

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

12th to 18th September, 2022

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS



Environment

Q.1) Clouded Leopard National Park is located in which of the following state/UT?

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Sikkim
- d) Tripura

ANS: D

Explanation: Clouded Leopard National Park is located in the West Tripura district of the state of Tripura.

The terrain is green throughout the year and the weather is temperate except for the two humid summer months of March and April. It is woodland with an artificial lake.

Total area of the park is 5.08 Km². Clouded Leopard National Park was established in the year of 2007. The park is an ideal place for all those who want to enjoy the beauties of the Mother Nature at its best. The place offers various sightseeing sights like Botanical garden, lake, zoo etc.

National park is an area which is strictly reserved for the betterment of the wildlife & biodiversity, and where activities like developmental, forestry, poaching, hunting and grazing on cultivation are not permitted. Their boundaries are well marked and circumscribed.

Source: <https://forest.tripura.gov.in/forest-wild-life?id=Q2xvdWRlZCBMZW9wYXJkIE5hdGlvbmFsIFBhcms=>

Q.2) In case of which of the following, no alteration of boundaries can be made without recommendation of National Board for Wild Life?

- 1. Biosphere Reserves
- 2. Wildlife sanctuaries
- 3. Tiger Reserves
- 4. National Parks

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Power of National Board of Wildlife related to Protected Areas:

The Board may recommend the alteration of the boundaries of a sanctuary / National Park to the State Government.

The Board may approve or disapprove of the construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos, safari parks inside a sanctuary / National Park by the Chief Wild Life Warden.

No alteration of boundaries of a tiger reserve shall be made except on recommendation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the National Board for Wild Life.

No State Government shall de-notify a tiger reserve, except in public interest with the approval of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the National Board for Wild Life.

Source: <https://www.lawcolumn.in/national-board-for-wildlife-constitution-powers-and-functions/>

Q.3) In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat?

- a) Sand deserts of northwest India
- b) Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Salt marshes of western Gujarat
- d) Western Ghats

ANS: D

Explanation: Great Indian hornbills

- Great Indian hornbills are found in the forests of Nepal, India, Mainland Southeast Asia, and Sumatra.
- Great Indian hornbill is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- They are listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of India.
- Great Hornbills are found in three separate areas in South Asia;
 - The Western Ghats,
 - The Himalayan foothills in Uttaranchal to south Nepal
 - Bhutan and northeast India.
- They are also found in Myanmar, islands in the Mergui archipelago, southern China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, and in Sumatra, Indonesia.
- They are also found in primary evergreen and moist deciduous forests, mainly in lowland forests, but they can be found up to 2,000 meters in some areas.
- The Great Hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Hornbill Festival is also celebrated between 1st to 10th December every year in Nagaland.
- In Nagaland Hornbill is a respected bird that finds mention in the tribe's folklore.
- In 2018 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Great Indian Hornbill as vulnerable in the Red List of Threatened Species.

Source: <https://www.natureinfofocus.in/animals/the-hornbills-of-india>

Q.4) Scorpaenopsis neglecta, a rare marine species, has been found in which of the following places?

- a) Gulf of Mannar
- b) Gulf of Kutch
- c) Andaman Sea
- d) Bay of Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Scientific name- Scorpaenopsis neglecta.

- It is well-known for its stinging venomous spines and the ability to change color.
- The fish is called 'scorpionfish' because its spines contain neurotoxic venom.
- Researchers have found a rare fish from the Sethukarai coast in the Gulf of Mannar. This was the first time that a particular species was found alive in Indian waters.



Source: The Hindu

Q.5) One horned rhinoceros is found in the following pairs of states?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura
- b) West Bengal and Assam
- c) Arunachal Pradesh and Assam
- d) West Bengal and Tripura

ANS: B

Explanation: One horned Rhinoceros:

- They are found in the Indian subcontinent.
- The one-horned rhinoceros (Indian rhinoceros) are the largest of the rhino species.
- They are mainly found in Assam, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh.
- There are 2,640 rhinoceros in four protected areas in Assam.
- Pabitora Wildlife Reserve
- Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park
- Kaziranga National Park
- Manas National Park.
- 90% are found in Kaziranga National Park.
- It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- The National Rhino Conservation Strategy was launched in the year 2019 for the conservation of big-horned rhinos.
- Indian Rhino Vision 2020 was launched in 2005, it is an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.

Source: ENVIS

Q.6) Dachigam National Park is associated with which of the following species?

- a) Musk Deer
- b) Golden Oriole
- c) Yellow-throated Marton
- d) Hangul or Kashmir Stag

ANS: D

Explanation: Dachigam National Park

- Dachigam NP is located 22 KM from Srinagar.
- It means "10 villages".
- It has been established for the conservation of Hangul.
- Its population has been declining at an alarming rate.
- Hangul is the state animal of Jammu and is the only species of Red Deer surviving.
- The conservation status of Hangul is Critically Endangered.

Other National Parks in J&K-

- Dachigam National Park
- Kazinag National Park
- Kishtwar National Park
- Salim Ali (City Forest) National Park

Source: ShankarIAS

Q.7) Lion-tailed macaques are found in which part of India?

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Sikkim
- c) Aasam
- d) Western Ghats

ANS: D

Explanation: Lion-tailed macaque:

- They live in the Western Ghats hills and mountains of southwestern India, is a rainforest dwellers; it is diurnal, meaning it is active exclusively in daylight hours.
- It is a good climber and spends the majority of its life in the upper canopy of tropical moist evergreen forests.
- Unlike other macaques, it typically avoids humans when possible.
- In group behaviour, the lion-tailed macaque is much like other macaques, living in hierarchical groups of usually 10 to 20 members, which usually consist of a few males and many females.
- It is a territorial animal, defending its area first with loud cries towards the invading troops.

Source: ShankarIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. There is no egg laying Mammals species.
2. Ganges river dolphin is a marine mammal species.

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: MARINE MAMMALS:

Freshwater / river dolphin

Habitat / distribution - India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan which is split into two subspecies, the Ganges river dolphin and Indus river dolphin.

Ganges river dolphin

Habitat / distribution - Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers and their tributaries in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

The Ganges river dolphin has been recognized by the government of India as its National Aquatic Animal.

Indus river dolphin

Habitat / distribution - Indus River in Pakistan and its Beas and Sutlej tributaries.

Herbivorous Marine Mammals

include dugong and manatees and they inhabit swamps, rivers, estuaries, marine wetlands, and coastal marine waters.

Dugong

(Dugong dugon) also called as sea cow.

Status - vulnerable. Threat - hunting (meat and oil), habitat degradation, and fishing-related fatalities.

Manatees

Habitat / distribution - Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, the Amazon Basin, and West Africa

Threat - coastal development, red tide, hunting.

Egg Laying Mammals

The unique feature of monotremes, a sub division of mammal, is that monotremes lay eggs rather than giving birth to their young. There are only five living Monotreme/ egg laying Mammals species: they are - the duck-billed platypus and four species of spiny anteaters (also known as echidna). All of them are found only in Australia and New Guinea.

Source: ShankarIAS

Q.9) Which of the following bird species is not critically endangered in India?

- a) Forest owl
- b) Griffon Vulture
- c) Great Indian Bustard
- d) Bengal Florican

ANS: B

Explanation: The critically endangered bird species in India are:

- Great Siberian Crane,
- Indian Bustard,

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- White backed Vulture
- Red-headed Vulture,
- Forest Owlet,
- Spoon Billed Sandpiper,
- White Bellied Heron
- Bengal Florican
- Himalayan Quail
- Sociable Lapwing

Source: <http://eprienviis.nic.in/All%20PDF%20Files/5.Critically%20Endangered%20Species-Article.pdf>

Q.10) Which of the following disease does not impact wildlife?

1. Tuberculosis
2. Rabies
3. Tomato Flu

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

Diseases	Casual organism	Animal susceptible
Tuberculosis	Mycobacterium spp	Deer, cat, primates, elephant
Anthrax	Bacillus anthrax	Gaur, chetal, wild pig, barking deer
Rabies	Rabies virus	Tiger, lion, bear, mongoose, squirrel
Foot and mouth disease	FMD virus	Gaur, nilgai, chetal, sambar, yak, mithun
Rinder pest	Microbilli virus	Deer, wild pig, wild buffalo
Trypanosomia	Trypanosomia virus	Tiger, elephant, sambar, macaque
Taxoplasmosis	Taxoplasma gondii	Rhesus macaque, civet cat

Source: ShankarIAS

History

Q.1) Which among the following Mahajanapadas was not on the river Ganga?

- a) Kamboja
- b) Anga
- c) Vatsa
- d) Shurasena

ANS: A

Explanation: Sixteen Mahajanapadas

According to Puranic, Buddhist and Jaina traditions, there were sixteen mahajanapadas.

- Gandhara
- Kamboja
- Assaka
- Vatsa
- Avanti
- Shurasena
- Chedi
- Malla
- Kuru
- Panchala
- Matsya
- Vajji (Vrijji)
- Anga
- Kasi
- Kosala
- Magadha



Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Vrijjis were one of the best known of the oligarchies.
2. Bali was a tax imposed based on the area of cultivable land.

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: Gana-Sanghas:

- The proto-states of the Gangetic region were known as janapadas and comprised chiefdoms, republics and small kingdoms.
- Sixteen mahajanapadas find mention in the early texts. There were also ganasanghas or oligarchies, which were centred on clans.
- The Vrijjis were one of the best known of the gana-sanghas, and Vaishali was their capital in the Mithila region. These kingdoms did not come under the single decision-making authority of a king but decisions were taken on a collective basis by the heads of the different clans together.
- There were also smaller kingdoms such as Kosala and Kasi. It is interesting to note that the names of the clans, such as Ikshvaku and Vrishni, as well as these early kingdoms, are all mentioned in the two epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Monarchies or Kingdoms

- The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies. Vedic orthodoxy was an established practice in these kingdoms.
- The priestly class enjoyed a preeminent status in the mahajanapadas unlike in the gana-sanghas. The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was centralised.
- The brahman priests provided legitimacy to the king through various rituals. The kingship was hereditary and the succession was in most cases based on the law of primogeniture.
- The king was assisted by councils called parishad and sabha. The councils were advisory in nature. The king appropriated the agricultural surplus through land revenue apart from a few other taxes.
- Bali was a tax imposed based on the area of cultivable land. Bhaga was obtained as a share of the produce. Kara and Shulka were some of the other taxes collected during this period.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

1. Junagarh Inscription Rudradaman
2. Mudrarakshas Mauryas
3. Devanampiya Piyadassi Deciphered by Sir John Marshall

Which of the above given pairs is/are not correctly matched?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Sources of Information about Mauryas:

- The first is the rock inscription of Junagadh, near Girnar in Gujarat.
- This was carved during the reign of Rudradaman, the local ruler and dates back to 130–150 CE. It refers to Pushyagupta, the provincial governor (rashtra) of Emperor Chandragupta.
- A second source is a literary work. The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Gupta period, sometime after the 4th century CE.
- It narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of the Magadha Empire and the exploits of his chief advisor Chanakya or Kautilya by listing the strategies he used to counter an invasion against Chandragupta. This play is often cited as a corroborative source since it supports the information gathered from other contemporary sources about Chandragupta.
- The most widely known are the edicts of Ashoka, which have been discovered in many parts of the country.
- In fact, the reconstruction of the Mauryan period to a great extent became possible only after the Brahmi script of the inscriptions at Sanchi was deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837.
- Information about other edicts in other parts of the country also became available at that time.
- All the edicts began with a reference to a great king, "Thus spoke devanampiya (beloved of the gods) piyadassi (of pleasing looks)", and the geographical spread of the edicts make it clear that this was a king who had ruled over a vast empire.
- Puranic and Buddhist texts referred to a chakravartin named Ashoka. As more edicts were deciphered, the decisive identification that devananampiya piyadassi was Ashoka was made in 1915.
- One more edict when deciphered, which referred to him as devanampiya Ashoka, made reconstruction of Mauryan history possible.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.4) Which one of the following statements about the word 'Hindu' is/are not correct?

1. The word "Hindu" appears for the first time in an inscription of Darius I at Persepolis, Iran.
2. Darius lists "Hindu" as part of his empire.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The word "Hindu" appears for the first time in an inscription of Darius I at Persepolis, Iran. Darius lists "Hindu" as part of his empire.
- The word "Sindhu", denoting a river in general and Indus in particular, became "Hindu" in Persian. The Greeks dropped the S and called it Indu, which eventually came to be called Hindu and later India.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.5) Takshashila, one of the greatest intellectual achievements of any ancient civilization is located in which of the following present day country?

- a) India
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Pakistan
- d) Iran

ANS: C

Explanation: Taxila:

- Takshashila or Taxila is situated in presentday Pakistan. Between the fifth century and fourth century BCE, it was part of the Achaemenid Empire of Persia.
- Because of its strategic location on the trade route between the East and the West, it emerged as an important centre of learning and culture.
- Students came from far and wide to Taxila in search of knowledge. The city was brought to light by the excavation carried out in the 1940s by Sir John Marshall. Taxila is considered "one of the greatest intellectual achievements of any ancient civilization".
- Panini seems to have compiled his wellknown work, Ashtadhyayi, here.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.6) With respect to impact of Persian Invasions on India, consider the following statements?

1. Development of the Kharosthi script in India, has its origin in Persian Empire.
2. Ashokan edicts have been inspired by the edicts of the Achaemenid king Darius.

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: Impact of Persian Contact:

- As the north-western part of India came under the control of the Persian Empire from about middle of the sixth century, the region became a centre of confluence of Persian and Indian culture.
- The Persian contact left its impact on art, architecture, economy and administration of ancient India. The cultural impact was felt most in the Gandhara region.
- The most significant impact was the development of the Kharosthi script, used in the north-western part of India.
- It was used by Ashoka in his inscriptions in the Gandhara region. The Kharosthi script was derived from Aramaic used widely in the Achaemenid Empire of Persia.
- Like Aramaic, Kharosthi was written from right to left. Persian sigloi (silver coin) is an imitation from the region.
- The earliest coins in India are traced to the period of the mahajanapadas. The Indian word for coin karsa is of Persian origin. The coins might have been inspired by the Persian coins.
- The existence of coins in that period suggests trade links between India and Persia. The Ashokan edicts might have been inspired by the edicts of the Achaemenid king Darius.
- The Ashokan edicts use the term lipi instead of the Iranian term dipi.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.7) Who among the following was the ruler of Magadha during the invasion of Alexander in India?

- a) Dhana Nanda
- b) Bindusara
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Mahapadma Nanda

ANS: A

Explanation: Invasion by Alexander

- During Dana Nanda's reign, Alexander invaded north-west India (327–325 BCE).
- In many ways, the invasion by Alexander is a watershed in Indian history.
- It marked the beginning of the interaction between India and the West, which spanned many centuries to follow.
- Greek historians began to write about India, and Greek governors and kings ruled in the north-western region of India, which introduced new styles of art and governance.

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- After his conquests in the Punjab region, Alexander expressed his desire to march further east to attack the Magadha Empire.
- However, his already tired troops had heard about the great emperor in the east (Nanda) and his formidable army and refused to be engaged in a war against such a powerful adversary.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.8) "Sandrakottus", was the name recorded by the Greek historians for who among the following?

- a) Mahapadma Nanda
- b) Chandragupta Maurya
- c) Ashoka
- d) Ajatshatru

ANS: B

Explanation:

- Contemporary accounts by Greek historians show that Chandragupta was a youth living in Taxila when Alexander invaded India.
- Greek historians have recorded his name as "Sandrakottus" or "Sandrakoptus", which are evidently modified forms of Chandragupta.
- Inspired by Alexander, Chandragupta led a revolt against the Nandas years later and overthrew them.
- Chandragupta achieved it either by inciting the people to rise against an unpopular monarch, or by soliciting their support in overthrowing an unpopular king.
- Chandragupta established the Mauryan Empire and became its first emperor in 321 BCE.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.9) The term "Samaharta" in Mauryan empire is used for who among the following?

- a) Priest
- b) Secretaries
- c) Collector General
- d) Military Commander

ANS: C

Explanation: Provincial Administration:

- At the head of the administration was the king. He was assisted by a council of ministers and a purohita or priest, who was a person of great importance, and secretaries known as mahamatriyas. The capital region of Pataliputra was directly administered.
- The rest of the empire was divided into four provinces based at Suvarnagiri (near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh), Ujjain (Avanti, Malwa), Taxila in the northwest, and Tosali in Odisha in the southeast.
- The provinces were administered by governors who were usually royal princes.
- In each region, the revenue and judicial administration and the bureaucracy of the Mauryan state was replicated to achieve a uniform system of governance.

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- Revenue collection was the responsibility of a collector-general (samaharta) who was also in charge of exchequer that he was, in effect, like a minister of finance. He had to supervise all the provinces, fortified towns, mines, forests, trade routes and others, which were the sources of revenue.
- The treasurer was responsible for keeping a record of the tax revenues. The accounts of each department had to be presented jointly by the ministers to the king. Each department had a large staff of superintendents and subordinate officers linked to the central and local governments.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 11

Q.10) In the Sarnath inscription, Emperor Ashoka's name appears as?

- a) Buddhashakya
- b) Debanampiya
- c) Dharmashoka
- d) Priyadassi

ANS: C

Explanation: Ashokan Pillar of Sarnath:

- It was carved out of a single block of polished sandstone.
- It bears one of the edicts of Ashoka, which reads, "No one shall cause division in the order of monks."
- The pillar also records the visit of Ashoka to Sarnath. The year of his visit is said to be around mid 3rd century BC.
- It consists of a canopy representing an inverted bell-shaped lotus flower.
- His name appears as Dharmashoka in the inscription.
- Currently, the pillar remains where it was originally sunk into the ground, but the capital is now on display at the Sarnath Museum.
- The top of the column - the capital - has three parts.
- First, a base of a lotus flower, the most ubiquitous symbol of Buddhism.
- Second, a drum on which chakra and four animals are carved representing the four cardinal directions: a horse (west), an ox (east), an elephant (south), and a lion (north).
- Third, four lions stand atop the drum, each facing in the four cardinal directions.

Source: UPSC PYQ

Revision

Q.1) Mercury is emitted as pollutant by which of the following?

- a) Coal based power plants
- b) Cold storage facilities
- c) Sugar, paper and jute mills
- d) Wineries

ANS: A

Explanation:

- When the energy sector releases mercury (Hg) as a pollutant, it creates environmental problems. Both humans and natural sources release mercury; burning coal specifically releases quite a bit of mercury.
- Human activity contribute anywhere from 50-90% of the mercury present in the environment.
- The estimates are not more precise because it is difficult to figure out how much re-emitted mercury was initially emitted by humans.
- Re-emission occurs when previously stored mercury is reintroduced into the environment by forest fires or other means, and requires complex modelling techniques to determine how much can be traced back to human emissions.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):

1. It has been approved by the Supreme Court.
2. It works only as an emergency measure.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

- In pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated December 02, 2016 in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India regarding air quality in National Capital Region of Delhi, a Graded Response Action Plan has been prepared for implementation under different Air Quality Index (AQI) categories namely, Moderate & Poor, Very Poor, and Severe as per National Air Quality Index. A new category of "Severe+ or Emergency" has been added.
- Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has notified for implementation of Graded Response Action Plan through Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority.
- It works only as an emergency measure. As such, the plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions.

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- When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed have to be followed since the plan is incremental in nature.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC):

1. It is directly under the directive of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
2. CBFC certification is required for movies, television programmes and serials

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The government body that governs and directs censorship in India is called the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- It was set up in 1950 under the name Central Board of Film Censors, but the same was changed under the Act of 1952.
- It is directly under the directive of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. All films have to get a Censor Board certificate.
- Even the foreign films that are imported to India have to get a CBFC certification. All the films that are dubbed from one language to another have to get a fresh certificate to ensure that the language change is not offensive in any manner.
- The only exception to the CBFC certificate is films made especially for Doordarshan as they are the official broadcaster for the Government of India and they have their own set of rules for examining such films. CBFC certification is also not required for television programmes and serials.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to Telugu Literature:

1. It reached its zenith during the Kakatiya period that is also known as the golden age of Telugu literature
2. Nannaya was a famous poet in Telugu

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: B

Explanation:

- Linguists have argued the Nannaya (11th century) was the first poet in Telugu.
- Several great works have been written in Telugu but it reached its zenith during the Vijayanagara period that is also known as the golden age of Telugu literature.

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- One of the most successful works in this period is titled Uttarharivamsam which was composed by Nachana Somanatha, a well-known court poet of King Bukka I.
- Not only were the court poets producing outstanding literature, even the kings like Krishnadevaraya (1509-1529) were composing exceptional poetry titled Amuktamalyada.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Local Area Banks (LABs):

1. LABs were created to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit framework in the rural and semi-urban areas
2. The minimum start-up capital of a LAB was fixed at Rs.50 crore

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

- In 1996 it was decided to allow the establishment of local banks in the private sector.
- These banks were expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit framework in the rural and semi-urban areas and provide efficient and competitive financial intermediation services in their area of operation.
- The minimum start-up capital of a LAB was fixed at Rs.5 crore. The promoters of these banks were required to bring in the entire minimum share capital up-front.
- It was also decided that a family among the promoter group could hold equity not exceeding 40% of the capital. The NRI contributions to the equity of the bank were not to exceed 40% of the paid-up capital.
- The entire initial capital subscribed by the promoters (including their friends and relatives/associates) would carry a lock in period of three years from the date of licensing of the bank. Further, the promoters' equity to the extent of 40% of the initial paid-up capital was to be locked in at least for two years beyond the aforesaid period of three years subject to review before expiry of five years from the date of licensing of the bank.
- The promoters of a LAB could be individuals, corporate entities and societies. The number of NRI promoters was not to exceed 20% of the total number of promoters.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):

1. ICSID set up in 1966 is an investment dispute settlement body whose decisions are binding on the parties
2. India is founder member of ICSID

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The 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.
- 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: ForumIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to features of Cabinet Committees:

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

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The following are the features of Cabinet Committees:

- They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
- They are of two types—standing and ad hoc. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
- They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition vary from time to time.

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- Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership.
- They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
- They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to President:

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

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

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

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

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

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

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI):

1. It is a private limited company with a major share holding of TATA industries
2. It is established with the objective of constructing and commissioning the first 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) is a Government Company under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) incorporated on 22nd October 2003 as Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 1956 with the objective of constructing and commissioning the first 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamilnadu and to pursue construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of subsequent Fast Breeder Reactors for generation of electricity in pursuance of the schemes and programmes of Government of India under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Which of the following space agency launched “PICARD Mission” to monitor the solar diameter, the differential rotation, the solar constant, and to study the long-term nature of their interrelations?

- a) French Space Agency (CNES)
- b) NASA
- c) JAXA
- d) ROSCOSMOS

ANS: A

Explanation:

- Picard is a CNES solar-terrestrial microsatellite mission of the Myriade series with French multi-institutional and international cooperation.
- The overall objective is to monitor the solar diameter, the differential rotation, the solar constant (simultaneous measurement of the absolute total and spectral solar irradiance), and to study the long-term nature of their interrelations.
- The mission was named in honor of the 17th century French astronomer Jean Picard (1620-1682), who made the first long-term measurements of the solar diameter, observed sunspots, and determined the rotational velocity of the sun.
- Picard was also the first who accurately measured the length of a degree of a meridian (longitude line) and from that result estimated the size of the Earth.
- Beyond the determination of the Earth orbit eccentricity, the diameter measurements brought important information about the particular state of the sun during the so-called Maunder Minimum [named after E. W. Maunder (1851-1928), an English astronomer who studied solar records of the period 1645-1715], a period showing a quasi absence of sunspots as compared to the early 17th century.

Source: ForumIAS

Science & Technology

Science & Technology

Q.1 The “Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project” is related to which of the following?

- a) INS Arihant
- b) Tejas aircraft
- c) Air-craft carrier
- d) Brahmos Missile project

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The plan for the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) until the late 1980s was to build an SSN - a fast-moving deep-diving nuclear-powered attack submarine, which would hunt surface ships.
- Around the time India leased a Charlie-I class nuclear-powered attack submarine from the Soviet Union, which happened in 1988, planning veered towards building a submarine carrying ballistic missiles.
- The hull design was lengthened and the SSN quietly transformed into an SSBN. The Project code named Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project took 25 years for completion.
- It spawned a new era in the field of cooperation between DRDO, BARC, Navy, PSUs and private industry in which these organizations synergized their efforts to achieve a significant technological and strategic milestone.
- The Arihant class(nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines)- INS Arihant (S73), INS Aridhaman (S74) are built for the Indian Navy by Navy Shipbuilding Centre, Visakhapatnam.
- The miniaturised naval version of the reactor was designed and built by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) in Kalpakkam.

Source: The Hindu

Q.2) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Missile /Defense system	:	Origin Country
1. Spike Missile	:	Israel
2. Tsirkon missile	:	Russia
3. Maareech torpedo defense system	:	India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) One pair only
- b) Two pairs only
- c) All three pairs
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation:

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- Russian administration announced on Russian Navy would be equipped with hypersonic nuclear strike weapons and underwater nuclear drones.
- Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile is designed to be carried on surface ships; it is under final phase of testing.

Spike Missile: Spike is an Israeli fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile and anti-personnel missile.

- It was developed and designed by the Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- Maarech torpedo defense system: It is an Advanced Torpedo Defence System (ATDS) that is capable of being fired from all frontline ships.
- It has been designed and developed indigenously by DRDO.
- It is capable of detecting, locating and neutralizing incoming torpedoes.

Source: Indian Express & ForumIAS

Q.3) The “C-17 Globemaster” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Fighter aircraft
- b) Submarine
- c) Military transport aircraft
- d) Aircraft carrier

ANS: C

Explanation:

- The C-17 Globe-master military transport aircraft was originally built by Boeing and McDonnell Douglas together for the US Air Force.
- A high-wing, 4-engine, T-tailed military-transport aircraft, the multi-service C-17 can carry large equipment, supplies and troops directly to small airfields in harsh terrain anywhere in the world day or night.
- The Indian Air Force has a fleet of 11 C-17 Globe-master IIIs.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.4) The Spike missile is newly acquired from Israel by Indian government is related to which of the following?

- a) Inter Continental Ballistic Missile
- b) Torpedo
- c) Nuclear payload capable missile
- d) Anti-tank missile

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The Indian Army successfully tested two newly acquired Spike long-range (LR) anti-tank guided missiles at the Infantry School at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- The Army has recently procured a small batch of 12 launchers and 250 missiles from Israel using its new financial powers to make emergency procurements sanctioned by the Defence Ministry.
- “Spike-LR is a fourth generation missile, which can engage a target with precision at ranges up to 4 km.

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- In addition to the fire-and-forget capability, the missile has the ability to fire, observe and update, providing substantial flexibility to the firer to pinpoint the impact point, as also the ability to switch to a different target mid-flight,” the manufacturer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, of Israel.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Industrial Design (IPR):

1. “Industrial design” title granted by any official authority protects only the non-functional features of an industrial product.
2. The period of protection granted to Industrial Design is more than 25 years.

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:

- An industrial design renders an object attractive or appealing, thus increasing its marketability and adding to its commercial value.
- The design may be three-dimensional based on the shape or surface of the object, or two-dimensional based on the object’s patterns, lines or colours.
- Novelty, originality and visual appeal are essential if an industrial design is to be patented, although these criteria can differ from one country to another.
- Its aesthetic features should not be imposed by the technical functions of the product.
- Legally, “industrial design” is the title granted by an official authority, generally the Patent Office, to protect the aesthetic or ornamental aspect of an object.
- This protects solely the non-functional features of an industrial product and does not protect any technical features of the object to which it is applied.
- Industrial design rights are granted to the creator of designs to reward them for their effort and investment in manufacturing the product. These rights enable the owner to make articles to which the design is applied or in which the design is embodied.
- The holder of this legal title has the exclusive right to make, import or sell any objects to which the design is applied.
- They can authorise others to exploit the design and bring a legal action against anyone using the design without authorisation.
- In general the period of protection granted is from 10 to 25 years. This is often divided into terms and an extension of the term requires renewal of the registration.

Source: The Hindu

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding New India Space Limited (NISL):

1. It is a wholly owned Government of India undertaking.
2. It is under the administrative control of Department of Space

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 Union Government has set up New Space India Limited (NSIL), a wholly owned Government of India undertaking/ Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS) on 06th March 2019 to commercially exploit the research and development work of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Centre's and constituent units of DOS.

Source: Agrahari

Q.7) Which of the following is NOT a member of Australia Group?

- a) France
- b) Germany
- c) India
- d) South Africa

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The 42 states participating in the Australia Group are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union also participates.

Source: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/australiagroup>

Q.8.) "RAISE 2020" is related to which of the following?

- a) CoVID-19
- b) Environmental Conservation
- c) Artificial Intelligence
- d) Organic farming

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020 (RAISE 2020) is a global meeting of minds to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation in key areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility amongst other **sectors.**

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) In which of the following city, South Asia's first “proton therapy centre” was launched?

- a) Amravati
- b) Chennai
- c) Bangalore
- d) Cochin

ANS: B

Explanation:

- South Asia's first proton therapy centre was launched in Chennai. Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, equipped with the path-breaking pencil beam technology, offers hope to cancer patients from India and abroad.
- It is a type of radiation therapy which uses protons rather than x-rays to treat cancer.
- It is considered as one of the most advanced forms of external beam radiation therapy for cancer treatment in the world.
- It is also known as Proton Beam Therapy and offers high levels of precision as compared to other treatment options.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) “Harpoon Capture” is recently in news, is related to which of the following?

- a) Space debris
- b) Deep-Sea fishing
- c) Fossil finding technique
- d) Horticulture

ANS: A

Explanation:

- A harpoon designed to capture orbital junk has been successfully tested in space for the first time as part of the active debris-removal demonstration mission called Remove Debris.
- The pen-size titanium harpoon developed by Airbus engineers in the U.K. was fired into an aluminum target, which extended from the spacecraft attached to a carbonfiber boom.
- During the test, it successfully snagged the target out of orbit and reeled it back to the main spacecraft.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Universal Basic Income (UBI):

1. A UBI plan was first suggested in the Economic Survey of 2020-21.
2. UBI will have specific criterion for selection of beneficiaries.

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:

What is Universal Basic Income?

- It is a guaranteed regular cash transfer by the Government to all citizens irrespective of their income or financial condition. As a universal safety net, UBI will be applied to all individuals, irrespective of income and age.
- The Economic Survey (2016-17) had noted that the UBI has 3 components:
 - Universality: UBI will cover all citizens,
 - Unconditionality: UBI has no criteria to select the beneficiaries
 - Agency: Providing support in the form of cash transfers to respect, not dictate, recipients' choices.
- UBI is supposed to be easily accessible, periodic, in the form of funds (and not vouchers/coupons) and is paid to individuals instead of households.

Since governments commit to a legally stipulated and equal financial grant, it is also considered to be a form of social welfare, especially for those who are unemployed, sick and at the end of their working life.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.2) Which among the following countries is not a member of Arab Monetary Fund?

- a) Iran
- b) Egypt
- c) Sudan
- d) Qatar

ANS: A

Explanation:

Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) is a regional Arab organisation, founded in 1976, and has started operations in 1977. Member Countries (22) are: Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Comoros, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Yemen.

Objectives

- The AMF aims at contributing to the achievement of the following objectives:
- Correcting disequilibria in the balance of payments of member states.

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- Striving for the removal of restrictions on current payments between member states.
- Establishing policies and modes of Arab monetary co-operation.
- Rendering advice, whenever called upon to do so, with regard to policies related to the investment of the financial resources of member states in foreign markets.
- Promoting the development of Arab financial markets.
- Paving the way towards the creation of a unified Arab currency.
- Settling current payments across member states to promote intra-trade.

Source: <https://www.amf.org.ae/en/about-us>

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Urban agriculture can be described as the growing of plants primarily for food and other domestic use within a city or a town and its environment.
2. Urban agriculture consists of a number of production systems within the city peripherals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

What is Urban Agriculture?

- Urban agriculture can be described as the growing of plants primarily for food and other domestic use within a city or a town and its environs;
- It involves activities such as the production, processing, marketing, and delivery of farming products;
- Urban agriculture consists of a number of production systems within the city peripherals. They vary from domestic production and household level processing to large scale agriculture;
- The term also includes activities like animal husbandry, aquaculture, bee-keeping and horticulture.

What are the benefits of Urban Agriculture?

The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) recognizes Urban Agriculture as a significant contributor to:

- Food security;
- Livelihood generation, especially for women;
- Poverty alleviation;
- Urban resilience and sustainability. Urban areas already house at least 55% of the world's population and consume 80% of the food produced globally. Urban Agriculture can address this challenge along with other benefits:

Economic Benefits:

- Income Generation for the practitioners;
- Revenues to Local Government through various activities;

Environmental Benefits:

- Reduces stormwater run-off;
- Reduction of local carbon footprint;
- Lower use of pesticides, crop preservation and new crop development;

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- Lowers local temp and contributes to cooler urban micro-climate;

Social Benefits:

- Community Participation;
- Urban Employment opportunities, raises living standards;

Health Benefits:

- Availability of fresh foods;
- Enhances food security.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.4) With respect to SC's Judgment on GST Council's Recommendations, which of the following given statement is/are correct?

1. GST Council decisions are persuasive and binding.
2. The Constitution has not specifically mentioned that all GST Council decisions will become law.

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 SC's Judgment on GST Council's Recommendations?

In addition to dismissing the appeal of the Union Government, the Court pointed out that:

- Article 246A gives the power to make laws relating to GST to both the Parliament and the State legislatures ;
- The Constitution has not specifically mentioned that all GST Council decisions will become law. If that was the intention, Article 279A would have included clarifications to this effect;
- The recommendations of the GST Council are the product of a collaborative dialogue involving the Union and States. They are recommendatory in nature. To regard them as binding would disrupt fiscal federalism where both the Union and the States are conferred equal power to legislate on GST;
- It concluded that the GST Council decisions are only 'persuasive' and not binding.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):

1. ONDC has been incorporated as a public sector, non-profit company to democratize e-commerce in India.
2. It was incubated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at the Quality Council of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

What is the background to ONDC?

- The fast-expanding digital economy has been one of the major supporting pillars of India's growth in recent times. India has the world's highest fintech adoption rate of 87%, as compared with the global average of 64%;
- 3 of the largest public digital platforms in the world are from India: Aadhaar (largest digital identity platform), Unified Payments Interface (UPI, largest digital payments ecosystem), and Co-Win (largest vaccination platform);
- Realizing the potential of digital space, the Government of India has launched the Open Network For Digital Commerce (ONDC) as a prospective alternative to dominant global giants (like Amazon and Walmart) in its fast-growing e-commerce market;
- The idea of ONDC was conceived during COVID when ensuring essential supplies across containment zones was found to be a challenge. Therefore a need was felt to alter the current digital commerce approach of 'scaling what works' to a new approach of 'what works at scale';
- On December 31, 2021, ONDC was incorporated as a private sector, non-profit (Section-8) company to democratize e-commerce in India and offer alternatives to proprietary e-commerce sites. It was incubated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at the Quality Council of India.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.6) With respect to 5G Network, consider the following statements:

1. 5G services will provide up to One GBPS (Gigabit Per Second) of download speed.
2. 5G services will have ultra-high latency.

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 5G-Network?

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- 5G or 5th-Generation is the latest upgrade so far in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks. The 5G technology mainly works in 3 bands, (low, mid and high-frequency spectrum);
- The important features of 5G include:
 - **Data Speed:** 5G services will provide up to One GBPS (Gigabit Per Second) of download speed. It is 100 times higher than the existing network speed;
 - **Efficiency and Stability:** The energy efficiency of devices and stability of network connections will improve further with the 5G technology;
 - **Reduce Network congestion:** 5G services work across the low, medium and high-frequency spectrums. This will avoid any network congestions;
 - **Low Latency:** 5G services will have ultra-low latency (time taken by a network to respond). Latency for is predicted to be below 10 milliseconds, and in best cases around 1 millisecond.

A government panel report expects the peak 5G data speeds are to be in the range of 2-20 Gbps.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.7) “LERMS” is related to which of the following?

- a) Banking sector
- b) Industries sector
- c) Exchange rate
- d) Infrastructure sector

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Liberalized Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS) was a new system of exchange rate management.
- According to this system, forty percent of the proceeds of exports and inward remittances were purchased at the official exchange rate by the (RBI) Reserve Bank of India for official use.
- Receipts and Payments on capital account continued to be subject to controls.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) Which of the following suggested the government to create All India Development Banks (AIDBs)?

- a) Manmohan Singh
- b) Sukhamoy Chakraborty
- c) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
- d) Narasimhan

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The era of economic reforms had given the same option to the PSUs to tap new capital.
- As the AIFIs had more or less fixed rate of interest as compared to the banks which could mobilize cheaper deposits to lend cheaper—the AIFIs seemed to become irrelevant.

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- The AIFIs witnessed a sharp decline in recent years. At this juncture the government decided to convert them into Development Banks (suggested by the Narasimhan Committee-I) to be known as the All India Development Banks (AIDBs).
- In 2000, the government allowed ICICI to go for a reverse merger (when an elder enterprise is merged with a younger one) with the ICICI Bank—the first AIDB emerged with no obligation of project financing—such entities in coming times will be known as the universal banks.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) The Reserve Bank of India was set up P J Nayak Committee to review Governance of Boards of Banks in India and to establish which of the following?

- a) Banks Board Bureau
- b) Indian Banks Association
- c) Bad Banks
- d) Differentiated Banks

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The Banks Board Bureau owes its genesis to the recommendations in the Report of The Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India to Review Governance of Boards of Banks in India (Chair: Dr P J Nayak; May 2014), which envisaged the Bureau as a precursor to a Company which would eventually hold the Government's investments in PSBs.

Source: Sriram's Economy

Q.10) Which of the following statement about National Biofuel Policy, 2018 is/are correct?

1. The Policy is aimed at reducing the dependence on oil imports by encouraging fuel blending.
2. The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) is the agency to coordinate this blending programme.

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 are the salient features of National Biofuel Policy, 2018?

- The Policy is aimed at reducing the dependence on oil imports by encouraging fuel blending;
- The Policy categorizes biofuels as –
 - 'Basic Biofuels' viz. 1st Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and
 - 'Advanced Biofuels': 2nd Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, 3rd Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.;
- The Policy expands the scope of raw material for by allowing use of:
 - Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum;

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- Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava;
- Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, rotten potatoes etc. that are unfit for human consumption;
- The Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of INR 5,000 crore in 6 years. The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production;
- The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC), with the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas as its head, is the agency to coordinate this blending programme.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Polity

Q.1) S.P Gupta vs Union of India recently seen in news, is related to which of the following?

- a) Parliamentary privileges
- b) Judicial accountability
- c) Uniform Civil code
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation:

Judgements Related to Judicial Accountability

- **S.P. Gupta v. Union of India:** The Supreme Court agreed that **Judiciary is accountable to the public** to answer queries related to the decisions they take for the interest of the public. This has been granted to the public by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution.
- **C. Ravichandran Iyer vs Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee:** The Supreme Court held that an **in-house “peer review” procedure** could be laid down for **correcting deviant behaviour**. Where the allegations do not warrant removal, the in-house mechanism could impose “minor measures”.
- **K. Veeraswami v. Union of India:** The SC held that no Judge of superior court could be subjected to a criminal investigation **without the written permission of the Chief Justice of India**. Justice Veeraswami had assets vastly disproportionate to his income. Due to this judgment, it has been very rare that a judge has been subjected to investigation.

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Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.2) Which of the following given statement is/are correct?

1. The legal framework in India does have a law on the grant of compensation to those maliciously prosecuted.
2. CrPC (1973) provides for a compensation of INR 10000 to a person wrongfully arrested.

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:

What remedies are available to a person against wrongful incarceration/conviction?

- The legal framework in India does not have a law on the grant of compensation to those maliciously prosecuted;
- Section 358 of the CrPC (1973) provides for a compensation of INR 100 to a person wrongfully arrested. The compensation is to be recovered from a person on whose complaint the victim was wrongly arrested. Award of this compensation is subject to the discretion of the Magistrate;
- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, empowers the National Human Rights Commission to inquire into instances of illegal detentions, wrongful convictions, incarcerations, and other human rights violations. After conducting an inquiry, NHRC can recommend that the State pay compensation and initiate proceedings against erring officials;
- 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.

What are the global standards regarding Right to Compensation?

- The Right to Compensation (for wrongful prosecution, incarceration, and convictions) has been recognized by various international covenants. It has been enforced by various enactments, statutes, and acts in jurisdictions all over the globe;
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) lays down the basic commitments that State parties need to adhere to protect the civil and political liberties of the individual. The Right to Compensation for Wrongful Convictions is laid down in Article 14(6) of the Covenant;
- Article 5(5) of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms talks about Compensation for wrongful arrest.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.3) With respect to powers of Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. Parliament has the power to legislate on international treaties.
2. Parliament cannot enact a law on State subjects in order to implement international treaties.

Which of 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 Government of India recently signed trade deals with Australia and the UAE. However, there is no scrutiny of these trade treaties by the Parliament. This gives rise to the argument of democratic deficit in the treaty making process.

What is the Constitutional Arrangement?

- According to Article 246, Parliament has the legislative competence on all matters given in the Union list. Entry 14 of the Union list notes 'Entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries and implementing of treaties, agreements and conventions with foreign countries'. Thus, Parliament has the power to legislate on international treaties;
- This power includes:
 - Deciding how India will ratify treaties and thus assume international law obligations;
 - Parliament's competence to give effect to treaties within the domestic legal regime by enacting laws;
- Article 253 provides the power to the Parliament to enact a law on State subjects in order to implement international treaties.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.4) Consider the following provisions:

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Election of the President and its manner
3. Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament

Which of the provisions given above is/are amended by a special majority of Parliament?

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

- The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting.
- The expression 'total membership' means the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of fact whether there are vacancies or absentees.

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- ‘Strictly speaking, the special majority is required only for voting at the third reading stage of the bill but by way of abundant caution the requirement for special majority has been provided for in the rules of the Houses in respect of all the effective stages of the bill’.

The provisions which can be amended by this way include:

- Fundamental Rights;
- Directive Principles of State Policy; and
- All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding procedure for the amendment of the Constitution:

1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated in either House of Parliament or the state legislature.
2. The bill cannot be introduced by a private member.

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:

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

An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.

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

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

Q.6) Consider the following statement about President's Rule in India:

1. Article 356 and Article 365 mentions the grounds of proclamation of President's Rule in India.
2. The presidential proclamation imposing President's Rule is not subjected to judicial review.

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: Article 355 imposes a duty on the Centre to ensure that the government of every state is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

- It is this duty in the performance of which the Centre takes over the government of a state under Article 356 in case of failure of constitutional machinery in state.
- This is popularly known as 'President's Rule'. It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.
- The President's Rule can be proclaimed under Article 356 on two grounds —one mentioned in Article 356 itself and another in Article 365.
- The 38th Amendment Act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the President in invoking Article 356 final and conclusive which could not be challenged in any court on any ground.
- But, this provision was subsequently deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the President is not beyond judicial review.
- In Bommai case (1994), the Supreme Court said that imposition of President's Rule in a state under Article 356 is subject to judicial review.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The expression 'sex worker' has been defined in Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
2. Supreme Court has recognized sex work as a profession.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has recognized sex work as a profession. The SC held that the practitioners of sex work are entitled to dignity and equal protection under the law.

What is the background to the SC Directions?

- In 2011, the SC had rejected the appeal of the convict in Budhadev Karmaskar vs State Of West Bengal case. The accused had murdered a sex worker for refusing to have sexual intercourse with him;
- The SC appointed a panel asking it to study and make suitable suggestions on 'prevention of trafficking, rehabilitation of sex workers who wish to leave sex work'.

What were the findings of the Panel?

In its final report submitted on September 14, 2016, the panel noted that:

- Sex workers found it difficult to acquire proofs of identity such as ration cards or voter cards because they lacked a proof of residence;
- District authorities did not recognise the identities of sex workers and their children, and sex workers did not have access to schemes meant for their rehabilitation;
- They also had no access to credit offered by States, because the lack of documents prevented them from opening bank accounts. The Committee recommended that amendments should be made to The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

The Supreme Court's Directions Regarding Sex Workers

The Supreme Court has directed the implementation of some of the Recommendations of the Panel it had appointed in 2011.

1. Provision for **immediate medical assistance** for any sex worker who is a victim of sexual assault.
2. Direction to States to do a **survey of all Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act Protective Homes** so that cases of adult women who are detained against their will can be reviewed and processed for release in a time-bound manner.
3. **Sensitising police** and other law enforcement agencies to the **rights of sex workers** and to ensure that police treat them with dignity and do not abuse them verbally or physically or coerce them into any sexual activity.
4. Ask The **Press Council of India to issue appropriate guidelines** for the media to take utmost care **not to reveal the identities of sex workers** while reporting.
5. Direction that measures that sex workers employ for their health and safety must neither be construed as offences nor seen as evidence of commission of an offence.
6. Ensure that the legal service authorities of the Union and State governments **educate sex workers about their rights** vis-à-vis the legality of sex work.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.8) The Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Project was launched by which of the following?

- a) Indian Banks Bureau
- b) Regional Rural Banks
- c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- d) Micro Finance Institutions

ANS: C

Explanation:

- The SHG Bank Linkage Project launched by NABARD in 1992 has blossomed into the world's largest microfinance project.
- NABARD along with RBI permitted SHGs to have a savings account in banks from the year of 1993. This action gave a considerable boost to the SHG movement and paved the way for the SHG-Bank linkage program.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which of the following is/are functional items of “Eleventh Schedule”?

1. Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry.
2. Food processing industries.
3. Cattle ponds, prevention of cruelty to animals.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

Eleventh Schedule It contains the following 29 functional items placed within the purview of panchayats: Agriculture, including agricultural extension Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry Fisheries Social forestry and farm forestry Minor forest produce Small-scale industries, including food processing industries Khadi, village and cottage industries Rural housing Drinking water Fuel and fodder Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Who among the following is the ex - office chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Finance Minister
- c) Home Minister
- d) Niti Aayog Vice Chairman

ANS: A

Explanation: The NDMA consists of a chairperson and other members, not exceeding nine.

- The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA. The other members are nominated by the chairperson of the NDMA.
- The chairperson of the NDMA designates one of the members as the vice-chairperson of the NDMA.
- The vice-chairperson has the status of a Cabinet Minister while the other members have the status of a Minister of State.

Source: Laxmikanth

Geography

Q.1) “Magnesium, Iron and silica are major elements of it. It is used in jewellery. It is usually a greenish crystal, often found in basaltic rocks.”

Which of the following mineral is described in the above statement?

- a) Olivine
- b) Mica
- c) Pyroxene
- d) Feldspar

ANS: A

Explanation: Olivine:

- Olivine is the name of a group of rock-forming minerals that are typically found in mafic and ultramafic igneous rocks such as basalt, gabbro, dunite, diabase, and peridotite.
- They are usually green in color and have compositions that typically range between Mg_2SiO_4 and Fe_2SiO_4 . Many people are familiar with olivine because it is the mineral of a very popular green gemstone known as peridot.
- Most olivine found at Earth's surface is in dark-colored igneous rocks. It usually crystallizes in the presence of plagioclase and pyroxene to form gabbro or basalt.
- These types of rocks are most common at divergent plate boundaries and at hot spots within the centers of tectonic plates.

Source: NCERT Class 11

Q.2) Consider the following statements about thermal metamorphism:

1. In regional metamorphism the rocks come in contact with hot intruding magma and lava and the rock materials recrystallise under high temperatures.
2. In contact metamorphism, rocks undergo recrystallisation due to deformation caused by tectonic shearing together with high temperature or pressure or both.

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: D

Explanation:

- There are two types of thermal metamorphism — contact meta-morphism and regional metamorphism.
- In contact metamorphism the rocks come in contact with hot intruding magma and lava and the rock materials recrystallise under high temperatures. Quite often new materials form out of magma or lava are added to the rocks.
- In regional metamorphism, rocks undergo recrystallisation due to deformation caused by tectonic shearing together with high temperature or pressure or both.

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- In the process of metamorphism in some rocks grains or minerals get arranged in layers or lines. Such an arrangement of minerals or grains in metamorphic rocks is called foliation or lineation.

Source: NCERT Class 11

Q.3) Which of the following term is used for the 'Science of Rocks'?

- a) Pedology
- b) Cartology
- c) Petrology
- d) Mineralogy

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Petrology is science of rocks. A petrologist studies rocks in all their aspects viz., mineral composition, texture, structure, origin, occurrence, alteration and relationship with other rocks.
- The earth's crust is composed of rocks. A rock is an aggregate of one or more minerals.
- Rock may be hard or soft and in varied colours.
- For example, granite is hard, soapstone is soft. Gabbro is black and quartzite can be milky white.
- Rocks do not have definite composition of mineral constituents.
- Feldspar and quartz are the most common minerals found in rocks.

Source: NCERT Class 11

Q.4) With reference to the bauxite ore, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is used in manufacturing of copper.
2. It is found only in the coastal areas.

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:

- Bauxite is the ore, which is used in manufacturing of aluminium.
- Bauxite is found mainly in tertiary deposits and is associated with laterite rocks occurring extensively either on the plateau or hill ranges of peninsular India and also in the coastal tracts of the country.

Source: NCERT – XII

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “coal reserves” in India?

1. Anthracite coal has highest calorific value.
2. Lignite coal gives high moisture content.
3. Talcher coalfield is located in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

- Anthracite is the best quality of coal which carries 80 to 95 per cent carbon content. It ignites slowly with a blue flame. It has the highest calorific value. It is found in small quantity in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Lignite is often brown in colour. It carries 40 to 55 per cent carbon content. It is an intermediate stage which happens during the alteration of woody matter into coal.
- It has high moisture content so it gives smoke when burnt. It is found in Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam), and Tamil Nadu.
- Odisha has the second largest coal reserves in the country and it carries more than 24 per cent of the total coal reserves. It produces about 15 per cent of the total coal production of India.
- Most of the coal deposits of the state are found in Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, and Sundargarh districts.
- Talchar coalfield of Odisha stretch over Dhenkanal and Sambalpur districts covers an area of about 500 sq km.

Source: NCERT – XII

Q.6) “Bhatin, Narwapahar and Turamdih” are famous for which of the following?

- a) Bauxite mines
- b) Limestone mines
- c) Mica mines
- d) Uranium mines

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Jaduguda in Singhbhum Thrust Belt (in the state of Jharkhand, formerly part of Bihar) is the first uranium deposit to be discovered in the country in 1951.
- The discovery of uranium at Jaduguda in this belt paved the way for intensive exploration work and soon a few more deposits were brought to light in this area.
- Some of these deposits like Bhatin, Narwapahar and Turamdih are well known uranium mines of the country.

Source: NCERT – XII

Q.7) Which of the following state has largest resource of Bauxite in India?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Chattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: C

Explanation:

- By States, Odisha alone accounts for 51% of country's resources of bauxite followed by Andhra Pradesh (16%), Gujarat (9%), Jharkhand (6%), Maharashtra (5%) and Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh (4% each).
- Major bauxite resources are concentrated in the East Coast bauxite deposits in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Source: NCERT – XII

Q.8) Which of the following is a non-metallic mineral?

- a) Silver
- b) Zinc
- c) Lead
- d) Coal

ANS: D

Explanation: Metallic Minerals:

These minerals contain metal content and can be sub-divided into three types:

- **Precious metals:** gold, silver, platinum etc.
- **Ferrous metals:** iron and other metals often mixed with iron to form various kinds of steel.
- **Non-ferrous metals:** include metals like copper, lead, zinc, tin, aluminium etc.

Source: NCERT Class 11

Q.9) Which mineral group is found most abundantly in the earth's Crust?

- a) Mica Group
- b) Feldspar Group
- c) Silicate Group
- d) Oxide Group

ANS: B

Explanation: Feldspar:

- Silicon and oxygen are common elements in all types of feldspar and sodium, potassium, calcium, aluminum etc. are found in specific feldspar variety.
- Half of the earth's crust is composed of feldspar.
- It has light cream to salmon pink colour.
- It is used in ceramics and glass making.

Source: NCERT Class 11

Q.10) Which one of the following is component of sand and granite?

- a) Pyroxene
- b) Amphibole
- c) Quartz
- d) Mica

ANS: C

Explanation: Quartz:

- It is one of the important components of sand and granite. It consists of silica.
- It is a hard mineral virtually insoluble in water.
- It is white or colourless and used in radio and radar.
- It is one of the most important components of granite.

Source: NCERT Class 11