

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

30<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## *Polity*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are exceptions to **rule of equality** (Article 14)?

1. The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office
2. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term of office
3. Article 31-B is an exception to Article 14

**Which of the following codes below given 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 rule of equality before law is not absolute and there are constitutional and other exceptions to it. These are mentioned below:

1. The President of India and the Governor of States enjoy the following immunities (Article 361):

(i) The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office.

(ii) No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term of office.

(iii) No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President or the Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office.

2. Article 31-C is an exception to Article 14. It provides that the laws made by the state for implementing the Directive Principles contained in clause (b) or clause (c) of Article 39 cannot be challenged on the ground that they are violative of Article 14. The Supreme Court held that “where Article 31-C comes in, Article 14 goes out”.

Source: ForumIAS

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE (FIRST WEEK), 2022**

**Q.2)** Which of the following institutions is/are headed (Chairman) by **Prime Minister**?

1. NITI Aayog
2. Inter-state council
3. National water resources council
4. National Integration council

**Choose the correct code from below given options:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Prime Minister has various other roles. These are:

1. He is the chairman of the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog), National Development Council, National Integration Council, Inter-State Council and National Water Resources Council.
2. He plays a significant role in shaping the foreign policy of the country.
3. He is the chief spokesman of the Union government.
4. He is the crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies.
5. As a leader of the nation, he meets various sections of people in different states and receives memoranda from them regarding their problems, and so on.
6. He is leader of the party in power.
7. He is political head of the services.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements with respect to **“High Court”**:

1. The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state
2. 7th Amendment Act authorized the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state, but the Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorized the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory. The territorial jurisdiction of a high court is co-terminus with the territory of a state. Similarly, the territorial jurisdiction of a

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common high court is co-terminus with the territories of the concerned states and union territory.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Consider** the following statements with respect to **Inter-State council**:

1. Article 262 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states
2. Parliament can establish such a council to serve the public interest

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

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

**ANS: C**

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

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) Consider** the following statements with respect to **National Emergency (Article 352)**:

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

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion. It may be noted that the president can declare a national emergency even before the actual occurrence of war or external aggression or armed rebellion, if he is satisfied that there is an imminent danger. The President, however, can proclaim a national emergency only after receiving a written recommendation from the cabinet<sup>3</sup>. This means that the emergency can be declared only on the concurrence of the cabinet and not merely on the advice of the prime minister. In 1975, the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi advised the president to proclaim emergency without consulting her cabinet. The cabinet was informed of the proclamation after it was made, as a fait accompli. The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 introduced this safeguard to eliminate any possibility of the prime minister alone taking a decision in this regard.

Source: ForumIAS

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**Q.6)** Consider the following statements with respect to **Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC)**:

1. The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states
2. JSPSC is a constitutional body

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states. While the UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned. Thus, a JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body. The two states of Punjab and Haryana had a JSPSC for a short period, after the creation of Haryana out of Punjab in 1966.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements with respect to **“Rajya Sabha”**:

1. It is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution.
2. The Constitution has not fixed the term of office of members of the Rajya Sabha.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952) is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution. However, one-third of its members retire every second year. Their seats are filled up by fresh elections and presidential nominations at the beginning of every third year. The retiring members are eligible for re-election and renomination any number of times. The Constitution has not fixed the term of office of members of the Rajya Sabha and left it to the Parliament. Accordingly, the Parliament in the Representation of the People Act (1951) provided that the term of office of a member of the Rajya Sabha shall be six years.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.8) In which of the following cases a member has to vacate his seat in the Parliament?**

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

**Choose the correct option from codes below given:**

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

**ANS: D**

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

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

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

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to adjournment motion:**

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

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

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

**ANS: B**

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

Source: ForumIAS

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**Q.10) Consider** the following statements with respect to “**Chief Minister**”:

1. The Constitution does not contain specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister.
2. Article 164 only says that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.

**Which of the following below given codes are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister. Article 164 only says that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor. However, this does not imply that the governor is free to appoint any one as the Chief Minister. In accordance with the conventions of the parliamentary system of government, the governor has to appoint the leader of the majority party in the state legislative assembly as the Chief Minister.

Source: ForumIAS

## Geography

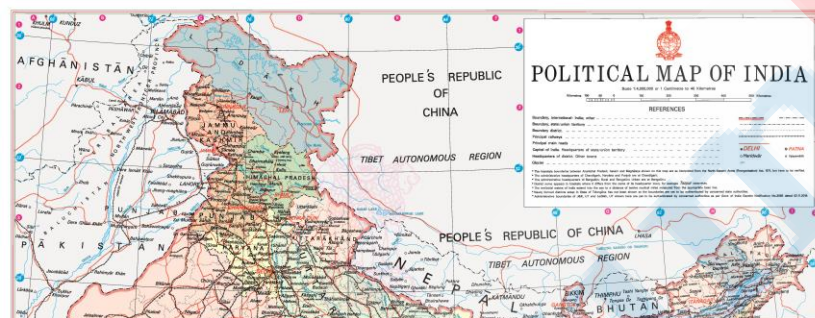
**Q.1) Which among the following is the Northernmost and southernmost part of India?**

- a) Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu
- b) Jammu & Kashmir and Kerala
- c) Ladakh and Tamil Nadu
- d) Ladakh and Kerala

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

Union Territory of Ladakh and state of Tamil Nadu forms the northernmost and southernmost parts of India.



Source: ForumIAS



**Q.2) “Pichavaram mangrove” forest is located in which of the following state?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Odisha
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

1. Pichavaram mangrove is one of the largest mangroves in India, situated at Pichavaram near Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu.
2. Pichavaram ranks among the one of the most exquisite scenic spot in Tamil Nadu and home of many species of Aquatic birds.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3) India has the shortest land frontier with which of the following countries?**

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Myanmar
- d) Afghanistan

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories. The length of our land borders with neighboring countries is as under:

Name of the country	Length of the border (in Km)
Bangladesh	4,096.7
China	3,488
Pakistan	3,323
Nepal	1,751
Myanmar	1,643
Bhutan	699
Afghanistan	106
Total	15,106.7



Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) The term “rohi” is related to which of the following?**

- a) Fertile tracts
- b) kind of jhum cultivation
- c) Tribal festival
- d) Tea Cultivation

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

The Rajasthan Bagar region (Bagar refers to the semi-desert area which is west of Aravallis.

1. Bagar has a thin layer of sand. It is drained by Luni in the south whereas the northern section has a number of salt lakes) have a number of short seasonal streams which originate from the Aravallis.
2. These streams support agriculture in some fertile patches called Rohi.

Source: ICSE Total Geography

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Pamir Knot:**

1. It is centered in the Gorno-Badakhshan, an autonomous region of eastern Tajikistan.
2. It is formed by Tian Shan, Karakoram, Kunlun and Sulaiman ranges.

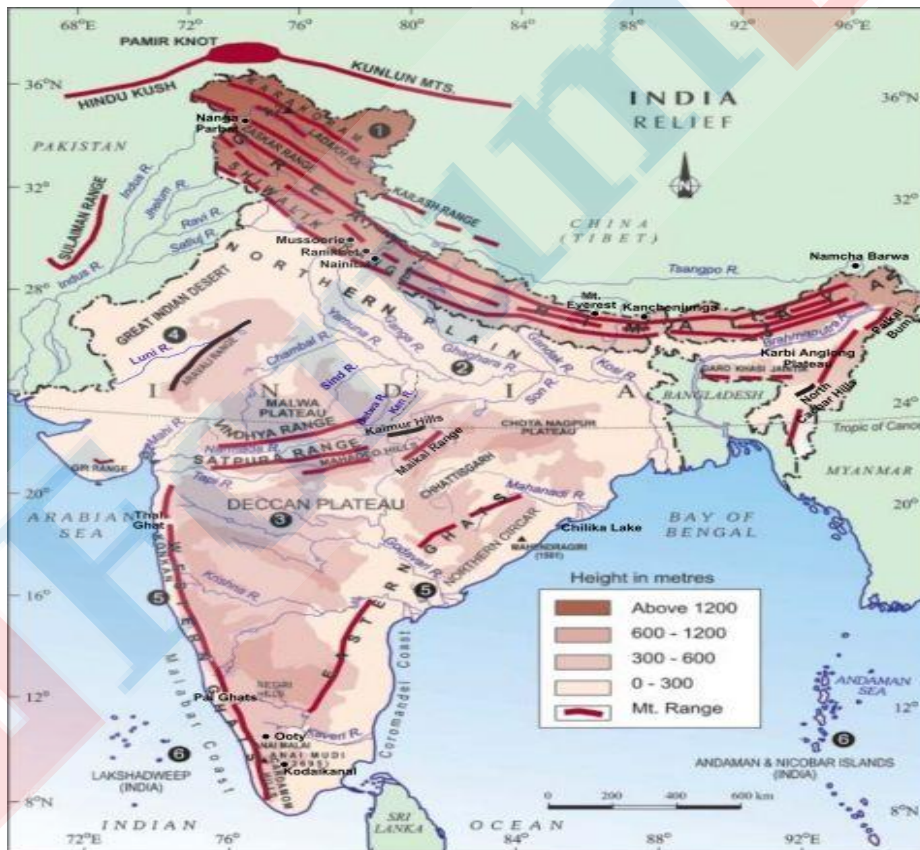
**Which of the above given statement is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

1. The unique orographic feature known as the Pamir Knot takes its name from the mountains on which it is centered, the Pamir. The “knot” refers to the convergence of some of the world's major mountain ranges, including the Tian Shan, Karakorum, Kunlun, Hindu Kush, and Pamir systems.
2. While a number of countries claim to be home to the Pamir Knot, it is actually centered in the Gorno - Badakhshan autonomous region of eastern Tajikistan. Fringe areas extend into Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and Kyrgyzstan.



Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) Match the following Himalayan Passes with their ranges:**

<b>Mountain Range</b>	<b>Pass</b>
1. Zaskar Mountains	a. Zoji La
2. Pir Panjal Range	b. Banihal pass
3. Ladakh Range	c. Photu La
4. Great Himalaya	d. Khardung La

**Select the correct code:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Kashmir or Northwestern Himalayas

1. It comprises a series of ranges such as the Karakoram, Ladakh, Zaskar and Pir Panjal. The northeastern part of the Kashmir Himalayas is a cold desert, which lies between the Greater Himalayas and the Karakoram ranges.
2. Between the Great Himalayas and the Pir Panjal range, lies the world famous valley of Kashmir and the famous Dal Lake. Important glaciers of South Asia such as the Baltoro and Siachen are also found in this region.
3. The Kashmir Himalayas are also famous for Karewa formations, which are useful for the cultivation of Zafran, a local variety of saffron. Some of the important passes of the region are Zoji La on the Great Himalayas, Banihal on the Pir Panjal, Photu La on the Zaskar and Khardung La on the Ladakh range.
4. Some of the important fresh lakes such as Dal and Wular and salt water lakes such as Pangong Tso and Tso Moriri are also in this region. This region is drained by the river Indus, and its tributaries such as the Jhelum and the Chenab. The Kashmir and northwestern Himalayas are well-known for their scenic beauty and picturesque landscape.



Source: ForumIAS

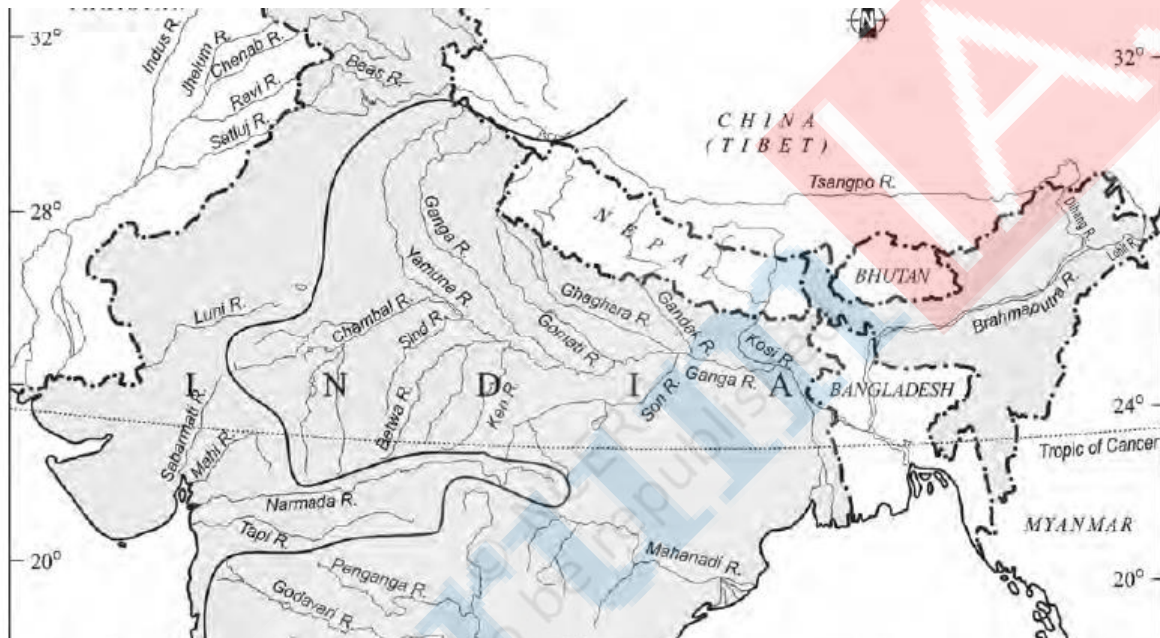
**Q.7) Which of the following river doesn't flow northwards?**

- a) Chambal River
- b) Betwa River
- c) Kosi River
- d) Son River

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

1. Chambal, Betwa, Ken and Son are the northward flowing rivers. Kosi originates in Tibet and flows southwards to merge in Ganga.



Source: ForumIAS

**Q.8) Which of the following sector is an example of tertiary sector?**

- a) Coal Fields
- b) Car production
- c) Agriculture extension practices
- d) Tourism

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Tourism is travel undertaken for purposes of recreation rather than business.

2. It has become the world's single largest tertiary activity in total registered jobs (250 million) and total revenue (40 per cent of the total GDP).
3. Besides, many local persons are employed to provide services like accommodation, meals, transport, entertainment and special shops serving the tourists.

Source: NCERT – XII Fundamental of Human Geography

**Q.9) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?**

- | <b>Dam</b>             | <b>:</b> | <b>River</b> |
|------------------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Krishna Raja Sagara | :        | Ganga        |
| 2. Hirakud             | :        | Mahanadi     |
| 3. Nagarjuna sagar     | :        | Krishna      |

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

Source: ICSE – Total Geography and NCERT – XI Indian Physical Environment

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to characteristics of “Tropical Evergreen Forests”:**

- 1. Tropical Evergreen Forests are located at more than 200cm rainfall.
- 2. It has no dry season.
- 3. Vegetation of all kinds found in these forests.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

- 1. Tropical Evergreen forests are restricted to heavy rainfall areas of the Western Ghats and the island groups of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, upper parts of Assam and Tamil Nadu coast.
- 2. They are at their best in areas having more than 200 cm of rainfall with a short dry season. The trees reach great heights up to 60 metres or even above.
- 3. Since the region is warm and wet throughout the year, it has a luxuriant vegetation of all kinds — trees, shrubs and creepers giving it a multilayered structure.
- 4. There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves. As such, these forests appear green all the year round.

Source: ForumIAS

## *Environment*

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about ecology:**

1. Ecotone is a junction or boundary between two or more diverse ecosystems.
2. The term ecosystem can be described as the flora and fauna of a geographical area.

**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:**

**What is an Ecosystem?**

1. "Ecosystem" term was first coined by A.G. Tansely, in the year 1935. In simple terms, it is a community of living and non-living things that work together.
2. The living and non-living things continuously exchange materials and energy between them. It forms the structural and functional unit of the biosphere (sphere of life).
3. Ecosystem varies greatly in size. It can be as small as a pond or as large as a forest or sea.

**Important Associated Concepts:**

**Habitat:** The environment in which a particular organism lives is called its habitat.

1. All the populations living in the same place at the same time interact, forming a community. Such community also interacts with the non-living world around it, thus forming an ecosystem. Therefore, habitat is a part of the ecosystem.

**Ecological Niche:** The role and functional position of an organism within an ecosystem is called Ecological niche. Ecological Niche is species specific- No two species can have exact same niche.

2. A niche includes: the role the species plays (e.g. A pollinator, a decomposer), the food it eats, where it lives, where it reproduces and its interactions with other species.

**Ecotone:** Ecotone is a junction or boundary between two or more diverse ecosystems. For example, where the land (terrestrial system) meets sea (aquatic system), and there is a wetland having mangroves. They are ecotones.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.2) With respect to ecology, which of the following statement is/are not correct?**

1. A Plagioclimax community is an area or habitat in which the influences of humans have prevented the ecosystem from developing further.
2. Deflected succession is when the natural succession would continue if the arresting factors are removed.
3. If interferences are removed and succession to the original climax community is no longer possible is termed as arrested succession.

**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: B**

**Explanation:**

**Plagioclimax Vegetation:**

3. A Plagioclimax community is an area or habitat in which the influences of humans have prevented the ecosystem from developing further.
4. The ecosystem may have been stopped from reaching its full climatic climax or deflected towards a different climax by activities (arresting factors) such as: jhuming cultivation, large scale afforestation, overgrazing, etc.
5. In each case, human activity has led to a community that is not the climax community expected in such an area.

**It is of two types:**

6. Arrested succession: The natural succession would continue if the arresting factors are removed. Ex. If cultivation is stopped in Gangetic plains and Great Plains of USA, normal sere of vegetation succession will start.
7. Deflected succession: Even if the interferences are removed, succession to the original climax community is no longer possible. Ex. Shola forest (Nilgiris), Sahara Desert, Thar Desert, etc.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI):**

1. Its research focuses only water and sewage supply
2. NEERI falls under Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change.

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

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

**ANS: D**



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**Explanation:**

1. The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) is a research institute created and funded by Government of India.
2. It was established in Nagpur in 1958 with focus on water supply, sewage disposal, and communicable diseases and to some extent on industrial pollution and occupational diseases found common in post-independent India.
3. NEERI is a pioneer laboratory in the field of environmental science and engineering and part of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). NEERI has five zonal laboratories at Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.
4. NEERI falls under the Ministry of Science and Technology (India) of central government. The NEERI is an important partner organization in India's POPs national implementation plan (NIP).

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Valmiki National Park is located in which of the following state?**

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Bihar
- d) Chhattisgarh

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About Valmiki Tiger Reserve:**

1. Valmiki National Park, Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar on the bank of river Gandak.
2. It is the only National park and Tiger Reserve of Bihar.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Dachigam National Park:**

1. It is one of the most important protected area in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
2. It is in the Zaskar mountain range of the Northwest Himalayan biogeographic zone.

**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: Dachigam National Park:**

1. It is one of the most important protected area in Jammu and Kashmir because it is home to the world's last viable Hangul population.
2. It also serves as a natural habitat for several threatened and endangered species.

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3. Dachigam is a mountainous region with crystalline rocks. The Dachigam National Park is roughly rectangular, 22.5 km long and 8 km wide, and covers nearly half of Dal Lake's catchment area.
4. Dachigam is close to Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, and it attracts many tourists in the summer due to its natural beauty.
5. Ecosystem services such as water purification, soil conservation, and landscape stability provide additional economic benefits.

**Location:** Area of 141 sq. kms

1. Dachigam is located 22 km away from Srinagar – jammu kashmir.
2. Located high in its interiors is the Marsar lake from which flows the river Dagwan.
3. The park encompasses nearly half of the catchment zone of the famous Dal Lake and is home to a surplus of threatened species.
4. It is located between the coordinates 34° 05'N – 34° 11'N and 74° 54'E -7S 09', and falls under the civil jurisdiction of Srinagar (jammu kashmir).
5. It is in the Zaskar mountain range of the Northwest Himalayan biogeographic zone.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about wetlands:**

1. Wetlands are often referred to as “Lungs of the Earth”.
2. Wetlands help in carbon sequestration and act as carbon sinks.

**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: Why are wetlands important?**

1. Wetlands are amongst the most productive ecosystems. They provide a wide range of ecosystem services. The importance of wetlands can be understood from the following services they provide:
2. Firstly, wetlands help in flood control by acting as natural sponges. They temporarily storing and gradually releasing stormwater. Also, roots of wetland vegetation hold soils in place, thus stabilizing the banks of rivers and streams.
3. Secondly, wetlands play an important role in maintaining the quality of water in deep-water ecosystems. Wetlands trap the sediments suspended in water- a process called sediment trapping. They also remove phosphorus and nitrogen and help prevent eutrophication of lakes and ponds. For this function, wetlands are often referred to as “Kidneys of the Earth”.
4. Thirdly, wetlands host of a large number of species of microbes, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and mammals.

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5. Fourthly, wetlands help in carbon sequestration. They act as carbon sinks and wetland soil contains a high amount of carbon.
6. Fifthly, wetlands help in natural groundwater recharge and discharge. They store water that replenishes the groundwater. Further, they discharge groundwater into lakes, rivers, and streams during dry periods.
7. Sixthly, wetlands help in regulating local climatic conditions particularly temperature and climate.
8. Finally, wetlands provide a large number of economic benefits. These include water supply; fisheries; timber and other building materials; energy resources, such as peat and plant matter; wildlife resources; medicinal plants, recreational and tourism opportunities.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA):**

1. CGWA was constituted under Water (Prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1974.
2. It is a statutory body.

**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: Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA):**

1. CGWA was constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, it is not a statutory body. CGWA has the mandate of regulating groundwater development and management in the country.
2. India is the largest user of groundwater in the world which in turn has led to overexploitation. Hence, CGWA has notified guidelines for groundwater extraction:
  1. For industries
  1. Introduction of Water Conservation Fee (WCF).
  2. Mandatory requirement of digital flow meter, piezometers.
  3. Mandatory water audit by specified industries extracting groundwater.
  4. Mandatory roof top rainwater harvesting except for specified industries.
1. Exemptions from requirement of NOC have been granted to sectors like agricultural users, users employing non-energized means to extract water, individual households using less than 1 inch diameter delivery pipe and armed forces during operational deployment.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about National Biodiversity Authority:**

1. NBA checks biopiracy and protects the indigenous and traditional genetic resources.
2. National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2010 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (BDA).

**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: National Biodiversity Authority:**

2. National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (BDA). It is a statutory, autonomous body and it performs regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.
3. NBA checks biopiracy and protects the indigenous and traditional genetic resources. Anybody seeking any kind of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) on a research based upon biological resource or knowledge obtained from India requires prior approval of NBA.
4. No person who has been granted approval, shall transfer any biological resource or knowledge associated to others except with the prior permission of the NBA. The State Biodiversity Boards (SSBs) also regulate, by granting approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.9) Brundtland Commission Report is related to which of the following?**

- a) Sustainable Development Goals.
- b) Millennium Development Goals
- c) UNEP
- d) World Bank

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Sustainable Development:**

1. The Brundtland Commission Report, also known as "Our Common Future", was published in 1987 by the United Nations through the Oxford University Press.
2. The report developed the most widely used definition of sustainable development as "development which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".
3. Accordingly, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a UN Resolution called the Agenda 2030.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.10) Which of the following statement about Cartagena Protocol is/are correct?**

1. It addresses technology development and transfer, benefit-sharing and biosafety issues.
2. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by “Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)” resulting from modern biotechnology.

**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:**

1. **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** CBD covers the rapidly expanding field of biotechnology through its “Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”. It addresses technology development and transfer, benefit-sharing and biosafety issues.
2. The biosafety protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by “Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)” resulting from modern biotechnology.
3. There are two main sets of procedures under the Protocol, one for LMOs intended for direct introduction into the environment, known as “Advance Informed Agreement (AIA)” procedure and another for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (LMOs-FFP).
4. **AIA:** Under AIA procedure, a country intending to export LMO for intentional release into the environment must notify in writing the Party of import before the first processed export takes place.
5. **LMOs-FFP:** Under the procedure for LMOs-FFP, Parties that decide to approve and place such LMOs on the market are required to make their decision and relevant information, including risk assessment reports, publicly available through the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH).
6. Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress: It reinforces the Cartagena Protocol.
7. The Supplementary Protocol specifies response measures which must be taken in the case of damage to biodiversity resulting from Living Modified Organisms.

Source: ForumIAS

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## *Science and Technology*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about New Shephard Rocket System:**

1. New Shephard is a reusable rocket system that has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line.
2. The rocket system has been built by NASA.

**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 New Shephard Rocket System:**

1. New Shephard is a reusable rocket system that has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line – the internationally recognized boundary of space.

**Built by:** The rocket system has been built by Blue Origin, space company of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

**Named after:** The rocket system has been named after astronaut Alan Shephard – the first American to go to space.

**Significance of this New Shephard rocket system:**

2. The idea behind New Shephard is to provide easier and more cost-effective access to space. This is meant for purposes such as academic research, corporate technology development and entrepreneurial ventures among others.
3. Moreover, apart from academic and research-oriented goals, the rocket will also allow space tourists to experience microgravity by taking them 100 km above the Earth.
4. Microgravity is the condition in which people or objects appear to be weightless. The effects of microgravity can be seen when astronauts and objects float in space.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.2) Which of the following statement about Karman Line is/are not correct?**

1. The line is named after Theodore von Kármán, who first determined the altitude at which the atmosphere becomes too thin to support aeronautical flight.
2. NASA defines the Kármán line as the altitude of 100 kilometres (62 miles) above Earth's mean sea 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: B**

**Explanation: What is the Karman Line?**

1. The Karman line is the internationally recognized boundary of space.
2. The line is named after Theodore von Kármán, a Hungarian American engineer and physicist.
3. He was the first person to determine the altitude at which the atmosphere becomes too thin to support aeronautical flight.
4. The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) defines the Kármán line as the altitude of 100 kilometres (62 miles) above Earth's mean sea level.
5. FAI is an international standard-setting and record-keeping body for aeronautics and astronautics.
6. However, not all organizations recognize this definition. The US Air Force and NASA define the boundary as 50 miles (80 km) above sea level. But there is no International law that defines the edge of space or the limit of national airspace.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about National Super Computing Mission (NSM):**

1. It aim is to connect research and academic institutions to a Supercomputing grid all over the country.
2. Under phase III, the mission aims to take the computing speed to around 100 Petaflops.

**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 Super Computing Mission (NSM):**

1. Firstly, the government launched the National Super Computing Mission in 2015.

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2. Secondly, the aim is to connect research and academic institutions to a Supercomputing grid all over the country. The grid consists of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities, It will increase the research capacities and capabilities in the country.
3. Thirdly, these supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The NKN is another program of the government. NKN connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high-speed network.
4. **Implementing Agency:** Department of Science and Technology and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) through the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

### **Phases under the mission:**

**Phase 1:** Under this phase, 30% of the value addition of Supercomputers is done in India.

1. Param Shivay was the first supercomputer assembled indigenously, installed in IIT(BHU).
2. Param Shakti and Param Brahma supercomputer installed at IIT-Kharagpur and IISER, Pune respectively.
3. Thereafter, supercomputing facilities were set up in two more institutions and one more is being set up with a computing speed to 6.6 Petaflops (PF).

**Phase II:** Under this phase, 40% of the value addition of Supercomputers is done in India.

1. 8 institutions are being equipped with supercomputing facilities by April 2021 with a total of 10 PF compute capacity.
2. MoUs have also been signed with a total of 14 premier institutions of India for establishing Supercomputing Infrastructure with Assembly and Manufacturing in India.
3. This phase will complete by September 2021. After completion, it will take the country's computing power to 16 Petaflops(PF).

### **Phase III:**

1. This phase will take the computing speed to around 45 Petaflops. This will include three systems of 3 PF each and one system of 20PF as a national facility.

**Indigenous Development:** India has developed an Indigenous server named Rudra which can meet the High-Performance Computing (HPC) requirements of all governments and PSUs.

Source: ForumIAS



**Q.4) Consider the following statements about Nuclear Command Authority:**

1. Nuclear Command Authority that includes a Political Council and an Executive Council.
2. Home Minister of India chairs the Executive Council.
3. Prime Minister of India chairs the political Council.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** On January 4, 2003, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) constituted the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

2. NCA has two councils: Executive Council and Political Council.
3. The Executive Council is chaired by the National Security Advisor (NSA) while Political Council is chaired by the Prime Minister.
4. National Security Advisor gives the inputs to the Political Council, which authorities a nuclear attack when deemed necessary.
5. This mechanism of Political Council being advised by Executive Council and letting the “nuclear button remain with PM” was implemented to ensure that Indian nukes remain firmly in civilian control and that there exists a sophisticated Command and Control (C2) mechanism to prevent their accidental or un-authorized use.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about NetSCoFAN:**

1. It stands for Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.
2. It is launched by Ministry of Science and Technology.
3. It is a network of research & academic institutions working in the area of food & nutrition.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched NetSCoFAN (Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition)

**NetSCoFAN:** It is a network of research & academic institutions working in the area of food & nutrition. It would comprise of eight groups of institutions working in different areas. These areas are:

1. biological,
2. chemical,
3. nutrition & labelling,

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4. food of animal origin,
5. food of plant origin,
6. water & beverages,
7. food testing, and
8. Safer & sustainable packaging.

**Function:** To identify research gaps in respective areas and collect, collate and develop database on food safety issues for risk assessment activities.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Causative organism</b>
1. Hepatitis	Virus
2. Small Pox	Protozoa
3. Tetanus	Bacteria

**Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Hepatitis** refers to an inflammatory condition of the liver. It's commonly caused by a viral infection, but there are other possible causes of hepatitis. These include autoimmune hepatitis and hepatitis that occurs as a secondary result of medications, drugs, toxins, and alcohol. Autoimmune hepatitis is a disease that occurs when your body makes antibodies against your liver tissue.

**Small Pox:** Smallpox is an acute contagious disease caused by the variola virus, a member of the orthopoxvirus family. It was one of the most devastating diseases known to humanity and caused millions of deaths before it was eradicated. It is believed to have existed for at least 3000 years.

The smallpox vaccine, created by Edward Jenner in 1796, was the first successful vaccine to be developed. He observed that milkmaids who previously had caught cowpox did not catch smallpox and showed that a similar inoculation could be used to prevent smallpox in other people.

**Tetanus**, also called lockjaw, is a serious infection caused by *Clostridium tetani*. This bacterium produces a toxin that affects the brain and nervous system, leading to stiffness in the muscles. If *Clostridium tetani* spores are deposited in a wound, the neurotoxin interferes with nerves that control muscle movement. The infection can cause severe muscle spasms, serious breathing difficulties, and can ultimately be fatal. Although tetanus treatment exists, it is not uniformly effective. The best way to protect against tetanus is to take the vaccine.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about e-Chhawani portal:**

1. The portal aims to provide online municipal services to citizens across 62 Cantonment Boards.
2. The portal developed solely by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

**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 e-Chhawani Portal:**

1. The portal aims to provide online municipal services to more than 20 lakh citizens across 62 Cantonment Boards.
2. Developed by: The portal developed jointly by eGov Foundation, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Directorate General Defence Estates(DGDE) and National Informatics Centre(NIC).
3. Features: Through the portal, the residents of cantonment areas will be able to avail basic services such as; the renewal of leases, application for birth & death certificates, water & sewerage connections, trade licences, mobile toilet locators and payment of different types of taxes and fees.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.8) World Health Organization (WHO) launched Global Technical Strategy to contain which of the following Disease?**

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Covid-19
- c) Monkey Pox
- d) Malaria

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030 was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2015. It provides a comprehensive framework to guide countries in their efforts to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination. The strategy sets the target of reducing global malaria incidence and mortality rates by at least 90% by 2030. It emphasizes the need for universal coverage of core malaria interventions for all populations at risk and highlights the importance of using high-quality surveillance data for decision-making. It also identifies areas where innovative solutions will be essential for attaining the goals, and summarizes the estimated global costs of implementation.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Defense Acquisition Council (DAC):**

1. It clears all acquisitions including imported equipment and those produced indigenously or under a foreign license.
2. The council was formed in 2001 and headed by Defense Minister.

**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:** Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) is the highest decision-making body for military procurement. It functions under the Ministry of Defense. The council was formed in 2001. It is headed by the Defense minister. The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources. The council also gives policy guidelines to acquisitions based on long-term procurement plans. It also clears all acquisitions including imported equipment and those produced indigenously or under a foreign license.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about Poly-metallic Nodules:**

1. These are commonly called calcium nodules.
2. These are most abundant on continental shelf.

**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: C**

**Explanation:** Of all the mineral resources considered as potential targets for deep-sea mining, poly-metallic nodules (also commonly called manganese nodules) are probably the most likely commodity to be developed into a commercial operation. Poly-metallic nodules are rounded accretions of manganese and iron hydroxides that cover vast areas of the seafloor, but are most abundant on abyssal plains at water depths of 4000-6500 metres. They form through the aggregation of layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a central particle (such as a shell or small rock fragment), and range in size from a few millimeters to tens of centimeters. The composition of nodules varies with their environment of formation, but in addition to manganese and iron, they can contain nickel, copper and cobalt in commercially attractive concentrations as well as traces of other valuable metals such as molybdenum, zirconium and Rare Earth Elements.

Source: ForumIAS

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## *Economy*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.
2. Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the state Governments.
3. Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India manages public debt and issues Indian currency denominated loans on behalf of the central and the state governments under the powers derived from the Reserve Bank of India Act. The RBI is the debt manager for both the Central Government and the State Governments. RBI manages the debt of state governments on the basis of separate agreements.

Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day. Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. They are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity. For example, a 91 day Treasury bill of 100/- (face value) may be issued at say 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, 1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of 100/-. The return to the investors is the difference between the maturity value or the face value (that is 100).

Source: CSP 2018

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about e-RUPI:**

1. e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.
2. It ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed.

**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 e-RUPI:** e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is founded on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform.

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**Purpose:** It is designed to be a person and purpose-specific digital payment solution. It seeks to ensure that government schemes reach intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner, with limited touch points between the government and the beneficiary.

**Developed by:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), the Union Health Ministry, and the National Health Authority (NHA).

### **Features of e-RUPI:**

1. Firstly, e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface.
2. Secondly, it ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed.
3. Thirdly, being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payment to the service provider without the involvement of any intermediary.

Source: ForumIAS

### **Q.3) Which of the following is/are not correctly matched?**

**Committee/Panel : Significance**

1. RangaRajanCommittee : Balance of Payments
2. Abid Hussain Committee : Committee on Capital Account Convertibility
3. Vijay KelkarCommittee : Goods & Service Tax
4. TaraporeCommittee : Committee on Trade policy

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Besides, economic reforms in various sectors, various Committees were setup from time to time (by the Government of India and by RBI) to discuss policy issues related to international trade and balance of payments.

Some of the important Committees were –

1. Committee on Export – Import Policies & Procedures (Alexander Committee, 1978),
2. Committee on Trade policy (Abid Hussain Committee, 1984),
3. High – level Committee on Balance of Payments (Rangarajan Committee 1993), and
4. Committee on Capital Account Convertibility (Tarapore Committee I 1997 & Tarapore Committee II 2006).

In 2003, the Vajpayee government forms a task force under Vijay Kelkar to recommend tax reforms. In 2004, Vijay Kelkar, then advisor to the Finance Ministry, recommends GST to replace the existing tax regime.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding International Development Agency (IDA):**

1. It provides long term lending for the development of economic services.
2. The credits are extended mainly to economies with less than \$400 per capita income.

**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 International Development Agency (IDA) which is also known as the soft window of the WB was set up in 1960 with the basic aim of developing infrastructural support among the member nations, long-term lending for the development of economic services. Its loans, known as credits are extended mainly to economies with less than \$895 per capita income.

The credits are for a period of 35–40 years, interest-free, except for a small charge to cover administrative costs.

Repayment begins after a 10-year grace period. There was no human angle to its lending. But now there remain no hard and fast differences between the purposes for the IBRD and IDA lending.

Every year developing nations make enough diplomatic attempts to carve out maximum loan disbursement for them.

India had been the biggest beneficiary of the IDA support. The total support (IBRD + IDA) for India had been \$ 91.81 billion till date.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

**Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)”?**

1. It is jointly owned by Public sector and Private sector.
2. It provides short-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects.

**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:** IIFCL is a wholly-owned Government of India Company set up in 2006 to provide long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects through the Scheme for Financing Viable Infrastructure Projects through a Special Purpose Vehicle called India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), broadly referred to as SIFTI.

1. The sectors eligible for financial assistance from IIFCL are as per the Harmonized list of Infrastructure Sub-Sectors as approved by the Government and as amended from time to time.

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2. These broadly include transportation, energy, water, and sanitation, and communication, social and commercial infrastructure.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

**Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to “Mixed Economy” characteristics:**

1. Co-existence of private and public sector
2. Private property is also allowed
3. Price Mechanism and Controlled Price

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Mixed economy is a golden mixture of capitalism and socialism. Under this system there is freedom of economic activities and government interferences for the social welfare. Hence it is a blend of both the economies. The concept of mixed economy is of recent origin. The developing countries like India have adopted mixed economy to accelerate the pace of economic development. Even the developed countries like UK, USA, etc. have also adopted ‘Mixed Capitalist System’. Mixed economy has following main features:

- (i) Co-existence of Private and Public Sector
- ii) Personal Freedom
- (iii) Private Property is allowed
- (iv) Economic Planning
- (v) Price Mechanism and Controlled Price
- (vi) Profit Motive and Social Welfare

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY):**

1. PKVY is a skill development initiative by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
2. The Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is aimed at skilling Indians seeking employment abroad.

**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: B**

**Explanation:** PKVY is a skill development initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs. The MEA and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for its implementation. The scheme will be implemented by National



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Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through its training partners in consultation with MEA and MSDE. PKVY is a skill development initiative of the MEA in partnership with the MSDE and is aimed at training and certification of Indian workforce keen on overseas employment in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate overseas employment opportunities.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.8) Which one among the following items has minimum weight in wholesale price index (WPI) in India?**

- a) Raw materials
- b) Fuel and electricity
- c) Manufactured product
- d) Food items

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the average change in the prices of commodities for bulk sale at the level of early stage of transactions. The index basket of the WPI covers commodities falling under the three major groups namely Primary Articles, Fuel and Power and Manufactured products. (The index basket of the present 2011-12 series has a total of 697 items including 117 items for Primary Articles, 16 items for Fuel & Power and 564 items for Manufactured Products.)

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.9) Which of the following statements with respect to Twin Balance Sheet problem is/are correct?**

- 1. High Non Performing Assets (NPA's) of Public sector banks
- 2. Low stressed balance sheet of the private corporate sector

**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:** Though, India has today one of the fastest growth rates in the world, for the past few years, certain financial issues have been worsening. In the aftermath of the global financial crisis (GFC) of 2007, India has been trying to come to grips with the 'twin balance sheet' (TBS) problem—

- (i) High NPAs of the PSBs; and
- (ii) Highly stressed balance sheet of the private corporate sector.

India has taken several steps by now to recover and control the bad loans of the banks. But they have not been very effective and banks are even today under high stress. On the other hand, India has been waiting for a recovery in the corporate sector for their balance sheet to come in good health but to no avail.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about The Land Port Authority of India:**

1. The Land Port Authority of India is a statutory body.
2. It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The Authority works to provide secure and efficient systems of cargo and passenger movements across international borders.
4. Kartarpur Sahib Corridor is constructed by Land Port Authority of India.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Land Port Authority of India is a statutory body. It was established under Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010. Under the act, it has powers to undertake joint ventures to discharge its functions. It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Land Port Authority of India is responsible for managing border infrastructure. It creates, upgrades and maintains the integrated check posts and also border infrastructure.

The Authority works to provide secure and efficient systems of cargo and passenger movements across international borders. It also works to reduce the dwell time and trade transaction time and costs. It promotes people-to-people contact.

The Inland Custom Ports and Kartarpur Sahib Corridor were also constructed by Land Port Authority of India.

Source: ForumIAS

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## *Schemes and Programmes*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about MSME Sustainable(ZED) Certification Scheme:**

1. It aims to create awareness amongst MSMEs about Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) practices and motivate and incentivise them for ZED Certification.
2. The first phase will focus on MSMEs in services sector and the second phase would be aimed at the MSMEs in the manufacturing sector.
3. MSMEs will get subsidies on the cost of ZED certification: Micro Enterprises will get 80%, Small Enterprises 60% and Medium Enterprises 50%.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: What is the MSME Sustainable(ZED) Certification Scheme?**

**Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of MSME.

**Aim:** To create awareness amongst MSMEs about Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) practices and motivate and incentivise them for ZED Certification while also encouraging them to become MSME Champions.

**Phases under the scheme:** The first phase will focus on manufacturing MSMEs and the second phase would be aimed at the MSMEs in the services sector.

**Benefits and Subsidies:** MSMEs will get subsidies on the cost of ZED certification as per the following: Micro Enterprises: 80%, Small Enterprises: 60% and Medium Enterprises: 50%.

1. There will be an additional subsidy of 10% for the MSMEs owned by Women/SC/ST Entrepreneurs or MSMEs in NER/Himalayan/LWE/Island territories/aspirational districts.
2. In addition to the above, there will be an additional subsidy of 5% for MSMEs which are part of the SFURTI or Micro & Small Enterprises – Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) of the Ministry.
3. A limited purpose joining reward of Rs 10,000 will also be offered to each MSME once they take the ZED Pledge.
4. A provision of up to Rs. 5 lakh(per MSME) will also be made available for handholding and consultancy support for MSMEs for assisting them to move towards Zero Defect Zero Effect solutions.
5. ZED-certified MSME players will also be offered subsidies in stall charges, airfares, concession in banks' processing fees and rate of interest along with preference in lending.

**Significance of the Scheme:** Through the ZED Certification, MSMEs can reduce wastage substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, and expand their markets amongst others.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati(BPKP) Scheme:**

1. It is a sub-mission under the centrally sponsored scheme– Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana(PKVY).
2. The scheme mainly focuses on the exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs.
3. The scheme has been launched by ministry of Chemicals and fertilisers.

**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) 2 only

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

**What is Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati(BPKP) Scheme?**

**Launched by:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare during 2020-21

**Parent Scheme:** It is a sub-mission under the centrally sponsored scheme– Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana(PKVY).

**Aim:** To promote traditional indigenous practices which give freedom to farmers from externally purchased inputs.

**Main Focus of the Scheme:** The scheme mainly focuses on the exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant-based preparations.

**Financial Assistance:** Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs. 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3) Who among the following are beneficiary of "Pre- and Post-Matric scheme"?**

- a) Differently abled person
- b) Student from ST Community
- c) Covid-19 orphans
- d) Girls from EWS community

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

**Pre- and Post-Matric scheme:** It is a demand-based scheme. Under this, every ST student whose family income is up to Rs 2.5 lakhs is entitled to a scholarship for pursuing education from class IX to Post Doctorate across India.

1. The states send the proposal to the Center for the estimated expenditure during the financial year based on the expenditure incurred in previous years and advance up to 50% of Central share is released to the States.

2. After the State has disbursed the scholarship to the students, the balance amount is released to the State, provided the State has contributed its share.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Which of the following statement about Nav Bharat(New India) Literacy Programme is/are correct?**

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of education.
2. It aims to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above across the country.

**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:**

**What is the Nav Bharat(New India) Literacy Programme?**

**Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme

**Aim:** To support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above across the country.

**Target:** The scheme aims to cover 5 crore non-literates during the implementation period from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

**Components:** The scheme has five components namely

1. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy,
2. Critical Life Skills
3. Vocational Skills Development,
4. Basic Education and
5. Continuing Education.

**Salient Features of the Scheme**

1. Involvement of school students, pre-service students of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), school teachers, Anganwadi and ASHA workers,
2. School to be unit for implementation of the scheme,
3. Use of ICT and online implementation of the scheme through 'Online Teaching Learning and Assessment System' (OTLAS),
4. Providing material and resources through digital modes, viz, TV, radio, cell phone-based free/open-source Apps/portals, etc,

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5. Assessment tests to be conducted in schools by State/UTs and evaluation of learners by NIOS/SIOS,
6. Sample achievement survey and Online Management Information Systems (MIS).

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) Which of the following statement about PM-Daksh Yojana is/are not correct?**

- a) It is a National Action Plan for skilling marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.
- b) It aims to increase the skill levels of the target youth.
- c) Beneficiaries between the age of 18-30 years are considered for Skill Development Training.
- d) The nodal ministry is Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: What is PM-Daksh Yojana?**

**Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

**Full Form:** Pradhan Mantri-Dakshata Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana (PM-DAKSH)

**Purpose:** It is a National Action Plan for skilling marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.

**Aim:** To increase the skill levels of the target youth by providing them short term and long term skills, followed by assistance in wage/self-employment.

**Implementation:** It is being implemented through 3 Corporations: National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation(NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation(NBCFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation(NSKFDC).

**Salient Features of PM-Daksh**

**Training Institutions:** The training is provided through Government Sector training institutions and reputed institutions enabling them to take up suitable job/self-employment opportunities.

1. Age of the candidates for undergoing skill training: Beneficiaries between the age of 18-45 years are considered for Skill Development Training.
2. Stipend to the trainees: Stipend is provided to the eligible candidates based on their attendance through DBT.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about SMILE Scheme:**

1. It is a Central Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It aims to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.

**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:**

**What is a SMILE Scheme?**

SMILE stands for Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise.

**Type:** It is a Central Sector Scheme.

**Aim:** To provide welfare and rehabilitation to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.

Sub-Schemes of SMILE Scheme

**The two sub-schemes of SMILE are:**

**Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons**

It provides for:

1. Scholarships for Transgender Students studying in IX and till post-graduation to enable them to complete their education.
2. Skill Development and Livelihood under the PM-DAKSH scheme.
3. Composite Medical Health and Housing facility in the form of 'Garima Greh'
4. Provision of Transgender Protection Cell in each state will monitor cases of offences and ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of offences.
5. Creating a National Portal & Helpline

**Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging**

It provides for

1. Survey and Identification of beneficiaries shall be carried out by the Implementing Agencies.
2. Outreach work will be done to mobilise the persons engaged in begging to avail the services available in the Shelter Homes.
3. The shelter homes will facilitate education for children engaged in the act of Begging.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about National Hydrology Project (NHP):**

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It is a Central Sector scheme that aims to improve the extent and accessibility of water resources information.
3. It gets the financial aid from Asian Development Bank.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: About NHP –Bhuvan Portal:**

1. The National Hydrology Project or NHP-Bhuvan Portal is a repository of information on the initiatives undertaken by NRSC under NHP (National Hydrology Project).
2. The portal also has a facility to download the reports and knowledge products being developed by NRSC.

**About National Hydrology Project(NHP):**

1. National Hydrology Project (NHP) is a Central Sector scheme. It was launched by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti with the financial aid of the World Bank.
2. Objective: To improve the extent and accessibility of water resources information and strengthen institutional capacity to enable improved water resources planning and management across India.

**Components:** The project comprises four broad components:

1. Improving In Situ Monitoring System (IMS)
2. Improving Spatial Information System (SIS)
3. Promoting Water Resources Operation and Management Applications(WROMA)
4. Strengthening Water Resources Institutions and Capacity Building.
5. Implementing Agency: National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)

Source: ForumIAS



**Q.8) Consider the following statements about Sustainable Cities India Program:**

1. World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed a MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.
2. It aims to enable cities to decarbonize in a sustainable way.

**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 Sustainable Cities India Program:**

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

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.9) Consider the following statement about REWARD Project:**

1. It aims to help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices.
2. World Bank will implement the project in state of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

**Which of the statement 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 REWARD Project:**

1. The Government of India, State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million REWARD Project.
2. REWARD stands for Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme.
3. Its aim is to help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.
4. The Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about PM 15 Point Programme for the welfare of Minority Communities:**

1. One of the objectives is the prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence among communities.
2. Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing this programme.

**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 PM 15 Point Programme for the welfare of Minority Communities:**

1. It is an overarching programme covering various schemes/initiatives of the participating Ministries/Departments and is implemented throughout the country.
2. Aim of the Programme: To ensure that the underprivileged and weaker sections of six centrally notified minority communities have equal opportunities for availing of the various Government welfare Schemes.
3. To ensure that wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities.
4. However, the schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs are exclusively meant for notified minorities.

**Objectives of the Programme:** The programme has the following broad objectives:

1. Enhancing opportunities for education,
2. Ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment,
3. Improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes and
4. Prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence.

Source: ForumIAS

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## *Previous Year Questions*

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**Q.1) With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements:**

1. Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.
2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.
3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

**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: Sattriya Dance:**

1. Sattriya originated in Sattri, monastery, as a part of neo-Vaishnavite movement started by Srimanta Sankardev in the 15th Century.
2. He propagated the “ek sharan naama dharma” (chanting the name of one God devotedly).
3. “Sattriya dances are devotional in nature as they were intended for propagation of neo-Vaishnavism. Its highlights are intense emotional fervour, and in its solo avatar now dramatic abhinaya is prominent in contrast to nritta, pure dance”.
4. Dr. Sunil Kothari was recently bestowed the prestigious Madhabdev Award by the Government of Assam for his work in making Sattriya popular in India and abroad.
5. Though long recognised as a traditional dance form, Sattriya was given the status of a classical dance in the year 2000 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
6. Highlighting on how it differs from other forms, Kothari says, “In its basic stance for male and female known as Purush Pak and Prakriti Pak, Sattriya dances differ from other dance forms.
7. They have special mnemonic bols, typical Assamese music known as Borgeet, musical instruments like large cymbals, drums, colourful costumes which stand out from other dance styles, besides complicated choreographic patterns using various talas for each stanza sung by the vocalist.
8. Dance-dramas are distinct living tradition and use vachikabhinaya, dialogues. Special masks are also used in dance-dramas.”

Source: CSP 2014

**Q.2) With reference to the cultural history of India, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories and epic tales was the profession of who of the following?**

- a) Shramana
- b) Parivraajaka
- c) Agrahaarika
- d) Maagadha

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** During Gupta period, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories or epic tales was the work of a different group of people, the sutas and magadhas.

Source: CSP, 2016

**Q.3) Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'?**

- a) Andman and Nicobar
- b) Nicobar and Sumatra
- c) Maldives and Lakshadweep
- d) Sumatra and Java

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

The entire group of island is divided into two broad categories – the Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south. They are separated by a water body which is called the Ten degree channel.

Source: CSP 2014

**Q.4) With reference to the Union Government, consider the following statements:**

1. The Department of Revenue is responsible for the preparation of Union Budget that is presented to the Parliament.
2. No amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without the authorization from the Parliament of India.
3. All the disbursements made from Public Account also need the authorization from the Parliament of India.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Department of Economic Affairs prepares the Budget. Public Accounts includes provident fund deposits, judicial deposits, savings bank deposits, departmental deposits, remittances and so on. This account is operated by executive action, that is, the payments from this account can be made without parliamentary appropriation. Such payments are mostly in the nature of banking transactions. So only second statement is correct.

Source: CSP 2015

**Q.5) Kalamkari painting refers to**

- a) A hand-painted cotton textile in South India
- b) A handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North- East India
- c) A block-painted woolen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
- d) A hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

Kalamkari painting is a painting done by Kalam (Pen) in Andhra Pradesh it is done on cotton garments, bad covers etc.

Source: CSP, 2015

**Q.6) Which one of the following movements has contributed to a split in the Indian National Congress resulting in the emergence of 'moderates' and 'extremists'?**

- a) Swadeshi Movement
- b) Quit India Movement
- c) Non-Cooperation Movement
- d) Civil Disobedience Movement

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Surat split of 1907 was the result of differences from Bengal partition protest strategy. People protested against the Bengal partition and came together in Swadeshi movement.

Source: CSP 2015

**Q.7) With reference to 'LiFi', recently in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It uses light as the medium for high-speed data transmission.
2. It is a wireless technology and is several times faster than 'WiFi'.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Using light to deliver wireless internet will also allow connectivity in environments that do not currently readily support Wi-Fi, such as aircraft cabins, hospitals and hazardous environments. Light is already used for data transmission in fibre-optic cables and for point to point links, but Li-Fi is a special and novel combination of technologies that allow it to be universally adopted for mobile ultra high speed internet communications. Using the visible light spectrum, Li-Fi technology can transmit data and unlock capacity which is 10,000 times greater than that available within the radio spectrum.

Source: CSP 2016

**Q.8) Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements:**

1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
2. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

**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:** Vijayanagara rulers followed an oppressive taxation policy. The prosperity of the empire can be explained through their taxation principles in the following lines. They collected variety of taxes ranging on the nature of lands. The villages were classified into eight types for tax purpose.

They were: 1)The brahmadeya villages 2) The devadana villages 3) The mathapura villages 4) The sarvamanya villages 5) The kodagi lands 6) Rakta-kodagal lands 7) Guttagi lands 8) The rest of the villages or lands.

The first four types prevailed prior to the Vijayanagar times. Private owners also paid industries taxes. Merchant guilds were empowered to levy taxes on goods manufactured, sold or transported

Source: CSP 2016

**Q.9) With reference to 'Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)', consider the following statements:**

1. It is an organization of European Union in working relation with NATO and WHO.
2. It monitors chemical industry to prevent new weapons from emerging.
3. It provides assistance and protection to States (Parties) against chemical weapons threats.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** OPCW is the Hague-based autonomous body, which works within the framework of the United Nations, was established in 1997 by the Chemical Weapons Convention to carry out its mandate. OBJECTIVES: OPCW Member States share the collective goal of preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare, thereby strengthening international security. To this end, the Convention contains four key provisions: destroying all existing chemical weapons under international verification by the OPCW monitoring chemical industry to prevent new weapons from re-emerging; providing assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical threats; and fostering international cooperation to strengthen implementation of the Convention and promote the peaceful use of chemistry.

Source: CSP 2016

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

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the SwatantraParty.
2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969.
3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Congress party won 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha and finished way ahead of any other challenger. The Communist Party of India that came next in terms of seats won only 16 seats.

**Statement 2 is correct:** In 1969, an official leader of opposition was recognised for the first time. However, it was given statutory recognition in 1977.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than onetenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognised as the leader of Opposition in that House.

**Source:** CSP 2018