

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

28<sup>th</sup> Mar to 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022

HISTORY

ECONOMICS

POLITY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

## *History/ Art and Culture*

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about the concept of 'Nai Talim' during pre-independence period:**

1. The idea was proposed by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in 1937.
2. The concept laid emphasis on making mother tongue as the medium of instruction in addition to free compulsory education to the students.

**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 Nai Talim:**

- The phrase Nai Talim is a combination of two words: Nai Means 'New' and Talim – a Urdu word-means 'Education'.
- Mahatma Gandhi introduced the concept of Nai Talim in 1937.
- The concept laid emphasis on making mother tongue as the medium of instruction in addition to free compulsory education and skill training to the students.
- The concept was based on four basic principles:
  - (1) Education or learning in mother tongue along with handicraft work;
  - (2) Work should be linked with most useful vocational needs of the locality;
  - (3) Learning should be linked with vocational work;
  - (4) Work should be socially useful and productive.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Dutch Settlements in Pre-Independent India:**

1. The Dutch founded their first factory in Masulipatnam in 1605.
2. No Dutch settlements on Coromandel Coast.

**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:** After their arrival in India, the Dutch founded their first factory in Masulipatnam (in Andhra) in 1605.

- They went on to establish trading centres at different parts of India and thus became a threat to the Portuguese.
- They captured Nagapatam near Madras (Chennai) from the Portuguese and made it their main stronghold in South India.
- The Dutch established factories on the Coromandel Coast, in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal and Bihar. In 1609, they opened a factory in Pulicat, north of Madras.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.3) “Treaty of Ryswick”** was concluded between which of the following nations in 17<sup>th</sup> Century?

- a) French & English
- b) French & Portuguese
- c) French & Dutch
- d) Dutch & Portuguese

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The French position in India was badly affected with the outbreak of war between the Dutch and the French. Bolstered by their alliance with the English since the Revolution of 1688, the Dutch captured Pondicherry in 1693. Although the Treaty of Ryswick concluded in September 1697 restored Pondicherry to the French, the Dutch garrison held on to it for two more years.

**Source:** Spectrum’s Modern History of India

**Q.4) Match the following Indian Martial Art forms with their respective states:**

Martial Art form	State
1. Gatka	A. Kerala
2. Kalaripayattu	B. Tamil
3. Silambam	C. Punjab
4. Cheibi Gad-ga	D. Manipur

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

- a) 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B
- b) 1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-D
- c) 1-C, 2-A, 3-B, 4-D
- d) 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Kalaripayattu is the oldest existing martial art form indigenous to Kerala. Kalaripayattu is practiced by women also.

The state of Tamil Nadu is considered to be the cradle of modern and scientific staff fencing, popularly known in Tamil as Silambam. The Pandya king promoted Silambam fencing.

Cheibi Gad-ga in one the Manipur’s most ancient martial arts. The fighting equipments comprises of a sword and a shield.

Gatka is a weapon based Indian martial art basically created by the Sikhs of Punjab. The weapons used may be stick, sword, kirpan or kataar. Gatka is displayed during the different celebrations or at fairs in Punjab.

**Source:** Spectrum’s Art and Culture

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Indus Valley Civilization:**

1. The most common animal motif on the seals was unicorn, other important animal motif was of cow.
2. Most of the seals are circular in shape.

**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:** None of the statement is correct, as the animal motifs include images of unicorn, humped bull, rhinoceros, tiger, elephant, buffalo, bison, goat etc. but there is no evidence of cow on any seal. Most of the seals are square in shape, even triangular, rectangular and circular seals were also used.

**Source:** NCERT

**Q.6) Which of the following is correct sequence of dynasties of Vijayanagar Empire?**

- a) Saluva, Sangama, Aravidu, Tuluva
- b) Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, Aravidu
- c) Sangama, Saluva, Aravidu, Tuluva
- d) Saluva, Sangama, Tuluva, Aravidu

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Vijayanagar Empire (1336-1672 A.D.): Harihara and Bukka is the founder the Vijayanagar City in 1336 A.D. on the southern banks of Tungabhadra. They made Hampi as the capital city. They served under Vira Ballala III, the Hoysala King. Vijayanagar Empire was ruled by four important dynasties and they are:

- (1) Sangama
- (2) Saluva
- (3) Tuluva
- (4) Aravidu

**Source:** NCERT

**Q.7) Under which treaty Portugal could claim and occupy everything east of the imaginary line in Atlantic while Spain could claim everything west of the Atlantic?**

- a) Treaty of Paris
- b) Treaty of Lisbon
- c) Treaty of Tordesillas
- d) Treaty of Rome

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In 1497, under the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), the rulers of Portugal and Spain divided the non-Christian world between them by an imaginary line in the Atlantic, some 1300 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands. Under the treaty, Portugal could claim and occupy everything to the east of the line while Spain could claim everything to the west.

**Source:** NCERT

**Q.8) Which of the following Maratha divisions is correctly matched?**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Peshwa	Poona
2. Scindia	Gwalior
3. Holkars	Nagpur

**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 only

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Maratha Empire ruled Indian sub-continent in 18th century. The empire formally existed from 1674 with the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji and ended in 1818 with the defeat of Peshwa Bajirao II. There were following division in Maratha Empire:

- Gaekwad at Baroda
- Bhonsle at Nagpur
- Holkars at Indore
- Scindias at Gwalior
- Peshwas at Poona

**Source:** NCERT

**Q.9) Anandamath, a semi-historical novel by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, is based on which of the following civil uprising?**

- a) Vizayanagaram revolt
- b) Sanyasi revolt
- c) Indigo revolt
- d) Dhundia revolt

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The disastrous famine of 1770 and the harsh economic order of the British compelled a group of sanyasis in Eastern India to fight the British yoke. Originally peasants, even some evicted from land, these sanyasis were joined by a large number of dispossessed small zamindars, disbanded soldiers and rural poor. They raided Company factories and the treasuries, and fought the Company's forces. It was only after a prolonged action that Warren Hastings could subdue the sanyasis. Equal participation of Hindus and Muslims characterised the uprisings, sometimes referred to as the Fakir Rebellion. Majnum Shah (or Majnu Shah), Chirag Ali, Musa Shah, Bhawani Pathak and Debi Chaudhurani were important leaders. Debi Chaudhurani's participation recognizes the women's role in early resistances against the British.

Anandamath, a semi-historical novel by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, is based on the Sanyasi Revolt.

**Source:** NCERT

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. Colonial land revenue settlements
2. Encroachment on tribal lands
3. 'Just rule' by British
4. Destruction of indigenous manufacturing

**Which of the following above factors responsible for people's resentment and uprisings in British India?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The major factors responsible for the people's resentment and uprisings against the Company rule are as follows.

- Colonial land revenue settlements, heavy burden of new taxes, eviction of peasants from their lands, and encroachments on tribal lands.
- Exploitation in rural society coupled with the growth of intermediary revenue collectors, tenants and moneylenders.
- Expansion of revenue administration over tribal lands leading to the loss of tribal people's hold over agricultural and forest land.
- Promotion of British manufactured goods, heavy duties on Indian industries, especially export duties, leading to devastation of Indian handloom and handicraft industries.
- Destruction of indigenous industry leading to migration of workers from industry to agriculture, increasing the pressure on land/agriculture.

**Source:** NCERT



## *Scheme/ Programmes/ Institutions*

**Q.1) SMILE Scheme, recently seen in news is launched by which of the following ministry?**

- a) Ministry of women and child development
- b) Ministry of education
- c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d) Ministry of Science and technology

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) Scheme:**

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the SMILE Scheme.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme. Its aim is to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- It has two sub-schemes:
  - Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons that includes scholarships for transgender students, skill development, medical and housing facility (Garima Greh) among others;
  - Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging that includes provision of shelter homes, outreach initiatives etc.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about National Institute of Career Services (NICS):**

1. It was set up under Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. NICS has recently launched Prammarsh, an online counselling workshop with an aim to bridge the industry-academia gap.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About National Institute of Career Services (NICS):**

- National Institute for Career Service (erstwhile Central Institute for Research and Training in Employment Service) was set up in 1964 under Directorate General of Employment (DGE), Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- Its aim is to be a National Centre of Excellence to provide enhanced employability through Training, Research & Capacity Building Programme in the area of Employment under National Employment Services.

**About Prammarsh**

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

- NICS has launched Pramارش, an online counselling workshop. The aim of Pramارش is to bridge the industry-academia gap and spread awareness about various choices available to students under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

### **Q.3) Consider the following statements about Vigyan Jyoti Scheme:**

1. It aims to address the underrepresentation of women in different fields of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the country.
2. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) is the implementation partner of Vigyan Jyoti.
3. The Vigyan Jyoti programme is being implemented in 100 schools situated in both rural and urban areas.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Vigyan Jyoti Scheme:**

- The Vigyan Jyoti programme is being implemented in 100 schools in the country and all the schools are situated in rural areas.
- The Nodal Ministry is Department of Science & Technology. Its aim is to address the underrepresentation of women in different fields of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the country.
- The scheme envisages hand-holding and interventions from Class IX and till the PhD level to encourage girls to pursue a career in underrepresented areas of STEM.
- Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Education, is the implementation partner of Vigyan Jyoti.

**Source:** EPIC January 2022

### **Q.4) Which of the following statements about SAMRIDH Initiative is not correct?**

- a) The purpose of the initiative is to create and rapidly scale market-based health solutions.
- b) It aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare in Smart Cities.
- c) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and USAID announced a new partnership under this initiative.
- d) SAMRIDH initiative has been launched in 2020.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About SAMRIDH Initiative:**

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) Initiative.
- SAMRIDH initiative has been launched in 2020. The purpose of the initiative is to create and rapidly scale market-based health solutions.
- The collaboration aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022



**Q.5) 'Operation AAHT', recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Evacuation of Indians from Ukraine
- b) Domestic violence
- c) Human trafficking
- d) Aid to Afghanistan

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Operation AAHT:**

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched 'Operation AAHT'. It has been launched to curb human trafficking.
- As part of the operation, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- Through Operation AAHT, the RPF could act as a bridge cutting across States to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about One District One Product Scheme:**

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to identify one product per district based on the potential and strength of a district and national priorities.

**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 One District One Product Scheme:**

- One District One Product (ODOP) is an initiative towards realizing the true potential of a district.
- Its aim is to identify one product per district based on the potential and strength of a district and national priorities.
- A cluster for that product will be developed in the district and market linkage will be provided for that. This will help convert each district of the country into an Export Hub by identifying products with export potential.
- It also aims to address bottlenecks in exporting products and support local manufacturers. It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.7) Which of the following institutions publishes e-Government Development Index (EGDI):**

- a) World Bank
- b) UNDP
- c) UN DESA
- d) IMF

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About e-Government Development Index (EGDI):**

- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has been publishing the EGDI and survey report since 2001.
- The Survey assesses the e-government development status of all UN Member States. The EGDI is the weighted average of 3 dimensions of e-Government:
  - The Scope and quality of online services (Online Service Index, OSI);
  - The Status of the development of telecommunication infrastructure (Telecommunication Infrastructure Index, TII);
  - The inherent Human Capital (Human Capital Index , HCI). India has been ranked 100th (out of 193) in 2020, up from 118th in 2014. India had achieved 96th rank in 2018.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about One Ocean Summit:**

1. It is organised by Sweden , United Nations and World Bank.
2. The United Nations has declared the decade between 2021 and 2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' to raise awareness and restore declining marine life.

**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 One Ocean Summit:**

- The One Ocean summit is being organised by France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- The objective of the summit is to mobilise the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.
- The United Nations has declared the decade between 2021 and 2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' to raise awareness and restore declining marine life.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.9) The scheme 'SVAMITVA' recently seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Creation of data base for manpower planning and management.
- b) Web portal for assistance to disabled persons.
- c) Digital mapping of Indian villages
- d) A new Early warning system for Cyclones.

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas):**

- SVAMITVA is an ongoing scheme launched by PM Modi in April 2021. The scheme plans to prepare digital maps of all of India's 6,00,000 villages. 3D maps will be created for 100 cities across India.
- The scheme uses drones to prepare a variety of maps useful in forest management, disaster management, electrical utilities, land records, water distribution, and property taxation.
- The updated guidelines have liberalized the approval mechanism of the scheme making it easier for the private companies to prepare maps, use drones and develop applications via location mapping.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC):**

1. It is a government undertaking owned by both Central and state governments.
2. It is an apex corporation for the all round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependants throughout India.
3. It is the nodal agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

**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: C**

**Explanation: National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation(NSKFDC):**

- A wholly owned Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (M/o SJ&E) was set up on 24th January 1997 as a Company "Not for Profit" under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- NSKFDC is in operation since October, 1997, as an Apex Corporation for the all round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependants throughout India, through various loan and non-loan based schemes.
- Apart from operating various loan and non-loan based schemes for the upliftment of the target group, NSKFDC is playing a vital role in elimination of manual scavenging - the worst surviving symbol of untouchability.
- NSKFDC has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

**Source:** ForumIAS factly

## *Science and Technology*

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Exercise Paschim Lehar:**

1. It is a joint maritime exercise conducted under the aegis of Western Naval Command.
2. It aims to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Army only.

**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 Exercise Paschim Lehar:**

- It is a joint maritime exercise conducted under the aegis of Western Naval Command. Its objective is to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force (IAF), Indian Army and Coast Guard.
- The exercise included the participation of ships and submarines of the Indian Navy, Aircrafts of IAF, various elements of Army and Patrol Vessels of Coast guard.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.2) India's first Graphene Innovation Centre would be set up at which of the following place?**

- a) Thrissur, Kerala
- b) Chandigarh University, Mohali
- c) Hyderabad, Telangana
- d) Pune, Maharashtra

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Graphene Innovation Centre in Thrissur, Kerala:**

- The Government of Kerala has announced the country's first Graphene Innovation Centre.
- Graphene is a one-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice. It is the thinnest, most electrically and thermally conductive material in the world.
- It is also flexible, transparent and incredibly strong. Graphene has widespread use in bio-medical applications (like targeted drug delivery, testing kits), composites and coatings, electronics, batteries, membranes to separate materials, ultra-sensitive sensors etc.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about EOS-04 Satellite:**

1. It is a Radar Imaging Satellite.
2. EOS-04 is the fourth in the series of earth observation satellites.
3. All other EOS satellites in the series namely, EOS-01, EOS-02 and EOS-03 have been successfully placed in the orbit.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About EOS-04 Satellite:**

- ISRO has launched the EOS-04 Satellite on board the PSLV-C52. EOS-04 is the fourth in the series of earth observation satellites.
- It is a Radar Imaging Satellite, weighs about 1710 kg and will be placed in a sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- It will provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry and plantations, soil moisture & hydrology, and flood mapping.
- EOS-02 is yet to be launched. It is a microsatellite to be flown on a new launch vehicle called SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle).
- At present, India has 53 operational satellites, of which 21 are earth observation and another 21 are communication-based. The other eight are navigation satellites and 3 are science satellites.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about m-WRAPR:**

1. It is India's first indigenous bio-sample collection kit.
2. The kit helps to preserve genetic content in all types of biological samples including microbiomes, saliva, cells, tissues, blood, body fluids and fecal tubes.

**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 m-WRAPR:**

- Azooka Labs, a start-up at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has launched mWRAPR.
- It is India's first indigenous bio-sample collection kit. It can be used as a bio-sample collection kit and storage medium for samples destined for genomic sequencing labs, biobanks and research labs handling biological samples for molecular analysis.
- The kit helps to preserve genetic content in all types of biological samples including microbiomes, saliva, cells, tissues, blood, body fluids and fecal tubes.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022



**Q.5) Consider the following statements about North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR):**

1. It is an autonomous society set up under Ministry of Development of North Eastern region.
2. It is headquartered in Shillong.

**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 NECTAR:**

- North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) is an autonomous society set up under the Department of Science & Technology.
- The Centre looks at harnessing and leveraging niche frontier technologies available with Central Scientific Departments and Institutions for public and social good and to expand the benefits of technology for equitable and inclusive social and economic development of the North Eastern Region of our country.
- It is headquartered in Shillong.
- The NECTAR under the Saffron Bowl project has identified few locations in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya for saffron cultivation.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.6) Which of the following statements about Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is/are correct?**

1. It is an all-liquid three-stage vehicle with the capability to launch up to 500 kg satellite mass.
2. It has capability to launch satellite into geosynchronous orbit.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV):**

- It is an all-solid three-stage vehicle with the capability to launch up to 500 kg satellite mass into 500 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- The demand for small satellites has emerged in recent years on account of the need for developing countries, private corporations, and universities for small satellites.
- Small satellites find ready application for various purposes such as for using formations of small satellites to gather data from multiple points, doing in-orbit inspection of larger satellites, conducting university related research, testing or qualifying new hardware before using it on a more expensive/sophisticated spacecraft etc.
- Until now, the small satellites have been launched using PSLV, Advantages of SSLV

**The SSLV would help in:**

- Reduced turn-around time;
- Launch on demand;
- Cost optimization for realization and operation;
- Flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites;



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- Minimum launch infrastructure requirements.
- The development and manufacture of the SSLV are expected to create greater synergy between the space sector and private Indian industries which is a key aim of the Department of Space.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.7) Which of the following institutions publishes Global Cybersecurity Outlook report?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Global Cybersecurity Outlook report:**

- The Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022 Report has been released by the World Economic Forum.
- The report gives insights on near-term future cybersecurity challenges and develops actionable solutions to address them;
- The report also highlights measures that need to be taken to enhance cyber resilience within organisations and the wider ecosystem.

**Key Findings of the Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022:**

The accelerating pace of digitalisation fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic has led to:

- 151% surge in global ransomware attacks in 2021;
- An average of 270 cyberattacks per organisation in 2021, a 31% increase over 2020;
- Cyber security leaders around the globe have listed ransomware, identity theft and critical infrastructure failure among their top personal cyber risk concerns;
- Cyber incidents are becoming costly and damaging, sometimes even paralysing critical services and infrastructure;
- Companies need 280 days on average to identify and respond to a cyberattack. To put this into perspective, an incident that occurs on January 1, may not be fully contained until October 8.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about Negative Ions:**

1. Negative ions are made when sunlight, radiation, air, or water break down oxygen.
2. These ions have an impact on pollutants by making them negatively charged and get them collected on surfaces.

**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 Negative Ions:**

- An ion is an atom, or a molecule, which has gained or lost one or more electrons;
- Negative ions are made when sunlight, radiation, air, or water break down oxygen.

- It is believed that negative ions create positive vibes and uplift the mood. These ions also have an impact on pollutants by making them negatively charged and get them collected on surfaces.

**About Negative Ion Technology**

- Negative ion technology embeds negative ions in personal products and is currently being advertised as a means to maintain health, balance energy, and improve well-being;
- This technology is used in certain silicone wristbands, quantum or scalar-energy pendants, sleep masks, jewellery among others;
- The minerals that produce these negative ions often include naturally occurring radioactive substances such as uranium and thorium.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.9) Consider the following statements about Hydrogen-enriched Compressed Natural Gas:**

1. It can be used in place of gasoline; diesel fuel/LPG and its combustion produce fewer undesirable gases in comparison to normal automobile fuel.
2. HCNG is easier and safer to use than hydrogen as it contains very low energy content from hydrogen.

**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 HCNG:**

- HCNG stands for Hydrogen-enriched Compressed Natural Gas. HCNG is produced by blending hydrogen with CNG;
- It can be used in place of gasoline; diesel fuel/LPG and its combustion produce fewer undesirable gases in comparison to normal automobile fuel.

**Benefits of HCNG:**

- It emits 70% less carbon dioxide;
- It reduces total hydrocarbons emissions by around 15%;
- Increases fuel efficiency by 3-4%;
- The power output is better than CNG;
- HCNG is easier and safer to use than hydrogen as it contains very low energy content from hydrogen, i.e., up to 30% by volume.

**Concerns associated with HCNG**

- The physical blending of CNG and hydrogen involves a series of energy-intensive steps that would make H-CNG more expensive than CNG;
- HCNG use would require a change in the structural aspects of the engine.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the Aerosols:**

1. Their scattering of sunlight can reduce visibility (haze) and redden sunrises and sunsets.
2. Its concentrations in the atmosphere rise and fall with climate.

**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 Aerosols:**

- Aerosols are minute particles suspended in the atmosphere. When these particles are sufficiently large, we notice their presence as they scatter and absorb sunlight.
- Their scattering of sunlight can reduce visibility (haze) and redden sunrises and sunsets. Aerosols interact both directly and indirectly with the Earth's radiation budget and climate.
- As a direct effect, the aerosols scatter sunlight directly back into space.
- As an indirect effect, aerosols in the lower atmosphere can modify the size of cloud particles, changing how the clouds reflect and absorb sunlight, thereby affecting the Earth's energy budget
- Aerosols come from both natural and human sources—and sometimes both at once.
- Dust, for example, is scoured from deserts, the dried-out edges of rivers, dry lakebeds, and more.
- Its concentrations in the atmosphere rise and fall with climate; in cold, dry, periods in the planet's history like the last ice age, more dust filled the atmosphere than during warmer stretches of Earth's history.

**Source:** ForumIAS

## *Location/IR/Geography*

**Q.1) Pandrethan temple, an 8th Century temple dedicated to lord Shiva, recently seen in news, is located at which of the following place?**

- a) Kashmir
- b) Mysuru
- c) Hampi
- d) Indonesia

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Pandrethan temple**

- Pandrethan temple is an 8th Century temple built by Meru, a minister of King Partha, ruler of Kashmir.
- The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is situated near the river Jhelum.
- It is believed that a great fire destroyed the city of Pandrethan in 960 CE.
- Pandrethan temple is the only surviving structure in the city.
- It hosts several excavated sculptures dating back to the 2nd century, they include:
  - Two large monolithic rock Shiva lingams
  - Seven Gandhara-style sculptures
  - Huge rock carving of the feet of a monolithic statue.

**Source:** The Hindu

**Q.2) Matua Island, recently seen in news is located at which of the following place?**

- a) Mediterranean Sea
- b) Kuril Island chain
- c) Aleutian Islands
- d) Barents Sea

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Matua Island**

- Matua is an uninhabited volcanic island located in the Kuril Islands chain in the Sea of Okhotsk.
- It is in the northwest Pacific Ocean.
- Also, the Matua Island is 16 km from Golovnin Strait.
- These islands are located on the Ring of Fire.
- It has a strato volcano. The strato volcano is also called composite volcano.
- It is built up by many layers of hard lava.
- They are characterised by a summit crater and periodic intervals of explosive eruptions.
- Recently the Russian Military deployed its defence missile systems called the Bastion systems to the Matua Island.



**What is the issue around the island?**

- The chain of islands, Kuril Islands, is claimed by Japan as well.
- Japan claims four of the islands in the chain and calls them Northern Territories.
- These Islands were taken by the Soviet Union in the final days of World War II.
- During World War II, Japan had installed a military base in the island.
- After the disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991, the soviet military base established earlier was closed due to funding shortages.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.3) Which of the following place is known as 'Saffron Bowl of Kashmir'?**

- a) Anantnag
- b) Pulwama
- c) Pampore
- d) Baramula

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Saffron Bowl Project:**

- It has been launched to expand the cultivation of saffron from Kashmir to the North-East India.
- Pampore in J&K is called Saffron Bowl of Kashmir and Pampore Saffron Heritage is one of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS) recognised sites in India.
- Saffron is used to make saffron spice. It is a very precious and costly product. It is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Source: EPIC February 2022

**Q.4) Medaram Jatara also known as Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is a tribal festival held in which of the following states?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Manipur
- c) Telangana
- d) Odisha

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Medaram Jatara:**

- Medaram Jatara also known as Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is a tribal festival held in the state of Telangana.
- The festival is conducted in honour of the Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma. It is celebrated once in two years in the month of 'Magha' (February) on the full moon day.
- It is the second-largest fair in India, after the Kumbh Mela. It is organised by Koya Tribe in collaboration with the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Telangana.

Source: EPIC February 2022

**Q.5) Which of the following country is not one among the 13 Tiger Range Countries?**

- a) China
- b) Pakistan
- c) Vietnam
- d) Thailand

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Tiger Range Countries:**

- Tiger Range Countries are the countries where the tigers are still found in the wild. At present there are 13 Tiger Range Countries.
- These countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Source: EPIC February 2022

**Q.6) Arouca Geopark, in which the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge is built, is located in which of the following countries?**

- a) China
- b) Japan
- c) Portugal
- d) USA

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Arouca Geopark:**

- The 516 Arouca in Portugal beat the Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge by 71 feet to be the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the world.
- The latest attraction in the UNESCO-recognised Arouca Geopark, the 574 feet high bridge commands views of the surrounding gorge and the Aguieiras Waterfall.

Source: Indian Express



**Q.7) Nusantara, the new Capital of Indonesia is located on which of the following island?**

- a) Java
- b) Sumatra
- c) Sulawesi
- d) Borneo

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About Nusantara, new Capital of Indonesia:**

- Indonesian parliament has approved a Bill to relocate the Nation's capital from Jakarta to Kalimantan area on Borneo Island.
- The new centre will be called 'Nusantara'. It is a Javanese name for the Indonesian archipelago chosen by the President.
- The current capital Jakarta suffers from issues like chronic congestion, floods and air pollution.



**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.8) Sela Tunnel Project, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state/UT?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Sela Tunnel Project:**

- Sela Tunnel Project is located in the West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh. The tunnel is a part of the Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang (BCT) road, one of the key strategic projects near the Chinese border.
- The tunnel will be the longest twin-lane tunnel above 13,000 feet in the world and will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang.
- The project will also allow faster deployment of weapons and soldiers to forward areas in the Tawang sector.



**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.9) COMPETES Act, 2022 with an aim to open up new vistas for talented individuals from across the world with a new start-up visa has been passed by which of the following country?**

- a) USA
- b) Germany
- c) China
- d) Russia

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The United State House of Representative passed the America COMPETES Act 2022.

**What is the COMPETES Act, 2022?**

- The main aim of the America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act, 2022 are: (a) To open up new vistas for talented individuals from across the world with a new start-up visa; (b) To make the supply chains stronger and reinvigorate the innovation engine of the country's economy to outcompete China and the rest of the world for decades to come.

**Key provisions of the COMPETES Act, 2022**

- It allocates grants and loans to encourage semiconductor production in the US and to improve supply chain resilience and manufacturing;
- It proposes funding to address social and economic inequality and immigration e.g., it offers an exemption for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) PhDs from the green card limit;
- It has allocated USD 600 million a year to build manufacturing facilities to make the United States less dependent on solar components manufactured in China;
- It proposes a new category of visa called the "W" classification. This visa will be for non-immigrant entrepreneurs with an ownership interest in a start-up entity, essential employees of a start-up entity and their spouses and children

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about the Genocide Convention:**

1. The UN General assembly resolution 96(I) against genocide was co-sponsored by South Africa and India.
2. Genocide has been criminalized under Indian domestic 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: D**

**Explanation: About the Genocide Convention:**

- The word Genocide is credited to Raphael Lemkin who also campaigned for its international treaty.
- The UN General Assembly resolution 96(I) against genocide was co-sponsored by Cuba and India.
- This resulted in a convention against genocide in 1948 which came into effect in 1951 with more than 150 states party to the convention.

**Its provisions include:**

- Article I: Prevent and punish genocide;
- Article V: Enact legislation to give effect to the convention, effective penalties for those guilty of the crime;
- Article VI: Try those charged with genocide in a competent tribunal.
- Status of the Genocide Convention in India
- India has not enacted any legislation in accordance with Article VI of the Genocide Convention.
- Nor has genocide been criminalized under any domestic law.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

## *Polity*

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act of 2020:**

1. It seeks to provide 75% job reservation for local people in public sector jobs.
2. Haryana is the first state to have such law.

**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 Law:**

- The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act of 2020 seeks to provide 75% job reservation for local people in private-sector jobs.
- The reservation is ensured on jobs having salaries less than INR 30,000/month (revised from INR 50,000/month earlier). The law is applicable to private companies, societies, trusts, and partnership firms etc. located in the State.
- The Act would not be a permanent legislation but remain in force for 10 years of being enacted. The companies found to be violating the Act are liable to a fine between ₹10,000 and ₹2 Lakh.
- It will be applicable to the new job openings only and won't affect the outsiders already working on the affected jobs.
- An exemption can be claimed by employers in the situation where an adequate number of local candidates with the desired skills, qualifications, and proficiency are not available.
- MP, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh have also made similar laws earlier that reserved 70-75% of the jobs for locals.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.2) Which of the following statement about National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is not correct?**

- a) National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was constituted in 1994.
- b) NCSK is a constitutional body.
- c) It make recommendations to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis.
- d) It monitors the implementation of the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):**

- National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was constituted in 1994 as a statutory body under the provisions of the NCSK Act, 1993.
- It was initially set up for three years (till 1997). Later the validity of the Act was extended up to 2002 and then up to 2004. The NCSK Act ceased to have effect from 2004.

- Since then, the tenure of the NCSK has been extended as a non-statutory body from time to time through resolutions. The tenure of the present Commission was up to 31st March 2022. It has now been extended to March 2025.

**Mandate of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis**

- Make recommendations to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis;
- Study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis;
- Investigate cases of specific grievance of Safai Karamcharis;
- To study and monitor the working conditions of Safai Karamcharis;
- Make reports to the Central or State Governments on any matter concerning Safai Karamcharis.
- According to the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the NCSK has been assigned the following work:
  - To monitor the implementation of the Act;
  - Tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments, and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.3) Democracy Index is released by which of the following institutions?**

- a) Economist Intelligence Unit
- b) Amnesty international
- c) UN DESA
- d) World Bank

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About the Democracy Index:**

- The Economist Intelligence Unit has released the Democracy Index, 2021.
- The Democracy Index was started in 2006. It provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.
- The index is based on 60 indicators grouped into five categories:
  - Electoral process and pluralism;
  - Civil liberties;
  - Functioning of government;
  - Political participation;
  - Political culture.
- Each country is provided with a score of 0 to 10 based on the above indicators.
- Based on their scores, each country is then classified into any one of the four types of regime:
  - Full democracy;
  - Flawed democracy;
  - Hybrid regime;
  - Authoritarian regime.
- Key Findings of the Democracy Index Norway has topped the index followed by New Zealand. It has been classified as a full democracy.
- India is ranked 46th on the 2021 index with an overall score of 6.91. It has been classified as a flawed democracy. In 2020, India was ranked 53rd in the index.
- Less than half (45.7%) of the world's population now live in a democracy of some sort, a significant decline from 2020 (49.4%). Only 6.4% reside in a "full democracy".
- More than a third of the world's population (37.1%) live under authoritarian rule, with a large share being in China.



**About Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):**

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) was created in 1946. It is the research and analysis division of The Economist Group and the world leader in global business intelligence.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'New India Literacy Programme':**

1. The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through offline mode.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
3. The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About the New India Literacy Programme (NILP):**

- The Ministry of Education in convergence with various Ministries and Departments will implement the scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

**Objective: Imparting Skills**

- The objective of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21st century such as –Critical life skills (financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare)
- Vocational skills (with a view towards obtaining local employment);
- Basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency) and– Continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, etc and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners).

**Targets**

- The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs.
- The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is 5 crore learners at 1 crore learners per year by using “Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS).”
- The focus will be on all aspirational districts, districts with literacy rates less than the National/State average, etc.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022



**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED):**

1. It aims to economically empower De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.
2. It is launched by Ministry of tribal affairs.

**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: Need for SEED Scheme:**

- The DNTs, NTs, SNTs are one of the most deprived and economically weaker communities in India.
- The policies of the colonial government affected lives and livelihood adversely with the enactment of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 during British rule wherein they were branded as criminals.
- This has led to the forcible alienation from their traditional occupations and habitations. They remained hunter-gatherers and pastoral/peripatetic. After the Independence, they have not benefitted much from the planned development of over seven decades.
- They were deprived of state support like the SCs/STs.
- Major Government Initiatives to mainstream DNTs, NTs, SNTs Various efforts were undertaken for bringing these communities into the mainstream. Accordingly, the first commission was set up in October 2003. The Renke Commission was set up in 2008.
- In 2015, National Commission was constituted under the chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idade.
- This commission was tasked to identify and proper listing of these communities in different states, to evaluate the progress of development of these communities in the states so that a systematic approach can be developed for the development of these communities.
- Based on the recommendation of this commission, the Government has set up the Development and Welfare Board for DNTs, SNTs & NTs (DWBDNCs) in 2019.
- The Government also decided to create an umbrella scheme for empowerment of these communities and accordingly, the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs, SNTs & NTs (SEED) has been formulated and launched.

**About the SEED Scheme:**

- The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.
- The Aim is to economically empower De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.
- The scheme will be for a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26. The scheme has been formulated for families having income from all sources of Rs.2.50 lakh or less per annum and not availing any such benefits from similar Scheme of Centre Government or the State Government.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.6) With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It Provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural unskilled labour.
2. Mandatory Social Audit for MGNREGA works.
3. 50:50 division of scheme allocation between wage and material.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has the following objectives:**

- Provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural unskilled labour
- Increase economic security
- Decrease migration of labour from rural to urban areas
- Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory.
- At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women.
- Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.
- Unemployment allowance is borne by the state governments.
- A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery are allowed.

**Source:** Governance in India by Laxmikanth

**Q.7) The Corruption Perception Index is released by which of the following?**

- a) Tax Justice Network
- b) World Bank
- c) Transparency International
- d) World Economic Forum

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: The Corruption Perceptions Index is released by the Transparency International annually.**

- The latest edition is the Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 which was released in January 2020.
- The index includes the ranks of the 180 countries or territories based on the perceived levels of public sector corruption.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the “Lok adalat”:**

1. It has been given the status of a civil court.
2. Its awards are challenged before any court.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: The Legal Services Authorities Act (1987):**

- It has established a nation-wide network to provide free and competent legal aid to the poor and to organize lok adalat for promoting equal justice.
- Lok adalat is a statutory forum for conciliatory settlement of legal disputes.
- It has been given the status of a civil court.
- Its awards are enforceable, binding on the parties and final as no appeal lies before any court against them.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.9) Which Constitutional Amendment reduced the age of voter from 21 to 18?**

- a) 35th Constitutional Amendment
- b) 42nd Constitutional Amendment
- c) 48th Constitutional Amendment
- d) 61st Constitutional Amendment

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: The election is based on the principle of universal adult franchise.**

- Every Indian citizen who is above 18 years of age and who is not disqualified under the provisions of the Constitution or any law is eligible to vote at such election.
- The voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years by the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988.

**Source:** Laxmikanth

**Q.10) The Punchhi Commission report was related to which among the following?**

- a) Centre-State Relations
- b) Fiscal Federalism
- c) Electoral Reforms
- d) Creation of new states

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Second commission on Centre-State Relations was set-up by the Government of India in April 2007 under the Chairmanship of Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of India.
- It was required to look into the issues of Centre-State relations keeping in view the sea-changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.

**Source:** Laxmikanth

## *Economy*

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Vande Bharat Trains:**

1. They are self-propelled trains that do not require an engine.
2. These are semi-high speed train.

**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 Vande Bharat Trains:**

- Vande Bharat is a semi-high speed train. Currently, two Vande Bharat trains are in operation, Delhi-Varanasi and Delhi-Katra;
- They are self-propelled trains that do not require an engine. This feature is called a distributed traction power system, which is increasingly becoming the norm the world over for passenger operations. Distributed power gives the train higher acceleration and deceleration compared to loco-hauled trains, which take a much longer time to reach top speed or to gradually come to a halt.

**Key Features of Vande Bharat Trains**

- The trains have fully sealed gangways for a dust-free environment, modular bio-vacuum toilets, automatic entry/exit doors with sliding footsteps, diffused LED lighting, and sensor-based interconnecting doors in each coach.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Udyam Registration:**

1. It is a registration portal for MSME.
2. The registration on this portal is necessary for any MSME that wants to avail concessions or benefits from the Central and State governments.

**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 Udyam Registration:**

- It was launched in July 2020. It is a registration portal for MSMEs.
- This portal is more streamlined than the previous Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum. The portal is also fully integrated with Income Tax and GST IN (Goods and Services Tax Identification Number) systems.
- Upon registration on this portal, an enterprise will be assigned a permanent identification number to be known as 'Udyam Registration Number'.
- The registration on this portal is necessary for any MSME (regardless of the social category of ownership) that wants to avail concessions or benefits from the Central and State governments and want to get covered under schemes of the governments, including priority sector lending of banks.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.3) Global Economic Prospect Report is published by which of the following?**

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) UNDP
- d) Both (a) and (c)

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

- The World Bank has published the Global Economic Prospect Report. The report highlights that the results of the COVID-19 Pandemic are far from over.

**Findings of the Report**

- The report forecasts that that global economic growth will slow to 4.1% in 2022, from 5.5% in 2021.
- This is because;
  - the Governments are losing the capacity to provide further fiscal support due to rising debt;
  - Supply chain bottlenecks that impede the flow of goods and services, and the resulting inflation will add to existing economic miseries. Several economies are at high risk of debt distress and energy prices are expected to surge further.
- Economies like Argentina (10%) and India (8.3%) will have high growth rate but that is due to base year effect as most economies contracted during 2020-21.
- Usually, emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs), helped by their lower base, grow faster than advanced economies. But, they will perform poorer than advanced economies in 2023.
- This is because EMDEs have limited policy space to provide additional support.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.4) Which of the following statements about Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) is/are correct?**

1. SWIFT is owned and controlled by its shareholders (financial institutions).
2. SWIFT is only a platform that sends messages and does not hold any securities or money.

**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 SWIFT:**

- SWIFT is a messaging network used by banks and financial institutions globally for quick and faultless exchange of information pertaining to financial transactions;
- The network connects more than 11,000 banking and securities organizations in over 200 countries and territories;
- It is headquartered in Belgium;
- Each participant on the platform is assigned a unique 8-digit SWIFT code or a Bank Identification Code (BIC) which is essential for any inter-bank transfer;
- SWIFT is only a platform that sends messages and does not hold any securities or money. It enables standardized and reliable communication to facilitate the transaction.

**Governance of SWIFT**

- SWIFT is owned and controlled by its shareholders (financial institutions) representing approximately 3,500 firms from across the world;



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

- SWIFT is overseen by the G-10 Central Banks which includes Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Switzerland, and Sweden as well as the European Central Bank (ECB), with its lead overseer being the National Bank of Belgium;
- In 2012, this framework was reviewed, and the SWIFT Oversight Forum was established in which the G-10 central banks are joined by the Central Banks of India, Australia, Russia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, the Republic of Turkey, and the People's Republic of China.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

### **Q.5) Which of the following statement about SWIFT is not correct?**

- a) SWIFT is a messaging network used by banks and financial institutions globally for quick and faultless exchange of information pertaining to financial transaction.
- b) Each participant on the platform is assigned a unique 12-digit SWIFT code.
- c) It is headquartered in Belgium.
- d) It enables standardized and reliable communication to facilitate the transaction.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About SWIFT:**

- SWIFT is a messaging network used by banks and financial institutions globally for quick and faultless exchange of information pertaining to financial transactions;
- The network connects more than 11,000 banking and securities organizations in over 200 countries and territories;
- It is headquartered in Belgium;
- Each participant on the platform is assigned a unique 8-digit SWIFT code or a Bank Identification Code (BIC) which is essential for any inter-bank transfer;
- SWIFT is only a platform that sends messages and does not hold any securities or money. It enables standardized and reliable communication to facilitate the transaction.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

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

1. India
2. Turkey
3. China
4. Russia

**Which of the above countries have created alternative to the SWIFT?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Alternatives to SWIFT:**

- China launched China's Cross-Border International Payment Systems (CIPS) in 2019.
- In 2014, during the time when Russia annexed Crimea and was threatened of SWIFT sanctions, it launched a messaging system, the System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS).



- Both the countries are in advanced stages of linking the two systems and various countries like Turkey and India are willing to join the system.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):**

1. The CEPA is expected to increase the bilateral trade between the two countries from the present level of USD 60 Bn to USD 100 Bn in the next five years.
2. This trade deal comes with no strict rules of origin conditions.

**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:**

- India and UAE signed a Joint Vision Statement on 'Advancing Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) during a virtual summit.

**About the Trade Agreement**

- The agreement is expected to provide significant benefits to Indian and UAE businesses, enhance market access and reduce tariffs.
- The shared objective of the agreement is to promote new trade, investment and innovation in diverse sectors, including economy, energy, climate action, emerging technologies, skills and education, food security, healthcare, defense and security.
- The CEPA is expected to increase the bilateral trade between the two countries from the present level of USD 60 Bn to USD 100 Bn in the next five years.
- The agreements are important from the point of view of employment as it is estimated that about 10 Lakh jobs shall be generated across multiple labour-intensive sectors.
- It shall help Indian exporters get access to West Asian countries and Africa through UAE. This agreement shall also prove helpful for the Indian pharmaceutical companies in getting regulatory approval, registration and market authorization for their medicines in countries like UK and USA.
- This trade deal comes with strict rules of origin conditions. To avoid the dumping of products of a third country in India, 40% of the value addition on the products exported to India shall be done in UAE.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.8) World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is organised annually by which of the following institutions?**

- a) UNDP
- b) UN
- c) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- d) International Institute for Sustainable Development

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS):**

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- It is an annual event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) since 2001.
- The summit was earlier known as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. Its aim is to bring together a wide number of participants in the fight against climate change.
- Participants include governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth, and civil society.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.9) Which of the following statement about Swachhta Start-Up Challenge is/are correct?**

1. Its aim is to provide an impetus to innovative start-ups to drive transformation in the sanitation and waste management sector.
2. It is launched by Ministry of commerce and industry under its Start-Up India initiative.

**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: Swachhta Start-up Challenge:**

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) has launched the Swachhta Start-Up Challenge.
- Its aim is to provide an impetus to innovative start-ups to drive transformation in the sanitation and waste management sector. The challenge is open across 4 thematic areas:
  - Social inclusion;
  - Zero dump (Solid Waste Management);
  - Plastic waste management;
  - Transparency through digital enablement.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about the National Ropeways Development Programme:**

1. It aims to develop ropeways in hilly areas of the country in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
2. The programme is being presently started in North-eastern region only.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About the National Ropeways Development Programme**

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) will be the nodal ministry.
- The aim of the programme is to develop ropeways in hilly areas of the country in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

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- Around 8 ropeway projects for a length of 60 km would be awarded in 2022-23.
- The programme will also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.
- The programme is being presently started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North-Eastern states.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

## *Environment*

**Q.1) Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India has been released by which of the following?**

- a) ISRO
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) IMD
- d) NDMA

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About the Atlas:**

- The Atlas has been developed by the scientists at the Climate Research and Services (CRS) office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune. The atlas has used the Geographic Information System (GIS) tools and provides district maps on hazard events and vulnerability.
- The atlas will have two uses:
  - It will act as a reference for impact-based warnings that IMD issue for various regions;
  - It can be used to plan climate-resilient infrastructure.

**Key findings of the Atlas**

- Most Impacted by Cyclones: West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district is most frequently impacted by cyclones among Indian districts. The return period of cyclonic storms in the district was 1.67 years on a scale of 1.5 to 60 years. Shorter return periods indicate more frequent cyclones.
- Cyclone Vulnerability: Purba Medinipur in West Bengal had the highest cyclone vulnerability in the country for cyclones of all intensities.
- Baleshwar in Orissa topped the list in terms of vulnerability to severe cyclonic storms. South 24 Parganas was the second-most vulnerable to all cyclones, and ranked third in terms of severe cyclonic storms.
- Other key Findings: Around 4% of the districts and 7% of the population in India are highly vulnerable to cyclones. Most of the coastal districts of the East Coast are highly vulnerable to cyclones.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about 'Fly Ash Management and Utilisation Mission':**

1. The Goal of the Mission would be to coordinate and monitor issues relating to the handling and disposal of fly ash.
2. The mission is to be jointly headed by the Secretaries of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Union Ministry of Coal and Power.
3. The secretary of Ministry of Coal and Power will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Fly Ash:**

- Fly ash is an unwanted unburnt residue of coal combustion in a coal thermal power plant.
- It is emitted along with flue gases during the burning of coal in a furnace and collected using electrostatic precipitators.
- It is then converted into wet slurry and transported to scientifically designed ash ponds. However, the gross under-utilisation of this by-product over the years has led to the accumulation of 1,670 million tonnes of fly ash.

**NGT Order to overcome the underutilisation of Fly Ash:**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the constitution of a 'Fly Ash Management and Utilisation Mission'.
- The Goal of the Mission would be to coordinate and monitor issues relating to the handling and disposal of fly ash and to make the roadmaps and progress in fly ash utilisation available for all thermal power plants and their clusters.
- The mission is to be jointly headed by the Secretaries of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Union Ministry of Coal and Power.
- Chief Secretaries of concerned states will also be on board.
- The secretary of MoEFCC will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.3) Which of the following statement about Eco-Sensitive Zones is/are correct?**

1. Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) is areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
2. Environment Protection Act, 1986 mentions about the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones".

**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: Eco-Sensitive Zones:**

- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) around protected areas such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

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- The objective of declaring an area as ESZ is to create some kind of “shock absorbers” to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- ESZs also act as the buffer zones from areas of high protection to areas accorded relatively milder protection.
- It is to be noted that though Environment Protection Act, 1986 does not mention the word “Eco-Sensitive Zones”, the government uses section 3(2)(v) of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 to declare ESZs and EFAs.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

Q.4) Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is located in which of the following state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Odisha

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary:**

- Khijadiya sanctuary is located in Gujarat;
- It is a freshwater wetland located near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch. It was formed following the creation of a bund (dike) in 1920 by the then ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Nawanagar to protect farmlands from saltwater ingress;
- The sanctuary is now part of Marine National Park, Jamnagar, the first marine national park in the country. The sanctuary is also part of the Central Asian Flyway;
- Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary has become the fourth wetland of Gujarat to get the Ramsar tag. Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana wetland are the other Ramsar sites in the state.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

Q.5) Denison barb (Miss Kerala), a schedule I species, recently seen in news is a \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) Fish
- b) Butterfly
- c) Bird
- d) Dragonfly

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Denison Barb (Miss Kerala):**

- Denison barb (Miss Kerala), a fish species, has been included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.
- It is also known as red-line torpedo barb, or roseline shark. It is a native freshwater fish species, commonly found in parts of Karnataka and Kerala. Its IUCN Status is endangered.
- The fish species is being exploited for the aquarium trade. Inclusion in Schedule I is being opposed on the grounds that it is found in 11 rivers and the income from it acts as an incentive for fishermen to protect habitats.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022



**Q.6) White Cheeked Macaque, a newly found mammal species, is found in which of the following state?**

- a) Assam
- b) Andaman and Nicobar
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Manipur

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: White Cheeked Macaque:**

- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have found a new mammal species named 'White Cheeked Macaque' in central Arunachal Pradesh. Its scientific name is *Macaca leucogenys*.
- This macaque is distinct from other macaques found in the region as it displays white cheeks, long and thick hairs on the neck area and a longer tail.
- With this discovery, India's mammal count increases from 437 to 438.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.7) Basai Wetlands, recently seen in news is located in which of the following state/UTs?**

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi
- d) Uttar Pradesh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Basai Wetland:**

- The Basai Wetlands has shrunk to a quarter of its original size over the years.
- It is located in Gurgaon, Haryana. The wetland lies in one of the paleochannel of the Sahibi River, a tributary of Yamuna which originates from the Aravalli range in Rajasthan and flows through west and South Haryana into Delhi where it is also known as the Najafgarh drain.
- It houses 20,000 birds of over 280 species including migratory birds and endangered birds. It is recognised as a Key Biodiversity Area by the IUCN and the Wildlife Institute of India and as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.8) Septemeranthus, recently seen in news is a \_\_\_\_\_?**

- a) Dinosaurs fossil
- b) Well preserved mermaid
- c) Parasitic flowering plant
- d) A poisonous fish species

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Septemeranthus:**

- A new genus of a parasitic flowering plant named 'Septemeranthus' has recently been discovered from the Nicobar group of islands. Septemeranthus belongs to the family Loranthaceae, a hemi-parasite under the sandalwood order Santalales.
- It is endemic only to the Nicobar group of islands.
- It partially depends on its host but also has leaves capable of photosynthesis.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.9) Consider the following statements about One Ocean Summit:**

1. It is being organised by Sweden in cooperation with the UNCLOS and the World Bank.
2. The objective of the summit is to mobilise the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean 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: One Ocean Summit:**

- The One Ocean summit is being organised by France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- The objective of the summit is to mobilise the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.
- The United Nations has declared the decade between 2021 and 2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' to raise awareness and restore declining marine life.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about Lassa fever:**

1. It is parasitic disease found in West Africa.
2. It can spread from person to person through bodily fluids or through mucous membranes like eyes or nose.

**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: Lassa Fever:**

- Lassa fever-causing virus is found in West Africa. It was first discovered in 1969 in Lassa, Nigeria. The virus spreads by rats.
- A person can become infected if they come in contact with items that are contaminated with the urine or faeces of an infected rat. It can spread from person to person through bodily fluids or through mucous membranes like eyes or nose.
- The death rate associated with this disease is low, at around 1%. The antiviral drug ribavirin seems to be an effective treatment for Lassa fever if given early on in the course of clinical illness.

**Source:** EPIC February 2022