

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

26th Sep to 02nd Oct, 2022

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS



Environment

Q.1) Kiwi fruit or Chinese gooseberry is grown in which of the following State(s) of India?

1. Nagaland
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Kiwi or Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia deliciosa*) is grown widely in New Zealand, Italy, USA, China, Japan, Australia, France, Chile and Spain.
- In India, it is mostly grown in the mid hills of Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, J & K, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. India currently imports 4,000 tonnes of Kiwis.
- Kiwi can be grown in areas experiencing 700-800 chilling hours (no. of hours during which temperature remains at or below 70 C during the winter season). The plant can be grown at 800-1500 m. above m.s.l.
- A rainfall of about 150 cm. /year is sufficient.
- The plant does not withstand strong winds and frost during the growing period because of its vigorous vegetative growth, large leaves and viny habit. In summer, high temperature (> 350 C) and low humidity may cause scorching of leaves. Sun scald and heat stress are the main problems in its cultivation in lower areas.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding use of Sulphur in agriculture:

1. Sulphur fertilization helps plants to grow and develop properly and improves utilization of nutrients.
2. High content of Sulphur in soil causes soil acidification.

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:

- Sulphur is essential in the structural and enzymatic components in plants. Sulphur is a key component of some essential amino acids and is needed for protein synthesis. Chlorophyll synthesis also requires S.

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- Sulphur is not readily translocated within plants, so all plants need a continuous supply of Sulphur from emergence to crop maturity.
- Sulphur is part of an enzyme required for nitrogen uptake and lack of it can severely hamper nitrogen metabolism. Together with nitrogen, Sulphur enables the formations of amino acids needed for protein synthesis.
- Soil organic matter is the primary source of plant-available SO_4-S in surface soil. High Sulphur deposition in soils contributes to their acidification. Soil bacteria change the sulfur to sulfuric acid, lowering the soil pH.
- Adverse effects of Sulphur contamination of soils are shown by the fall in pH, an increase of phytotoxic aluminium concentration.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Biofortification:

1. It aims to increase nutrient levels in crops during plant growth rather than through manual means during processing of the crops.
2. Bt-Cotton is a biofortified variety of cotton.

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

- Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food.
- Biofortification is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding, or modern biotechnology.
- Biofortification differs from conventional fortification in that biofortification aims to increase nutrient levels in crops during plant growth rather than through manual means during processing of the crops.
- Bt cotton is a genetically modified pest resistant plant cotton variety, which produces an insecticide to combat bollworm.

Examples of biofortification projects include:

- iron-biofortification of rice, beans, sweet potato, cassava and legumes;
- zinc-biofortification of wheat, rice, beans, sweet potato and maize;
- provitamin A carotenoid-biofortification of sweet potato, maize and cassava; and
- amino acid and protein-biofortification of sorghum and cassava.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term Aquaponics?

- a) Cultivation of marine organisms in tanks or ponds filled with seawater
- b) Growing of plants in a soil-less environment
- c) Farming marine species in complete organic environment
- d) Cultivation of plants and aquatic animals complementing each other

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Aquaponics is cooperation between plants and fish and the term originates from the two words aquaculture (the growing of fish in a closed environment) and hydroponics (the growing of plants usually in a soil-less environment).
- It is the cultivation of plants and aquatic animals in a recirculating environment.
- In this system, fishes eat the food and excrete waste, which is converted by beneficial bacteria to nutrients that the plants can use. In consuming these nutrients plants help to purify the water.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the Pusa Decomposer:

1. It is a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften the hard stubble.
2. The decomposer is an immediate solution for converting the agricultural waste into compost overnight.

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:

- Pusa Decomposer developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) is essentially a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost.
- This would then rule out the need to burn the stubble, and also help in retaining the essential microbes and nutrients in soil that are otherwise damaged when the residue is burned.
- The window of time required for the solution to work, which is currently the main concern of farmers, is around 20 to 25 days, as per the IARI.
- Farmers argue that this window is too long for them, as they ideally wait about a week or 10 days after harvesting the non-basmati variety of rice — which leaves hard stubble — to sow the wheat crop.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the Bt Cotton:

1. It is an insect-resistant transgenic crop that can combat the bollworm.
2. It is the only Genetically modified (GM) crop approved in 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: C

Explanation:

- Bt cotton is an insect-resistant transgenic crop designed to combat the bollworm.
- Bt cotton was created by genetically altering the cotton genome to express a microbial protein from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*.
- Genetically modified (GM) crops are those crops whose DNA has been modified by introducing alien genes in the seeds to get desired effects.
- Bt cotton is the only Genetically modified (GM) crop approved in India by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are potential impact(s) of Monocropping?

1. Depletion of soil nutrients
2. Increased use of pesticides and herbicides

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) All of the above

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Monocropping is the technique where the farmer grows the same crop on the same land every year; this is usually practiced in wheat, rice fields, sugarcane grape vineyards and corn fields.
- The long-term effects of monocropping are quite dangerous making Monoculture farming untenable:
 - growing only one crop on the field throughout the farm repetitively leads to depletion of soil nutrients as soil has is not replenished with nutrients. Further the intensive farming methods pf monocropping leaves soil scarce of nutrients.
 - the depletion of those soil nutrients, especially nitrogen, leads to weakness in soil and an inability to support healthy growth of plants.
 - higher demand of nutrients is fulfilled by using higher amount of fertilizers. These fertilizers have their own toll on the environment.
- Monocultures are quite vulnerable to weeds and pests, which needs more pesticides to get rid of them. Weeds and insect pests can spread faster in monocultures because of the lack of biological and genetic diversity.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) “Ratooning” is the method used for the production of which of the following crop?

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Cotton
- d) Sugar cane

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Ratoon cropping is an old system that has been practiced for many years, especially in the Tropics.
- Although the origin of ratooning is probably not known for any particular crop, it may have begun when man first noticed the regrowth of new shoots following the cutting of certain crops at harvest, thus, producing a new crop without replanting.
- Because ratooning is practiced widely and is important in many crops, a review of the practice may be valuable, especially because increased food and fiber production is imperative in tropical areas.
- This practice is widely used in the cultivation of crops such as rice, sugarcane, banana and pineapple.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are sites of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in India?

1. Kashmir (saffron)
2. Koraput (traditional agriculture)
3. Kuttanad (below sea-level farming)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

- The Global Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for the purpose of creating public awareness and safeguarding the World agricultural heritage sites.
- There are three regions of India, which has been recognised as the Global Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) sites in India: Koraput, Odisha State; Kashmir Valley, Pampore region; and Kuttanad.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) The words “macchia, maquis and chaparral” is related to which of the following?

- a) Shrub vegetation
- b) Tropical vegetation
- c) Tundra vegetation
- d) Alpine vegetation

ANS: A

Explanation:

- Chaparral is sclerophyllous vegetation that is tolerant of seasonal drought.
- It consists of small trees, woody grasses and oleose, xerophytic shrubs that form a nearly continuous cover of intertwined branches.
- Usually less than 10 per cent of the ground is bare, though the proportion may be higher at inhospitable sites.
- Where annual precipitation is in the range 250–500 mm, plants may be only 1–2 m high, while crowns may reach 3.5–4 m where precipitation is 500–750 mm.
- In California chaparral is common at elevations of 300–1500 m. It occupies 3.4 million ha (8.5 per cent) of the state, particularly in its southern part and at moderate elevations.
- The European synonym for chaparral, maquis (in Italian, macchia, plural macchie), is derived from the Corsican word for a species of sun rose (Cistus), which is often a striking component of the maquis community.

Source: ForumIAS

History

Q.1) Who among the following is remembered as the eponymous hero of the Buddhist text, Milinda-pinha?

- a) King Kharavela of Kalinga
- b) Menander
- c) Antialcidas
- d) Heliodorus

ANS: B

Explanation:

- Menander (c.165/145–130 BCE) was the best known of the Indo-Greek kings. He is said to have ruled a large kingdom in the north-west of the country.
- His coins have been found over an extensive area ranging from the valleys of the Kabul and Indus rivers to as far as western Uttar Pradesh.
- This gives a good indication of the extent of his kingdom. Though he does not look like a great and heroic conqueror as seen in his coins, he is said to have raided the Gangetic region along with the kings of Panchala and Mathura.
- King Kharavela of Kalinga mentioned in the Hathigumpa inscription, was not able to stop him.
- Menander successfully attacked Pataliputra, but retreated without consolidating his conquest.
- Interestingly, in his coins, he is described as “king” and “soter” or saviour, and not as a great conqueror Menander is mainly remembered as the eponymous hero of the Buddhist text, Milinda-pinha (questions of Milinda), in which he is engaged in a question-and-answer discussion on Buddhism with the teacher Nagasena.
- He is believed to have become a Buddhist and promoted Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu State Board Class 11

Q.2) Who among the following Indo-Greek king, become a follower of Vishnu?

- a) Menander
- b) Demetrius
- c) Antialcidas
- d) Heliodorus

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Another Indo-Greek king whose name is remembered is Antialcidas (or Antialkidas), c. 110. He is known to us primarily because his emissary, Heliodorus, who was sent to the court of King Bhagabhadra erected a pillar or garuda-dhvaja with its capital adorned by a figure of Garuda, in honour of God Krishna (Vasudeva). Heliodorus had evidently become a follower of Vishnu. (The pillar stands in isolation in the middle of a open ground in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh.)

Source: Tamil Nadu State Board Class 11

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Kanishka was an ardent follower of Buddhism and hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha.
2. Kushana coins were of the highest quality and conformed to the weight standards of Roman coins.

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: Kanishka:

- The best known of the Kushana kings was Kanishka, who is thought to have ruled from 78 CE till 101 or 102 CE. Ironically, 78 CE is held to be the beginning of the “Saka era” in the Indian calendar. Historians are, hence, divided about Kanishka’s period.
- His rule is said to have started anywhere between 78 and 144 CE. Kanishka was an ardent follower of Buddhism and hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha or council (the third council had been held in Pataliputra during Asoka’s reign).
- By now Mahayana Buddhism had become the dominant sect, and Kanishka supported the missions sent to China to preach Buddhism.
- Kushana coins were of the highest quality and conformed to the weight standards of Roman coins. In the coins, Kushana rulers are referred to as “king of kings”, “Caesar”, “lord of all lands” and by other such titles.
- Unfortunately, the titles did not leave much room on the coins for the actual name of the ruler. Hence our information on the Kushana kings tends to be very uncertain.
- Kanishka’s coins as well as his statue found near Mathura show him dressed in a belted tunic along with overcoat and wearing boots, testifying to his Central Asian origins.

Source: Tamil Nadu State Board Class 11

Q.4) Greek historians have recorded the name ‘Sandrakottus’ or ‘Sandrakoptus’ for who among the following?

- a) Pushyamitra Shunga
- b) Menander
- c) Chandragupta Maurya
- d) Ashoka

ANS: C

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.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board

Q.5) Hathigumpha Inscriptions, which tells about the Kalinga Ruler in detail, is located at?

- a) Udaygiri Caves
- b) Arikamedu
- c) Kosala
- d) Ujjain

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The defining event of Ashoka's rule was his campaign against Kalinga (present-day Odisha) in the eighth year of his reign.
- This is the only recorded military expedition of the Mauryas. The number of those killed in battle, those who died subsequently, and those deported ran into tens of thousands. The campaign had probably been more ferocious and brutal than usual because this was a punitive war against Kalinga, which had broken away from the Magadha Empire (the Hathigumpha inscription speaks of Kalinga as a part of the Nanda Empire).
- Hathigumpha inscription at Udayagiri caves is the main source of information about Kalinga ruler Kharavela. This inscription, consisting of seventeen lines has been incised in deep cut Brahmi script.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board

Q.6) The third Buddhist Council convened at the time of Ashoka was held at which of the following places?

- a) Dhauliya
- b) Taxila
- c) Amaravati
- d) Patliputra

ANS: D

Explanation:

- One of the major events of Ashoka's reign was the convening of the Third Buddhist sangha (council) in 250 BCE in the capital Pataliputra.
- Ashoka's deepening commitment to Buddhism meant that royal patronage was extended to the Buddhist establishment.
- An important outcome of this sangha was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region and to send missions to convert people to the religion.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board

Q.7) Which among the following historical chronicle in Pali from Sri Lanka serves as an important source of information about Mauryan Period?

- a) Mahavamsa
- b) Brahamanas
- c) Indica
- d) Deepavamsa

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The names of Chandragupta and his two successors in the Mauryan period are well known now. But reconstructing their lives and careers was a laborious and difficult process for the earlier historians.
- There are hardly any comprehensive contemporary accounts or literary works which refer to the Mauryan emperors though they are mentioned in various Buddhist and Jain texts as well as in some Hindu works like the brahmanas.
- The Mahavamsa, the comprehensive historical chronicle in Pali from Sri Lanka, is an important additional source.
- The scattered information from these sources has been corroborated by accounts of Greek historians who left their accounts about India following Alexander's campaign in north-western part of the country.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board

Q.8) The three crowned kings, the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas are known by which of the following term in Sangam text?

- a) Muvendar
- b) Athiyaman
- c) Kizhar
- d) Velir

ANS: A

Explanation:

- Though the three Tamil ruling families were known to Asoka in the third century BCE itself, some individual names are known only from the Sangam poems of the first century and later.
- Known as muvendar, 'the three crowned kings', the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas controlled major agrarian territories, trade routes and towns.
- But the Satiyaputra (same as Athiyaman) found in the Asokan inscription along with the above three houses is a Velir chief in the Sangam poems.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board

Q.9) “Kanaganahalli”- ancient Buddhist site is located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Early Buddhist art in India expanded exponentially when, in 1994, archaeologists unearthed a spectacular ancient stupa outside the hamlet of Kanaganahalli in modern Karnataka State, in India’s southwest.
- As if by magic, a lost Buddhist monastic center from the early first millennium emerged from a shapeless mound.
- By virtue of its remarkable stone sculpture and hundreds of ancient stone inscriptions, Kanaganahalli instantly took its place among the most celebrated early Buddhist sites in India.
- One location mentioned in the inscriptions even turns up in Ptolemy’s Geographia of the 2nd century CE, a reminder of how small the world was becoming even at the beginning of the first millennium.

Source: Ncert History

Q.10) Which of the following kingdom introduced turban, tunic, trousers and heavy long boots and coats?

- a) Kushans
- b) Cheras
- c) Mughals
- d) Mauryan

ANS: A

Explanation:

- Shakas – Kushanas introduced better cavalry & use of riding horses on large scale along with use of turban, tunic, trousers & longcoats.
- Kushanas were the 1st ruler in India to issue gold coins on wide scale & controlled major part of silk trade.
- Kushanas adopted pompous titles as King of Kings & were called Sons of god like Asoka was called dear to gods.

Source: Old NCERT.

Society and Welfare

Q.1) The “Spandana initiative” is often seen in news is related to which of the following state?

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

- It is an initiative of Andhra Pradesh Government to make police stations more approachable for the public, especially women.
- Spandana (means response) centers have been established within the premises of all District Collector offices and police stations.
- These centers mostly have a female receptionist and other staff members who are trained, briefed and sensitized in handling women victims and complainants.
- Spandana centres spread across the district, and each have video conferencing facility, it is easier and cheaper for people to lodge complaints.

Source: The Hindu

Q.2) Which of the following indicators used by Global Hunger Index for ranking countries?

1. Undernourishment
2. Child wasting
3. Child stunting
4. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The 14th Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 was released recently and it had ranked India a lowly 102 among the 117 countries it had mapped.
- The GHI has been brought out almost every year by Welthungerhilfe (lately in partnerships with Concern Worldwide) since 2000.
- A low score gets a country a higher ranking which implies a better performance.
- The reason for mapping hunger is to ensure that the world achieves –Zero Hunger by 2030 - one of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Four indicators of GHI:

- Undernourishment (which reflects inadequate food availability)
- Child Wasting (which reflects acute under nutrition)

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- Child Stunting (which reflects chronic under nutrition)
- Child Mortality (which reflects both inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environment)

Source: The Hindu

Q.3) The term Principle of Non-Refoulement often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Economic offender
- b) Refugees
- c) Right to property
- d) Polluter Pay principle

ANS: B

Explanation: Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law.

- It prohibits states from forcibly returning refugees to conditions that caused them to flee their homes in the first place, where they would be likely in danger of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.
- It is also in charge of the exchequer control and internal audits.

Source: The Hindu

Q.4) The “Ananthsayanam Ayyangar Committee, Justice Venkatchaliah Commission, Balkrishna Sidke Renke and Idate Commission” related to which of the following?

- a) De-notified tribes
- b) Education
- c) Primary health
- d) Rural women empowerment

ANS: A

Explanation:

The committees/commissions related to De-notified/criminal tribes.

- The Ananthsayanam Ayyangar Committee (gave a comprehensive report on how CTA worked throughout India), the CTA was repealed in August 1949 and former “criminal tribes” were de-notified in 1952, when the Act was replaced with the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952 of Government of India.
- In 2002, Justice Venkatchaliah Commission recommended for strengthening the programmes for economic and educational development of De-Notified Tribes (DNTs).
- National Commission for De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes was constituted in 2005 under the chairmanship of Balkrishna Sidke Renke, to study the socio-economic conditions of these groups.
- Another National Commission for De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes chaired by Bhiku Ramji Idate was constituted in 2015 for a three-year period. It submitted its report viz “Voices of the Denotified, Nomadic & SemiNomadic Tribes” in 2018.

Source: The Hindu

Q.5) The “Bru/Reang community”, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- a) Manipur
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Mizoram

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Twenty-three years after ethnic clashes in Mizoram forced 37,000 people of the Bru (or Reang) community to flee their homes to neighbouring Tripura, an agreement has been signed to allow them to remain permanently in the latter state.
- The agreement among the Bru leaders and the governments of India, Tripura, and Mizoram, signed in New Delhi on January 16, gives the Bru the choice of living in either state.
- In several ways, the agreement has redefined the way in which internal displacement is treated in India.

Source: Indian Express

Q.6) Recently, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) revived the 1000 year old Monpa Handmade Paper of which of the following state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Tripura
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Odisha

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Due to the committed efforts of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the 1000-year old heritage art – the Monpa Handmade Paper of Arunachal Pradesh – which was driven to the extinction, has come to life once again.
- The art of making Monpa handmade paper originated over 1000 years ago.
- Gradually the art became an integral part of local custom and culture in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Once produced in every household in Tawang, this handmade paper was a major source of livelihood for the locals. However, the handmade paper industry almost disappeared in the last 100 years; prompting KVIC to plan revival of this ancient art.

Source: Press Information Bureau

Q.7) With reference to the “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan project”, which of the following is/are eligible to adopt a heritage?

1. Individuals
2. Non Governmental Organizations
3. Public sector companies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India runs the “Adopt a Heritage:

- Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project which is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and State/ UTs Government for developing tourism amenities at heritage/ natural/ tourist sites spread across India for making them tourist friendly, in a planned and phased manner which I started in September 2017.
- The project aims to encourage companies from public sector, private sector, trusts, NGOs, individuals and other stakeholders to become ‘Monument Mitras’ and take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced tourist amenities at these sites as per their interest and viability in terms of a sustainable investment model under CSR. They would also look after the Operation & Maintenance of the same.

Source: Indian Express

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding National Disaster Responsive Force (NDRF):

1. It functions under ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It consists of both military and Para-military battalion forces.

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:

- Today NDRF is a distinguished, unique Force across the country functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, within the overall command, control and leadership of the Director General, NDRF.
- At present, National Disaster Response Force consists of 12 battalions, three each from the BSF and CRPF and two each from CISF, ITBP and SSB.
- Each battalion have 18 self-contained specialist search and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics.
- The total strength of each battalion is 1,149. All the 12 battalions have been equipped and trained to respond natural as well as man-made disasters.

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- Battalions are also trained and equipped for response during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

Source: <http://www.ndrf.gov.in/about-us>

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Disaster Management in India:

1. Constitution of India does not explicitly mention the word Disaster.
2. Central government used the concurrent subject to pass disaster management act.

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:

- Constitution of India does not have any explicit provision on the subject of disaster management.
- As a result, the subject of disaster management failed to secure a place in the elaborate scheme of division of vital subjects between the centre and states.
- As far as the DM Act is concerned, the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution does not have an explicit entry on disaster management.
- Hence, Parliament had to trace its legislative competence for passing the DM Act to the Concurrent List entry on “Social security and social insurance; employment and unemployment”.

Source: <https://vidhilegalpolicy.in/blog/covid-19-and-the-need-for-clear-centre-state-roles/>

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “The World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)”:

1. It advances environmental law around the globe by providing specialized knowledge and assistance to strengthen the legal foundations of the conservation of nature and sustainable development.
2. WCEL functions as an integral part of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) advances environmental law around the globe by providing specialized knowledge and assistance to strengthen the legal foundations of the conservation of nature and sustainable development through the conceptual advancement of environmental principles, norms, and laws, and by building the capacity of communities to benefit from the environmental rule of law.
- WCEL functions as an integral part of the IUCN Environmental Law Programme (ELP) that includes close collaboration with the Environmental Law Centre (ELC).

Source: UNFCCC

Science and Technology

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the “biologics”:

1. It is a product that is produced from living organisms or contains components of living organisms.
2. Most biologics are complex mixtures that are not easily identified or characterized.

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:

- Biological products include a wide range of products such as vaccines, blood and blood components, allergenics, somatic cells, gene therapy, tissues, and recombinant therapeutic proteins.
- Biologics can be composed of sugars, proteins, or nucleic acids or complex combinations of these substances, or may be living entities such as cells and tissues.
- Biologics are isolated from a variety of natural sources - human, animal, or microorganism - and may be produced by biotechnology methods and other cutting-edge technologies.
- Gene-based and cellular biologics, for example, often are at the forefront of biomedical research, and may be used to treat a variety of medical conditions for which no other treatments are available.
- In contrast to most drugs that are chemically synthesized and their structure is known, most biologics are complex mixtures that are not easily identified or characterized.
- Biological products, including those manufactured by biotechnology, tend to be heat sensitive and susceptible to microbial contamination.
- Therefore, it is necessary to use aseptic principles from initial manufacturing steps, which is also in contrast to most conventional drugs.
- Biological products often represent the cutting-edge of biomedical research and, in time, may offer the most effective means to treat a variety of medical illnesses and conditions that presently have no other treatments available.

Source: WHO

Q.2) The term “Kibble Balance” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Device to measure Planck Constant.
- b) Device to measure heat balance.
- c) Device to measure water balance.
- d) Device to measure wind balance.

ANS: A

Explanation:

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- 'Kibble Balance', is a device that was used to measure the Planck Constant and thereby reboot the kilogram.
- Named after its inventor, Bryan Kibble at the U.K.'s National Physical Laboratory (NPL), who conceptualized it in 1975, the Kibble balance is an exquisitely accurate weighing machine.
- Like any balance, it is designed to equalize one force with another: In this case, the weight of a test mass is exactly offset by a force produced when an electrical current is run through a coil of wire immersed in a surrounding magnetic field.

Source: The Hindu

Q.3) India's largest Liquid Hydrogen Storage Tank is established in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Telangana
- c) Odisha
- d) Andhra Pradesh

ANS: D

Explanation:

- ISRO Chairman K Sivan flagged off the shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank at the VRV Asia Pacific's manufacturing plant at Sri City in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- VRV Asia Pacific manufactured the storage tank with a Liquid Nitrogen (LIN) shield, in a collaborative effort with Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, under the Make in India initiative.
- The storage capacity of the tank is 120 kilo liters. Liquid hydrogen is used as fuel for satellite launch vehicles.

Source: The Hindu

Q.4) "Vitrification technology" is often seen in news is associated with which of the following?

- a) Nuclear Waste
- b) Solar Power generation
- c) Horticulture
- d) Plant varieties specification

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The immobilisation of HLW requires the formation of an insoluble, solid waste form that will remain stable for many thousands of years. In general borosilicate glass has been chosen as the medium for dealing with separated HLW.
- The stability of ancient glass for thousands of years highlights the suitability of borosilicate glass as a matrix material. This type of process, referred to as vitrification.
- Most HLW, other than spent fuel itself, arises in a liquid form from the reprocessing of spent fuel. This HLW comprises highly-radioactive fission products and some transuranic elements with long-lived radioactivity.

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- To allow incorporation into the glass matrix the waste is initially calcined (dried) to a granular powder.
- The product is then incorporated into molten glass, poured into a robust stainless steel canister about 1.3 metres high, and allowed to cool, forming a solid matrix. The containers are then welded closed and are ready for storage and final disposal.
- India is one of the few countries to have mastered the technology of vitrification.
- Over the years BARC has developed the technology for vitrification of HLW.
- India has a unique distinction of having operating vitrification plant at Tarapur and Trombay
- In our existing plant at Trombay vitrification process is essentially batch operation consisting of heating and fusing of pre-concentrated waste and glass forming additives and is carried out in melters based on induction heating.

Source: The Hindu

Q.5) Which of the following is/are functions of Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)?

1. To appraise activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
2. To appraise proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
3. It has no powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- As per Rules, 1989, it is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
- The committee is also responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
- The committee or any persons authorized by it has powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Q.6) Which of the statements given below is/are correct?

1. Hadrons like protons combine to form quarks.
2. No exotic Sub-atomic Particles has been discovered at CERN yet.

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:

- 3 New exotic Sub-atomic Particles discovered at CERN. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) has observed 3 new particles; a 'pentaquark' and a pair of 'tetraquarks'.
- About Quarks, Pentaquark and Tetraquark Quarks are elementary particles that come in 6 'flavours': up, down, charm, strange, top, and bottom.
- They usually combine together in groups of twos and threes to form hadrons such as the protons and neutrons that make up atomic nuclei.
- But they can also combine into four-quark and five-quark particles called tetraquarks and pentaquarks.
- These exotic hadrons were predicted by theorists about six decades ago — around the same time as conventional hadrons — but they have been observed by the Large Hadron Collider and other experiments only in the past 20 years.

Source: EPIC July 2022

Q.7) In reference to the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) Technology, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed jointly by ISRO and DRDO.
2. It is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.
3. It consists of 3 active satellites located at a distance of approximately 36,000 Km from Earth's surface.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) Technology

- An autonomous regional satellite navigation system, also known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is developed by ISRO.
- It has been designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.

It will provide two types of services:

- Standard Positioning Service (SPS): provided to all the users.
- Restricted Service (RS): It is an encrypted service provided only to authorised users.
- The IRNSS System is expected to provide a position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.

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- Presently, it consists of 7 active satellites located at a distance of approximately 36,000 Km.
 - 3 satellites are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO).
 - 4 satellites are in inclined Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO).

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) In the context of the recent launch of the Rohini-200 Sounding Rocket, consider the following statements:

1. RH-200 is a two-stage rocket capable of climbing to a height of 70 km bearing scientific payloads.
2. The '200' in the name denotes the length of the rocket in mm.
3. The first and second stages of RH-200 are powered by solid motors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

- The 3.5-metre-tall RH-200, a trusted member of the Rohini sounding rocket family used by the ISRO for atmospheric studies, has completed 198 consecutive successful flights, according to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thumba.
- RH-200 is a two-stage rocket capable of climbing to a height of 70 km bearing scientific payloads.
- The first and second stages of RH-200 are powered by solid motors. The '200' in the name denotes the Diameter of the rocket in mm.
- Other operational Rohini variants are RH-300 Mk-II and RH-560 Mk-III.
- Sounding rockets have an important place in the ISRO story. The first sounding rocket to be launched from Thumba was the American Nike-Apache - on November 21, 1963.
- After that, two-stage rockets imported from Russia (M-100) and France (Centaure) were flown. The ISRO launched its own version - Rohini RH-75 - in 1967.
- The sounding rocket programme "was indeed the bedrock on which the edifice of launch vehicle technology was built".
- Today, these small rockets are launched both from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) and the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) Indian Railways has announced that it is installing Real-Time Train Information System (RTIS) on locomotives and trains. It has developed RTIS in collaboration with which of the following institute?

- a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- b) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)
- c) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- d) Institute of Defence Studies and Research (IDSR)

ANS: C

Explanation:

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- Indian Railways has announced that it is installing Real-Time Train Information System (RTIS), developed in collaboration with ISRO, on locomotives & trains.
- With this, Train Control will now be able to track the location & speed of RTIS-enabled locomotives /trains more closely, without any manual intervention.
- RTIS devices have been installed for 2700 locomotives in 21 electric loco sheds.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation is the national space agency of India.
- ISRO is India's primary agency for performing tasks related to space-based applications, space exploration, and the development of related technologies.

ISRO:

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Chairman: S. Somanath
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) With reference to the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The mission is to test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth.
2. It is the first demonstration of the kinetic impactor technique to change the motion of an asteroid in space.
3. It is a joint Mission of NASA and the European Space Agency.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: NASA's DART mission:

- In the first-of-its-kind, save-the-world experiment, NASA is about to hit hard a small, harmless asteroid millions of miles away. A spacecraft named Dart will zero in on the asteroid, intent on slamming it head-on at 14,000 mph (22,500 kph).
- It is NASA's first planetary defence test mission named the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART).
- The mission is to test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future.
- The aim is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course.
- After the mission has collided with the asteroid, scientists will study its impact on the trajectory of the asteroid with a range of telescopes deployed on different regions of the planet.
- DART is the first demonstration of the kinetic impactor technique to change the motion of an asteroid in space.
- DART is a low-cost spacecraft.
- It has two solar arrays and uses hydrazine propellant for manoeuvring the spacecraft.

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- It also carries about 10 kg of xenon which will be used to demonstrate the agency's new thrusters called NASA Evolutionary Xenon Thruster–Commercial (NEXT-C) in space.
- NEXT-C gridded ion thruster system provides a combination of performance and spacecraft integration capabilities that make it uniquely suited for deep space robotic missions.
- The spacecraft carries a high-resolution imager called Didymos Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for Optical Navigation (DRACO).
- Images from DRACO will be sent to Earth in real time and will help study the impact site and surface of Dimorphos (the target asteroid).

Source: The Hindu

Indian Economy

Q.1) Which of the following constitutes the stages of Business-Cycle of an economy?

1. Depression
2. Recovery
3. Boom
4. Recession
5. Growth

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

ANS: C

Explanation:

Economists have pointed out that the business cycle is characterised by four phases or stages in which economies alternate:

- Depression
- Recovery
- Boom
- Recession

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an:

- a) ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank.
- b) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.
- c) Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and focused on expanding the set of infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment.
- d) UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the world.

ANS: B

Explanation:

- The Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) is a partnership among governments, multilateral development banks, private sector investors, and financiers. It is designed to provide a new way to collaborate on preparing, structuring, and implementing complex projects that no single institution could handle on its own.
- The comprehensive project support provided by the GIF draws on the combined expertise of its technical and advisory partners.

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- This group, which includes commercial banks and institutional investors, ensures that well-structured and bankable infrastructure projects are brought to market in a way that sustainably meet the needs of governments and service users. Funding partners provide financial contributions to the GIF.
- The GIF partnership is overseen by a Governing Council that supervises strategic programming and funds management as well as the development of operational policies and procedures. It also holds the GIF's management accountable for delivering on objectives and principles.
- The Governing Council comprises representatives of funding and technical partners and representatives of emerging markets and developing economies, and is co-chaired by the World Bank Group and a Funding Partner.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) The People's Plan was formulated by which of the following person?

- a) M. Visvesvaraya
- b) M. N. Roy
- c) Purshotamdas Thakurdas
- d) Vinobha Bhave

ANS: B

Explanation:

- In 1945, yet another plan was formulated by the radical humanist leader M.N. Roy, Chairman of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of Indian Trade Union. The plan was based on Marxist socialism and advocated the need of providing the people with the 'basic necessities of life'. Agricultural and industrial sectors, both were equally highlighted by the plan. Many economists have attributed the socialist leanings in Indian planning to this plan.
- The common minimum programmes of the United Front Government of the mid-nineties (20th century) and that of the United Progressive Alliance of 2004 may also be thought to have been inspired from the same plan. 'Economic reforms with the human face', the slogan with which the economic reforms started in the early 1990s also has the resonance of the People's Plan.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money written by which of the following Economist?

- a) Adam Smith
- b) David Ricardo
- c) J. M. Keynes
- d) Robert Lucas

ANS: C

Explanation:

- The belief in the self-correcting quality of the market and the 'invisible hand' of Adam Smith got a major setback in early 20th century during the Great Depression (1929).
- The impact of the depression spread from the USA to other economies of Western Europe escalating large scale unemployment, downfall in demand and economic

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activities and lockouts in industrial enterprises. The prevailing Smithonian macro ideas failed to check the crisis.

- A new approach was needed which came in the famous work, The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money (1936) by the English economist at Cambridge University, John Maynard Keynes (1883–1946).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Bajaj Committee related to which of the following?

- a) Infrastructure Development
- b) Agricultural Reforms
- c) Tribal Development
- d) Centrally Sponsored Schemes

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the Centre and the states in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10 and the implementation is done by the state governments.
- CSSs are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage states to prioritise in areas that require more attention. Funds are routed either through the Consolidated Fund of the states and or are transferred directly to state/district level autonomous bodies/implementing agencies.
- As per the Bajaj Committee Report (1987), CSSs have been defined as the schemes which are funded directly by Central ministries/departments and implemented by the states or their agencies, irrespective of their pattern of financing, unless they fall under the Centre's sphere of responsibility, i.e., the Union List.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) Initiative is related to which of the following grouping?

- a) QUAD
- b) G7
- c) G20
- d) BRICS

ANS: B

Explanation: What is the PGII Initiative?

- It is a US\$ 600 billion global infrastructure investment partnership aimed at helping developing countries;
- The initiative was first unveiled at the 2021 G7 summit in Britain, UK. At that time, it was called the Build Back Better Initiative;
- The initiative will help developing countries make improvements in four core areas:
 - Healthcare;
 - Digital connectivity;
 - Gender equality and equity;
 - Climate and energy security;

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- The initiative has been viewed as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which critics have termed a 'debt trap'.

Source: EPIC July 2022

Q.7) Global Competitiveness Report was given which of the following?

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The Global Competitiveness Report was originally co-published by the IMD World Competitiveness Center and the World Economic Forum (WEF) under the title of –World Competitiveness Report.
- Subsequently, from this collaboration, two publications evolved. In 1996, the name of the report published by the IMD World Competitiveness Center was officially changed to World Competitiveness Yearbook after the co-publication with the WEF ended.
- Both IMD and WEF began to publish their own World Economy Rankings and eventually, the WEF's publication will become the global competitiveness report.

Source: ForumIAS Factly

Q.8) Kelkar committee, Bhandari committee and Basu committee formed to provide measures to improve which of the following Institutions?

- a) Commercial Banks
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Cooperative Banks
- d) Regional Rural Banks

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were first set up on 2 October, 1975 (only 5 in numbers) with the aim to take banking services to the doorsteps of the rural masses specially in the remote areas with no access to banking services with twin duties to fulfill To provide credit to the weaker sections of the society at concessional rate of interest who previously depended on private money lending, and To mobilize rural savings and channelize them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas.
- The Government of India, the concerned state government and the sponsoring nationalized bank contribute the share capital of the RRBs in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively. The area of operation of the RRB is limited to notify few districts in a state.
- Following the suggestions of the Kelkar Committee, the government stopped opening new RRBs in 1987-by that time their total number stood at 196. Due to excessive leanings towards social banking and catering to the highly economically weaker sections, these banks started incurring huge losses by early 1980s.
- For restructuring and strengthening of the banks, the governments set up two committees-the Bhandari Committee (1994–95) and the Basu Committee (1995–96).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Priority Sector Lending (PSL):

1. All Indian banks have to follow the compulsory target of priority sector lending (PSL)
2. Indian and Foreign Banks need to lend 40 per cent to the priority sector every year of their total lending.

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- All Indian banks have to follow the compulsory target of priority sector lending (PSL). The priority sector in India are at present the sectors-agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), road and water transport, retail trade, small business, small housing loans (not more than Rs. 10lakhs), software industries, self-help groups (SHGs), agro-processing, small and marginal farmers, artisans, distressed urban poor and indebted non-institutional debtors besides the SCs, STs and other weaker sections of society.
- The PSL target must be met by the banks operating in India in the following way:
- Indian Banks need to lend 40 per cent to the priority sector every year (public sector as well as private sector banks, both) of their total lending.
- Foreign Banks (having less than 20 branches) have to fulfill only 32 per cent PSL target which has sub-targets for the exports (12 per cent) and small and medium enterprises (10 per cent).

Source: ForumIAS

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

1. Increasing taxes
2. Monetary incentives
3. Export subsidies

Which of the following given below codes are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

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

Source: ForumIAS

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Regulating Act of 1773:

1. It designated the Governor of Bengal as the Governor General of India.
2. It provided the establishment of a Supreme Court in Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Regulating act of 1773 was of great constitutional importance as

- (a) it was the first step taken by the British Government to control and regulate the affairs of the East India Company in India;
- (b) it recognised, for the first time, the political and administrative functions of the Company; and
- (c) it laid the foundations of central administration in India.

The features of this Act were as follows:

- It designated the Governor of Bengal as the 'GovernorGeneral of Bengal' and created an Executive Council of four members to assist him. The first such Governor General was Lord Warren Hastings.
- It made the governors of Bombay and Madras presidencies subordinate to the governor-general of Bengal, unlike earlier, when the three presidencies were independent of one another.
- It provided for the establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta (1774) comprising one chief justice and three other judges.
- It prohibited the servants of the Company from engaging in any private trade or accepting presents or bribes from the 'natives'.
- It strengthened the control of the British Government over the Company by requiring the Court of Directors (governing body of the Company) to report on its revenue, civil, and military affairs in India.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Which of the following act introduced the concept of separate electorate in British India?

- a) Regulating Act of 1773
- b) Regulating Act of 1793
- c) Pitts India Act of 1784
- d) Indian Councils Act of 1909

ANS: D

Explanation: Indian Councils Act of 1909 is also known as Morley-Minto Reforms (Lord Morley was the then Secretary of State for India and Lord Minto was the then Viceroy of India). The features of this Act were as follows:

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- It considerably increased the size of the legislative councils, both Central and provincial. The number of members in the Central legislative council was raised from 16 to 60. The number of members in the provincial legislative councils was not uniform.
- It retained official majority in the Central legislative council, but allowed the provincial legislative councils to have non-official majority.
- It enlarged the deliberative functions of the legislative councils at both the levels. For example, members were allowed to ask supplementary questions, move resolutions on the budget and so on.
- It provided (for the first time) for the association of Indians with the executive councils of the Viceroy and Governors. Satyendra Prasad Sinha became the first Indian to join the Viceroy's executive council. He was appointed as the Law Member.
- It introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of 'separate electorate'. Under this, the Muslim members were to be elected only by Muslim voters. Thus, the Act 'legalised communalism' and Lord Minto came to be known as the Father of Communal Electorate.
- It also provided for the separate representation of presidency corporations, chambers of commerce, universities and zamindars.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Constituent Assembly:

1. It held its first meeting on January 26, 1949.
2. Muslim League boycotted the first meeting.
3. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946.

- The Muslim League boycotted the meeting and insisted on a separate state of Pakistan. The meeting was, thus, attended by only 211 members.
- Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, the oldest member, was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly, following the French practice.
- Later, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Assembly.
- Similarly, both H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari were elected as the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. In other words, the Assembly had two Vice-Presidents.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following committee was headed by the Jawaharlal Nehru?

- a) Provincial Constitution Committee
- b) Minorities Sub-Committee
- c) Union Constitution Committee
- d) Rules of Procedure Committee

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constituent Assembly appointed a number of committees to deal with different tasks of constitution-making. Out of these, eight were major committees and the

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others were minor committees. The names of these committees and their Chairman are given below: Major Committees are:

1. Union Powers Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru
2. Union Constitution Committee -Jawaharlal Nehru
3. Provincial Constitution Committee -Sardar Patel
4. Drafting Committee - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
5. Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas - Sardar Patel. This committee had the following five sub-committees:
 - (a) Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee - J.B. Kripalani
 - (b) Minorities Sub-Committee - H.C. Mukherjee
 - (c) North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam Excluded & Partially Excluded Areas Sub-Committee -Gopinath Bardoloi
 - (d) Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (other than those in Assam) Sub-Committee - A.V. Thakkar
 - (e) North-West Frontier Tribal Areas Sub-Committee
6. Rules of Procedure Committee - Dr. Rajendra Prasad
7. States Committee (Committee for Negotiating with States) - Jawaharlal Nehru
8. Steering Committee - Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Who among the following was the calligrapher of Indian Constitution?

- a) Prem Behari Narain Raizada
- b) H.V.R. Iyengar
- c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- d) Sardar Vallabhai Patel

ANS: A

Explanation: Important facts about Indian Constitution:

- Elephant was adopted as the symbol (seal) of the Constituent Assembly.
- Sir B.N. Rau was appointed as the constitutional advisor (Legal advisor) to the Constituent Assembly.
- H.V.R. Iyengar was the Secretary to the Constituent Assembly.
- S.N. Mukerjee was the chief draftsman of the constitution in the Constituent Assembly.
- Prem Behari Narain Raizada was the calligrapher of the Indian Constitution. The original constitution was handwritten by him in a flowing italic style.
- The original version was beautified and decorated by artists from Shantiniketan including Nand Lal Bose and Beohar Rammanohar Sinha.
- Beohar Rammanohar Sinha illuminated, beautified and ornamented the original Preamble calligraphed by Prem Behari Narain Raizada.
- The calligraphy of the Hindi version of the original constitution was done by Vasant Krishan Vaidya and elegantly decorated and illuminated by Nand Lal Bose

Explanation: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Which of the following committee recommended framing Fundamental Duties in Indian Constitution for Indian Citizens?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru committee
- b) B R Ambedkar Committee
- c) Sardar Swaran Singh Committee
- d) All of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: In 1976, the Congress Party set up the Sardar Swaran Singh Committee to make recommendations about fundamental duties, the need and necessity of which was felt during the operation of the internal emergency (1975–1977).

- The committee recommended the inclusion of a separate chapter on fundamental duties in the Constitution.
- It stressed that the citizens should become conscious that in addition to the enjoyment of rights, they also have certain duties to perform as well.
- The Congress Government at Centre accepted these recommendations and enacted the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1976.
- This amendment added a new part, namely, Part IVA to the Constitution.
- This new part consists of only one Article, that is, Article 51A which for the first time specified a code of ten fundamental duties of the citizens.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Part XX of the Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?

- a) President
- b) Classical Languages
- c) Powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution
- d) Anti Defection Law

ANS: C

Explanation: Like any other written Constitution, the Constitution of India also provides for its amendment in order to adjust itself to the changing conditions and needs.

- However, the procedure laid down for its amendment is neither as easy as in Britain nor as difficult as in USA.
- In other words, the Indian Constitution is neither flexible nor rigid but a synthesis of both.
- Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure.
- It states that the Parliament may, in exercise of its constituent power, amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

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

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 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.

- Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding emergency:

1. President can declare a national emergency
2. President can also issue different proclamations on grounds of war, external aggression and armed rebellion.

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: Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion.

- It may be noted that the president can declare a national emergency even before the actual occurrence of war or external aggression or armed rebellion, if he is satisfied that there is an imminent danger.
- The President can also issue different proclamations on grounds of war, external aggression, armed rebellion, or imminent danger thereof, whether or not there is a proclamation already issued by him and such proclamation is in operation.
- This provision was added by the 38th Amendment Act of 1975.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Council of Ministers:

1. Prime Minister is appointed by the President.
2. Other Council of ministers is appointed by Prime Minister.

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 75–Other Provisions as to Ministers

- The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
- This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.

Source: Laxmikanth

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following is NOT a member of “Bombay Plan”?

- a) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- b) Purshotamdas Thakurdas
- c) G.D. Birla
- d) Kasturbhai Lalbhai

ANS: A

Explanation: The Bombay Plan was the popular title of ‘A Plan of Economic Development for India’, which was prepared by a cross-section of India’s leading capitalists.

- The eight capitalists involved in this plan were Purshotamdas Thakurdas, J.R.D. Tata, G.D. Birla, Lala Sri Ram, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, A.D. Shroff, Avdeshir Dalal and John Mathai. The Plan was published in 1944– 45.
- Out of these eight industrialists, Purshotamdas Thakurdas was one among the 15 members of the National Planning Committee (1938);
- J.R.D. Tata, G.D. Birla and Lala Sri Ram, were members of the sub-committees (29 in total) of the National Planning Committee.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following is NOT an indicator of Human Development Report (HDR)?

- a) Health
- b) Education
- c) Standard of Living
- d) Environment

ANS: D

Explanation: The HDR measures development by combining three indicators—Health, Education and Standard of Living—converted into a composite human development index, the HDI.

The creation of a single statistic in HDI was a real breakthrough which was to serve as a frame of reference for both ‘social’ and ‘economic’ development.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.3) “Most Favoured Nation” clause is often seen in news is related to which of the following International Organization?

- a) UNDP
- b) WEF
- c) IMF
- d) WTO

ANS: D

Explanation: The WTO provides a rule based transparent and predictable multilateral trading system.

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- The WTO rules envisage non-discrimination in the form of National Treatment and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to India's exports in the markets of other WTO Members.
- National Treatment ensures that India's products once imported into the territory of other WTO Members would not be discriminated vis-à-vis the domestic products in those countries.
- MFN treatment principle ensures that members do not discriminate among various WTO members.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding GDP Deflator:

1. It is the ratio between GDP at Current Prices and GDP at Constant Prices.
2. If GDP deflator is found to be 2, it implies decrease in price level of the economy.
3. It is acclaimed as a better measure of price behavior because it covers all goods and services produced in the country.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: GDP Deflator is the ratio between GDP at Current Prices and GDP at Constant Prices.

- If GDP at Current Prices is equal to the GDP at Constant Prices, GDP deflator will be 1, implying no change in price level.
- If GDP deflator is found to be 2, it implies rise in price level by a factor of 2, and if GDP deflator is found to be 4, it implies a rise in price level by a factor of 4.
- GDP deflator is acclaimed as a better measure of price behaviour because it covers all goods and services produced in the country (because the weight of services has not been equitably accounted in the Indian 'headline inflation', i.e., inflation at WPI).

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Who among the following started the "Satya Prakash" in Gujarati in 1852 to advocate widow remarriage?

- a) Veerasalingam Pantulu
- b) Jagannath Shankar Seth
- c) Karsondas Mulji
- d) D.K. Karve

ANS: C

Explanation: Jagannath Shankar Seth and Bhau Daji were among the active promoters of girls' schools in Maharashtra.

- Vishnu Shastri Pandit founded the Widow Remarriage Association in the 1850s.
- Another prominent worker in this field was Karsondas Mulji who started the Satya Prakash in Gujarati in 1852 to advocate widow remarriage.

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- Similar efforts were made by Professor D.K. Karve in western India and by Veerasalingam Pantulu in Madras.
- Karve himself married a widow in 1893. He dedicated his life to the upliftment of Hindu widows and became the secretary of the Widow Remarriage Association.

Source: Spectrum

Q.6) Who among the following personality founded the Ladies Social Conference (Bharat Mahila Parishad)?

- a) Sarojini Naidu
- b) Ramabai Ranade
- c) Sarla Devi Chaudhurani
- d) Annie Besant

ANS: B

Explanation: In 1910, Sarla Devi Chaudhurani convened the first meeting of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal in Allahabad.

- Considered as the first major Indian women's organisation set up by a woman, its objectives included promotion of education for women, abolition of the purdah system and improvement in the socio-economic and political status of woman all over India.
- Sarla Devi believed that the man working for women's upliftment lived 'under the shade of Manu'.
- Ramabai Ranade founded the Ladies Social Conference (Bharat Mahila Parishad), under the parent organisation National Social Conference, in 1904 in Bombay.

Source: Spectrum Modern History

Q.7) "Sesbania cannabina and Sesbania rostrata" is related to which of the following?

- a) Birds
- b) Spiders
- c) Fishes
- d) Legumes

ANS: D

Explanation: Sesbania is a legume commonly used as a green manure crop to add nitrogen and organic matter to the soil.

- The most common species of sesbania used in Asia are Sesbania cannabina (former name acculeata), S. rostrata and S. cannabina (which produce nitrogen-fixing nodules in its roots).
- Sesbania rostrata (produces nitrogen-fixing nodules in both roots and stems) and is commonly found in Africa.

Source: [Sesbania - IRRI Rice Knowledge Bank](#)

Q.8) "Strobilanthes reptans" is seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Invasive Species
- b) Artificial Reefs
- c) Micro organisms
- d) Ancient Dinosaurs

ANS: A

Explanation: Strobilanthes reptans appears has earned the Indian tag with the reputation of being an invasive weed in the Indo-Pacific islands.

It is unclear how the Strobilanthes reptans struck roots in Arunachal Pradesh This is one find the botanists involved wish they had never had to record. Strobilanthes reptans appears ornamental.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) “Part V” of the Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Classical Languages
- b) Fundamental Rights
- c) Powers of Parliament
- d) Directive Principles of State Policy

ANS: C

Explanation: The Parliament is the legislative organ of the Union government.

- It occupies a pre-eminent and central position in the Indian democratic political system due to adoption of the parliamentary form of government, also known as ‘Westminster’ model of government.
- Articles 79 to 122 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, composition, duration, officers, procedures, privileges, powers and so on of the Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The representatives of states in the Lok Sabha are indirectly elected by the people from the territorial constituencies in the states.
2. The voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years by the 51st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The representatives of states in the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people from the territorial constituencies in the states. The election is based on the principle of universal adult franchise.

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

Source: Laxmikanth