these units.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

DBU is a specialized business unit of a bank that houses certain minimum digital banking products and services. A bank can offer specialized digital products at any time all year from these units and also provide existing financial services products

DBUs can enable last-mile financial inclusion as a lender can reach a wider customer base in a more cost-effective manner.

On the other hand, the limitations of DBU include low public awareness and internet penetration in lower-tier cities.

Source: Indian Express





ECONOMY

Q.1) With reference to procurement of wheat in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) along with State Government Agencies (SGAs) procures wheat.
- 2. The Government declares a Minimum Support Price (MSP) before the sowing of the crop every year on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP).

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Food Corporation of India(FCI) along with State Government Agencies (SGAs) procures wheat. The FCI's wheat procurement system can be decentralized (DCP) or centralized (non-DCP).
- **Statement 2 is correct**: The government buys wheat at the MSP which it declares before the sowing of the crop every year on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP).

Source: Article

Q.2) With reference to India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Department of Post, with 100 percent Government of India equity.
- 2. It is the only bank in India that is directly regulated and governed by the Ministry of Finance.

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

Answer: a

- **Statement 1 is correct**: India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. IPPB was launched by the Prime Minister on September 1, 2018. The bank has been set up with the vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: It is also regulated by the RBI.



Q.3) Prunus dinabandhuana sometimes seen in news is a species of?

- a) Bird
- b) Plant
- c) Frog
- d) Lizard

Answer: b

• Scientists from Manipur have found a new plant species of 'Cherry Blossom'. They have named the plant species - 'Prunus dinabandhuana' as a mark of respect and for the outstanding contributions of scientist Dr Dinabandhu Sahoo.

Q.4) With reference to Russia's newly developed Sarmat missile, consider the following statements:

- 1. The missile has been named after nomadic tribes that roamed the steppes of present-day Southern Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in the early medieval period.
- 2. It is capable of carrying smaller hypersonic boost-glide vehicles.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

- **Statement 1 is correct**: Sarmat is an Inter Continental Ballistic Missile(ICBM) developed by Russia. The missile has been nicknamed as "Satan II" by the West. It is named after nomadic tribes that roamed the steppes of present-day Southern Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in the early medieval period.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: It will be the first Russian missile which can carry smaller hypersonic boost-glide vehicles. These are manoeuvrable and hard to intercept.

Source: Article

Q.5) With reference to the International Energy Agency, consider the following statements:

- a) It was established based on the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- b) The IEA releases World Energy Outlook.
- c) India is a fulltime member of IEA.

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

Answer: a



- **Statement 1 is correct**: It was established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: IEA is best known for the publication of its annual World Energy Outlook.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: Recently, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has invited India to become its full-time member. If accepted, India will have to raise strategic oil reserves to 90 days' requirement.

Q.6) With reference to Fincluvation, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a method to collaborate with the Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.
- 2. It is launched by the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Statement 1 is correct: Fincluvation is a method to collaborate with the Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It is launched by the India Post Payments Bank(IPPB) and Department of Post(DoP).

Source: PIB

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Genetically modified mosquitoes:

- 1. These are the female mosquitoes whose genome has been altered.
- 2. The desired trait of these GMM is to reduce the transmission of mosquito-borne human diseases.
- 3. With each generation mates, more females die, and the A. aegypti population in the area will decrease.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

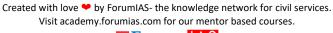
Answer: b

Statement 1 is incorrect: These are male mosquitoes whose genome has been altered using recombinant DNA technology. Their genome is altered in a way to favour the few desired physiological traits and the generation of desired biological products.

Statement 2 is correct: The desired trait of these GMM is to reduce the transmission of mosquito-borne human diseases.

Statement 3 is correct: With each generation mates, more females die, and the A. aegypti population in the area will decrease.

Source: DTE





Q.8) With reference to Special Purpose Acquisition Companies(SPACs), consider the following statements:

- 1. A SPAC aims to raise money in an Initial Public Offering(IPO) without any operations or revenues.
- 2. SPACs are essentially shell companies.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

A SPAC or a Blank-Cheque Company is an entity specifically set up with the objective of acquiring a firm in a particular sector.

Working of SPAC: A SPAC aims to raise money in an Initial Public Offering(IPO) without any operations or revenues. The money that is raised from the public is kept in an escrow account which can be accessed while making the acquisition.

If the acquisition is not made within two years of the IPO, the SPAC is delisted and the money is returned to the investors.

SPACs are essentially shell companies. But a key factor that makes them attractive to investors is the people who sponsor them. Globally, prominent names such as tennis star Serena Williams, Dell CEO have participated in SPACs.

Source: Indian Express

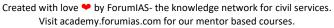
Q.9) India's First pure Green Hydrogen plant has been commissioned in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Assam
- c) Karnataka
- d) Meghalaya

Answer: B

Oil India Limited(OIL) has commissioned India's First pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam.

Source: PIB





Q.10) With reference to Blue Blob, consider the following statements:

- 1. Blue blob increases the melting of Arctic sea ice.
- 2. It is a region of cooling water in the North Atlantic Ocean near Iceland.

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: Blue blob may have helped temporarily stall the melting of Arctic sea ice.

Statement 2 is correct: According to a recent Research, a region of cooling water in the North Atlantic Ocean near Iceland.

Source: The Hindu





PRELIMS

Q.1) With reference to an Overseas Elector, consider the following statements:

- 1. He is a citizen of India who has not acquired the citizenship of other country.
- 2. A person should have been out of India for a minimum period of six months so as to apply for registration as an overseas elector.

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

Answer: a

- **Statement 1 is correct:** An overseas elector is a person who is a citizen of India and who has not acquired citizenship of any other country and is otherwise eligible to be registered as a voter and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise is eligible to be registered as a voter in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located. According to the provisions of Section 20A of the Representation of People Act, 1950, an NRI settled in foreign land can become an elector in electoral roll in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** No such minimum period has been prescribed for which one should be out of country so as to apply for registration as overseas elector.

Source: Article

Q.2) With reference to Seafloor spreading, consider the following statements:

- 1. Seafloor spreading and other tectonic activity processes are the result of mantle convection
- 2. It influences sea level and carbon cycle.

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

Answer: c

Both statements are correct.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Seafloor spreading is a geologic process in which tectonic plates—large slabs of Earth's lithosphere—split apart from each other. Seafloor spreading and other tectonic activity processes are the result of mantle convection. Mantle convection is the slow, churning motion of Earth's mantle.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: As per a study, seafloor spreading influences sea level and carbon cycle. For example, faster rates mean more volcanic activity, which injects greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



Q.3) Which of the following is/are the problems associated with Metaverse?

- 1. Emergence of virtual nation-states
- 2. Large environmental cost
- 3. Commodification of human interaction

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: d

- **Emergence of virtual nation-states**: Metaverses will bring up challenging questions of jurisdiction and governance. In the distant future, virtual worlds could someday grow into alternatives to the nation state itself. Big Tech firms already have revenues and valuations higher than GDPs of several small countries. If they all get to operate full virtual worlds of their own, it could require a large-scale rethinking of the very foundations of technology law.
- **Cost to the environment**: The metaverse, as it is promised, will combine the technologies of cloud computing, big data, advanced AI systems, AR/VR, blockchains, NFTs and much more. Each of these technologies requires tremendous processing power and, consequently, would lead to a great cost in terms of the environment. The level of resource extraction required to run such a huge system smoothly is too gigantic to comprehend. And that is not even taking into account the exploitation of millions of underpaid workers upon which a lot of the critical infrastructure and supply chains of Big Tech depend.
- Commodification of human interaction: Metaverse indicates the next level of commodification of human interaction, where every single action, down to the tiniest levels, is tracked and surveilled for profits, and designed in a way to maximise data collection.

Source: Article

Q.4) Which of the following agencies are legally authorized for phone tapping in India?

- 1. Delhi Police Commissioner
- 2. Directorate of Signal Intelligence
- 3. Defence Intelligence Agency

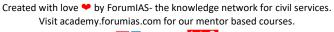
Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: a

Following are authorized to tap phones in India:

- **At state level**: In the states, police have the power to tap phones.
- At the Centre, 10 agencies are authorized to do so: Intelligence Bureau, CBI, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, National Investigation Agency, R&AW, Directorate of Signal Intelligence, and the Delhi Police Commissioner. Tapping by any other agency would be considered illegal.





Q.5) Consider the following:

- 1. Coking coal
- 2. Iron ore scrap
- 3. Limestone

Which of the above is/are the key raw materials to manufacture steel?

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

Answer: d

• For the production of steel, there is a need for iron raw material in the form of iron ore or scrap metal, together with alloying elements so that the material acquires the desired properties. In the production of ore-based steel, coal is also needed as a reducing agent and limestone as a slag former.

Q.6) With reference to **Europa**, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is considered one of the most promising places to find present-day environments that are suitable for life beyond the Earth.
- 2. It is located in Ursa Major constellation.

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

Answer: a

Statement 1 is correct: Europa has a very thin oxygen atmosphere; it is considered one of the most promising places in the solar system to find present-day environments that are suitable for life beyond the Earth.

It is also believed that underneath Europa's icy surface the amount of water is twice that on Earth.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Europa is the sixth-largest moon in the solar system and Jupiter's fourth-largest satellite. It was discovered in 1610 by Galileo Galilei.

Source: Indian Express

Q.7) Shinku-La Pass is located between which of the following states/UTs?

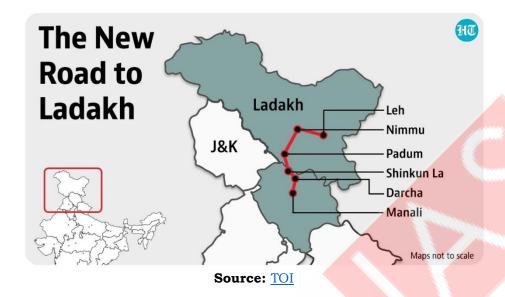
- a) Assam and Sikkim
- b) Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh
- d) Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

Answer: C

Shinku-La Pass is a mountain pass between Zanskar Valley in Ladakh and Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh.

This pass may be considered as an entry point to Lugnak Valley in Zanskar.





Q.8) Which of the following is/are the impact of Noise pollution on human health?

- 1. Aggressive behaviour of individual.
- 2. Increase blood pressure levels.
- 3. Increases heartbeat rate.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below;

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

Answer: D

Effects of Noise pollution on human health:

Hearing Problems: Any unwanted sound that our ears have not been built to filter can cause problems within the body. Constant exposure to loud levels of noise can easily result in the damage of our eardrums and loss of hearing. It also reduces our sensitivity to sounds that our ears pick up unconsciously to regulate our body's rhythm.

Psychological Issues: Studies show that the occurrence of aggressive behaviour, disturbance of sleep, constant stress, fatigue, and hypertension can be linked to excessive noise levels. These, in turn, can cause more severe and chronic health issues later in life.

Sleeping Disorders: Loud noise can certainly hamper sleeping pattern and may lead to irritation and uncomfortable situations. It may lead to problems related to fatigue and individual's performance goes down.

Cardiovascular Issues: Blood pressure levels, cardiovascular disease, and stress-related heart problems are on the rise. Studies suggest that high-intensity noise causes high blood pressure and increases heartbeat rate as it disrupts the normal blood flow.

Source: Indian Express



Q.9) The terms Habb-e-Bukhar, Kabasura Kudineer is associated with which of the following?

- a) Books belong to Akbar Period
- b) New species discovered in Western Ghats
- c) AYUSH medicines used during pandemic
- d) Tribal people in Afghanistan

Answer: C

Kabasura Kudineer: It is a Siddha medicine for the treatment of fevers. It is now being used to treat asymptomatic, mild, and moderate COVID-19 infection cases.

It increases immunity and acts as an immune-modulator as this virus adversely affects the immune response.

Habb-e-Bukhar: It is an Unani drug given to Covid-19 patients who are undergoing high fever.

Source: PIB

Q.10) With reference to Western Disturbances, consider the following statements:

- 1. These aid monsoonal rainfall in northwest India.
- 2. These are storms that originate in the Caspian or Mediterranean Sea.

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: Western Disturbances bring non-monsoonal rainfall to northwest India, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Statement 2 is correct: Western disturbances are storms that originate in the Caspian or Mediterranean Sea.

Source: Indian Express

