

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

4th Apr to 10th April, 2022

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

History/ Art and Culture

Q.1) Which of the following pair is/are not correctly matched?

Temple	Place
1. Chennakeshava Temple	Somanathapura
2. Hoysaleshwara Temple	Halebid
3. Keshava Temple	Belur

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About the Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala:

- The Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala were built in the 12th-13th century. They are represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid and Somnathpur.
- The Hoysala temples have a basic Dravidian morphology though they reflect other influences including that of Central India's Bhumija mode, northern and western India's Nagara traditions, and Karnataka Dravida modes of the Kalyani Chalukyas.
- The Hoysala architect made selections of features from other temple styles, which they further modified with their own particular innovations. This resulted in a new Hoysala Temple form.

Chennakeshava Temple – Belur

- Chennakeshava Temple is also referred to as Vijayanarayana Temple of Belur. It is a 12th-century Hindu temple in Karnataka.
- The temple was commissioned by King Vishnuvardhana in 1117 CE, on the banks of the Yagachi River in Belur also called Velapura, an early Hoysala empire capital.
- The temple is devoted to Vishnu.
- The richly sculptured exterior of the temple narrates scenes from the life of Vishnu and his reincarnations and the epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata. However, some of the representations of Shiva are also included.

Hoysaleshwara Temple-

- Halebid Hoysaleswara temple also referred simply as the Halebidu temple is a 12th-century Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva.
- The temple was built in 1121 CE during the reign of the Hoysala King, Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleshwara.
- The temple is most well-known for the more than 240 wall sculptures that run all along the outer wall.

Keshava Temple

- Somanathapura Keshava Temple is a Vaishnava temple on the banks of River Kaveri at Somanathapura, Karnataka.
- The temple was consecrated in 1258 CE by Somanatha Danda nayaka, a general of the Hoysala King Narasimha III.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.2) Statue of Equality has been unveiled in which of the following state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Telangana
- c) Manipur
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: B

Explanation: About the Statue of Equality:

- The Prime Minister has unveiled the Statue of Equality in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Statue of Equality is a 216-foot-tall statue dedicated to 11th-century social reformer and saint, Ramanujacharya. The statue will be in a sitting position.
- It is composed of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals comprising gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc. The statue will be the second-highest sitting statue in the world [the tallest is the Great Buddha in Thailand at 302 ft].

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.3) Sri Ramanujacharya was the chief proponent of which of the following philosophy?

- a) Vishistadvaita
- b) Advaita
- c) Vedanta
- d) Advaita Dvaita

ANS: A

Explanation: About Ramanujacharya:

- Sri Ramanujacharya was born in 1017 in Sri Perumbudur, Tamil Nadu. He was one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.
- He is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita sub-school of Vedānta. He was also referred to as Ilaya Perumal, which means the radiant one.
- He worked tirelessly against casteism and social hierarchies, proclaiming that all living beings had the right to realization.
- He also enacted several reforms in temple administration e.g., at one time the entire administration in the Srirangam temple in Tiruchirappalli was controlled by a specific caste. He included persons from different castes in the temple administration. A number of responsibilities were given to women also.
- He wrote nine works that came to be known as the Navratnas including three major commentaries, the Vedartha-Sangraha, the Sribhasya and the Bhagavadgita-bhasya aimed at providing philosophical foundation for devotional worship.

About Vishistadvaita

- Vishishtadvaita is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy. It is non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which Brahman alone is seen as the supreme reality, but is characterized by multiplicity.
- It can be described as qualified monism or qualified non-dualism or attributive monism. It is a school of Vedanta philosophy that believes in all diversity subsuming to an underlying unity.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.4) Statue of Equality is dedicated to whom among the following?

- a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- b) Thiruvalluvar
- c) Sri Ramanujacharya
- d) BR Ambedkar

ANS: C

Explanation: About the Statue of Equality:

- Statue of Equality is a 216-foot-tall statue dedicated to 11th-century social reformer and saint, Ramanujacharya. The statue will be in a sitting position.
- It is composed of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals comprising gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc. The statue will be the second-highest sitting statue in the world [the tallest is the Great Buddha in Thailand at 302 ft].

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.5) Which of the following statement about Guru Ravidas is/are correct?

1. He is considered as a spiritual guru of the Meera Bai.
2. His poems are included in the 'Panch Vani' text of the Dadupanthi tradition.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About Guru Ravidas:

- Guru Ravidas was a mystic poet-saint of the Bhakti Movement from the 15th and 16th centuries. He founded the Ravidassia religion.
- He is believed to be a disciple of the bhakti saint-poet Ramananda and contemporary to the bhakti saint-poet Kabir.
- He is also considered as a spiritual guru of the Meera Bai.
- His idea of 'Begampura' was considered as his moral and intellectual achievement. Begampura was a city conceived by him. In that city, there will be no sorrow, no caste and class.
- The Panch Vani text of the Dadupanthi tradition within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Guru Ravidas.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.6) Who among the following provided safe passage to Bhagat Singh after the killing of John Saunders and much more during her revolutionary days?

- a) Durgawati Devi
- b) Gulab Kaur
- c) Durgabai Deshmuk
- d) Snehlata Varma

ANS: A

Explanation:

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Women Freedom Fighters	Contribution to Freedom Movement
Rani Abakka	She was the Queen of Ullal, Karnataka. She fought and defeated the mighty Portuguese in the 16th century.
Velu Nachiyar	She was the Queen of Sivaganga and was the first Indian queen to wage war against the British East India Company.
Matangini Hazra	She was a brave freedom fighter from Bengal, who laid down her life while agitating against the British.
Gulab Kaur	She was a freedom fighter who abandoned her own hopes and dreams of a life abroad to fight for and mobilise the Indian people against the British Raj.
Chakali Ilamma	She was a revolutionary woman who fought against the injustice of zamindars during the Telangana rebellion in the mid-1940s.
Subhadra Kumari Chauhan	One of the greatest Hindi poets, who was also a prominent figure in the freedom movement.
Durgawati Devi	Brave woman who provided safe passage to Bhagat Singh after the killing of John Saunders and much more during her revolutionary days.
Sucheta Kripalani	A prominent freedom fighter who became the independent India's first woman Chief Minister of UP Government.
Accamma Cherian	She is an inspirational leader of the freedom movement in Travancore, Kerala. She was given the name 'Jhansi Rani of Travancore' by Mahatma Gandhi.
Aruna Asaf Ali	She was an inspirational freedom fighter who is perhaps best remembered for hoisting the Indian National flag in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement in 1942.
Durgabai Deshmuk	She was a dedicated worker for the cause of emancipation of women in Andhra Pradesh and was also an eminent freedom fighter and member of the Constituent Assembly.
Rani Gaidinliu	Naga spiritual and political leader, she led an armed uprising against the British in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.
Usha Mehta	She was a freedom fighter from a very young age, who is remembered for organising an underground radio station during the Quit India Movement of 1942.
Parbati Giri	She was one of Odisha's most prominent women freedom fighters who was called the Mother Teresa of Western Odisha for her work in the upliftment of her people.
Tarkeshwari Sinha	She was a prominent freedom fighter during the Quit India Movement, she went on to become an eminent politician in the early decades of independent India.
Snehlata Varma	She was a freedom fighter and tireless worker for the education and upliftment of women in Mewar, Rajasthan.
Tilleshwari Baruah	She was one of India's youngest martyrs, she was shot at the age of 12 by the British, during the Quit India Movement, when she and some freedom fighters tried to unfurl the Tricolour atop a police station.
Jhalkari Bai	She was a woman soldier who grew to become one of the key advisors to the Rani of Jhansi and a prominent figure in the First War of Indian Independence, 1857.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Amar Jawan Jyoti:

1. It was inaugurated in 1968.
2. It was established to mark India-China war of 1965.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: About Amar Jawan Jyoti:

- Amar Jawan Jyoti (the flame of the immortal soldier), was inaugurated in 1972. It was located underneath the India Gate in Delhi. It was established to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 War, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.
- The key elements of the Amar Jawan Jyoti included a black marble plinth, a cenotaph, which acted as a tomb of the unknown soldier.
- The plinth had an inverted L1A1 self-loading rifle with a bayonet, on top of which was a soldier's war helmet.
- The installation had four urns on it, with four burners. These burners were called the eternal flame, and it was never allowed to be extinguished.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.8) Consider the following statements about India Gate:

1. The India Gate was built by the British after the World War II (WWII).
2. The India Gate was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and was unveiled by Lord Irwin.

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 India Gate:

- The India Gate was built by the British after the World War I (WWI). It was earlier known as the All India War Memorial. The India Gate was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and was unveiled by Lord Irwin in 1931.
- It was erected as a memorial to around 90,000 Indian soldiers of the British Indian Army, who had died in several wars and campaigns till then including the WWI. Names of more than 13,000 dead soldiers are mentioned on the memorial commemorating them.
- As it was a memorial for the Indian soldiers martyred in wars, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was established underneath it by the government in 1972.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.9) Which of the following statements about National War Memorial is correct?

- a) The Tyag Chakra, the circle of sacrifice, has circular concentric walls of honour based on the Chakravyuh.
- b) The Veerta Chakra, the circle of bravery, has an obelisk, and the eternal flame.
- c) The Amar Chakra, the circle of immortality, is marked by a row of trees, each of which represents soldiers, who protect the country.
- d) The Raksha Chakra or the circle of protection, has a covered gallery with six bronze crafted murals depicting the battles and actions of our Armed Forces.

ANS: A

Explanation: About the National War Memorial:

- The National War Memorial was inaugurated in February 2019, in an area of around 40 acres. It was built to commemorate all the soldiers who have laid down their lives in the various battles, wars, operations and conflicts of Independent India.
- The architecture of the memorial is based on four concentric circles.
- Largest is the Raksha Chakra or the circle of protection which is marked by a row of trees, each of which represent soldiers, who protect the country.
- The Tyag Chakra, the circle of sacrifice, has circular concentric walls of honour based on the Chakravyuh. The walls have independent granite tablets for each of the soldiers who have died for the country since Independence (26,466 names as of January 2022). A tablet is added every time a soldier is killed in the line of duty.
- The Veerta Chakra, the circle of bravery, has a covered gallery with six bronze crafted murals depicting the battles and actions of our Armed Forces.
- The final is the Amar Chakra, the circle of immortality, which has an obelisk, and the eternal flame. The flame from the Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate has been merged with this flame, which has been kept burning since 2019 when the memorial was unveiled. The flame is a symbol of the immortality of the spirit of the fallen soldiers.
- Busts of the 21 soldiers who have been conferred with the highest gallantry award of the country, Param Vir Chakra, are also installed at the memorial.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958:

1. As per the Act, the 100-metre radius of protected monuments is prohibited areas and the next 300-metre radius is regulated areas.
2. The act provides for the preservation and protection of all historic monuments that have been declared to be of national importance by the AMASR Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About the AMASR Act:

- AMASR Act provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, remains of national importance, for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects.

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- The act provides for the preservation and protection of all historic monuments that have been declared to be of national importance by the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951 and by section 126 of the States Reorganization Act, 1956.
- The AMASR Act, 1958, was amended in 2010 to declare the 100-metre radius of protected monuments as prohibited areas and the next 300-metre radius as regulated areas.
- However, according to a recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report there seems to be no specific reason for this classification.

Proposed Changes:

- The proposed amendment will seek to bring a change in Section 20A of the Act which deals with declaration of prohibited areas and carrying out public works in prohibited areas. Expert monument committees would decide the prohibited area around a monument.
- These areas could be as wide as 500 meters for some sites like the Taj Mahal. The amendment to this provision would enable the ASI to hold the relevant authorities liable in case of illegal buildings at a protected site and thus help in curbing the menace of encroachment.

Source: EPIC February 2022

Scheme/ Programs/ Institutions

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Council of Europe:

1. It was founded in 1949 by the Treaty of London.
2. The Council can make binding laws.

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 Council of Europe:

- The Council of Europe was founded in 1949 by the Treaty of London. It is an international organization founded in the wake of World War II to uphold human rights, democracy and the Rule of law in Europe.
- The council is distinct from the European Union (EU). It includes 47 member states (27 of which are EU members). The Council cannot make binding laws, but it does have the power to enforce select international agreements reached by European states.
- The Council is also an official United Nations Observer. The Council of Europe has suspended Russia from its rights of representation in the Council.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.2) Which of the following statement about Munich Security Conference is/are not correct?

1. It is an annual conference on international security that takes place in Munich, Germany.
2. It was started post WWII in 1945.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About Munich Security Conference:

- It is an annual conference on international security that takes place in Munich, Germany.
- It was started in 1963. Its motto is Peace through dialogue. It is the world's largest gathering of its kind.
- The conference publishes the Munich Security Report, an annual report of relevant figures, maps, and research on crucial security challenges.
- India's External Affairs Minister addressed this year's conference and cautioned against Debt-Trap Diplomacy.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Sustainable Cities India Program:

1. World Bank and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed a MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.
2. It aims to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.

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 Sustainable Cities India Program:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed an MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.
- The aim is to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
- The NIUA will adapt the WEF's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.4) Boltzmann Medal, recently seen in news is given in which of the following field?

- a) Physics
- b) Literature
- c) Mathematics
- d) Medicine

ANS: A

Explanation: About Boltzmann Medal:

- Boltzmann Medal was initiated in 1975. It is awarded by the Commission on Statistical Physics (C3) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.
- The award is given to physicists that obtain new results concerning statistical mechanics. The award is given only once to a person and on the condition that that person has not won the Nobel Prize so far.
- It has been named after Austrian Physicist Ludwig Boltzmann who gave statistical explanation of the second law of thermodynamics.
- Physicist Professor Deepak Dhar has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.5) International Intellectual Property Index, recently seen in news is released by which of the following institutions?

- a) WIPO
- b) World Bank
- c) US Chambers of Commerce
- d) WTO

ANS: C

Explanation: About International Intellectual Property Index, 2022:

- The Index is compiled and published annually by the US Chambers of Commerce. The index benchmarks the IP framework in 55 global economies.
- The index ranks countries based on 50 unique indicators.
- These indicators are divided across nine categories of protection:
 - Patents;
 - Copyrights;
 - Trademarks;
 - Design rights;
 - Trade secrets;
 - Commercialization of IP assets;
 - Enforcement;
 - Systemic efficiency;
 - Membership and ratification of international treaties.
- India has been ranked 43 out of 55 countries in the Index. The United States topped the index, followed by the UK, Germany, Sweden and France.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Aroma Mission:

1. The Aroma Mission was launched by the Ministry of agriculture and Farmer welfare.
2. It aims to bring transformative change in the aroma sector through desired interventions in the areas of agriculture, processing and product development.

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 Aroma Mission:

- The Aroma Mission was launched by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Its aim is to bring transformative change in the aroma sector through desired interventions in the areas of agriculture, processing and product development for fuelling the growth of aroma industry and rural employment.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.7) Government of India and few states have signed up for a project with World Bank, named REWARD Project. Which are the related states in REWARD Project?

- a) Karnataka and Odisha
- b) Odisha and Telangana
- c) Gujarat and Karnataka
- d) Gujarat and Telangana

ANS: A

Explanation: About REWARD Project:

- The Government of India, State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million REWARD Project.

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- REWARD stands for Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme.
- Its aim is to help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.
- The Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.8) Which of the following statements about UPI123Pay is/are correct?

1. Ministry of Finance has launched new UPI service for feature phones called UPI123Pay.
2. It is a three-step offline method to initiate and execute transactions that will work on simple feature phones.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About UPI123Pay:

- Reserve Bank of India has launched new UPI service for feature phones called UPI123Pay.
- It is a three-step offline method to initiate and execute transactions that will work on simple feature phones. It has all features for undertaking transactions except scan and pay.
- The service does not need an internet connection for transactions. There are 4 options to make payments without internet connectivity: Interactive Voice Response (IVR), Missed Call facility, Proximity sound-based payment and App for feature phones.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.9) Consider the following statements about Digisaathi:

1. Digisaathi has been set up by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. It will use AI technology to answer any questions related to all types of digital transactions.

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 Digisaathi:

- Digisaathi has been set up by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- It is a 24 x 7 helpline for providing information on digital payment products and services.
- It will use AI technology to answer any questions related to all types of digital transactions. Currently, it is available in English and Hindi language.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Devayatanam, a Conference on Indian Temple Architecture:

1. The conference has been organized by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
2. The aim of the conference is to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of the temples.

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: About Devayatanam: Conference on Indian Temple Architecture

- The Union Minister for Culture inaugurated a conference on the journey of Indian Temple Architecture, 'Devayatanam'.
- The conference has been organized by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture.
- The aim of the conference is to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of the temples and to initiate a dialogue on the evolution and development of the various styles of temple architecture such as the Nagara, Vesara, Dravida, Kalinga and others.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Science and Technology

Q.1) Consider the following statements about HANSA-NG:

1. It is India's first indigenous Flying Trainer aircraft.
2. It has been developed by India and Israel.

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 HANSA-NG:

- HANSA-NG aircraft has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry. It is India's first indigenous Flying Trainer aircraft.
- It has been developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore.
- The aircraft is designed to meet the Indian flying club needs, and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing(CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Rashtriya Raksha University:

1. It is a Central University located in Guwahati, Assam.
2. It has a specialization in National and Internal Security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About Rashtriya Raksha University:

- Rashtriya Raksha University is a Central University located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It has a specialization in National and Internal Security.
- It was established by the Government of Gujarat in 2009.
- The university has been upgraded as an Institute of National Importance through RRU Act 2020.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.3) Which of the following statement about Seawater Rice is/are correct?

1. It is salt-tolerant rice that can be grown in salty soil near the sea.
2. Indian Scientists have developed a variety of rice known as the 'Seawater Rice'.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: About Seawater Rice:

- Chinese Scientists have developed a variety of rice known as the 'Seawater Rice'. It is salt-tolerant rice that can be grown in salty soil near the sea. This rice was created by over-expressing a gene from selected wild rice that's more resistant to saline and alkali.
- To make use of widespread salty soil (>100 million hectares), farmers in China traditionally dilute their fields with large amounts of freshwater.
- But this method requires vast amounts of water and often doesn't improve yields enough.
- The development of 'Seawater Rice' could help China withstand soil saltiness and also ensure food security that's been threatened by rising sea levels, increasing grain demand and supply chain disruptions.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.4) Hermetic Wiper Malware, recently seen in news is used against which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) Ukraine
- c) Belarus
- d) USA

ANS: B

Explanation: About Hermetic Wiper Malware Attack in Ukraine:

- Hundreds of computers in Ukraine have been attacked by malware Hermetic Wiper.
- It is a data-wiper malware which erases all data on a device making it irretrievable.
- The malware is also capable of attacking data recovery tools and the rebooting systems, making it difficult for the device to reboot into its operating system, essentially making it inoperable.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.5) Consider the following statements about AI Research SuperCluster (RSC):

1. It has been developed by Japan.
2. It has been claimed that this will be the fastest supercomputer in the world once fully built by mid-2022.

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 AI Research SuperCluster (RSC):

- It is an AI Supercomputer being built by Facebook-parent Meta.
- The company has claimed that this will be the fastest supercomputer in the world once fully built by mid-2022.
- It can perform tasks like translating text between languages and help identify potentially harmful content on Meta's platform.

Source: EPIC March 2022

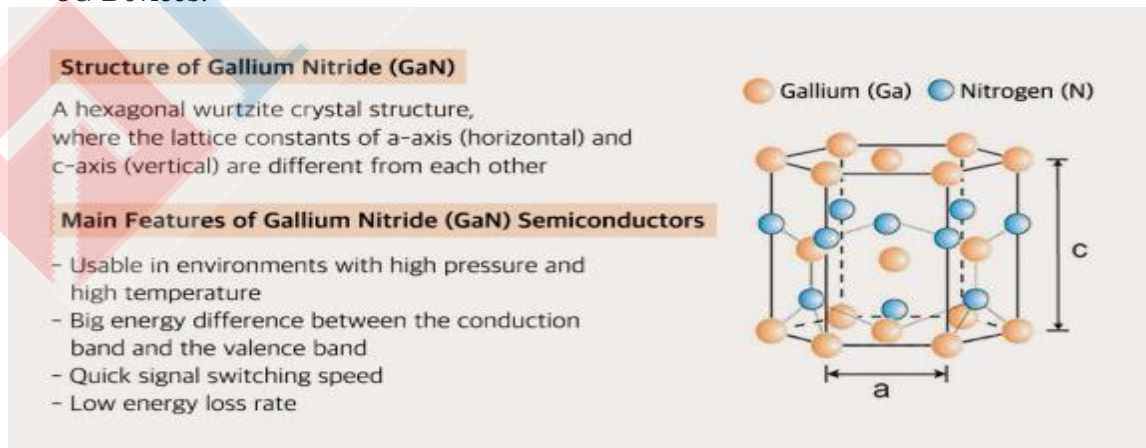
Q.6) Which of the following statement about Gallium Nitride is/are not correct?

- a) Gallium Nitride (GaN) is a very soft, mechanically instable wide bandgap semiconductor.
- b) Ita has Wurtzite crystal structure.
- c) It has high heat capacity, sensitivity to ionizing radiation is low, faster-switching speed, higher thermal conductivity and lower on-resistance.
- d) It has wide ranging applications like LEDs and lasers, Transistors and Integrated Circuits.

ANS: A

Explanation: About Gallium Nitride:

- Gallium Nitride (GaN) is a very hard, mechanically stable wide bandgap semiconductor. The compound is a very hard material that has a Wurtzite crystal structure.
- It has high heat capacity; sensitivity to ionizing radiation is low, faster-switching speed, higher thermal conductivity and lower on-resistance.
- It has wide ranging applications like LEDs and lasers, Transistors and Integrated Circuits, Solar Cell Arrays for Satellites, Nanotubes and nanowires in electronics, and 5G Devices.



Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Bhasha Sangam App:

1. It is a mobile application developed by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with MyGov India.
2. Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.

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 Bhasha Sangam App:

- It is a mobile application developed by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with MyGov India.
- Its aim is to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat by enabling people across India to learn different languages of India and come closer to their culture.
- Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.8) Which of the following statement about Purple Revolution is/are correct?

1. It was launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the CSIR's Aroma Mission.
2. Its aim is to increase lavender cultivation in J&K.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About Purple Revolution:

- Purple or Lavender Revolution was launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the CSIR's Aroma Mission in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu.
- Its aim is to increase lavender cultivation in J&K. Under the mission, first-time farmers were given free lavender saplings, while those who had cultivated lavender before were charged INR 5-6 per sapling.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.9) Consider the following statements about Kavach System:

1. Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System for the Indian Railways.
2. It has been developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation of the Ministry of Railways in collaboration with Indian industry.

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: About Kavach:

- Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System for the Indian Railways.
- It is designed to bring a train to a halt automatically when it notices another train on the same line within a prescribed distance.
- It has been developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation of the Ministry of Railways in collaboration with Indian industry.

Features of Kavach

- Prevents trains from passing the signal at Danger (Red) and avoiding collisions.
- Activates the train braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per the speed restrictions.
- Continuous update of Movement Authority with the display of signal aspects in Driver Machine Interface (DMI)/Loco Pilot operation cum Indication Panel
- Auto Whistling while approaching Level Crossing Gates
- SoS Messages during emergency situations
- Centralised live monitoring of Train movements through Network Monitor System.

Significance of Kavach

- Kavach is one of the cheapest, Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL-4) certified technologies with the probability of an error being 1 in 10,000 years.
- It opens avenues of export of this indigenous technology for Railways.
- It helps the Railways to achieve the goal of “zero accidents”.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Synthetic Biology:

1. It refers to the science of using genetic sequencing, editing, and modification to create unnatural organisms or organic molecules that can function in living systems.
2. The approvals for Biotechnology crops come from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Ministry of agriculture and Farmer welfare.

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 Synthetic Biology:

- Synthetic biology refers to the science of using genetic sequencing, editing, and modification to create unnatural organisms or organic molecules that can function in living systems.

Applications of Synthetic biology

- Synthetic biology enables scientists to design and synthesise new sequences of DNA from scratch.
- It has applications in various fields. It can help in:
 - Developing synthetic organisms for vaccination;
 - Creating natural products in a lab such as vanillin, extracted from vanilla seeds, can be grown in yeasts with additional plant genomes;
 - Use of gene editing systems such as CRISPR will allow defective genes in animals, plants and even people to be silenced, or changed, and control biological outcomes;
 - Pharmaceutical industry: Synthetic biology can be used to make natural compounds such as artemisinin used for the treatment of malaria and Car T cell therapy for cancer treatment;
 - **In the fashion industry:** Some companies are exploring the possibility of dyeing jeans without producing hazardous waste using synthetic biology;
 - In Agriculture: Companies using synthetic biology to deliver fixed nitrogen to plants instead of using fertilisers, engineering microbes to create food additives or brew proteins.

Status of Synthetic biology in India

- As part of the 12th Five-Year Plan, India had set up a task force on systems biology and synthetic biology research in 2011.
- This body underlined the potential benefits from synthetic biotechnology in biofuels, bioremediation, biosensors, food and health and made a strong case for a push for the technology and highlighted that India could be a world leader as a protector and supporter of “open source biological platforms”.
- The Government had proposed Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill in 2013. The Bill mooted the creation of an independent regulator to adjudicate research around genetic engineering that could have also encompassed synthetic biology.
- But the Bill has been pending since then. Currently, the approvals for Biotechnology crops come from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under the Department of Biotechnology.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Location/IR/ Geography

Q.1) Montreux Convention governs which of the following strait?

- a) Bosphorus Strait
- b) Bab al-Mandab Strait
- c) Dardanelles Straits
- d) Both (a) and (c)

ANS: D

Explanation: About the Montreux Convention:

- Montreux Convention is an international agreement governing the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits in Turkey.
- The convention was signed in 1936 at the Montreux Palace in Switzerland. The convention gives Turkey certain control over the passage of warships from the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits.



Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.2) Sea of Marmara connects which of the following two water bodies?

- a) Black Sea and Aegean Sea
- b) Aegean Sea and Ionian Sea
- c) Black sea and Ionian sea
- d) Black Sea and Adriatic Sea

ANS: A

Explanation: About Sea of Marmara:

- The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara. It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond.
- Over three million barrels of oil, about 3% of the daily global supply, mostly produced in Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, pass through this waterway every day.



Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Greater Maldives Ridge:

1. Greater Maldives Ridge (GMR) is located in the western Indian Ocean, southwest of India.
2. The ridge is seismic which means that it is associated with earthquake activities.

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About Greater Maldives Ridge (Indian Ocean):

- Greater Maldives Ridge (GMR) is located in the western Indian Ocean, southwest of India. The ridge is a segment of the larger Chagos-Laccadive Ridge (CLR) system.
- The ridge is aseismic which means that it is not associated with earthquake activities.
- A recent study undertaken by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai has shown that the Maldives Ridge might have formed in the close vicinity of the Mid-Oceanic Ridge where new ocean floor is created due to divergent motion of spreading centre or lithospheric plates.



Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Rivers Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna drain into the Bay of Bengal and have formed fertile deltas at their mouth.
2. Hundru falls in the Chhotanagpur plateau is on the Subarnarekha River.

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:

- Rivers on West Coast West coast has many rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal that form delta. The rivers Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri drain into the Bay of Bengal.
- These rivers have formed fertile deltas at their mouth. Presence of so many deltas along the eastern coast is partly responsible for broader coastal plains on the east.
- In the plateau areas, there may be several waterfalls as the river falls from a great height. In India, the Hundru falls in the Chhotanagpur plateau on the river Subarnarekha and the Jog falls in Karnataka are examples of such waterfalls.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following are the characteristic features of the Indian Desert?

1. The ephemeral river has brackish water which is the main source of obtaining salt.
2. Sand dune is any accumulation of sand grains shaped into a mound or ridge by the wind.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Characteristic features of the Indian:

- Desert The Great Indian Desert lies to the northwest of the Aravali hills. It is a land of undulating topography dotted with longitudinal dunes and barchans.
- Most of the rivers in this region are ephemeral. The Luni River flowing in the southern part of the desert is of some significance. Low precipitation and high evaporation make it a water deficit region.
- There are some streams which disappear after flowing for some distance and present a typical case of inland drainage by joining a lake or playa. The lakes and the playas have brackish water which is the main source of obtaining salt.
- Though the underlying rock structure of the desert is an extension of the peninsular plateau, yet, due to extreme arid conditions, its surface features have been carved by physical weathering and wind actions.
- Some of the well pronounced desert land features present here are mushroom rocks, shifting dunes and oasis (mostly in its southern part).
- An ephemeral river is a river that only flows when there is rain or snow has melted.
- The rest of the year there is just a dry river bed with no water.
- Sand dune is any accumulation of sand grains shaped into a mound or ridge by the wind whereas a barchan or barkhan dune is a crescent-shaped dune.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Lake Razzaza, recently seen in news is located in which of the following country?

- a) Iraq
- b) Syria
- c) Ukraine
- d) Belarus

ANS: A

Explanation: About Lake Razzaza (Iraq):

- Razzaza Lake is located in Iraq. It is also known as Lake Milh, Arabic for Salt Lake. It is the second-largest lake in Iraq.
- The lake was constructed as a measure to control floods in the Euphrates and to be used as a huge reservoir for irrigation purposes.
- Euphrates River is the longest river in southwest Asia. The river rises in Turkey and flows southeast across Syria and through Iraq.
- The lake is popular tourist spot. In recent years, the lake has been affected by the water shortage, drought, neglect, pollution and increased evaporation during Iraq's hot summers.



Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.7) Char Chinar Island, recently seen in news is located at which of the following places?

- a) Brahmaputra, Assam
- b) Dal Lake, Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Pangong lake, Ladakh
- d) Chandra taal, Himachal Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: About Char Chinar Island and Chinar Trees:

- Char Chinar also called Char Chinari, Ropa Lank or Rupa Lank is an island in Dal Lake, Srinagar.
- The Jammu & Kashmir administration has decided to translocate three fully-grown Chinar trees from elsewhere to the Char Chinar Island, where the decayed trees once stood in the 'green' of health.

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- Chinar trees characteristically grow in Eastern Himalayas. Their botanical name is *Platanus orientalis*.
- It is a large, deciduous tree known for its longevity and spreading crown. Its applications include:
 - Leaves and bark: Medicine;
 - Wood: Also called lacewood is used for delicate furniture;
 - Twigs and roots: Making dyes.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.8) Which of the following countries of Europe is/are landlocked?

1. Austria
2. Germany
3. Italy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- A landlocked country is a country which has no connection to a sea or ocean.
- There are 17 landlocked countries in Europe: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Kosovo, Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Vatican City.
- Liechtenstein is unique in Europe because it is doubly-landlocked meaning it is both landlocked and surrounded by countries which are also landlocked, a situation it only shares with Uzbekistan which is the second country in the world surrounded only by landlocked countries (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan).

Source: Oxford Atlas

Q.9) Arrange the following hill ranges from South to North:

1. Balaghat range
2. Harischandra range
3. Satpura range
4. Vindhya range

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3
- b) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- c) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- d) 1 – 2 – 4 – 3

ANS: B

Explanation:

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Source: Oriental Black Swan Atlas

Q.10) Which of the following country is not sharing border with Caspian Sea?

- a) Russia
- b) Iran
- c) Turkmenistan
- d) Iraq

ANS: D

Explanation: Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan

- All bordering the Caspian Sea - have agreed in principle on how to divide it up.



Source: Oriental Black Swan Atlas

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Fundamental duties:

1. They are not justifiable and are enforceable in a court of law.
2. These are in the form of general directives to citizens to display 'ideal' conduct in their public lives.

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 Fundamental Duties:

- Fundamental duties (Article 51A) are in the form of general directives to citizens to display 'ideal' conduct in their public lives. However, they are not justifiable i.e. they are not enforceable in a court of law.

Concerns Regarding Legal Enforcement:

- Provisions already present: There are many laws like Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, IPC 124A, Contempt of Courts Act, Environmental Protection Act, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Remains Act, Right to Education Act that already cover some aspects of fundamental duties.
- Abuse and misuse: Fundamental duties deal with diverse areas such as environment, education, national security, heritage conservation, etc. Making them legally enforceable will make such a law prone to abuse and politicisation.
- Law making is Parliament's prerogative. The function of the Judiciary is to interpret the laws. Judiciary mandating Parliament to make laws on certain issues is against the doctrine of separation of powers.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Election Commission of India:

1. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the President.
2. They hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Article 324 of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of election commission:

- The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.

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- The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.
- When any other election commissioner is so appointed, the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.
- They hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They can resign at any time or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to the procedure for the amendment of the Constitution:

1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated in either House of Parliament.
2. The bill should be introduced by minister only.

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure:

- An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
- The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president.
- The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
- Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill.
- If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- After duly passed by both the Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the president for assent.
- The president must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.
- After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Which of the following given statements are Socialistic Principles of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):

1. To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor.
2. To secure the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.
3. To promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies.

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: These principles reflect the ideology of socialism. They lay down the framework of a democratic socialist state, aim at providing social and economic justice, and set the path towards welfare state. They direct the state:

- To promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order permeated by justice—social, economic and political—and to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities⁴ (Article 38).
- To secure (a) the right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens; (b) the equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good; (c) prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production; (d) equal pay for equal work for men and women; (e) preservation of the health and strength of workers and children against forcible abuse; and (f) opportunities for healthy development of children⁵ (Article 39).
- To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor⁶ (Article 39 A).
- To secure the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement (Article 41).
- To make provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief (Article 42).
- To secure a living wage⁷, a decent standard of life and social and cultural opportunities for all workers (Article 43).
- To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries⁸ (Article 43 A).
- To raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health (Article 47).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Indian government recently started to develop Agaléga Islands, located in which of the following country?

- a) Iran
- b) Malaysia
- c) Singapore
- d) Mauritius

ANS: D

Explanation:

- As work gets under way on one of India's prize projects in the Indian Ocean to upgrade facilities on the Agalega islands in Mauritius, the government is closely watching a battle brewing in the Mauritius parliament over the project.

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- After facing resistance over placing its helicopters in the Maldives' Addu atoll and the virtual cancellation of its project to develop the Assumption Island in the Seychelles earlier this year, New Delhi is moving swiftly but quietly to ensure its project in the Mauritius — to construct a jetty, rebuild and extend the runway, and build an airport terminal — does not run into trouble.
- The \$87 million project, to be funded by India, has been awarded to two Indian companies: AFCON construction group and RITES engineering consultancy. Surveys have begun to fulfil the contract signed on September 28 this year, which stipulated that construction begin by February 12, 2019, and be completed in 2021.
- Earlier this week, Prime Minister Pravinnd Jugnauth's government faced tough questions in the National Assembly as the Opposition raised a storm over Indian involvement in the project and its costs and whether it would involve a military component.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR):

1. It is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj
2. It is recognized as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

- The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj.
- Recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence, it builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders through inter-related activities of training, research and consultancy.
- The Institute is located in the historic city of Hyderabad in Telangana state. The NIRD&PR celebrated its Golden Jubilee Year of establishment in 2008. In addition to the main campus at Hyderabad, this Institute has North-Eastern Regional Centre at Guwahati, Assam to meet the NE-regional needs.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) "Lisbon Treaty" is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) European Union
- b) African Union
- c) Islamic Union
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The Lisbon Treaty started as a constitutional project at the end of 2001 (European Council declaration on the future of the European Union, or Laeken declaration), and

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was followed up in 2002 and 2003 by the European Convention which drafted the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (Constitutional Treaty).

- The process leading to the Lisbon Treaty is a result of the negative outcome of two referenda on the Constitutional Treaty in May and June 2005, in response to which the European Council decided to have a two-year 'period of reflection'.
- Finally, on the basis of the Berlin declaration of March 2007, the European Council of 21 to 23 June 2007 adopted a detailed mandate for a subsequent Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), under the Portuguese presidency.
- The IGC concluded its work in October 2007. The Treaty was signed at the European Council of Lisbon on 13 December 2007 and has been ratified by all Member States.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to Council of Ministers:

1. The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha
 2. The total number of ministers, shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha
- Which of the following codes given below is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

- The council of ministers headed by the prime minister is the real executive authority is our politico-administrative system.
- The principles of parliamentary system of government are not detailed in the Constitution, but two Articles (74 and 75) deal with them in a broad, sketchy and general manner.
- Article 74 deals with the status of the council of ministers while Article 75 deals with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualification, oath and salaries and allowances of the ministers.

Provisions related to Council of Ministers:

- The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
- A member of either house of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister. This provision was also added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
- The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- The President shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to a minister.
- A minister who is not a member of the Parliament (either house) for any period of six consecutive months shall cease to be a minister.
- The salaries and allowances of ministers shall be determined by the Parliament.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) The term ‘Fourth Estate’ refers to which among the following?

- a) Executive
- b) Judiciary
- c) Parliament
- d) Press

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The term Fourth Estate or fourth power refers to the press and news media both in explicit capacity of advocacy and implicit ability to frame political issues.
- Though it is not formally recognized as a part of a political system, it wields significant indirect social influence.
- The Fourth Estate is a societal power, force or institution whose influence is not consistently or officially recognised as such. ‘Fourth Estate’ most commonly refers to the news media, journalism or ‘the press’.
- The term ‘Fourth Estate’ makes implicit reference to the earlier historical division of the Three Estates of the Realm: the clergy, the nobility, and the commoners.
- The equivalent term ‘fourth power’, used in many European languages as it historically belongs to European constitutional lore dating back to the time of the Roman Empire, refers to the separation of powers into legislative, executive and judiciary branches.
- This separation of power has become the construct upon which nations have been built throughout the world. Of which the press is the fourth element.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) What is the other name of the Iran Nuclear deal signed in 2015?

- a) JCPOA
- b) CAATSA
- c) LEMOA
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and the Islamic Republic of Iran welcome this historic Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which will ensure that Iran’s nuclear programme will be exclusively peaceful, and mark a fundamental shift in their approach to this issue.
- They anticipate that full implementation of this JCPOA will positively contribute to regional and international peace and security. Iran reaffirms that under no circumstances will Iran ever seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons.

Source: ForumIAS

Economy

Q.1) The Financial Stability Report is published by:

- a) Financial Stability and Development Council
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

ANS: B

Explanation: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India released the 24th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR).

Financial Stability Report:

- It is published by RBI bi-annually on behalf of the Financial Stability and Development Council, an umbrella group of regulators which gives an overview of the health of India's financial system.
- It reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system in the context of contemporaneous issues relating to development and regulation of the financial sector.
- The RBI looks at the state of both the global as well as domestic economy.

Key highlights of the latest report are:

- Global economic recovery has been losing momentum in the second half of 2021 in the face of resurfacing COVID-19 infections. Supply disruptions and bottlenecks, elevated inflationary levels and shifts in monetary policy stances and actions across advanced economies and emerging market economies.
- On the domestic front, progress in vaccination has enabled the recovery to regain traction after the debilitating second wave of the pandemic. The corporate sector is gaining strength and bank credit growth is improving.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) rose to a new peak of 16.6 percent and their provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 68.1 per cent in September 2021.
- Macro stress tests for credit risk indicate that the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of SCBs may increase from 6.9 per cent in September 2021 to 8.1 per cent by September 2022 under the baseline scenario and to 9.5 per cent under a severe stress scenario. SCBs would, however, have sufficient capital, both at the aggregate and individual levels, even under stress conditions.
- They have remained resilient amidst the pandemic and stability prevails in the financial markets, cushioned by policy and regulatory support.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding a currency swap facility:

1. A currency swap involves the exchange of interest and principal in one currency for the same in another currency.
2. It is considered to be a foreign exchange transaction and is not shown on a company's balance sheet.
3. These swap operations carry exchange rate risks as transaction terms are set in advance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Currency Swap:

- India recently confirmed a 400 million currency swap with Sri Lanka while deferring another 400 million currency swap with Sri Lanka while deferring another 500 million due for settlement to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), in a move aimed at helping the island nation witnessing an unprecedented economic crisis.
- In the swap arrangement, a country provides dollars to a foreign central bank, which, at the same time, provides the equivalent funds in its currency to the former, based on the market exchange rate at the time of the transaction. The parties agree to swap back these quantities of their two currencies at a specified date in the future, which could be the next day or even two years later, using the same exchange rate as in the first transaction.
- These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks, as transaction terms are set in advance. The absence of an exchange rate risk is the major benefit of such a facility. This facility provides the country, which is getting the dollars, with the flexibility to use these reserves at any time in order to maintain an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.
- A currency swap typically involves the exchange of interest and sometimes of principal in one currency for the same in another currency. Interest payments are exchanged at fixed dates through the life of the contract. It is considered to be a foreign exchange transaction and is not required by law to be shown on a company's balance sheet.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.3) Which of the following reports are the flagship publications of International Labor Organization (ILO)?

1. World Employment and Social Outlook
2. Global Wage Report
3. World Social Protection Report
4. Future of Jobs Report

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: World Employment and Social Outlook:

- ILO recently released its flagship World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2022 report.
- Its other flagship publications include: Global Wage Report and World Social Protection Report.
- Published by International Labor Organization (ILO), the report details effects of COVID-19 crisis on the world of work.

Key findings are:

- Global unemployment is expected to remain above pre-COVID-19 levels until at least 2023. The 2022 level is estimated at 207 million, compared to 186 million in 2019.
- It downgraded its forecast for labour market recovery in 2022, projecting a deficit in hours worked globally equivalent to 52 million full-time jobs, relative to the fourth quarter of 2019.
- An additional 30 million adults fell into extreme poverty in 2020 while being out of paid work.
- The European and the North American regions are showing the most encouraging signs of recovery, while South-East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean have the most negative outlook.
- At the national level, labour market recovery is strongest in high-income countries, while lower-middle-income economies are faring worst.
- The disproportionate impact of the crisis on women's employment is expected to last in the coming years. While the closing of education and training institutions "will have cascading long-term implications" for young people, particularly those without internet access.
- There can be no real recovery from this pandemic without a broad-based labour market recovery. And to be sustainable, this recovery must be based on the principles of decent work – including health and safety, equity, social protection and social dialogue.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.4) Which of the following statements regarding Account Aggregator System is/are correct?

1. An Account Aggregator is a financial utility for secure flow of data controlled by the individual.
2. The licence for AAs is issued by the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
3. It will help banks reduce transaction costs and thus enable them to offer more tailored products and services to customers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Account Aggregator System:

- Complementing the PM Jan DhanYojana (PMJDY), India recently unveiled the account aggregator network to overcome the challenges of access to micro-credit for individuals and MSMEs.
- An Account Aggregator is a non-banking financial company engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.
- It is also engaged in consolidating, organising and presenting such information to the customer or any other financial information user as may be specified by the bank.
- The AA framework was created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI and other regulators including Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) through and initiative of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
- The licence for AAs is issued by the RBI and no entity other than a company can undertake the business of an Account Aggregator.
- The AA framework allows customers to avail various financial services from a host of providers on a single portal based on a consent method, under which the consumers can choose what financial data to share and with which entity.
- It reduces the need for individuals to wait in long bank queues, use Internet banking portals, share their passwords, or seek out physical notarisation to access and share their financial documents. Thus it is a financial utility for secure flow of data controlled by the individual.
- It will help banks reduce transaction costs, which will enable banks to offer lower ticket size loans and more tailored products and services to customers. It will also help banks reduce frauds and comply with upcoming privacy laws.
- It has a three-tier structure: Account Aggregator, FIP (Financial Information Provider) and FIU (Financial Information User).
- An FIP is the data fiduciary, which holds customers' data. It can be a bank, NBFC, mutual fund, insurance repository or pension fund repository. An FIU consumes the data from an FIP to provide various services to the consumer. An FIU is a lending bank that wants access to the borrower's data to determine if the borrower qualifies for a loan. Banks play a dual role – as an FIP and as an FIU.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.5) Which of the following countries are the members of Cotton Four or C4 grouping?

1. Benin
2. Chad
3. Niger
4. Burkina Faso

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Burkina Faso:

- Recently, Burkina Faso's army announced that it had ousted President Roch Kabore, suspended the constitution, dissolved the government and the national assembly, and closed the country's borders.
- A former French colony, Burkina Faso has suffered chronic instability since gaining independence in 1960, including several coups.
- The country's name, meaning "land of the honest men", was picked by revolutionary military officer Thomas Sankara who took power in 1983. He was toppled and killed in 1987.
- Since 2015, the country has been fighting an Islamist insurgency that spilled over from neighboring Mali. This has fueled anger in the military and damaged the once important tourist industry.
- Landlocked Burkina Faso, one of West Africa's poorest countries despite being a gold producer, has experienced numerous coups since independence from France in 1960.
- Islamist militants control swathes of Burkina Faso's territory and have forced residents in some areas to abide by their harsh version of Islamic law, while the military's struggle to quell the insurgency has drained scarce national resources.
- Kabore had faced waves of protests in recent months amid frustration over killings of civilians and soldiers by militants, some of whom have links to Islamic State and al Qaeda.
- Burkina Faso along with three other African countries — Benin, Chad and Mali are known as the Cotton Four or C4.
- Cotton is discussed at the WTO on two tracks:
 1. the trade reforms needed to address subsidies and high trade barriers for cotton, and
 2. the assistance provided to the cotton sector in developing countries
- The trade aspects of cotton are handled by the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session including through dedicated discussions on trade in cotton. The development assistance aspects of cotton are discussed in the meetings of the "Director-General's Consultative Framework Mechanism on Cotton".
- These various tracks of discussion have been developed over the years as a response to a series of proposals to address the sector tabled by four African countries — Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali — known as the Cotton Four or C4.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.6) Consider the following statements about National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing:

1. It is launched by Ministry of Science and technology.
2. The Strategy targets to achieve 50% of Global Additive Manufacturing market share.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: About **the National Strategy on Additive manufacturing (AM):**

- It has been released by the Ministry of Electronics & IT. Its main aims are to:
 - Position India as a global hub for Additive Manufacturing development and deployment;
 - Create and protect the integrity of India's AM intellectual properties;
 - Create a conducive ecosystem for Global AM leaders to set up their operations in India.
- The Strategy targets to achieve 5% of Global AM market share and add nearly US\$ 1 billion to the GDP by 2025 and to develop 50 India specific technologies, 100 new start-ups, 500 products, 10 existing & new manufacturing sectors and 1 Lakh new skilled manpower in Additive Manufacturing (AM) sector by 2025.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs):

1. MIIs include Stock exchanges, depositories and clearing houses.
2. National Securities Depository Ltd. is yet to be qualified to be a MII.

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 **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs):**

- Stock exchanges, depositories and clearing houses are Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) and constitute a key part of the nation's vital economic infrastructure.
- According to the Bimal Jalan Committee (2010), MIIs are systemically important for India as these institutions have seen phenomenal growth in terms of the market capitalization of listed companies, capital raised and the number of investor accounts with brokers and depositories and the value of assets held in the depositories account.

Institutions in India that qualify as MIIs

- **Stock Exchanges:** SEBI lists 7 institutions including BSE, NSE, Multi Commodity Exchange of India and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India as MIIs.
- **Depositories:** They are charged with the safekeeping of securities and enabling their trading and transfer.
- Central Depository Services Ltd. and the National Securities Depository Ltd. have been listed as MIIs.
- **Clearing houses:** They help validate and finalise securities trades and ensure that both buyers and sellers honour their obligations. SEBI lists seven clearing houses including the Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing Corporation as MIIs.

Governance norms in the regulation of MIIs

- Any failure of MIIs could result in an overall economic downfall that could potentially extend beyond the boundaries of the securities market. Hence, the governance and oversight of MIIs are critical, and need to be of the highest standards.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Star Rating System for packaged food products:

1. Under this system, packaged foods will display the number of stars on the front of the pack, indicating how healthy or unhealthy it is depending upon the amount of salt, sugar and fat it has.
2. The rating system will be mandatory from 2023.

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 Star Rating System for packaged food products

- The aim is to guide consumers to opt for healthy food. Under this system, packaged foods will display the number of stars on the front of the pack, indicating how healthy or unhealthy it is depending upon the amount of salt, sugar and fat it has.
- Milk and dairy products will be excluded from this proposed front-of-the-pack labelling.
- The rating system will be initially voluntary from 2023 with a transition period of four years. After this period, it would be made mandatory.
- This rating system will be similar to the one that is being used by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency for assessing the energy efficiency in electrical devices.
- At present, countries such as the UK, Chile, New Zealand, Mexico and Australia have Front of the Pack labelling (FoPL) for packaged food Products.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.9) Consider the following statements about Public Financial Management System (PFMS):

1. It is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
2. It tracks funds released under all Plan schemes of Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: What is Public Financial Management System (PFMS)?

- (1) The PFMS is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance;
- (2) PFMS was conceptualized in 2009. The objectives of PFMS have been gradually expanded:

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- (a) Tracking funds released under all Plan schemes of Government of India;
 - (b) Real time reporting of expenditure at all levels of Programme implementation;
 - (c) Track Direct Payments to beneficiaries under all Schemes;
 - (d) Payment and Exchequer Control;
- (3) The primary function of the PFMS is to facilitate sound financial management for the Government. PFMS does so by establishing an efficient fund flow system as well as a payment cum accounting network.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.10) Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) is released by which of the following institutions?

- a) WTO
- b) UNCTAD
- c) OECD
- d) ITU

ANS: C

Explanation: About Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)

- STRI was launched in 2014 by OECD.
- It provides information on regulations affecting trade in services in 22 sectors.
- It considers OECD plus some other countries like India, China, South Africa, Brazil, Russia, Indonesia etc.
- The 22 sectors include computer services, telecommunication, air transport, maritime transport, rail freight, cargo-handling, legal services, construction, engineering services etc. The index varies from 0 (least restrictive) to 1 (most restrictive).

Source: EPIC March 2022

Environment

Q.1) National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has signed a MoU with which of the following institutions for 'Sustainable Cities India Program'?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UNEP
- c) World Bank
- d) ADB

ANS: A

Explanation: About Sustainable Cities India Program:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed an MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.
- The aim is to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
- The NIUA will adapt the WEF's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Cheetah:

1. It is the world's fastest land animal.
2. The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952.
3. Its IUCN Status is Critically Endangered.

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India:

- The cheetah is the world's fastest land animal. The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. Cheetah is the only large carnivore to have become extinct in Independent India.
- Its IUCN Status is Vulnerable. The Government of India has released the Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India.
- As part of the plan, India will be translocating around 12-14 cheetahs from South Africa, Namibia and Botswana to Kuno Palpur National Park in Madhya Pradesh. This could be the world's first intercontinental cheetah translocation project.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.3) New software named SIMBA has been developed for which of the following species?

- a) Bengal Tiger
- b) Asiatic Lion
- c) Cheetah
- d) Leopard

ANS: B

Explanation: About SIMBA:

- The forest department of Gujarat has developed new software named SIMBA.
- Software with Intelligent Marking Based Identification of Asiatic lions is Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based software developed to identify Asiatic lions individually.
- The software has been developed by Hyderabad-based “teliolabs”. SIMBA works with a deep machine learning technique to distinguish unique whisker marks to identify Asiatic lions individually.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.4) Consider the following statements about Indian Grey Hornbill:

1. This species is found only in the Indian subcontinent.
2. These birds are known to be terrestrial.

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 Indian Grey Hornbill:

- Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) is a fairly common hornbill species found only in the Indian subcontinent. It is a medium-sized hornbill with a brownish-grey body. Its IUCN Status is Least Concern.
- It plays an essential role in the ecosystem as prime dispersers of seeds. It is also one of the few hornbill species found in urban areas. These birds are known to be arboreal, i.e. spend most of their time on tall trees but may descend for food and to collect mud pellets for nesting.
- They are threatened primarily by habitat loss in the cities and the cutting down of large trees, which is important for both food and nesting. Gujarat Forest Department is reintroducing the Indian grey hornbill in Gir Forest after almost 90 years.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.5) Which of the following statement about Northern River Terrapin is not correct?

- a) It is one of Asia’s largest freshwater and breakwater turtles.
- b) It is regionally extinct in India.
- c) Its IUCN Red List is Critically Endangered.
- d) They spend most of their time in water and only come on land to lay eggs.

ANS: B

Explanation: About Northern River Terrapin:

- Northern River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*) is a species of riverine turtle native to Southeast Asia. It is one of Asia’s largest freshwater and breakwater turtles. Its IUCN Red List is Critically Endangered and falls under Appendix I in CITES and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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- The species is currently found in Bangladesh, India (Sunderbans), Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia. It is regionally extinct in Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. They spend most of their time in water and only come on land to lay eggs.
- They are even known to undertake long seasonal migrations to the sandbanks where they were hatched.
- They have an omnivorous diet. Threats to them include hunting and harvesting of eggs, Pollution and loss of habitat, Incidental drowning by getting trapped in fishing nets and Destructive fishing practices.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Jaladhara Frog:

1. It is predominantly a freshwater frog.
2. It is found in River Ganga.

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 Jaladhara Frog:

- Researchers have discovered a new frog species named 'Jaladhara skittering frog' from the freshwater bodies of the western coastal plains of India.
- Its scientific name is Euphlyctis Jaladhara. It is predominantly a freshwater frog. The frog is found along the western coastal plains from Kerala to Gujarat. This is the second new species of skittering frog detected from the locality.
- The earlier species, the Kerala pond frog (Phrynomera Kerala) was also discovered in the same region by the same group of researchers in 2021.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.7) A new gin berry species named 'Glycosmis albicarpa' from which of the following area?

- a) Eastern Ghats
- b) Khasi hills
- c) Western Ghats
- d) Himalaya

ANS: C

Explanation: About Glycosmis albicarpa:

- Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new gin berry species named 'Glycosmis albicarpa' from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- It belongs to the Orange family, Rutaceae. It is endemic to the southern Western Ghats. It is an evergreen small tree with a distinct white fruit growing on it. Its berries gained popularity as edible fruit.
- They are also being utilized for their medicinal values and food.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Chinar trees:

1. Chinar trees characteristically grow in Western Himalayas.
2. It is a large, deciduous tree known for its longevity and spreading crown.

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 Chinar trees:

- Chinar trees characteristically grow in Eastern Himalayas. Their botanical name is *Platanus orientalis*. It is a large, deciduous tree known for its longevity and spreading crown. Its applications include:
 - Leaves and bark: Medicine;
 - Wood: Also called lacewood is used for delicate furniture;
 - Twigs and roots: Making dyes.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.9) India's first conservation reserve for the Dugong would be established at which of the following place?

- a) Gulf of Mannar
- b) Gulf of Khambhat
- c) Gahirmatha Marine sanctuary
- d) Andaman and Nicobar

ANS: A

Explanation: About Conservation Reserve for Dugongs:

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to establish India's first conservation reserve for the Dugong in Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay.
- It will make India as the leading nation in the South Asia Sub-region with respect to dugong conservation.

Source: EPIC March 2022

Q.10) "Pamed Wildlife Sanctuary" is located in which of the following state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Odisha
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Spread over a region of 262 sq km, Pamed is one of the essential wildlife sanctuaries in Bastar. Set up in 1983 to accommodate the overabundance population of the wild bison, this sanctuary is also home to the tiger, panther, chital and different types of fauna.
- Chhattisgarh is one of the essential places in the tourism guide of the nation. A major portion of the state is covered with forests.

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- A considerable measure of rare trees is to be found in the forests. You can also find some of the rare types of creatures in the national parks and the wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Pameda Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh is one of the vital sanctuaries and attracts the travelers who have an adventurous blend of mind. Pameda wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh in India is located in Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh. Andhra Pradesh border is close to the sanctuary. The aggregate area is 260 sq km and there is a mixed deciduous forest.

Source: ForumIAS

