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## Prelims Marathon

1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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## *Schemes/ Programmes/ Institutions*

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**Q.1) Which among the following institute has prepared Report on State of Inequality in India?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Economic Advisory Council
- c) Ministry of Social Justice
- d) Institute of competitiveness

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has released a Report on the State of Inequality in India. The Report has presented a holistic analysis of the depth and nature of inequality in India. Among its various recommendations, the Report has advocated the provision of Universal Basic Income as an elementary safety net.

### **Report on the State of Inequality in India**

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- The Report has been prepared by the **Institute of Competitiveness, India**. It is the Indian subsidiary of the global network of the **Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness of the Harvard Business School**.
- **Purpose:** The report presents a holistic analysis of the depth and nature of inequality in India.
- **Focus Areas:** The report looks at five key areas that **influence the nature and experience of inequality**.
  - Income distribution
  - Labour Market Dynamics
  - Health,
  - Education
  - Household Characteristics.
- **Source of Data:** The report is based on the data derived from various rounds of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and UDISE+.

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**Source: EPIC June 2022**

**Q.2) Which of the following institution has released a document of the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ persons in the world of work?**

- a) World Bank
- b) Human Rights Council
- c) WEF
- d) ILO

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The ILO has released a document on 'Inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+) persons in the world of work. The document provides recommendations to ensure equal opportunities and treatment of LGBTIQ+ persons at work.

**What are the recommendations on the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ community?**

Around the world, LGBTIQ+ persons face harassment, violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. This discrimination has an economic cost not just to LGBTIQ+ persons and their families but also to enterprises and national economies. So ILO has made some recommendations to enhance inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people:

- Launch social protection programmes
- Social dialogue with employers' and workers' organisations
- Focus on the informal economy
- End sexual discrimination
- Role of Trade unions

**Source: EPIC June 2022**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) guidelines mention Green Cities under the urban planning approach.
2. The Urban Agriculture is part of the Urban Land Planning (ULP) exercise.

**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: Utility of Urban Agriculture:**

Cities in India are facing multiple challenges including unbearable heat-waves due to climate change. Urban Agriculture can not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but has several additional benefits.

**How can the problem be addressed?**

- (1) Environmentalists and urban city planners highlight the importance of Green Infrastructure (GI) in combating the impact of climate change in cities. The Union Government's 2015 AMRUT programme also included green spaces and parks as a thrust area;
- (2) In this context, Agriculture is a neglected aspect. Agriculture is seen as a predominantly rural activity. The Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and

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Implementation (URDPFI) guidelines mention Green Cities under the urban planning approach, with prevention of damage to 'productivity of agricultural land' listed as a key benefit. However, the Urban Agriculture is not part of the Urban Land Planning (ULP) exercise.

**Source: EPIC June 2022**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Miscarriage of Justice in India:**

1. The report observed that 25.1% of the total under-trials spent more than a year in prison.
2. The currently available remedies create statutory obligation on the State to compensate.

**Which of the following statement is/are not correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: What are the statistics related to under-trials in prisons?**

- (1) India has one of the highest number of under-trial prisoners in India. In 2020, India was ranked 15 out of 217 countries on the basis of its under-trial population as per the World Pre-trial/Remand Imprisonment List;
- (2) According to the National Judicial Data Grid there are approximately 30.8 million criminal cases proceeding in the district courts of the country.
- (3) According to the NCRB (Prison Statistics India, 2020), out of India's total of 4,88,511 prisoners (December 2020); 371,848 persons (76.1%) were under-trials (persons who have been committed to judicial custody pending investigation or trial by a competent authority);
- (4) The Law Commission in its 277th Report (Wrongful Prosecution (Miscarriage of Justice): Legal Remedies, 2018) has dealt with the issue of wrong prosecution in detail. The report observed that 25.1% of the total under-trials spent more than a year in prison (based on Prison Statistics India, 2015);

The Law Commission in its 277th Report (2018), noted that 'the currently available remedies only create an ex-gratia obligation, and not a statutory obligation on the State to compensate'. Thus, at present, the provision of compensation is subject to the discretion of the Judiciary (or NHRC), rather than a legal obligation of the Executive.



## **'Miscarriage of Justice'**

The Law Commission in its 277th Report 'Wrongful Prosecution (Miscarriage of Justice): Legal Remedies' observes that the expression 'Miscarriage of Justice' is of wide amplitude:

- Errors in the interpretation, procedure, or execution of the law; typically, **errors that violate due process**, often resulting in the **conviction of innocent people**.

The Supreme Court has interpreted the term in multiple ways:

- '*Departure from the rules that permeates all judicial procedure*'.
- '*Misconception of law, irregularity of procedure, neglect of proper precaution*' leading to **some underserved hardship to individuals**.
- Lack of judicial approach, non-application of mind, non-consideration or improper consideration of material evidence.
- If a judgment is unreasonable, based on an erroneous understanding of the law and of the facts of the case.
- Non-compliance of the principles of Natural Justice.

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**Source: EPIC June 2022**

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are a pillar of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)?**

1. Supply Chain Resilience
2. Tax and anti-corruption
3. Clean energy and decarbonisation

**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: D**

**Explanation: Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework was launched at the QUAD Leader's Summit in Tokyo. IPEF is being seen as the US' response to other trade pacts in the region like CPTPP and the RCEP. IPEF is expected to enhance economic cooperation and establish rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

The framework has 4 pillars: (a) Trade; (b) Supply Chain Resilience; (c) Clean energy and decarbonisation; (d) Tax and anti-corruption

## **Four Pillars of IPEF**

- **Trade:** It will include digital economy and emerging technologies, labour commitments, environment, trade facilitation, transparency, good regulatory practices, corporate accountability, standards on cross-border data flows and data localisations.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Its purpose is to develop 'a first-of-its-kind supply chain agreement' that would **anticipate and prevent disruptions**.
- **Clean Energy and Decarbonization:** It will include agreements on 'high-ambition commitments' such as renewable energy targets, carbon removal purchasing commitments, energy efficiency standards, and new measures to combat methane emissions.
- **Tax and Anti-Corruption:** It includes commitments to enact and enforce 'effective tax, anti-money laundering, anti-bribery schemes in line with [American] values'

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**Source: EPIC June 2022**

### **Q.6) Consider the following statements about Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP):**

1. It is launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the NITI Aayog.
2. It will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 8 classical languages.

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

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

**ANS: A**

### **Explanation: About Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP):**

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the NITI Aayog have launched the Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP) to enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages by the Government of India.
- AIM will be training a Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages with each task force consisting of vernacular language teachers, subject experts and technical writers.
- According to the 2011 census, only 10.4% of Indians speak English, most as their second, third, or fourth language. Only 0.02% of Indians spoke English as their first language.

**Source: EPIC December 2021**

**Q.7) Innocenti Declaration is related to which of the following?**

- a) Breastfeeding
- b) Breast cancer
- c) Ovarian cancer
- d) Postpartum hemorrhage

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About Innocenti Declaration:**

- It was signed in August 1990 during the WHO and UNICEF policymakers' meeting on 'Breastfeeding in the 1990s: A Global Initiative' in Italy.
- The Innocenti Declaration says that all women should be enabled to practise exclusive breastfeeding and all infants should be fed exclusively on breastmilk up to 4-6 months of age 'as a global goal for optimal maternal and child health and nutrition'.

**Source: EPIC December 2021**

**Q.8) Ministry of Science & Technology has launched India's first Virtual Science Lab for children under which of the following schemes?**

- a) SEED Programme
- b) Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY)
- c) Jigyasa programme
- d) None

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About CSIR Jigyasa Programme:**

- The Union Minister of Science & Technology has launched India's first Virtual Science Lab for children under CSIR Jigyasa programme.
- The aim is to provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students to drive their scientific curiosity based on an online interactive medium.
- Virtual Lab will provide virtual tour of CSIR laboratories, interaction with scientists to clear doubts, Access content in regional languages; Project based support; Simulation Experiments; Science based webinars; Student Entrepreneurship etc

**Source: EPIC November 2021**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):**

1. It was set up in 1966 is an investment dispute settlement body whose decisions are binding on the parties.
2. India is not a member of ICSID.

**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 International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), set up in 1966 is an investment dispute settlement body whose decisions are binding on the parties.

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- It was established under the 1966 Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States.
- Though recourse to the centre is voluntary, but once the parties have agreed to arbitration, they cannot withdraw their consent unilaterally.
- It settles the investment disputes arising between the investing foreign companies and the host countries where the investments have been done.
- India is not its member (that is why the Enron issue was out of its preview). It is believed that being signatory to it encourages the foreign investment flows into an economy, but risks independent sovereign decisions, too.

**Source: Sriram's IAS**

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO):**

1. Its primary function is compilation of the National Atlas of India in English only.
2. It is headquartered in Kolkata.
3. It functions under Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: About National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO):**

- NATMO was established in 1997.
- It is a subordinate department under the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.
- Its primary function is compilation of the National Atlas of India in Hindi, English and other regional languages. It is headquartered in Kolkata.

**Source: EPIC January 2022**



## Science

**Q.1) Which of the following is the chemical name of bleaching powder?**

- a) Calcium oxide
- b) Sodium hydrogen carbonate
- c) Sodium bicarbonate
- d) Calcium oxychloride

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Bleaching Powder**

- It is also called as the chloride of lime. The chemical formula of bleaching powder is calcium oxychloride.
- It is prepared by passing chlorine gas over dry slaked lime.

Properties of Bleaching Powder

- It is a white powder which gives strong smell of chlorine.
- It is soluble in cold water.
- It reacts with dilute acids to produce chlorine. When bleaching powder is treated with an excess of a dilute, all the chlorine present in it is liberated.

Uses of Bleaching Powder

- It is used for bleaching cotton and linen in textile industry.
- It is used for bleaching wood pulp in paper industry.
- It is used for disinfecting drinking water supply.
- It is used in the manufacture of chloroform.
- It is used to make wool unshrinkable.
- It is used as an oxidising agent in many chemical industries.

**Source: NCERT Class 10**

**Q.2) Which of the following is the chemical name of laughing gas?**

- a) Dinitrogen tetroxide
- b) Methane
- c) Nitrous oxide
- d) Ammonium Nitrate

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Nitrous oxide**

- The nitrous oxide which is commonly known as laughing gas.
- Nitrous oxide is inflammable gas colourless in the room temperature.
- A scientist named Humphry Davy, gives nitrous oxide the name of laughing gas. It is given so because if this inhaled then it caused an effect of immense happiness and pleasure.
- Nitrous oxide is having a sweet odour. It is also non-toxic gas. World health organisation referred to this gas as one of the safest gas that can be used in the human being.



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	decahydrate/ Sodium Borate	
Calomel	Mercurous chloride	It is used as a fungicide, and formerly in medicine as a purgative.
Carbolic Acid/ Hydroxybenzene/ Phenic Acid	Phenol	It is used as a disinfectant in household cleaners.
Carborundum	Silicon carbide	It is used in automotive brakes and clutches.
Caustic potash	Potassium hydroxide	It is used in liquid fertilizers, potassium soaps and detergents.
Chile Saltpetre	Sodium Nitrate	It is used for making high-strength glasses, fertilizers and explosives.
Chloroform	Trichloromethane	It is used as a solvent for lacquer, floor polishes and resins.
Cream of tartar	Potassium hydrogen tartrate/ potassium bitartrate	It is used in bakery to stabilize egg whites.
Dolomite	Calcium magnesium carbonate	It is used as an ingredient in the production of glass, bricks, and ceramics.
Dry Ice	Solid carbon dioxide	It is used to preserve food.
Epsom salt	Magnesium sulphate heptahydrate	It is known to relieve pain and inflammation.
Freon-12/CFC-12	Dichlorodifluoromethane	It is used as a refrigerant in refrigerators and air conditioners.
Galena	Lead (II) sulphide	It is also used in a green glaze applied to pottery.
Glauber's Salt	Sodium sulphate decahydrate	It is used in medicine and as a dyeing agent.
Glycerol	Propane-1,2,3-triol	It is used in food and skin care industry.
Green Vitriol	Ferrous sulphate heptahydrate	It is used in sewage and water treatment, and as a pigment, fertilizer.
Gypsum	Calcium sulphate dihydrate	It is used to manufacture dry wall.

**Source: NCERT Class 10 and 12**

**Q.4) With respect to setting of plaster of paris, which of the following is correct?**

- Oxidation with atmospheric oxygen
- Combination with atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>
- Dehydration
- Hydration to yield another hydrate

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Plaster of Paris**

- Plaster of Paris is a popular chemical substance that is utilized most commonly for sculpting materials and in gauze bandages.

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- Plaster of Paris is a white powdery chemical compound which is hydrated calcium sulphate that is usually obtained from calcining gypsum.
- The setting of plaster of Paris takes place by hydration due to the formation of a solid crystalline hydrate.
- Hardening of plaster of Paris is a hydration reaction, which is the reverse of the dehydration of gypsum.
- Plaster of Paris quickly sets to a hard mass when made into a thin paste with water.

**Source: NCERT Class 10**

**Q.5) Which one of the following is the first organic compound prepared in the laboratory?**

- Acetic acid
- Chloroform
- Urea
- Methane

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The first organic compound prepared in the laboratory is urea. German chemist Friedrich Wohler prepared urea in a laboratory in 1828 from ammonium cyanate. Nowadays urea is prepared commercially from liquid ammonia and liquid carbon. It is a nitrogenous compound containing a carbonyl group attached to two amine groups.

**Source: NCERT Class 11- Chemistry**

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

1. Sucrose is the sweetest of all naturally occurring carbohydrates.
2. Acetylene is the basic chemical building block of natural rubber.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

- Fructose is the sweetest of all naturally occurring carbohydrates.
- The purified form of natural rubber is the chemical polyisoprene, which can also be produced synthetically. Natural rubber is used extensively in many applications and products, as is synthetic rubber. It is normally very stretchy and flexible and extremely waterproof.

**Source: NCERT Class 11- Chemistry**



**Q.7) Which of the following gas is used for artificial ripening of green fruit?**

- a) Ethylene
- b) Ethane
- c) Carbon dioxide
- d) Acetylene

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ethylene gas, acetylene gas liberated from calcium carbide, and ethephon are some of the commercial ripening agents used successfully in the trade and they have been widely studied for their effectiveness on initiating and accelerating the ripening process and their effect on fruit quality and health related issues. Green fruits are ripened by ethylene gas.

Source: NCERT 12 Chemistry

**Q.8) Hydrogen bomb is based on the principle of**

- a) Nuclear Fission
- b) Nuclear Fusion
- c) Natural Radioactivity
- d) Artificial Radioactivity

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Hydrogen Bomb is based on the principle of Nuclear Fusion.



Nuclear fusion is a reaction in which two or more atomic nuclei are combined to form one or more different atomic nuclei and subatomic particles.

The difference in mass between the reactants and products is manifested as either the release or absorption of energy.

Source: NCERT Class 10

**Q.9) Which of the following is/are an example of chemical change?**

1. Cooking of Food
2. Digestion of Food
3. Freezing of water
4. Water is heated up

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** If the chemical composition is changing then it is a chemical change and if the chemical composition is remaining the same, then it is a physical change.

- Cooking of Food ----- Chemical Change
- Digestion of Food ----- Chemical Change
- Freezing of water ----- Physical Change
- Water is heated up ----- Physical Change

Source: NCERT Class 7

**Q.10) The human body is made up of several chemical elements. Which of the following element is present in the highest proportion (65%) in the body?**

- a) Carbon
- b) Hydrogen
- c) Oxygen
- d) Nitrogen

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The human body is made up of several chemical elements. The element present in the highest proportion (65%) in the body is Oxygen.

Source: NCERT

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## *Economy*

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**Q.1) “Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing measures (SCM)” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Trade Organization
- d) UNEP

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (Subsidies Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) provides rules for the use of government subsidies and for the application of remedies to address subsidized trade that has harmful commercial effects.

These remedies can be pursued through the WTO’s dispute settlement procedures, or through a countervailing duty (CVD) investigation which can be undertaken unilaterally by any WTO member government.

Source: <https://www.trade.gov/trade-guide-wto-subsidies>

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Ministerial Conference of the WTO:**

1. It is the top decision making body of WTO.
2. It usually meets every two years.

**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: C**

**Explanation:** The Ministerial Conference is the WTO’s top decision-making body and usually meets every two years. All members of the WTO are involved in the MC and they can take decisions on all matters covered under any multilateral trade agreements.

Source: FORUMIAS

**Q.3) Which of the following is NOT part of World Trade Organization?**

- a) Agreement on Agriculture
- b) TRIPS
- c) TRIMS
- d) Rapid Credit Facility

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The World Trade Organization is the only international organization that deals with the rules of trade between countries.

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- The WTO officially commenced in 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement signed by 124 nations, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Currently, it has 164 members and 23 observer governments (like Iran, Iraq, Bhutan, Libya etc).
- According to its rules, all decisions are taken through consensus and any member can exercise a veto.
- Its aim is to promote free trade, which is done through trade agreements that are discussed and signed by the member states. The WTO also provides a forum for countries to negotiate trade rules and settle economic disputes between them.

### Key Agreements under the WTO

- **Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM):** The WTO SCM Agreement contains the **definition of the term 'subsidy'**. A subsidy contains three basic elements: **(a)** A financial contribution **(b)** By a Government or any public body within the territory of a Member **(c)** Confers a benefit. All three of these elements must be satisfied in order for a subsidy to exist.
- **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS):** The GATS was inspired by essentially the same objectives as its counterpart in merchandise trade, GATT. It aimed at **creating a credible system of international trade rules** and **ensuring fair and equitable treatment of all participants** (Principle of Non-discrimination).
- **The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS):** It sets down minimum standards for many forms of **intellectual property (IP) regulation** as applied to nationals of other WTO Members. It was negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1994.
- **Agreement on Agriculture:** It was concluded in 1994. It was aimed to **remove trade barriers, promote transparent market access** and **integration of global markets**. It is often criticized as a tool in the hands of developed countries to exploit weak countries. Negotiations are still going on for some of its aspects.

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Source: FORUMIAS

#### **Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs):**

1. It applicable to both goods and services.
2. Local content requirement is part of the TRIMS.

**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:** Agreement, negotiated during the Uruguay Round, applies only to measures that affect trade in goods. Recognizing that certain investment measures can have trade-restrictive and distorting effects, it states that no Member shall apply a measure that is prohibited by the provisions of GATT Article III (national treatment) or Article XI (quantitative restrictions).

- The Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) recognizes that certain investment measures can restrict and distort trade.
- It states that WTO members may not apply any measure that discriminates against foreign products or that leads to quantitative restrictions, both of which violate basic WTO principles.

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- A list of prohibited TRIMS, such as local content requirements, is part of the Agreement.
- The TRIMS Committee monitors the operation and implementation of the Agreement and allows members the opportunity to consult on any relevant matters.

Source: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/invest\\_e/invest\\_info\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/invest_e/invest_info_e.htm)

**Q.5) “Accessions intelligence portal” is related to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Accessions Intelligence Portal contains information on on-going and completed WTO accessions since 1995 as well as other accession-related information, such as how to become a WTO member, technical assistance activities, relevant publications and other resources.

Source: [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/acc\\_e/acc\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/acc_e.htm)

**Q.6) “Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT)” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Trade Organization
- c) World Bank
- d) AIIB

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The IMF provides broad support to low-income countries (LICs) through surveillance and capacity-building activities, as well as concessional financial support to help them achieve, maintain, or restore a stable and sustainable macroeconomic position consistent with strong and durable poverty reduction and growth. Concessional support through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) is currently interest free.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-Support-for-Low-Income-Countries>

**Q.7) Which of the following is NOT part of International Monetary Funding (IMF) lending facilities?**

- a) Extended Credit Facility
- b) Standby Credit Facility
- c) Rapid Credit Facility
- d) Development Policy Lending Facility

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

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All IMF members have access to the General Resources Account on non-concessional terms, but the IMF also provides concessional financial support through the (PRGT), which is better tailored to the diversity and needs of LICs. Poverty reduction strategies that detail policies to promote growth and reduce poverty are essential to IMF-supported programs in LICs. The PRGT has these three concessional lending facilities:

- **Extended Credit Facility (ECF):** Sustained medium- to long-term engagement in case of protracted balance of payments problems
- **Standby Credit Facility (SCF):** Financing for LICs with actual or potential short-term balance of payments and adjustment needs caused by domestic or external shocks, or policy slippages—can also be used on a precautionary basis during times of increased risk and uncertainty
- **Rapid Credit Facility (RCF):** Rapid financial support as a single up-front payout for low-income countries facing urgent balance of payments needs—possible repeated disbursements over a (limited) period in case of recurring or ongoing balance of payments needs.

For policy advice and signaling, countries may request nonfinancial assistance under the **Policy Support Instrument (PSI)**, which helps LICs that are in a broadly stable macroeconomic position and thus not in need of IMF financial assistance. The PSI can expedite access to the SCF if needed.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-Support-for-Low-Income-Countries>

### **Q.8) “Fiscal Monitor report” is published by which of the following?**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) UNESCO

#### **ANS: C**

**Explanation:** With increasing fiscal challenges in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, multilateral surveillance of fiscal developments, a key part of the IMF’s surveillance responsibilities, has gained further importance. In response, the Fiscal Monitor was launched in 2009 to survey and analyze the latest public finance developments, update fiscal implications of the crisis and medium-term fiscal projections, and assess policies to put public finances on a sustainable footing.

The Fiscal Monitor is prepared twice a year by the IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department. Its projections are based on the same database used for the World Economic Outlook (WEO) and the Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR). The fiscal projections for individual countries have been prepared by IMF desk economists, and, in line with the WEO guidelines, assume that announced policies will be implemented.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/publications/fm>

**Q.9) Program-for-Results (PforR) is a lending instrument of?**

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Bank
- c) UNEP
- d) World Trade Organization

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Program-for-Results (PforR) is a new lending instrument, which was approved by the World Bank's board in January 2012.

- PforR ties the disbursement of funds to the achievement of tangible development results and provides direct support for government programmes in order to help countries “strengthen institutions, build capacity, and enhance partnerships with stakeholders to achieve lasting impact”.
- According to the Bank, PforR can provide support for a wide range of government projects, such as increased immunisation coverage for children or provision of sanitation services.
- Disbursements fund expenditure programmes rather than individual transactions.
- The Bank will pilot the PforR instrument for two years, during which time eligibility for new operations will be limited to 5 per cent of annual IBRD and IDA lending (about \$1.5 billion), and category A operations (those with the highest environmental and social risks) will be excluded.
- As of September, two PforR projects of \$60 million and \$300 million had been approved.

Source: <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2012/10/art->

**Q.10) “Global Findex Report” is released by which of the following?**

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) AIIB
- d) WEF

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Recently, the World Bank has released 'The Global Findex Report 2021'. The Global Findex surveys over 125,000 adults in 123 economies during Covid-19 to better understand how people use formal and informal financial services and digital payment.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/globalfindex>

## *Polity*

**Q.1) Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 permits self-governance of natural resources by which of the following?**

- Gram Sabha
- Gram Panchayat
- The Chairman of Gram Panchayat
- Forest dwellers of a village situated in the areas mentioned in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Gram Sabha:**

- The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India.
- Gram Sabha has the power to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of people, their cultural identity, community resources and customary mode of dispute resolution.
- It also permits self-governance of natural resources by the Gram Sabha.
- Powers of the Gram Sabha -
  - It also has the power to approve plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development.
  - To identify persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes.
  - To give the certificate of the utilisation of funds for various plans and programmes.
- If there is an acquisition of land in these areas, Gram Sabha must be consulted. However, actual planning and implementation of the projects shall be coordinated at the state level. So, in land acquisition, the role of Panchayats in these areas is advisory only.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.2) The Special Provisions in Article 371G of the Constitution of India relate to which of the state/UT?**

- Jammu & Kashmir
- Jharkhand
- Mizoram
- Nagaland

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Article 371 provides a special status to the North-Eastern states.

- It aims to preserve their tribal heritage.
- Article 371G is related to the Mizoram, all acts of the Indian parliament related to the Mizo way of living will apply only after the consent of the Mizoram Assembly.
- Other useful Articles:
  - Article 371(B) – State of Assam.



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- Article 371(C)- State of Manipur.
- Article 371(F) – State of Sikkim.
- Article 371(H) – State of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Article 371(G) – State of Mizoram.

Source: Laxmikanth

### **Q.3) Which of the following is/are correct regarding Urban Local Bodies in India?**

1. The Constitution's 74th Amendment Act envisages three types of urban local bodies, namely Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council, and Municipal Corporation.
2. Municipal Corporations are established in cities with a population greater than 1 million.
3. Bombay and Calcutta Corporations were the first Municipal Corporations that were established during British time.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

The 74th Amendment Act of 1992 provides for the constitution of the following three types of Municipalities in every State:

- **Nagar Panchayat**- For a transitional area, i.e., an area in transition from a rural area to an Urban area.
- **Municipal Council**- For a smaller Urban Area. i.e., an Area of Population of more than 100,000.
- **Municipal Corporation**- For a larger Urban Area i.e., an area with a population of more than 1 million.
- In 1687-88, The first Municipal Corporation in India was set up at Madras.
- In 1726, municipal corporations were set up in Bombay and Calcutta.

74th Amendment Act of 1992:

- This Act added a new Part IX-A- 'The Municipalities' to the constitution of India.
- The new part consists of Provisions from Articles 243-P to 243-ZG.
- The Act also added a new Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution.
- This schedule contains 18 functional items of Municipalities and deals with Article 243-W.

Source: Laxmikanth

### **Q.4) Which of the following state was the first to establish Panchayati Raj in India?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Tripura
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Maharashtra

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Rajasthan was the first state to establish Panchayati Raj. The scheme was inaugurated by the prime minister on October 2, 1959, in Nagaur district. Rajasthan was

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followed by Andhra Pradesh, which also adopted the system in 1959. Thereafter, most of the states adopted the system.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.5) Which of the following committees and commissions has not been appointed by the Central Government to improve the functioning of urban local governments?**

- a) Rafiq Zakaria
- b) C.M Correa
- c) K.N. Sahaya
- d) S K Dhar

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The committees and commissions appointed by the Central Government to improve the functioning of urban local governments are mentioned below:

**Table 39.1 Committees and Commissions on Urban Local Governments**

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the Committee / Commission	Chairman
1.	1949–51	Local Finance Enquiry Committee	P.K. Wattal
2.	1953–54	Taxation Enquiry Commission	John Matthai
3.	1963–65	Committee on the Training of Municipal Employees	Nur-Ud-din Ahmed
4.	1963–66	Rural-Urban Relationship Committee	A.P. Jain
5.	1963	Committee of Ministers on Augmentation of Financial Resources of Urban Local Bodies	Rafiq Zakaria
6.	1965–68	Committee on Service Conditions of Municipal Employees	—
7.	1974	Committee on Budgetary Reform in Municipal Administration	Girijapati Mukharji
8.	1982	Study Group on Constitution, Powers and Laws of Urban Local Bodies and Municipal Corporations	K.N. Sahaya
9.	1985–88	National Commission on Urbanisation	C.M. Correa

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.6) When was the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act passed by the Indian Parliament?**

- a) 1998
- b) 1996
- c) 1995
- d) 1993

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

- Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) is a law enacted by the Government of India to cover the “Scheduled areas” which are not covered in the 73rd amendment or Panchayati Raj Act of the Indian Constitution.
- It was enacted on 24 December 1996 to enable Gram Sabhas to self-govern their natural resources.
- Under the PESA Act of 1996, the following provisions have been made for empowering Gram Sabhas:
- The Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas for development projects and before resettling or rehabilitating persons affected by such projects in the Scheduled Areas.
- However, the actual planning and implementation of the projects in the Scheduled Areas shall be coordinated at the state level.
- Planning and management of minor water bodies in the Scheduled Areas shall be entrusted to Panchayats at the appropriate level.
- The recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be mandatory for granting of prospecting license or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.7) By which amendment of the Constitution, 'Delhi' has been made National Capital Region?**

- a) 75th
- b) 73rd
- c) 70th
- d) 69th

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991:**

- 69 Amendment Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 designated the Union Territory of Delhi as the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- The 69th Amendment act of the Indian Constitution granted special status to Delhi in 1991. it was declared the National Capital Territory.
- It created a state assembly and council of ministers for the state.
- Aditya Nath Jha became the first Lieutenant Governor of Delhi under the act.
- Article 239AA of the Constitution gave the status of Union Territory to Delhi.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.8) Consider the following Committees on Panchayati Raj and arrange these in chronological order:**

1. Ashok Mehta Committee
2. L. M. Singhvi Committee
3. B. R. Mehta Committee

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below.**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: The chronological order is-**

- Balwant Rai Mehta Committee - 1957
- Ashok Mehta Committee -1977
- G V K Rao Committee -1985
- L M Singhvi Committee -1986

**Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957):**

- The committee submitted its report in November 1957, in which the term ‘democratic decentralization’ first appears. The important recommendations are:
- Transfer of resources and power to these bodies to be ensured.
- District Collector to be the chairman of Zila Parishad.
- Establishment of a three-tier Panchayati Raj system – gram panchayat at village level (direct election), Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zila Parishad at the district level (indirect election).
- Rajasthan (1959) adopted the system first, followed by Andhra Pradesh in the same year.

**Ashok Mehta Committee (1977):** The committee was constituted by the Janata government of the time to study Panchayati Raj institutions. The important recommendations are:

- Constitutional recognition to be given to Panchayati Raj institutions.
- A minister for Panchayati Raj to be appointed by the state council of ministers.
- Zila Parishad is to be made responsible for planning at the state level.
- Compulsory powers of taxation to be given to these institutions.
- Political parties should participate at all levels in the elections.
- A three-tier system is to be replaced by a two-tier system.

**G V K Rao Committee (1985):** The important recommendations of the G V K Rao Committee are:

- Regular elections to be held. Post of DDC (District Development Commissioner) to be created acting as the chief executive officer of the Zila Parishad.
- Zila Parishad is to be given prime importance and all developmental programs at that level are to be handed to it.

**L M Singhvi Committee (1986):** The committee was constituted by the Rajiv Gandhi government on ‘Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj institutions for Democracy and Development. The important recommendations are:

- Nyaya Panchayats to be established for clusters of villages.
- Constitutional recognition for Panchayati Raj institutions.

Source: Laxmikanth



**Q.9) With respect to Panchayat system, which of the following statements is correct?**

- a) The Panchayat system exists in all states of India except Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
- b) The Panchayat system is introduced in India by the Constitution 74th Amendment Act, and envisages a three tier system of Local Governance
- c) Panchayat system is not provided for states having less than 2 million population
- d) Gram Panchayat can continue for 3 years from the date of election

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: 73rd Amendment Act, 1992:**

- This Act added a Part-IX-'The Panchayats' to the constitution of India.
- It consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O.
- The Act also added a new 11th Schedule to the Constitution.
- This schedule contains 29 functional items of the Panchayats and deals with Article 243-G.
- The act provides for a 3-tier system of Panchayati Raj in every state- At the village, intermediate and district levels. So, statement 2 is NOT correct.
- A state having a population not exceeding 2 million may not constitute panchayats at the intermediary level. So, statement 3 is NOT correct.
- The Act provides for a 5-year term of office to the Panchayat at every level. However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term. So, statement 4 is NOT correct.
- Currently, the Panchayat system exists in all states except Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram, and in all Union Territories except Delhi.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.10) How many elected and Ex - Officio members are there in District Planning Committee?**

- a) 20 and 5
- b) 20 and 3
- c) 20 and 2
- d) 20 and 10

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: District planning committee**

- "District planning committee" is a constitutional body mentioned in article 243 ZD.
- The committee is composed of elected members of local bodies of urban or rural areas and the nominated members within the district.
- The DPCs are to have at least four-fifths elected members as per Article 243 ZD.
- Members should be elected from the elected members of the Panchayat at the district level and of the Municipalities in the district in proportion to the ratio between the population of the rural areas and of the urban areas in the district.
- The function of the committee includes referring to the matters of common interest between the panchayat and the municipalities, preparation of draft with respect to the sharing of water and other natural resources, and integrated development of infrastructure and environmental conservation.
- The committee in each district should consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities.
- All the states and union territories except Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, J&K, and NCT of Delhi are required to set up a "District planning committee".
- Elected and Ex-Officer members in District Planning Committee are 20 and 3 respectively.

Source: Laxmikanth

## Geography

**Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO)?**

1. Tata Iron and Steel Co. is the first and oldest Iron and Steel Plant in the country.
2. It is located in Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), on the Mahanadi River.

**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: TISCO**

- Tata Iron And Steel Co. Is the first and the oldest in Iron and Steel Plant in country.
- It is located in Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), on the Subarnarekha river.
- Raw Materials
  - Iron-ore:Singhbhum (Noamandi mines- Jharkhand), Mayurbhanj (Gurumahisani mines-Orissa)
  - Coal: Jharia (Jharkhand)
  - Limestone: Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
  - Manganese: Noamundi
  - Water: River of Subarnarekha

Source: NCERT Class 12

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are correct factors leading to gradual shifting of sugar industry from North India to Peninsular India?**

1. Peninsular tropical climate results in higher yield per unit hectare of land.
2. Greater sucrose quantity in sugar crops in the peninsular region.

**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: Sugar Industry**

- Sugar production is moving from north to peninsular regions owing to reasons:
- Tropical climate in peninsular regions lead to larger quantities of yield per hectare
- Greater sucrose quantity in sugar crops in the peninsular region
- It has longer crushing season in south. While the crushing season in Uttar Pradesh ranges from November to February (4months), in case of peninsular regions, its October to May, or even June (about 8months).

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- Though mills in number are more in Uttar Pradesh, mills in Maharashtra are larger in terms of size and output capacity while mills in southern states are better managed and operated efficiently.

Source: NCERT Class 12

**Q.3) Identify the correct sequence in ascending order of the volume of production of various silk varieties in India?**

1. Mulberry
2. Eri
3. Tasar
4. Muga

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Silk Varieties**

- Ascending order is: Tasar- Muga- Eri- Mulberry
- The production output of Indian Silk Industry in India is 17,300 tons of silk and country produces 4 types of silk i.e. Mulberry , Muga , Tassore and Eri.
- About 80% of the silk produced in the country is of mulberry silk.
- Eri is grown in Assam and the adjacent north-eastern states, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha.
- Muga is unique in having a golden sheen and is a prized possession of India. Muga is largely restricted to Assam and other north-eastern states and recently spread to West Bengal.

Source: NCERT Class 12

**Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding cement industries in India?**

1. Limestone is the major raw material used in production of cement.
2. The production of cement releases greenhouse gas emissions both directly and indirectly.

**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: Cement Industries in India**

- India is the second largest manufacturer of cement in the world. Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala are largest cement producing states in India.
- Maharashtra is largest consumer state of Cement.
- Limestone is the major raw material used in production of cement.



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- The production of cement releases greenhouse gas emissions both directly and indirectly: the heating of limestone releases CO<sub>2</sub> directly, while the burning of fossil fuels to heat the kiln indirectly results in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Cement plants account for 5 percent of global emissions of carbon dioxide, the main cause of global warming. Cement has no viable recycling potential.

Source: NCERT Class 12

### **Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Bio-CNG:**

1. BIO-CNG is the purified form of biogas and comprises more than 93 per cent of pure methane gas.
2. In its composition and energy potential it is different from the commercially available natural gas.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Bio-CNG**

- BIO-CNG is the purified form of biogas from which all the unwanted gases are removed to get more than 93 per cent of pure methane gas.
- Once Bio-CNG fuel is commercially produced and readily available, it has the potential to decrease the import of diesel by up to 50 per cent.
- In its composition and energy potential it is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas.
- India's first BIO-CNG fuel plant was inaugurated in Pune, Maharashtra.
- Benefits of BIO-CNG:
  - It will help in reducing the import of diesel up to 50 per cent
  - It is cost-effective
  - It is pollution free
- Bio CNG can directly replace every utility of LPG and CNG in India. It has the potential to be the future of renewable fuel because of the abundance of biomass in India.

Source: NCERT Class 12

### **Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the Transport Sector in India:**

1. The transport sector accounts for nearly 18 per cent of the total energy consumed in India, second only to the industrial sector.
2. Road transport accounts for 69 per cent of world's total oil consumption.
3. Of the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally, transportation accounts for almost 23 per cent.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Transport Sector**

- The transport sector accounts for nearly 18 per cent of the total energy consumed in India; second only to the industrial sector.
- Nearly 98 per cent of the energy needs of transportation are met through petroleum products, and almost half of the total consumption of petroleum products in India occurs on account of transport activities.
- Transportation accounts for almost 23 per cent of world's total carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion.
- Road transport accounts for 69 per cent of world's total oil consumption.

Source: NCERT Class 12

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about Inland Waterways in India:**

1. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is tasked with development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation.
2. Inland waterway is environment friendly and fuel efficient mode of transport.
3. Making laws on shipping and navigation on inland waterways comes under State List.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Inland Waterways in India**

- IWAI is the statutory nodal agency for development and regulation of inland waterways in the country.
- Making laws on shipping and navigation on inland waterways comes under Union List.
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) came into existence on 27th October 1986 for development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation.
- Its operations are currently restricted to a few stretches in the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly rivers, the Brahmaputra, the Barak River, the rivers in Goa, the backwaters in Kerala, inland waters in Mumbai and the deltaic regions of the Godavari & Krishna Rivers.
- The cost of inland waterways transportation is stated to be cheaper than both road transport and railways.

Source: NCERT Class 12

**Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the ocean transport routes of the world?**

1. The North Atlantic Ocean Route is the busiest of all ocean routes.
2. The Suez Canal oceanic route has the highest volume traffic.
3. The Panama Canal ocean route is called 'the gateway to the Pacific'.

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Ocean Transport Routes**

- The North Atlantic Ocean Route has the greatest traffic of all ocean routes. Nearly one-fourth of the tonnage of the world's merchant vessels serves this route. This oceanic route is the busiest trade route of the world.
- The Suez Canal ocean route is second to the North Atlantic in respect of volume of traffic.
- The Panama Canal is 'the gateway to the Pacific' and eliminated the long and hazardous voyage round the Cape Horn. It has benefited on both Atlantic and Pacific seaboard.

Source: NCERT Class 12

**Q.9) Consider the following regarding Indian Railways:**

1. Highest numbers of fatalities over Indian Railways occur due to accidents at unmanned level crossings.
2. IT enabled Integrated Coaching Management System (ICMS) has been launched recently which helps in offline monitoring of running of trains.
3. Indian Railways has tied up with Sulabh International to develop Bio-toilet tanks for trains.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Indian Railways**

- Highest numbers of fatalities over IR occur due to accidents at unmanned level crossings.
- These can be minimized with the construction of road over bridges and road under bridges.
- IT enabled Integrated Coaching Management System (ICMS) has been launched which helps in online monitoring of running of trains.
- Indian Railways (IR) and DRDO together have developed Bio-toilet tanks.

Source: NCERT Class 12

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

1. It is produced from metallic minerals.
2. India has a near monopoly in the production of mica globally.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Mineral Mica**

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- Mica is a naturally occurring non-metallic mineral that is based on a collection of silicates. It can withstand high voltage and has low power loss factor.
- It is used in toothpaste and cosmetics because of its glittery appearance. It also acts as a mild abrasive in toothpaste.
- India is one of the foremost suppliers of mica to the world. Mica-bearing igneous rocks occur in AP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
- India has a near monopoly in the production of mica [60 % of world's total]. Production decreased in recent times due to fall in demand in the international market. Fall in demand is due to better synthetic alternatives that are available.

Source: NCERT Class 12

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## *Environment*

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**Q.1) A legal binding obligation for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure in the context of hazardous chemicals has been created by which of the following conventions?**

- a) Rotterdam Convention
- b) Basel Convention
- c) Minamata Convention
- d) Stockholm Convention

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Prior Informed Consent:**

- The Rotterdam Convention was adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2004.
- The objective of the Rotterdam Convention was to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals to protect human health and the environment from potential harm.
- The Convention creates legal binding obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.

Source: <http://www.pic.int/>

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with reference to the impacts of livestock on environment:**

1. The meat industries do not emit large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane.
2. Animal waste contains excess phosphorous which is harmful to the environment.

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

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2



d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Livestock Sector**

- The livestock sector is a major environmental polluter.
- Feed production requires intensive use of water, fertilizer, pesticides and fossil fuels. Because only a third of the nutrients fed to animals are absorbed, animal waste is a leading factor in the pollution of land and water resources.
- The beef, pork and poultry industries also emit large amounts of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases.

Source: <https://www.fao.org/livestock-environment/en>

**Q.3) Consider the following ways in which increased level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would impact the plants:**

1. A decrease in photosynthetic productivity of plants.
2. Proliferation of weeds.
3. Increase in number of insects and other pests.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere leads to:

- Increase photosynthetic productivity of plants. This in turn produces more organic matter.
- Weeds may proliferate rapidly and that too at the expense of useful plants.
- Insects and other pests that feed on plants may also increase in number.
- Survival of other organisms gets affected.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC)?**

1. TRAFFIC is a joint programme of WWF and UNEP.
2. It aims to reduce wildlife crime and illegal trade.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** TRAFFIC

- TRAFFIC is a wildlife trade monitoring network which is a joint program of WWF and IUCN.
- TRAFFIC's work is organized around two work streams:

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- Action to reduce wildlife crime and illegal trade.
- Action to enhance benefits from sustainable, legal wildlife trade.
- TRAFFIC undertakes its activities in close collaboration with governments and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Source: <https://www.traffic.org/>

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the Black Carbon Research Initiative:**

1. It is an Indian initiative launched as a part of the National Carbonaceous Aerosols Program (NCAP).
2. Ministry of Earth Sciences, DRDO and Ministry of Environment are implementing agencies of this programme.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

- ISRO-GBP (Indian Space Research Organization's Geosphere Biosphere Programme) recognized the importance of Black Carbon aerosols on the climate system and it was decided to pursue studies of Black Carbon in subsequent years.
- In view of this, a multi-institutional and multi-agency Science Plan has been launched in Ministry of Environment in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian Space Research Organization, Ministry of Science and Technology and other associated agencies, to monitor aerosols and assess its impacts through various modeling techniques.

Source:

<http://indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/Black%20Carbon%20Research%20Initiative.pdf>

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

1. The Montreal Protocol is an international environmental treaty to phase out the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs).
2. Kigali agreement is an amendment to Montreal Protocol.
3. India has not ratified the Kigali Agreement.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

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- The Montreal Protocol is a most effective international environmental treaty to phase out the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) from the atmosphere. It came into force in 1989. It has 197 member parties to the protocol and become a first international treaty with complete ratification.
- It has successfully curbed the 98% production of chlorofluorocarbons and other ODSs and significantly contributed to the repair of the ozone hole.
- Kigali Agreement: It has undergone several amendments and Kigali amendment is the eighth amendment to this protocol. In the 28th meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, negotiators from 197 nations have signed a historic agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, a capital city of a tiny African country, Rwanda on 15th October 2016.
- As per the agreement, these countries are expected to reduce the manufacture and use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by roughly 80-85% from their respective baselines, till 2045.
- This phase down is expected to arrest the global average temperature rise up to 0.5 degree Celsius by 2100.
- India joins the nations of the world in lauding the Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, agreed to at the 28th Meeting of Parties at Kigali, Rwanda. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is legally binding and will come into force from January 1, 2019.
- The Kigali Agreement upholds the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR & RC).

Source: ForumIAS

### **Q.7) National Green Tribunal (NGT) adjudicates matters relating to:**

1. Forest Conservation Act.
2. Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991.
3. Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
4. Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: National Green Tribunal:**

- The NGT was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- It adjudicates matters relating to:
  - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
  - Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
  - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
  - Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;
  - Forest Conservation Act and Biological Diversity Act; 2002.

Source:

<https://www.greentribunal.gov.in/faqs#:~:text=The%20Tribunal%20has%20jurisdiction%20over,before%20the%20National%20Green%20Tribunal.>

**Q.8) Solar Radiation Management is used as a geo-engineering technique to combat climate change. Which of the following are its components?**

1. Placing Aluminum mirrors in space.
2. White painting roofs and roads.
3. Firing sulphur dioxide into atmosphere.
4. Ocean fertilization.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

- Theoretically, there are two major types of interventions - Carbon Sequestration and solar radiation management.
- Solar Radiation Management techniques include firing sulphur dioxide into atmosphere, putting huge mirrors in the space, creating pale colored rooftop and other structures which have high albedo.
- Ocean fertilization is adding iron or nitrogen to the ocean to promote carbon sequestration by phyto planktons.
- Geo engineering is large-scale intervention in the Earth's climatic system with the aim of limiting climate change.

Source:

[https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspa.2019.0255#:~:text='Solar%20geoengineering%20\(sometimes%20called,gases%20%5B5%2C6%5D.](https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspa.2019.0255#:~:text='Solar%20geoengineering%20(sometimes%20called,gases%20%5B5%2C6%5D.)

**Q.9) Animal Board of India was constituted under which of the following Acts?**

- a) Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- b) Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- c) Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act (PCA), 1960.
- d) Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Animal Board of India:**

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted in 1960 to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. As per the provisions of the law the government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India.



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- The act makes a provision under heading "Saving as respects manner of killing prescribed by religion" Nothing contained in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community.

Source: <http://www.awbi.in/about.html>

**Q.10) The term 'Extended Producer Responsibility' is most often used in the context of:**

- a) Intellectual Property Rights.
- b) Collection and channelization of e-waste.
- c) Tribal rights in terms of minor forest produce.
- d) Obligation of mining companies to safeguard the welfare of its workers.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

- 'Extended Producer Responsibility' is a concept under which producers will be responsible for collection and channelization of e-waste generated from the 'end of life' of their products to registered dismantler or recycler.
- It is defined under e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016 as notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Source: <https://www.oecd.org/environment/extended-producer-responsibility.htm>

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## *History*

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**Q.1) Which one of the following observations is not true about the Quit India Movement of 1942?**

- a) It was a non-violent movement
- b) Mahatma Gandhi condemn the violence of the masses
- c) It was a spontaneous movement

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d) It did not attract the labour class in general

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Quit India Movement of 1942

- 'Do or Die' mantra: Gandhi's famous mantra "We shall either free India or die in the attempt; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery" led to an arrest of all the top leaders of the Congress in the early hours of August 9, 1942, and being taken to unknown destinations.
- A spontaneous outburst of mass anger: the arrest of leaders led to mass upsurge all over the country for six or seven weeks after the unexpected event of August 9, 1942.
- Methods used: people devised a variety of ways of expressing their anger. In some places, huge crowds attacked police stations, post offices, courts, railway stations and other symbols of a government authority.
- National flags were forcibly hoisted on public buildings in defiance of the police. Cities, towns and villages witnessed the people's wrath.
- The greatest level of violence occurred in Bihar and Eastern United Province (now Uttar Pradesh).

Parallel governments were established at many places:

- Ballia (in August 1942 for a week) under Chittu Pandey.
- Tamluk (Midnapore, from December 1942 to September 1944) Jatiya Sarkar undertook cyclone relief work, sanctioned grants to schools, supplied paddy from the rich to the poor, organised Vidyut Vahinis, etc.
- Satara (mid-1943 to 1945), "Prati Sarkar", was organised under leaders like Y.B. Chavan, Nana Patil, etc.

Mahatma Gandhi refused to condemn the violence of the masses and held the government responsible for this violence.

The Quit India movement failed because of heavy-handed suppression by Government, weak coordination, lack of leadership and a clear-cut programme of action.

The Quit India movement was the spontaneous participation of the masses compared to the other Gandhian movements like non-cooperation and civil disobedience.

The great significance of this historic movement was that it placed the demand for independence on the immediate agenda of the national movement.

After 'Quit India' there could be no retreat. Independence was no longer a matter of bargain. And this became amply clear after World War-II.

Source: CSP 2011

**Q.2) Quit India Movement was launched in response to:**

- a) Cabinet Mission Plan
- b) Cripps Proposals
- c) Simon Commission Report
- d) Wavell Plan

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** British government sent a delegation to India under Sir Stafford Cripps to negotiate with the INC, a deal to obtain total cooperation during the war.

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- In return of progressive devolution and distribution of power from the crown and the Viceroy to an elected Indian legislature.
- The talks failed, as they did not address the key demand of self-government and only making an offer of limited dominion status which was unacceptable to the Indian movement

Source: CSP 2013

### **Q.3) With reference to Indian freedom struggle, Usha Mehta is well-known for:**

- a) Running the secret Congress Radio in the wake of Quit India Movement
- b) Participating in the Second Round Table Conference
- c) Leading a contingent of Indian National Army
- d) Assisting in the formation of Interim Government under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Aruna Asaf Alipopularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady' of the Independence Movement is known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.

Female leaders like Usha Mehta has helped set up an underground radio station which led to the awakening about the movement.

Source: CSP 2011

### **Q.4) Which of the following parties were established by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?**

1. The Peasants and Workers Party of India
2. All India Scheduled Castes Federation
3. The Independent Labour Party

**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:** Facts about Dr. B. R Ambedkar

- Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha was the first organization formed by Dr. Ambedkar in 1924.
- The First Round Table Conference was convened in London on November 12, 1930. The depressed classes were represented by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Rao Bahadur Srinivasan.
- Ambedkar formed the Independent Labour Party (ILP) in August, 1936, which participated in the provincial elections of Bombay and won 13 seats out of 15 seats reserved for scheduled castes. Independent Labour Party was transformed by Ambedkar as the All India Scheduled Castes Federation in 1942. It was a political party which participated in the general elections of 1946 but was completely defeated.
- Ambedkar was opposed to the strike by civil servants. For him strike is nothing more than a breach of contract of service. It is only a civil wrong not a crime.
- In July 1942, Ambedkar was appointed the member of Executive Council of Viceroy as a Labour member. He resigned from this post in May 1946.

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- In January, 1920, Ambedkar had also started a weekly paper called 'Mooknayak' (Leader of the Dumb) to champion the cause of the depressed classes in India.
- Some of his famous books include- The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables; Buddha and His Dhamma; 'The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women', 'Emancipation of Untouchables', 'The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India'; 'Pakistan or Partition of India', 'Thoughts on Linguistic States', etc.
- Ambedkar was appointed as the first Law Minister of Independent India, but he resigned from the Cabinet on September 1951 due to differences with Nehru on the Hindu Code Bill.

Source: CSP 2012

**Q.5) Mahatma Gandhi undertook fast unto death in 1932, mainly because:**

- a) Round Table Conference failed to satisfy Indian political aspirations
- b) Congress and Muslim League had differences of opinion
- c) Ramsay Macdonald announced the Communal Award
- d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** On 16th September 1932, Mahatma Gandhi began 'fast up to death' to protest British support of a new Indian constitution which favoured separate the Indian electorate by caste. This separate electorate was given through the Macdonald award when the second round table conference ended inconclusively.

Source: CSP 2012

**Q.6) The Ilbert Bill controversy was related to the:**

- a) Imposition restrictions the Indians of certain to carry arms by Indians
- b) Imposition of restrictions on newspapers and magazines published in Indian languages
- c) Removal of disqualifications imposed on the Indian magistrates with regard to the trial of the Europeans
- d) Removal of a duty on imported cotton cloth

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Ilbert Bill, in the history of India, a controversial measure proposed in 1883 that sought to allow senior Indian magistrates to preside over cases involving British subjects in India. The bill, severely weakened by compromise, was enacted by the Indian Legislative Council on Jan. 25, 1884.

Source: CSP 2013

**Q.7) The Rowlatt Act aimed at:**

- a) Compulsory economic support to war efforts
- b) Imprisonment without trial and summary procedures for trial
- c) Suppression of the Khilafat Movement
- d) Imposition of restrictions on freedom of the press

**ANS: B**

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**Explanation:** The main aim of the Rowlatt act was to curb the fundamental rights of Indian citizens. Rowlatt Act was passed with the objective of completely suppressing the political activities in India by giving enormous powers to the Government.

Source: CSP 2012

**Q.8) During Indian freedom struggle, the National Social Conference was formed. What was the reason for its formation?**

- Different social reform groups or organizations of Bengal region united to form a single body to discuss the issues of larger interest and to prepare appropriate petitions/representations to the government.
- Indian National Congress did not want to include social reforms in its deliberations and decided to form a separate body for such a purpose
- Behramji Malabari and M. G. Ranade decided to bring together all the social reform groups of the country under one organization
- None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Indian National Congress did not want to include social reforms in its deliberations and decided to form a separate body for such a purpose. National Social Conference was founded by M.G. Ranade and Raghunath Rao. It was virtually the social reform cell of the Indian National Congress.

- The Conference met annually as a subsidiary convention of the Indian National Congress, at the same venue, and focused attention on social reform.
- The Conference advocated inter-caste marriages and opposed kulinism and polygamy.

Source: CSP 2012

**Q.9) The Partition of Bengal made by Lord Curzon in 1905 lasted until**

- The First World War when Indian troops were needed by the British and the partition was ended.
- King George V abrogated Curzon's Act at the Royal Darbar in Delhi in 1911
- Gandhiji launched his Civil Disobedience Movement
- The Partition of India, in 1947 when East Bengal became East Pakistan

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Partition of Bengal made by Lord Curzon in 1905 lasted until the First World War when Indian troops were needed by the British and the partition was ended. King George V abrogated Curzon's Act at the Royal Durbar in Delhi in 1911.

Source: CSP 2014

**Q.10) The Ghadr (Ghadar) was a**

- Revolutionary association of Indians with headquarters at San Francisco.
- Nationalist organization operating from Singapore
- Militant organization with headquarters at Berlin
- Communist movement for India's freedom with head-quarters at Tashkent

**ANS: A**



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**Explanation:** The Ghadar Party was a revolutionary association founded by Punjabi Indians in the United States and Canada with the aim to gaining India's independence from British rule. Key members included Lala Har Dayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Kartar Singh Sarabha, and Rashbehari Bose. It had its headquarters at San Francisco.

Source: CSP 2014

