

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd to 8th May, 2022

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

International Relations

Q.1) "A Resolution to authorise the UN Security Council to deliberate on climate change-related issues was rejected recently." With respect to this, which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. The resolution was sponsored by Ireland and Niger.
2. India voted in favor of resolution.
3. It has been vetoed by Russia.

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 resolution:

- The resolution was sponsored by **Ireland and Niger**. The resolution sought to create a formal space in the UN Security Council for discussions on climate change and its implications on international security.
- It has also called for the UN Secretary-General to submit a report on security aspects of climate change in the next two years and appoint a special envoy for climate security.
- Further, it asked UN field missions to regularly report on climate change assessments in their areas of operation and take the help of climate experts in carrying out their routine functions.

What did India say regarding the resolution?

- The attempt to discuss climate action and climate justice issues at the UNSC was motivated by a **desire to evade responsibility** in the appropriate forum.
- The draft resolution, would **undermine progress made at Glasgow**, where the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference took place.
- Also, the reason countries were attempting to bring climate talks to the Security Council was that **decisions could be taken without consensus** or **the involvement** of most developing countries.
- Moreover, if the Security Council indeed takes over the responsibility on this issue, **a few states will then have a free hand in deciding on all climate-related issues**. This is clearly neither desirable nor acceptable.
- Lastly, India stated that viewing conflicts through the prism of climate change was **misleading** and an **oversimplification** that could worsen conflicts rather than resolving them.

Source: [International Resolutions, Conventions, legislations, and Agreements](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements about 'Temporary Protection Directive', recently seen in news:

1. The European Commission describes TPD as an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries.
2. The war in Ukraine is the first time that the EU has invoked the TPD.

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 TPD:

- The European Commission describes TPD as an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin.
- The directive applies when there is a risk that the standard asylum system is struggling to cope with demand stemming from a mass influx.

Obligations placed upon EU states while enforcing TPD

- According to the European Commission, the TPD foresees harmonized rights for the beneficiaries of temporary protection which include:
 - A residence permit for the duration of the protection (1-3 years).
 - Appropriate information on temporary protection,
 - Access to jobs, housing, social welfare, medical treatment and education for minors.
 - Opportunities for families to reunite in some circumstances.
 - Guarantees for access to the normal asylum procedure.

Need for TPD

Firstly, having proper standards will reduce the disparities between the policies of European Union (EU) countries on the treatment of potential refugees during mass influx.

Secondly, the standards also promote burden-sharing among EU countries receiving a large **number of displaced persons in a short duration.**

Source: [International Resolutions, Conventions, legislations, and Agreements](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Colombo Security Conclave:

1. India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka began a National Security Advisor (NSA)-level trilateral meeting on maritime security cooperation in 2011.
2. Madagascar is included as a new member of the conclave.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: About Colombo Security Conclave:

- India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka began a National Security Advisor (NSA)-level trilateral meeting on maritime security cooperation in 2011.
- Following a halt from 2014-2019, the trilateral meeting was resumed in 2020, when the decision was taken to establish the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).

Aim of the Conclave: To forge closer cooperation on maritime and security matters among the three Indian Ocean countries.

Pillars of Cooperation: There are four pillars of security cooperation including marine security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism, and cyber security.

Secretariat: Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Key takeaways from the fifth edition of Colombo Security Conclave

Firstly, Mauritius was included as a new member of the conclave.

Secondly, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief has been added as the **fifth pillar**.

Source: [international organizations, groupings, and initiatives](#)

Q.4) Which of the following statement about United Nations Office for Project Services is not correct?

- a) It was established in 1973 as part of the UNEP.
- b) It became an independent, self-financing organization in 1995.
- c) The headquarters of the United Nations Office for Project Services is located in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- d) UNOPS is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

ANS: A

Explanation: About United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS):

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was established in 1973 as part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It became an independent, self-financing organization in 1995.

Headquarters: The headquarters of the United Nations Office for Project Services is located in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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Aim: It is dedicated to implementing projects for the United Nations System. Apart from that, UNOPS also help in project implementation of international financial institutions, governments and other partners around the world.

Significance: UNOPS is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

Source: [Important United Nations Organisations](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements about UN Forum on Forests (UNFF):

1. It is established by UNEP.
2. It aims to promote the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.

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:

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) is a high-level intergovernmental policy forum.

Established by: Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Objective: To promote the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests. Further, it aims to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.

Headquarters: New York, United States.

Membership: The Forum has universal membership, and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies.

Source: [Important United Nations Organisations](#)

Q.6) Which of the following statement about United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is/are correct?

1. It was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
2. The CND is the final decision maker on proposals by the World Health Organisation.

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 UNCND:

- The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is a policymaking body within the United Nations system.
- It was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 9(I) in 1946.

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- The CND aims to assist the ECOSOC in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties for action against drugs and crime.
- In 1991, the General Assembly (GA) expanded the mandate of the CND to enable it to function as the governing body of the UNODC.

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Objectives: The CND reviews and analyzes the global drug situation, considering supply and demand reduction. It takes action through resolutions and decisions.

The CND is also the final decision maker on proposals by the World Health Organisation.

Member Countries: The CND has 53 member states that are elected by ECOSOC. The CND is chaired by a Bureau. This Bureau includes at least one member per Regional Group.

Annual Meetings: CND meets annually. The CND adopted the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem.

Source: [Important United Nations Organisations](#)

Q.7) Consider the following reports:

1. Inclusive Wealth Report
2. Adaptation Gap Report
3. Greenhouse Gas Bulletin
4. Ambient Air Pollution Report

Which of the above given reports are published by UNEP?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Reports Published by UNEP:

- Actions on Air Quality
- Global Environment Outlook
- Emission Gap Report
- Inclusive Wealth Report
- Adaptation Gap Report 2020
- Global Climate Litigation Report 2020
- Rise of Environmental Crime Report (along with INTERPOL).

Source: [Important United Nations Organisations](#)

Q.8) Consider the following pairs:

Exercise	Countries
1. EKUVERIN	India and Maldives
2. Sea Dragon	China and Pakistan
3. Naseem-al-Bahr	India and Iran

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About Exercise EKUVERIN:

- It is a joint military exercise conducted between India and Maldives since 2009. The exercise is held **alternatively in India and Maldives.**
- The 10th edition of the exercise was held in **Maharashtra, India.**

Aim: To enhance synergy & interoperability between the Armed Forces of both the Nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land & at sea, conducting Counter Terrorism & Counter Insurgency Operations, and sharing best military practices and experiences.

Other exercises between India and Maldives

Exercise Dosti: It is a Biennial Trilateral Coast Guard Exercise between India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

About Exercise Sea Dragon

It is an annual US-led multinational exercise.

Aim: To practice and discuss anti-submarine warfare tactics so as to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

Participating Countries: United States, India, Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea.

Note: India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the [Quad](#) and also participate in the [Malabar exercise](#).

Naseem-al-Bahr: It is a bilateral biennial naval exercise between India and Oman.

AL NAGAH: It is a bilateral military exercise between India and Oman.

Source: [Defense Exercises](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements about exercises with France:

1. Exercise Shakti is a biennial naval exercise between the Indian & French Navy.
2. Exercise Desert Knight-21 is a Bilateral Air Exercise.

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 Exercise Shakti:

It is a biennial military exercise between the Indian and French Army.

Aim: To enhance military cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.

Other exercises between India and France

Exercise Garuda – It is a biennial air force exercise between the Indian & French Air Force.

Exercise Varuna – It is a biennial naval exercise between the Indian & French Navy.

Exercise Desert Knight-21 – It is a Bilateral Air Exercise between India and France.

Source: [Defense Exercises](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route:

1. It was signed between India and Bangladesh in 2016.
2. It aims to provide inland waterways' connectivity between the two countries, particularly with the North Eastern Region of India, and also to enhance bilateral trade.

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 Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route:

- The Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route was signed between India and Bangladesh in 1972.
- It aims to provide inland waterways' connectivity between the two countries, particularly with the North Eastern Region of India, and also to enhance bilateral trade.
- Under this Protocol, Inland vessels of both the countries can move on the designated protocol route and dock at Ports of Call in each country notified for loading/unloading of cargo.
- Some of the existing protocol routes include Kolkata-Pandu-Kolkata, Kolkata-Karimganj – Kolkata, Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi and Pandu-Karimganj-Pandu among others.

Source: [Defense Exercises](#)

Important Indexes Summits, Conferences/Organizations

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Wage Rate Index:

1. It is released by the Labour Bureau.
2. The base year has been changed from 1963-65 to 2012.

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 the Wage Rate Index:

- It is a vital economic indicator that measures changes in the wage level in selected industries. It is released by the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- These changes are based on the recommendations of the International Labour Organization and the National Statistical Commission.

Changes made to the wage rate index

Base year: The base year has been changed from 1963-65 to 2016.

Half Year Basis: The new WRI will now be compiled on a half-year basis (on the first of January and July every year) as against the annual in the existing series.

Basket of Goods: The previous series covered 21 industries. But the new one covers 37 including 30 from the manufacturing sector and the rest from the mining and plantation sectors.

The **motor vehicles, coal mines, textile garments, iron & steel, and cotton textiles** industries together account for 46% of the total weight.

Source: [Important Indexes](#)

Q.2) 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook' is released by which of the following institutions?

- a) International Telecommunication Union
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) UNDP

ANS: C

Explanation:

Purpose: It gives insights into cybersecurity challenges and 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 a 151% surge in Global ransomware attacks in 2021.

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- 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 paralyzing critical services and infrastructure.

Recommendations of global cybersecurity outlook

- Prioritise cybersecurity in all domains of society and the economy.
- Anticipate, recover and adapt quickly to cyber incidents.
- Shift from a cyber-defensive posture to a stronger cyber-resilience position, i.e. to anticipate attacks and be prepared for likely digital shocks.

Source: [Important Indexes](#)

Q.3) State Health Index is developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with which of the following institution?

- a) WHO
- b) World Bank
- c) New Development Bank
- d) Asian Development Bank

ANS: B

Explanation: About the State Health Index:

Developed by: NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the [World Bank](#) since 2017.

Objective: To track progress on health outcomes and health systems performance, develop healthy competition and encourage cross-learning among states and UTs.

Indicators: The index is a weighted composite score incorporating 24 indicators covering key aspects of health performance. The indicators are categorized into three domains:

1. **Health Outcomes:** It includes parameters such as neonatal mortality rate, under-5 mortality rate, sex ratio at birth etc.
2. **Governance and Information:** It includes parameters such as institutional deliveries, average occupancy of senior officers in key posts earmarked for health, etc.
3. **Key Inputs/Processes:** It consists of the proportion of shortfall in health care providers to what is recommended, functional medical facilities, birth and death registrations and tuberculosis treatment success rate.

Categorization: The states are classified into three categories (Larger States, Smaller States, and UTs). In this round, all the states and UTs participated except West Bengal. The UT of Ladakh was not included due to the non-availability of data.

Base Year: The index has been calculated as a weighted average of all the indicators in each state and union territory for a base year (2018-19) and a reference year (2019-20).

Source of Data: The index uses existing data sources such as the [Sample Registration System](#), Civil Registration System, and Health Management Information Systems. However, the index does not incorporate the impact of Covid-19.

Significance of this index: The index will help drive state/UT's efforts toward the achievement of health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including those related to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and other health outcomes.

Key findings of the index

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Among the larger states, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged among the best three performers in terms of overall performance.

Uttar Pradesh ranked at the bottom in Overall Performance. However, it ranked at the top in terms of Incremental Performance by registering the highest incremental change from the Base Year.

Among the Smaller States, Mizoram emerged as the best performer in Overall Performance as well as Incremental Performance.

Among UTs, Delhi followed by Jammu and Kashmir showed the best incremental performance.

Moreover, the report has found that better performing States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu performed comparatively better on the health outcomes domain but performed badly on key inputs and processes.

Source: [Important Indexes](#)

Q.4) 'Global Health Security Index' is published by which of the following institution?

- a) World Health Organization
- b) FAO
- c) Nuclear Threat Initiative
- d) World Bank

ANS: C

Explanation: About Global Health Security Index (GHS):

It is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across 195 countries. **It is published by** Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

Aim: To spur measurable changes in national health security and improve the international capability to address one of the world's most omnipresent risks: infectious disease outbreaks that can lead to international epidemics and pandemics.

Indicators: The Index assesses countries across 6 categories, 37 indicators, and 171 questions. The six categories are: prevention, detection and reporting, rapid response, health system, compliance with International norms and risk environment.

Scoring: The overall score (0–100) for each country is a weighted sum of the six categories, in which 100 represents the most favorable health security conditions and 0 represents the least favorable conditions.

Key findings of the 2021 index

Global findings: The world's overall performance on the Index score slipped to 38.9 (out of 100) in 2021 from a score of 40.2 in 2019.

- In 2021, no country scored in the top tier of rankings and no country scored above 75.9.

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- Around 73% of countries did not have the ability to provide expedited approval for medical countermeasures, such as vaccines and antiviral drugs, during a public health emergency.

Findings related to South Asia: In South Asia, India with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019. But three neighbouring countries — Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives — have improved their score.

Thus, based on these findings, the report concluded that the world remains completely unprepared for future epidemic and pandemic threats.

Source: [Important Indexes](#)

Q.5) Which of the following statement about Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) is/are correct?

1. NITI Aayog has prepared the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).
2. It carried assessment for the entire Indian coast at States level.

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 the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI):

- INCOIS has carried out a coastal vulnerability assessment for the entire Indian coast at States level.
- It has brought out an Atlas comprising 156 maps on 1:1,00,000 scales to prepare a Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).
- The atlas determines the coastal risks due to future sea-level rise based on the physical and geological parameters for the Indian coast.

Parameters used:

- Tidal range
- Wave height
- Coastal slope
- Coastal elevation
- Shoreline change rate
- Geomorphology and
- Historical rate of relative sea-level change.

Coverage: The mapping was carried out for the entire mainland of India on a 1:25000 scale. The maps depict coastal low-lying areas exposed to the coastal inundation.

Source: [Important Indexes](#)

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Q.6) Consider the following statements about Goa Maritime Conclave:

1. It is organized by Indian Coast Guard under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
2. It showed visiting countries the first-hand demonstration of Deep Submergence and Rescue Vessel (DSRV) capabilities.

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 Goa Maritime Conclave:

Organized by: Indian Navy under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.

Aim: To bring together the regional stakeholders and deliberate on the collaborative implementation strategies in dealing with the contemporary maritime security challenge.

Theme: “*Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies*”.

Participating countries: The Chiefs of Navies/ Heads of Maritime Forces from 12 [Indian Ocean Region](#) countries comprising Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand have participated in the conclave.

Key outcomes of the conclave

Countries adopted the Declaration of ‘**Common Maritime Priorities**’. The declaration aims to prioritize key maritime interests in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) with an emphasis on capacity building to tackle emerging common maritime threats.

Source: [Summits and Conferences](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

1. The 7th edition of 2021 was hosted by Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a biennial forum conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008.
3. To enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

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 Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

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- IONS is a biennial forum conceived by the **Indian Navy** in 2008.

Objective: To enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Chaired by: The inaugural edition of IONS was held in Feb 2008 in New Delhi with the Indian Navy as the Chair for two years. It is **currently chaired by France**.

Members of IONS: IONS includes 24 nations that hold territory within the Indian Ocean and 8 observer nations:

The members have been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions:

- **South Asian Littorals:** Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)
- **West Asian Littorals:** Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates
- **East African Littorals:** France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.
- **Southeast Asian and Australian Littorals:** Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

Note: U.K and France are also part of IONS due to their presence in Indian Ocean.

Observer Nations: China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Russia, and Spain.

Source: [Summits and Conferences](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Svavlamban is a National Level Awareness Programme under which students from different colleges are being encouraged by the field offices of the MSME to take up entrepreneurship.
2. Sambhav is a special drive where more than 200 Nukkad Natak are being organized in 46 Aspirational Districts to promote entrepreneurship amongst the youth population.

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 International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management:

Organized by: Ministry of MSME in association with The All-India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA)

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Purpose: To deliberate upon challenges and opportunities in the Plastics.

The Ministry of MSME also launched two special initiatives during the summit – ‘**Sambhav**’ and ‘**Svavlamban**’.

About Sambhav and Svavlamban initiatives

Sambhav: It is a National Level Awareness Programme under which students from different colleges are being encouraged by the field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship.

Svavlamban: It is a special drive where more than 200 Nukkad Natak are being organized in 46 Aspirational Districts to promote entrepreneurship amongst the youth population and spread awareness on schemes and initiatives.

Source: [Summits and Conferences](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements about Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT):

1. It was launched by the Prime Ministers of Sweden and India with support from the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. It is a voluntary initiative for promoting low-carbon transition through the active participation of private sector companies.

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 the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT):

Launched by: LeadIT was launched by the Prime Ministers of Sweden and India with support from the World Economic Forum (WEF) during the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit in 2019, in New York.

Purpose: It is a voluntary initiative for promoting low-carbon transition through the active participation of private sector companies. Especially in the sectors like Iron & Steel, Aluminium, Cement and Concrete, petrochemicals, fertilizers, bricks, and heavy-duty transport.

Members: Currently, the Group has a membership of 16 countries and 19 companies including Dalmia Cement, Mahindra Group, and SpiceJet from India.

Secretariat: It is hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden.

Source: [Summits and Conferences](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements about National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):

1. It is a non-permanent constitutional body.
2. It make reports to the Central or State Governments on any matter concerning Safai Karamcharis.

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 the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):

Type: It is a statutory body created as per the provisions of the NCSK Act, 1993.

Tenure of the commission: It was initially set up in 1994 for three years. Later the validity of the Act was extended till 2004. However, the NCSK Act ceased to have effect from 2004.

After that, 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 is up to 31st March 2022.

Mandate of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- Recommend 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.

Moreover, as per 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: [Organizations in news](#)

Important Indexes Summits, Conferences/Organizations

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

1. It was set up as a registered society in 1986.
2. It takes punitive action against unqualified persons delivering services to persons with disabilities.

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 RCI:

It was initially set up as a registered society in 1986. In 1992, the Rehabilitation Council of India Act was enacted by Parliament, and it became a Statutory Body in 1993.

Functions of RCI

1. To develop, standardize and regulate training programmes/ courses at various levels in the field of Rehabilitation and Special Education.
2. To maintain the Central Rehabilitation Register for qualified professionals/ personnel and promote research in Special Education.
3. To take punitive action against unqualified persons delivering services to persons with disabilities.

Source: [Organizations in news](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements about National Crime Records Bureau:

1. It is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
2. It was established in 1951 under Ministry of Home 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: About National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):

It was established in 1986. It is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

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Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Initiatives undertaken by NCRB

Reports: NCRB brings out three annual reports i.e. Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India and Prison Statistics India. These reports are principal reference points for police officers, researchers, media & policymakers.

Source: [Organizations in news](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Central fingerprint bureau:

1. Currently it is under administrative control of CBI.
2. It came into existence in 1955 under the administrative control of the Intelligence Bureau at Delhi.

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 Central fingerprint bureau: The World's First fingerprint Bureau was set up in Calcutta in 1897. A CFPB was established at Shimla in 1905. However, it was closed in 1922 as a result of the retrenchment proposals of the Inchcape Committee.

The Present CFPB came into existence in 1955 under the administrative control of the Intelligence Bureau at Delhi. It was relocated to Kolkata in 1956. The administrative control of CFPB shifted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 1973, and since 1986, this has been under the administrative control of NCRB.

Other initiatives: [Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems \(CCTNS\)](#) and [Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System \(ICJS\) project](#)

Source: [Organizations in news](#)

Q.4) Which of the following statement about National Company Law Tribunal is not correct?

- a) It is a quasi-judicial body constituted under Companies Act, 2013.
- b) The tribunal deals with matters mainly related to companies law and insolvency law.
- c) Decisions of the NCLT may be appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), whose decision is final and cannot be further appealed to SC.
- d) It was established based on the recommendation of the V. Balakrishna Eradi committee.

ANS: C

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Explanation: About NCLT:

- It is a quasi-judicial body constituted under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 in 2016.
- It was established based on the recommendation of the **V. Balakrishna Eradi committee** on the law relating to insolvency and the winding up of companies.

Purpose: The tribunal deals with matters mainly related to companies law and insolvency law.

Term of Members: The Companies Act fixes the term of office of chairperson and members of all NCLTs at five years or 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Appeals: Decisions of the NCLT may be appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The decisions of NCLAT may further be appealed to the Supreme Court of India on a point of law.

Source: [Organizations in news](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Directorate of Revenue Intelligence:

1. It is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, constituted in 1957.
2. It works under Ministry of Home 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: About DRI:

It is the **apex anti-smuggling agency** of India, constituted in 1957. It works under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance.

Mandate: It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items. It is also responsible for combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of Customs duty.

DRI has also been designated as the **lead agency for the Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (SCord)**.

Note: Central board of Indirect taxes (CBIC) is the nodal national agency responsible for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, and Service Tax & Narcotics in India. It is part of the Department of Revenue under Union Ministry of Finance. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Source: [Organizations in news](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Geological Survey of India (GSI):

1. It was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
2. Currently, it is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
3. GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: About Geological Survey of India (GSI):

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851. Currently, it is an attached office to the **Ministry of Mines**.

Purpose: It was primarily set up to find coal deposits for the Railways. Over the years, GSI has grown into a repository of geo-science information required in various fields in the country.

Functions: To create and update national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment. These functions are achieved through ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting, seismotectonic study and carrying out fundamental research.

Significance: It is the second-oldest survey organization in India, after Survey of India (founded in 1767).

Headquarters: GSI is headquartered in Kolkata. It has six regional offices located in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata.

Source: [Organizations in news](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements about National Dope Testing Laboratory:

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
2. NDTL has regained the accreditation of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

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 National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL):

NDTL is a premier analytical testing & research organization established as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It is the only laboratory in the country responsible for human sports dope testing.

Significance of NDTL getting back the accreditation

- NDTL accreditation was suspended in 2019 because of its failure to comply with global standards.
- During the suspension period, urine samples collected by National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) were being sent primarily to the WADA-accredited lab in Doha.
- The process had made the anti-doping programme very expensive for the country because of the significant cost involved in sending samples abroad.
- Hence, getting back the accreditation will reduce the cost and will be a boost to India's efforts to achieve the highest global standards of excellence in sport.

Source: [Organizations in news](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements about fifth World Congress on Disaster Management:

1. It is organised by UNCCD.
2. The theme of 2022 was, 'Technology, Finance, and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the context of COVID-19'.

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 Fifth World Congress on Disaster Management:

Organized by: Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS).

Aim: To promote interaction of science, policy, and practices to enhance understanding of risks and advance actions for reducing risks and building resilience to disasters.

Theme: 'Technology, Finance, and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the context of COVID-19'.

Source: [Summits and Conferences](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements about National MPI (Multidimensional Poverty Index):

1. Niti Aayog has released the National MPI (multidimensional poverty index).
2. As per the report, Gujarat registered the lowest population poverty levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: About National MPI (Multidimensional Poverty Index):

It seeks to measure poverty across its multiple dimensions and in effect complements existing poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure.

Methodology: The index has used the globally accepted and robust methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Global MPI.

Indicators: The index is based on three equally weighted dimensions – health, education and standard of living – which in turn are represented by 12 indicators.

Key findings of the National MPI

Multidimensionally Poor: Around 25.01% of the Indian population is multidimensionally poor. **Bihar** has the maximum percentage of the population living in poverty among all the States and the Union Territories, with over 50% of the population in the State identified as “multidimensionally poor”. On the other hand, Kerala registered the lowest population poverty levels (0.71%).

Education: At least 13.9% of households have a member aged 10 years or older who has not completed six years of schooling. At least 6.4% of households have a school-aged child not attending school up to the age at which he/she would complete class 8.

Standard of Living

Source of Cooking Fuel: At least 58.5% of households have dung, agricultural crops, shrubs, wood, charcoal or coal as their primary source of cooking fuel.

No Access to Drinking water: At least 14.6% of households do not have access to improved drinking water or a safe drinking water facility that is more than a 30-minute walk from home (as a round trip).

Inadequate Housing: Some 45.6% of households have inadequate housing. Their floor is made of natural materials, or the roof or walls are made of rudimentary materials.

Earlier reports on poverty

Tendulkar Report: It showed the proportion of the poor in the rural population declined to 25.7% from 33.8%, while that in the urban population came down to 21.9% from 29.8% between 2009-10 and 2011-12. The report took those spending less than Rs. 33 a day in urban areas and Rs 27 a day in the rural areas as poor.

Rangarajan Report: According to this report, the poor constituted 30.9% of the rural population during 2011-12, against 39.6% during 2009-10. On the other hand, the urban poverty ratio fell to 29.5% from 38.2% over this period. The report took a person spending less than Rs 47 a day in cities and below Rs 32 a day in villages as poor.

Source: [Important Indexes](#)

Q.10) Coastal Vulnerability Index has been prepared by which of the following institution?

- a) NDMA
- b) GSI
- c) INCOIS
- d) NITI Aayog

ANS: C

Explanation: About the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI):

- INCOIS has carried out a coastal vulnerability assessment for the entire Indian coast at States level.
- It has brought out an Atlas comprising 156 maps on 1:1,00,000 scales to prepare a Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).
- The atlas determines the coastal risks due to future sea-level rise based on the physical and geological parameters for the Indian coast.

Parameters used:

- Tidal range
- Wave height
- Coastal slope
- Coastal elevation
- Shoreline change rate
- Geomorphology and
- Historical rate of relative sea-level change.

Coverage: The mapping was carried out for the entire mainland of India on a 1:25000 scale. The maps depict coastal low-lying areas exposed to the coastal inundation.

Source: [Important Indexes](#)

Polity

Q.1) 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 in 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.2) Consider the following statements with respect to features of Cabinet Committees:

1. Constitution of India provides clear provisions related to cabinet committees
2. They are set up by the President according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The following are the features of Cabinet Committees:

- They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
- They are of two types—standing and ad hoc. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
- They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition vary from time to time.
- Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership.
- They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
- They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to President:

1. President is part of union executive
2. Nominated members of the parliament participate in President Election

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: A

Explanation: The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the council of ministers and the attorney general of India.

The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of Electoral College consisting of:

- The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;

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- The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
- The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

Thus, the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI):

1. Initiative started by UN Security Council
2. Its aim is to strengthen global security by reducing the risk of use and preventing the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons

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: B

Explanation: The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a mission to strengthen global security by reducing the risk of use and preventing the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and to work to build trust, transparency, and security.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) In 2001, 'Shanghai-5' was renamed as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Which among the following country was/were not part of Shanghai-5?

1. Uzbekistan
2. India
3. Tajikstan
4. Kazakistan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Shanghai-5 consists of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, and emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China. Since 1996, when the group held its first

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presidential summit meeting in Shanghai, the five-country group has held annual summits ever since.

In 2001, Uzbekistan joined the grouping and it was renamed as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). In July 2015 in Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members.

Observer states of SCO are Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to Tribunals:

1. The original constitution did not contain any provisions related to tribunals
2. The 44th Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A related to Tribunals

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: A

Explanation: The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to the property, contracts, rights of the Union and the states:

1. All minerals and other things of value under the waters of the ocean within the territorial waters of India vests with the Union and States
2. India's territorial waters extend to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the appropriate base line

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Articles 94 to 300 in Part XII of the Constitution deal with the property, contracts, rights, liabilities, obligations and suits of the Union and the states. In this regard, the Constitution makes the Union or the states as juristic (legal) persons. All lands, minerals and other things of value under the waters of the ocean within the territorial waters of India, the continental shelf of India and the exclusive economic zone of India vests in the Union. Hence, a state near the ocean cannot claim jurisdiction over these things. India's territorial

waters extend to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the appropriate base line. Similarly, India's exclusive economic zone extends up to 200 nautical miles.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) The 58th Constitutional Amendment of 1987 related to which of the following?

- a) Panchayati Raj
- b) Municipalities
- c) Co-operatives
- d) Authoritative text of the Constitution

ANS: D

Explanation: Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to an authoritative text of the Constitution in the Hindi language. Later, a provision in this regard was made by the 58th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1987. This amendment inserted a new Article 394-A in the last part of the Constitution i.e., Part XXII. This article contains the following provisions:

- The President shall cause to be published under his authority:
 - The translation of the Constitution in Hindi language. The modifications which are necessary to bring it in conformity with the language, style and terminology adopted in the authoritative texts of the Central Acts in Hindi can be made in it. All the amendments of the Constitution made before such publication should be incorporated in it.
 - The translation in Hindi of every amendment of the constitution made in English.
- The translation of the Constitution and its every amendment published shall be construed to have the same meaning as the original text in English. If any difficulty arises in this matter, the President shall cause the Hindi text to be revised suitably.
- The translation of the Constitution and its every amendment published shall be deemed **to be, for all purposes, its authoritative text in Hindi.**

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements about G-20:

1. It was formed in 1999 to discuss policies relating to financial stability in the aftermath of the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997-98.
2. India will host the annual G20 summit in 2020.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for its members' international economic cooperation and decision-making. Its membership comprises 19 countries plus the European Union. Each G20 president invites several guest countries each year.

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G20 leaders meet annually. In addition, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet regularly during the year to discuss ways to strengthen the global economy, reform international financial institutions, improve financial regulation and implement the key economic reforms that are needed in each member economy. Underpinning these meetings is a year-long program of meetings among senior officials and of working groups coordinating policy on specific issues.

The G20 started in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. In 2008, the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held, and the group played a key role in responding to the global financial crisis. Its decisive and coordinated actions boosted consumer and business confidence and supported the first stages of economic recovery. G20 leaders have met nine times since 2008.

For the first time, India will host the annual G-20 summit in 2022.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Forum for India-Pacific Islands cooperation (FIPIC):

1. It is a multinational grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Islands nations.
2. The first edition of the FIPIC took place in Jaipur in 2015.
3. 6th FIPIC Summit to be held in Port Moresby in 2020.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Forum for India-Pacific Islands cooperation (FIPIC) is a multinational grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Islands nations which include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The first and second editions of the FIPIC took place in Fiji (2015) and Jaipur (2016). During the FIPIC Summits Prime Minister articulated India's desire to be a close partner of the Pacific Island nations and its readiness to work closely to advance their developmental agenda.

To further enhance people-to-people contact, PM announced a Distinguished Visitors Programme under which eminent persons from these countries can visit India. India would also welcome the visit of a Parliamentary delegation from the Pacific Island Countries to India. To continue High-Level engagement, PM extended an invitation to all the leaders for the 3rd FIPIC Summit to be held in Port Moresby in first half of 2020.

Source: ForumIAS

History/ Art and Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian councils Act, 1892:

1. Members in Imperial Legislative Council and State Legislative Councils are increased
2. No discussion on budget
3. Principal representation were introduced

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Number of additional members in Imperial Legislative Councils and the Provincial Legislative Councils was raised. In Imperial Legislative Council, now the governor-general could have ten to sixteen non-officials (instead of six to ten previously).

The non-official members of the Indian legislative council were to be nominated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and provincial legislative councils. The members could be recommended by universities, municipalities, zamindars and chambers of commerce. So the principle of representation was introduced.

Budget could be discussed.

Questions could be asked.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Bengal National College was established by which of the following personality?

- a) Rabindranath Tagore
- b) Aurobindo Ghosh
- c) P C Ray
- d) Dwarkanath Tagore

ANS: B

Explanation: Bengal National College, inspired by Tagore's Shantiniketan, was set up with Aurobindo Ghosh as its principal. Soon national schools and colleges sprang up in various parts of the country. On August 15, 1906, the National Council of Education was set up to organise a system of education— literary, scientific and technical—on national lines and under national control.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Jainism:

1. It is older than Buddhism
2. It places heavy emphasis upon ethical conduct, personal purity for the liberation of the individual Souls

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: Jainism is a very ancient world religion with a history of over 3000 years, which originated in the Indian subcontinent, like Hinduism and Buddhism. Although it has some similarities with both traditions, Jainism is different from them with its own unique and distinguishing features. It is also older than Buddhism and is truly one of the most ancient and living religions of the world, besides Hinduism and Judaism. Jaina Dharma, as it is known popularly, is a truly ascetic religion which places heavy emphasis upon ethical conduct, personal purity for the liberation of the individual Souls. Jainism does not believe in a Creator God. It accepts the material universe as a self-existing system. Everything in it, including the individual Soul, is an aspect of matter. Each Soul is eternal but it has states, shapes and sizes. In the bound state (bandha) it is subject to karma and rebirth. It attains liberation only when it is able to completely get rid of karma. Jainism was founded by 24 Perfect Beings, known as Tirthankaras, who appeared upon earth in the past and laid the foundation for its doctrine. Mahavira was the last and the most popular of the Tirthankaras. Since it is a difficult and austere religion, from the earliest times, Jainism enjoyed popularity only among certain sections of Indian society, especially merchant communities. It is a predominantly Indian religion, with some following abroad. In this section we included information on the history, beliefs, practices, philosophy, and ethics of Jainism, and comparison with other faiths.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Gupta Empire:

1. Gupta Age is called the golden age of Indian History
2. Vishnu temple at Tigwa, Shiva temple at Bhumara, and Parvati temples were built at that time of gupta's
3. Chandragupta was the founder of the Gupta Empire

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: The period for Gupta age is in between 320-540 AD. In this time actually in India rapid development took place in different fields like in the field of art, architecture literature, philosophy, trade, science, and agriculture. Therefore, this age is called the golden age of

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Indian history. Sri Gupta is the founder of Gupta dynasty. However, Chandragupta was the first powerful ruler. In 320 AD he ascended the throne. He had the matrimonial alliance with Lichchhavi princess. So, in the history of Gupta Empire, this was the main turning point. Famous astronomers and mathematicians like Aryabhata and Varahmihira wrote their work. Vishnu temple at Tigwa, Shiva temple at Bhumara, and Parvati temples were built at that time. The Buddhist cave in Ajanta and Bagh caves at Gwalior were of that period which is excellent for Indian art. Under the time of Guptas, Buddhism and Hinduism flourished well. At that time, the Sanskrit language reached its excellence.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to “The Ghadr”:

1. The Ghadr Party was a revolutionary group organized with its headquarters at California
2. These revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada

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: The Ghadr Party was a revolutionary group organized around a weekly newspaper The Ghadr with its headquarters at San Francisco and branches along the US coast and in the Far East. These revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada in search of better employment opportunities. They were based in the US and Canadian cities along the western (Pacific) coast.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to Mathura School:

1. It is mostly flourished on the banks of River Ganga
2. It is influenced by the stories and imageries of Hinduism 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: D

Explanation: The Mathura School flourished on the banks of the river Yamuna in the period between 1st and 3rd centuries B.C. The sculptures of the Mathura School were influenced by the stories and imageries of all three religions of the time – Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism. The images were modelled on the earlier Yaksha images found during the Mauryan period.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) World famous Ajanta Caves are situated on the banks of which of the following River?

- a) Waghora River
- b) Narmada River
- c) Tapti River
- d) Bheema River

ANS: A

Explanation: Ajanta groups of caves, a World Heritage Site which overlooks a narrow sinuous gorge, through which flows the stream of Waghora. The river is descended from the head of the Cave 28 from a waterfall of seven leaps. Waghore means Tiger River in Marathi. Located at Aurangabad in the Indian State of Maharashtra, the thirty excavated rock cut temples at Ajanta are famous for Buddhist monuments and paintings. The caves at Ajanta are excavated in the semi-circular scarp of a steep rock about 76 m high.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Which of the following Cave temples located in Tamil Nadu?

1. Varaha Cave Temple
2. Krishna Cave Temple
3. Panchapandava Temple

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The ancient port city of Mamallapuram under Pallava dynasty in Tamil Nadu, flourished with a number of marvelous architecture. These seventh century Pallava sites have been declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 by the name "Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram. They include:

- Ratha temples or Pancha Ratha: Also known as Pandava Rathas, they are the earliest rock cut temples in India, comprising of Dharmaraja Ratha, Bhima Ratha, Arjuna Ratha, Nakula and Sahadeva Ratha, and Draupadi Ratha, dated around 7th century AD. Dharmaraja Ratha is the largest structure among the five.
- Rock-cut caves: which include Varaha Cave Temple, Krishna Cave Temple, Panchapandava Cave Temple, and the Mahishasuramardini Mandapa (Bas-relief of Goddess Durga killing Mahishasura).
- Open Air Rock Reliefs: which include Descent of the Ganges which is also known as Arjuna's Penance or Bhagiratha's Penance carved on two huge boulders. It narrates the story of descent of River Ganga on earth from heaven by the efforts of Bhagiratha.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) “Industrial Revolution” first started in which of the following country?

- a) France
- b) USA
- c) Germany
- d) Britain

ANS: D

Explanation: The Industrial Revolution started in England in the early 18th century, with the invention of new machines like the spinning Jenny, steam engine, the power loom and several others. These machines greatly improved production in the fields of textile, metallurgy, steam power and agriculture. The industrial revolution reached other European nations late and this helped England to maintain its hegemony.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to Cripps Mission Proposals:

1. An Indian Union with Dominion Status
2. Constituent Assembly would be convened to frame a constitution

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The main proposals of the mission were as follows.

- An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up; it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies.
- After the end of the war, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes.
- The British government would accept the new constitution subject to two conditions: (i) any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union, and (ii) the new constitution making body and the British government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
- In the meantime, defence of India would remain in British hands and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.

Source: ForumIAS

Geography

Q.1) The two volcanic islands in the Indian Territory are:

- a) Kavaratti and New Moor
- b) Bitra and Kavaratti
- c) Pamban and Barren
- d) Narcondam and Barren

ANS: D

Explanation: A volcano is a rupture in the crust of a planetary-mass object, such as Earth, that allows hot lava, volcanic ash, and gases to escape from a magma chamber below the surface.

India's only active volcano is located in Barren island of Andaman, which is also the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia.

Narcondam Island is classified as a dormant volcano by the Geological Survey of India. The Mountain house second tallest point in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) The Siachin Glacier's melting waters are the main source of which of the following rivers?

- a) Beas
- b) Sutlej
- c) Indus
- d) Nubra

ANS: D

Explanation: The Nubra River originates from the Siachin glacier. The Nubra River is a tributary of the River Shyok that flows through the Nubra valley in the northern part of Ladakh and then joins the Indus River in Skardu, Pakistan.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Maikala Range forms a part of which of the following?

- a) Vindhya Range
- b) Satpura Range
- c) Eastern Ghats
- d) Western Ghats

ANS: B

Explanation: The Satpura range extends from narmada valley in the north to the tapi valley in south. In the west it comprises of Rajpipila hills of the Gujarat and Pachmarhi, ranchi upland,

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Hazaribagh hills and the maikala range in the east. Its northern and southern borders are composed of sandstones. Its eastern section is called as maikala plateau.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following are also called as monsoon forests?

- a) Tropical evergreen forest
- b) Tropical deciduous forest
- c) Littoral forest
- d) Montane forests

ANS: B

Explanation: Tropical deciduous are the monsoon forests that are mostly found in the large part of India, northern Australia and in central America. A deciduous forest is a biome dominated by deciduous trees which lose their leaves seasonally. The Earth has temperate deciduous forests, and tropical and subtropical deciduous forests, also known as dry forests. Another name for these forests is broad-leaf forests because of the wide, flat leaves on the trees. Trees in tropical deciduous forests lose their leaves in the dry season and re-grow them in the rainy season. In temperate deciduous forests, trees lose their leaves in the fall and re-grow them in the spring.

Source: NCERT

Q5) "It requires sandy loams, loams and well drained black soils which allow enough aeration." Which of the following crop is talked in the above statement?

- a) Wheat
- b) Cotton
- c) Groundnut
- d) Coffee

ANS: C

Explanation: Groundnut grows best in deep, well-drained soils with a sandy or very loose surface layer. If the moist soil is rubbed between the index finger and the thumb should not form a ribbon but should fall apart easily. Such soil is best for groundnut crop. In addition to soil fertility, soil - texture is vitally important aspect of groundnut production. Well - drained, light - textured, loose, friable sandy - loam or sandy clay loam soils, well - supplied with calcium and a moderate amount of organic matter are ideal for groundnut cultivation.

Gujarat tops with 27.87 percent of total production followed by Andhra Pradesh 24.19 percent, Tamil Nadu 14.84 Percent and Karnataka 10.95 percent. Though other states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the important groundnut producing states.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following lakes is/are situated in Ladakh?

1. Tso Kar
2. Pangong Tso
3. Tsomgo
4. Tso Moriri

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

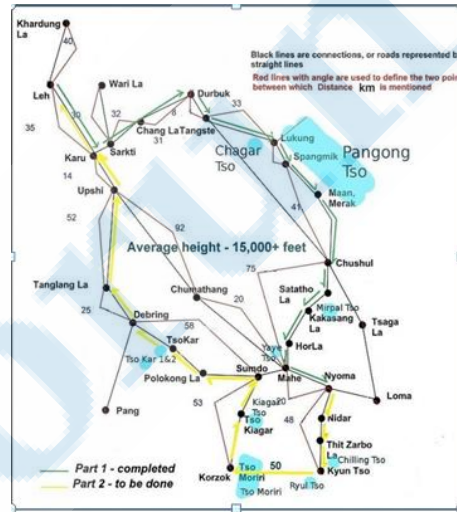
ANS: C

Explanation: The Tso Kar or Tsho kar, known for its size and depth, is a fluctuating salt lake situated in the Rupshu Plateau and valley in the southern part of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pangong Tso is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas situated at a height of about 4,350 m in the Ladakh Region.

Tsomgo Lake is a glacial lake in Sikkim. It is located near the capital Gangtok.

Tso Moriri is a lake in the Ladakhi part of the Changthang Plateau in Jammu and Kashmir.



Source: NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Himalayan rivers have their origin in the snow-covered areas, hence, are dry in winter season.
2. Rivers of the Peninsular Plateau have reached maturity.
3. Himalayan rivers depict all the three stages of normal cycle of erosion.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Indian Drainage System can be divided into two broad categories on the basis of origin i.e. Himalayan Rivers and Peninsular Rivers. Himalayan rivers are perennial and come from high altitude with high speed, and have large and deep courses. Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra is the main rivers of the Himalaya Rivers System. Peninsular Rivers are broad, stable and flow through shallow valleys. Narmada, Tapi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Mahanadi is the main Peninsular Rivers.

Some of the differences between these two types of rivers are:

While Himalayan Rivers are perennial in nature, peninsular rivers are seasonal in nature and are heavily dependent upon rainfall.

While Himalayan Rivers are young and cause much erosion and have great flow of water, peninsular rivers are mature and create much less erosion and also have weaker flow of water. Himalayan rivers are meandering, whereas peninsular rivers are straight.

Himalayan rivers create Great Plains suitable for agriculture, urbanization, and industrialization. Hence, these are some of the most densely populated areas in the country.

Compared to the peninsular rivers, the Himalayan rivers are much longer and deeper than peninsular rivers.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following geographers is related to 'primate city' concept?

- a) August Losch
- b) Mark Jefferson
- c) Griffith Taylor
- d) W. Christaller

ANS: B

Explanation: A primate city is the largest city in its country or region, disproportionately larger than any others in the urban hierarchy. A 'primate city distribution' is a rank-size distribution that has one very large city with many much smaller cities and towns, and no intermediate-sized urban centres - a King effect, visible as an outlier on an otherwise linear graph, when the rest of the data fit a power law or stretched exponential function. The 'law of the primate city' was first proposed by the geographer Mark Jefferson in 1939. He defines a primate city as being "at least twice as large as the next largest city and more than twice as significant. A primate city is number one in its country in most aspects, like politics, economy, media, culture and universities.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Which is the warmest layer of the atmosphere?

- a) Thermosphere
- b) Troposphere
- c) Stratosphere
- d) Mesosphere

ANS: A

Explanation: The thermosphere is the layer of the Earth's atmosphere directly above the mesosphere. It extends from about 90 km to 1,000 km above our planet. In thermosphere temperature can reach up to 4,500 degrees Fahrenheit. Thus making it the warmest layer of the atmosphere.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) The mountain range which divides the North and the South India is:

- a) Himalayas
- b) Western ghats
- c) Vindhyas
- d) Satpura

ANS: C

Explanation: The range parallels the Vindhya Range to the north, and these two east-west ranges divide Indian Subcontinent into the Indo-Gangetic plain of northern India and the Deccan Plateau of the south.

Vindhya Range, broken range of hills forming the southern escarpment of the central upland of India. From Gujarat state on the west, it extends about 675 miles (1,086 km) across Madhya Pradesh state to abut on the Ganges (Ganga) River valley near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The mountains form the southern edge of the Malwa Plateau and then divide into two branches: the Kaimur Range, running north of the Son River into western Bihar state, and the southern branch, running between the upper reaches of the Son and Narmada rivers to meet the Satpura Range in the Maikala Range (or Amarkantak Plateau).

Source: NCERT

Indian Economy

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)”?

1. It was established after the financial crisis of 2008.
2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development serves as ISAR’s secretariat.

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:

- ISAR is the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, the United Nations focal point on accounting and corporate governance matters.
- It was established in 1982 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- Through its Division on Investment and Enterprise, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) serves as ISAR’s secretariat, providing substantive and administrative inputs to its activities.

Source: [Source](#)

Q.2) Gross National Product (GNP) is the GDP of a country added with its ‘income from abroad’. Which of the following is/are part of income from abroad in India?

1. Private Remittances
2. External grants
3. Interest on External loans

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Gross National Product (GNP) is the GDP of a country added with its ‘income from abroad’.
- Here, the trans-boundary economic activities of an economy are also taken into account.
- The items which are counted in the segment ‘Income from Abroad’ is:

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- Private Remittances
- Interest on external loans
- External grants

Source: [Source](#)

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework” in India?

1. It was based on the recommendation of Raghuram Rajan committee.
2. It was given statutory basis by amending the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

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:

- In his first speech as RBI Governor, Raghuram Rajan (Reserve Bank of India, 2013) emphasized on the importance of inflation targeting and set up an Expert Committee under Deputy Governor Urjit Patel to assess the current monetary policy and give recommendations to strengthen it.
- The RBI Act was amended on May 14, 2016 to give the key provisions in the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement (MPFA) a statutory basis

Source: [Source](#)

Q.4) Which of the following is/are type/types of External Benchmark Rates?

1. Repo rate
2. Statutory Liquidity Ratio.
3. Cash Reserve Ratio.

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:

- The RBI has made it compulsory for banks to link their new floating rate home, auto and MSME loans to an external benchmark so that the borrowers can enjoy lower rate of interest.
- All new floating rate personal or retail loans (housing, auto, etc.) and floating rate loans to Micro and Small Enterprises extended by banks from October 01, 2019 shall be benchmarked to one of the following:
 - Reserve Bank of India policy repo rate

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- Government of India 3-Months Treasury Bill yield published by the Financial
- Benchmarks India Private Ltd (FBIL)
- Government of India 6-Months Treasury Bill yield published by the FBIL
- Any other benchmark market interest rate published by the FBIL.

Source: [Source](#)

Q.5) With reference to the Narasimham committee recommendations, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is fixed at 15%.
2. Statutory Liquidity Ratio is fixed at 40%.

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:

- The RBI was advised not to use the CRR as a principal instrument of monetary and credit control, in place it should rely on open market operations (OMOs) increasingly. Two proposals advised regarding the CRR:
 - CRR should be progressively reduced from the present high level of 15 per cent to 3 to 5 per cent; and
 - RBI should pay interest on the CRR of banks above the basic minimum at a rate of interest equal to the level of banks, one year deposit.
- Concerning the SLR it was advised to cut it to the minimum level (i.e., 25 per cent) from the present high level of 38.5 per cent in the next 5 years (it was cut down to 25 per cent in October 1997). The government was also suggested to progressively move towards market-based borrowing programme so that banks get economic benefits on their SLR investments.

Source: [Source](#)

Q.6) “CAMELS” is a technique for evaluating and rating the operations and performance of which of the following?

- a) Banks performance measures
- b) Foreign trade
- c) Capital Market
- d) Defense production

ANS: A

Explanation:

- Acronym derived from the terms capital adequacy (C),
- asset quality (A),
- management (M),

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- earnings (E),
- liquidity (L) and
- Systems for control (S).

The acronym is used as a technique for evaluating and rating the operations and performance of banks all over the world.

Source: [Source](#)

Q.7) Which of the following treasury bills is/are discontinued from money market?

1. 14 day treasury bills
2. 91 day treasury bills
3. 182 day treasury bills

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Treasury Bills (TBs):

- This instrument of the money market though present since Independence got organised only in 1986.
- They are used by the Central Government to fulfill its short-term liquidity requirement up-to the period of 364 days. There developed five types of the TBs in due course of time:
 - 14-day (Intermediate TBs)
 - 14-day (Actionable TBs)
 - 91-day TBs
 - 182-day TBs
 - 364-day TBs
- Out of the above five variants of the TBs, at present only the 91-day TBs, 182-day TBs and the 364-day TBs are issued by the government. The other two variants were discontinued in 2001.

Source: [Source](#)

Q.8) A graph showing the degree of inequality in income and wealth in a given population or an economy – describes which of the following?

- a) Laffer Curve
- b) Lorenz Curve
- c) Phillips Curve
- d) Kuznets Curve

ANS: B

Explanation:

A graph showing the degree of inequality in income and wealth in a given population or an economy. It is a rigorous way to measure income inequality.

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- In this method (for example), personal incomes in an economy are arranged in increasing order; the cumulative share of total income is then plotted against the cumulative share of the population.
- The curve's slope is thus proportional to per capita income at each point of the population distribution.
- In the case of complete equality of income, the Lorenz curve will be a straight line and with greater curvature the inequality rises proportionally—the Gini Coefficient measures this inequality.

Source: [Source](#)

Q.9) With reference to the “effects of inflation”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Borrowers suffer and lenders benefit out of inflation.
2. Rising inflation indicates rising aggregate demand.

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:

There are multi-dimensional effects of inflation on an economy both at the micro and macro levels.

- It redistributes income, distorts relative prices, destabilizes employment, tax, saving and investment policies, and finally it may bring in recession and depression in an economy.
- Inflation redistributes wealth from creditors to debtors, i.e., lenders suffer and borrowers benefit out of inflation.
- Rising inflation indicates rising aggregate demand and indicates comparatively lower supply and higher purchasing capacity among the consumers.

Source: [Source](#)

Q.10) “Fiscal Stimulus” is provided to different sectors of an economy to promote the growth. Which of the following measure (s) is/are constitutes fiscal stimulus?

1. Lowering interest rates
2. Tax rebates
3. Export subsidies

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: D

Explanation:

A stimulus package is a number of incentives and tax rebates offered by a government to boost spending in a bid to pull a country out of a recession or to prevent an economic slowdown.

- A stimulus package can either be in the form of a monetary stimulus or a fiscal stimulus.
- A monetary stimulus involves cutting interest rates to stimulate the economy.
- When interest rates are cut, there is more incentive for people to borrow as the cost of borrowing is reduced.
- An increase in borrowing means there'll be more money in circulation, less incentive to save, and more incentive to spend.
- Lowering interest rates could also weaken the exchange rate of a country, thereby leading to a boost in exports.
- When exports are increased, more money enters the economy, encouraging spending and stirring up the economy

Source: [Source](#)