

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

November 2022

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS



Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The word budget is drawn from French word “Bugeut”.
2. Article 112 of Indian Constitution has provision for Annual Financial Statement.

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: An annual financial statement of income and expenditure is generally used for a government, but it could be of a firm, company, corporation etc.

- The ‘word’ has its origin in the British parliamentary exercise of preparing such statement way back in the mid-18th century from the French word ‘Bugeut’ meaning a leather bag out of which the financial statement was brought out and presented in the parliament.
- Today, this word is used to mean the annual statement in all economies around the world.
- The Constitution of India has a provision (Art. 112) for such a document called Annual Financial Statement to be presented in the Parliament before the commencement of every new fiscal year—popular as the Union Budget. Same provision is there for the states, too.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following data sets is/are covered under union budget?

1. Actual data of the preceding year.
2. Provisional data of the current year.
3. Budgetary estimates for the following year.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Union Budget has three sets of data for every concerned sector or subsector of the economy:

- (i) Actual data of the preceding year (here preceding year means one year before the year in which the Budget is being presented. Suppose the Budget presented is for the year 2017–18, the Budget will give the final/actual data for the year 2015-16. After the data either we write ‘A’, means actual data/final data or write nothing (India writes nothing).
- (ii) Provisional data of the current year (i.e., 2016–17) since the Budget for 2017–18 is presented at the end of the fiscal 2016–17; it provides Provisional Estimates for this year (shown as ‘PE’ in brackets with the data).
- (iii) Budgetary estimates for the following year (here following year means one year after the year in which the Budget is being presented or the year for which the Budget is being

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presented, i.e., 2017–18). This is shown with the symbol 'BE' in brackets with the concerned data.).

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Which of the following is NOT developmental expenditure?

- a) Construction of dams
- b) New railway lines
- c) Factories establishment
- d) Interest payments

ANS: D

Explanation: Total expenditure incurred by the government is classified into two segments — developmental and non-developmental.

- All expenditures of productive nature are developmental such as on the heads of new factories, dams, bridges, roads, railways, etc.—all investments.
- The expenditures which are of consumptive kind and do not involve any production are non-developmental, i.e., paying salaries, pensions, interest payments, subsidies, defence expenses, etc.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Which of the following is/are come/comes under Non – tax revenue receipts?

- 1. Dividends from public sector undertakings.
- 2. Revenue generated from fiscal services.
- 3. Grants from international institutions.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Non – tax revenue receipts includes all money earned by the government from sources other than taxes. In India they are:

- (i) Profits and dividends which the government gets from its public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- (ii) Interest's received by the government out of all loans forwarded by it, be it inside the country (i.e., internal lending) or outside the country (i.e., external lending). It means this income might be in both domestic and foreign currencies.
- (iii) Fiscal services also generate incomes for the government, i.e., currency printing, stamp printing, coinage and medals minting, etc.
- (iv) General Services also earn money for the government as the power distribution, irrigation, banking, insurance, community services, etc.
- (v) Fees, Penalties and Fines received by the government.
- (vi) Grants which the government receives—it is always external in the case of the Central Government and internal in the case of state governments.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding ways and means scheme:

1. It was introduced in 1992 to tackle fiscal crisis.
2. Under the scheme the government commits to the RBI about the amount of money it will give as part of its market-borrowing programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Ways and Means Advances (WMA) scheme commenced in 1997 under which the government commits to the RBI about the amount of money it will give as part of its market-borrowing programme, to bring transparency in public expenditure and to put political responsibility on the government.

The RBI will not be the primary subscriber to government securities in the future—committed way back in 1997.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Which of the following country first to introduce “zero-base budgeting (ZBB)”?

- a) New Zealand
- b) United States of America
- c) Germany
- d) Australia

ANS: B

Explanation: The idea of zero-base budgeting (ZBB) first came to the privately owned organisation of the USA by the 1960s.

- This basically belonged to a long list of guidelines for managerial excellence and success, others being Management by Objectives (MBO), Matrix Management, Portfolio Management, etc to name a few.
- It was the US financial expert Peter Phyrre who first proposed this idea for government budgeting and Jimmy Carter, Governor of Georgia, USA was the first elected executive to introduce ZBB to the public sector.
- When he presented the US Budget in 1979 as the US President it was the first use of the ZBB for any nation state. Since then many governments of the world have gone for such budgeting.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Which of the following salary/salaries is/are part of charged expenditure?

1. President of India
2. Speaker of Lok Sabha
3. Judges of Supreme Court

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Charged Expenditure is the public expenditure which is beyond the voting power of the Parliament and is directly withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India.

For Example, the emoluments of the President, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts in India, etc.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) “The proposition that a government should borrow only to invest and not to finance current spending is known as”?

- a) Balanced budget
- b) Effective revenue deficit
- c) Golden Rule
- d) Performance budget

ANS: C

Explanation: The proposition that a government should borrow only to invest (i.e., plan expenditure in India) and not to finance current spending (i.e., revenue expenditure in India) is known as the golden rule of public finance.

This rule is undoubtedly prudent but provided spending is honestly described as investment, investments are efficient and do not crowd out the important private sector investments.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) “Process in which the Speaker puts all the outstanding demands made by the Budget directly to vote in the House” is known as?

- a) Guillotine
- b) Economy cut Motion
- c) Token cut motion
- d) Policy cut motion

ANS: A

Explanation: Guillotine is the process in which the Speaker puts all the outstanding demands made by the Budget directly to vote in the House—ending further discussions (intended to cut short the discussion on the Budget).

- Through this, the Speaker may put the whole Budget to vote (i.e., allowing ‘no discussion’ on the Budget by the House).
- In recent years, this route was taken time and again by the Government of India, to avoid the aggressive mood of the Opposition.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

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Q.10) Who among the following headed the committee to review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act?

- a) C. Rangarajan
- b) N K Singh
- c) Y V Reddy
- d) Urjit Patel

ANS: B

Explanation: The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act was enacted in 2003 which set targets for the government to reduce fiscal deficits.

- The targets were put off several times. In May 2016, the government set up a committee under NK Singh to review the FRBM Act. The government believed the targets were too rigid.
- The committee recommended that the government should target a fiscal deficit of 3 per cent of the GDP in years up to March 31, 2020 cut it to 2.8 per cent in 2020-21 and to 2.5 per cent by 2023.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Economy- Balance of Payments

Q.1) Which of the following is/are consists of foreign exchange reserves?

1. Foreign currency assets
2. Special Drawing rights
3. Reserve tranche

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

What are the components of RBI's forex reserves?

Jul 12, 04:07

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) foreign exchange reserves, also called forex reserves, refers to the assets the central bank holds to provide import cover and protect against external shocks. The reserves are accumulated on an ongoing basis and variations occur as a result of the RBI's market operations. The four components of forex reserves are foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights and the reserve position in the International Monetary Fund. As on July 2, India's forex reserves stood at a record high of \$610 billion, of which \$566.99 billion was in the form of foreign currency assets and \$36.37 billion was in the form of gold.



Source: Money Control

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding external debt of India:

1. The Status Report on India's External Debt is released by department of revenue.
2. Rupee denominated debt is the largest component of external debt.

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 **Department of Economic Affairs** in the Ministry of Finance released the 28th edition of the Status Report on India's External Debt 2021-22 on 5 September.

- By the end of March 2022, India's external debt had grown 8.2 percent to US\$ 620.7 billion as compared to the previous year's figure of US\$ 573.7 billion.
- However, external debt as a ratio to GDP came down to 19.9 percent in March-end 2022 from 21.2 percent during the same period in 2021.
- Foreign currency reserves to external debt ratio have gone down marginally to 97.8 percent in March-end 2022 from 100.6 percent in the previous year.
- **While 53.2 percent of external debt is denominated in the US dollar**, Indian rupee-denominated debt at 31.2 percent of the total is the second largest.
- The volume of long-term debt has been estimated at US\$ 499.1 billion—80.4 percent of the total. The short-term debt accounted for 19.6 percent of the total debt burden, at US\$ 121.7 billion.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Which of the following publishes the International Debt Statistics report?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: International Debt Statistics (IDS), a long-standing annual publication of the World Bank, features external debt statistics and analysis for the 123 low- and middle-income countries that report to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.4) "A domestic currency is left free against a number of foreign currencies in its foreign exchange market and determines its own value" is known as?

- a) Fixed exchange rate system
- b) Floating exchange rate system
- c) Mixed exchange rate system
- d) Domestic exchange rate system

ANS: B

Explanation: In the floating exchange rate system, a domestic currency is left free to float against a number of foreign currencies in its foreign exchange market and determine its own value.

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Such exchange rates, are also called as market driven or based exchange rates, which are regulated by factors such as the demand and supply of the domestic and the foreign currencies in the concerned economy.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Which of the following is/are part of external debt?

1. Commercial borrowings
2. NRI deposits
3. Short term trade credit

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The long-term debt estimated at US\$ 499.1 billion, constituted the largest chunk of 80.4 per cent, while the short-term debt, at US\$ 121.7 billion, accounted for 19.6 per cent of the total.

- The short-term trade credit was predominantly in the form of trade credit (96 per cent) financing imports.
- Commercial borrowings (CBs), NRIs deposits, short-term trade credit and multilateral loans together accounted for 90 per cent of the total external debt.
- While NRI deposits marginally contracted during end-March 2021 and end-March 2022, CBs, short-term trade credit and multilateral loans, on the other hand, expanded during the same period.
- The rise in CBs, short-term trade credit and multilateral loans together was significantly larger than the contraction in NRI deposits.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1856834>

Q.6) “When exchange rate of a domestic currency is cut down by its government against any foreign currency” is related to which of the following?

- a) Revaluation
- b) Devaluation
- c) Appreciation
- d) Depreciation

ANS: B

Explanation: In the foreign exchange market when exchange rate of a domestic currency is cut down by its government against any foreign currency, it is called devaluation.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Which of the following is/are component/s of the capital account of balance of payments?

1. External lending and borrowing
2. Foreign currency deposits of banks
3. Foreign Direct Investment

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Every government of the world maintains a capital account, which shows the capital kind of transactions of the economy with outside economies.

- Every transaction in foreign currency (inflow or outflow) considered as capital is shown in this account—external lending and borrowing, foreign currency deposits of banks, external bonds issued by the Government of India, FDI, PIS and security market investment of the QFIs (Rupee is fully convertible in this case).
- There is no deficit or surplus in this account like the current account.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) The term “LERMS” is related to which of the following?

- a) Exchange rate
- b) Capital adequacy ratio
- c) Sustainable development
- d) Renewable energy

ANS: A

Explanation: India announced the Liberalised Exchange Rate Mechanism System (LERMS) in the Union Budget 1992–93 and in March 1993 it was operationalised.

- India delinked its currency from the fixed currency system and moved into the era of floating exchange-rate system under it.
- Indian form of exchange rate is known as the ‘dual exchange rate’, one exchange rate of rupee is official and the other is market-driven.
- The market-driven exchange rate shows the actual tendencies of the foreign currency demand and supply in the economy vis-à-vis the domestic currency.
- It is the market-driven exchange rate which affects the official rate and not the other way round.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) “The Extended fund Facility (EFF)” is related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Extended fund Facility (EFF) is a service provided by the IMF to its member countries which authorises them to raise any amount of foreign exchange from it to fulfil their BoP crisis, but on the conditions of structural reforms in the economy put by the body.

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It is the first agreement of its kind. India had signed this agreement with the IMF in the financial year 1981-82.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding hard currency:

1. They are easily exchangeable and commonly used in international transactions.
2. Indian rupee is one of the hard currency.

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: Hard currencies are easily exchangeable, commonly used in international transactions, and generally expected to be stable in the short term.

- Hard currencies are also widely held as foreign exchange reserves by central banks.
- Up to the Second World War, the best hard currency was the Pound Sterling (£) of the UK, but soon it was replaced by the US Dollar.
- Some of the best hard currencies of the world today are the US Dollar, the Euro (€), Japanese Yen (¥) and the UK Sterling Pound (£).
- Meanwhile, by late 2015, the IMF allowed the SDR to be denominated in the Chinese 'Yuan'— paving the way for a new hard currency to be implemented in 2016.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Economy

Q.1.) Which of the following institutions are called as Bretton Wood's twins?

- a) World Bank and International Labour Organization
- b) World Bank and International Monetary Fund
- c) International Monetary Fund and United Nations
- d) United Nations and World Bank

ANS: B

Explanation: As the powerful nations of the world were hopeful of a new and more stable world order with the emergence of the UNO, on the contrary, they were also anxious for a more homogenous world financial order, after the Second World War.

- The representatives of the USA, the UK and 42 other (total 44 countries) nations met at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA in July 1944 to decide a new international monetary system.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (with its first group-institution IBRD) were set up together—popularly called as the Bretton Woods' twins—both having their headquarters in Washington DC, USA.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following is/are function/s of International Monetary Fund?

1. Exchange rate regulation.
2. Purchasing short-term foreign currency liabilities of the member nations.
3. Allotting special drawing rights (SDRs) to the member nations.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) came up in 1944 whose Articles came into force on the 27 December, 1945 with the main functions as exchange rate regulation, purchasing short-term foreign currency liabilities of the member nations from around the world, allotting special drawing rights (SDRs) to the member nations and the most important one as the bailor to the member economies in the situation of any BoP crisis.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Consider the following statements International Monetary Fund (IMF):

1. IMF review member's quotas once in ten years.
2. At present India's quota is 4.75 percent.

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: IMF reviews members' quotas once in every five years—last done in December 2010—here, India consented for its quota increase.

- After this India's quota (together with its 3 constituency countries) has increased to 2.75 per cent (from 2.44 per cent) and it has become the 8th (from 11th) largest quota holding country among the 24 constituencies.
- In absolute terms, India's quota has increased to SDR 13,114.4 million (from SDR 5,821.5 million) which is an increase of approximately US \$ 11.5 billion or Rs. 56,000 crore).
- While 25 per cent of the quota is to be paid in cash (i.e., in 'Reserve' currency), the balance 75 per cent can be paid in securities.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.4) The "Financial Transactions Plan" is related to which of the following institution?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Financial Transactions Plan (FTP) is the mechanism through which the Fund finances its lending and repayment operations in the General Resources Account. The selection of members to finance IMF transactions is based on principles set out in the IMF Articles of Agreement.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/external/np/tre/ftp>

Q.5) Which of the following institution is oldest of World Bank group?

- a) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- b) International Development Agency (IDA)
- c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- d) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

ANS: A

Explanation: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the oldest of the WB institutions which started functioning (1945) in the area of reconstruction of the war-ravaged regions (World War II) and later for the development of the middle-income and credit-worthy poorer economies of the world.

- Human development was the main focus of the developmental lending with a very low interest rate (1.55 per cent per annum)—the areas of focus being agriculture, irrigation, urban

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development, healthcare, family welfare, dairy development, etc. It commenced lending for India in 1949.

- After the process of reforms started in the World Bank in 2010, India was allotted additional shares in IBRD (now holds 56,739 shares accounting to US \$ 6,844.7 million).
- With this India emerged as the 7th largest shareholder (up from the 11th position) in IBRD with voting power of 2.91 per cent (up from 2.77 per cent).

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Which of the following institution is known as private arm of the World Bank?

- a) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- b) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- c) International Development Agency (IDA)
- d) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

ANS: B

Explanation: The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was set up in 1956 which is also known as the private arm of the WB. It lends money to private sector companies of its member nations.

- The interest rate charged is commercial but comparatively low. There are many attractive features of IFC's lending.
- It finances and provides advice for private-public ventures and projects in partnership with private investors and, through its advisory work, helps governments of the member nations to create conditions that stimulate the flow of both domestic and foreign private savings and investment.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):

1. The decisions of ICSID are binding on the parties.
2. India is not a member of ICSID.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

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

- 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).

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- It is believed that being signatory to it encourages the foreign investment flows into an economy, but risks independent sovereign decisions, too.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) “Ordinary Capital Resources” is related to which of the following?

- a) AIIB
- b) IMF
- c) IBRD
- d) ADB

ANS: D

Explanation: Set up in 1966 with 31 founding members (India being one of them), today (by March 2017) it has grown to encompass 67 members—of which 48 are from Asia and Pacific and 19 from outside. It has its headquarters situated at Manila, Philippines.

- The purpose of the Bank is to foster economic growth and co-operation in the region of Asia and the Far East and to contribute to economic development of the developing member countries, collectively and individually.
- India’s subscription to the Bank’s capital stock is 7.190 per cent with a voting power of 6.050 per cent (as per the ADB Annual Report, 2016). India started borrowing from ADB’s Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR) in 1986.
- The Bank’s lending has been mainly in the energy, transport and communications, finance, industry and social infrastructure sectors.
- The Bank has extended technical assistance to India in addition to loans from its OCR window.
- The technical assistance provided includes support for institutional strengthening, effective project implementation and policy reforms as well as for project preparation.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) “Uruguay Round negotiations” is associated with which of the following institution?

- a) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- b) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- d) UNFCCC

ANS: B

Explanation: The World Trade Organization (WTO) came into being as a result of the evolution of the multilateral trading system starting with the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947.

- The protracted Uruguay Round negotiations spanning the period 1986–1994, which resulted in the establishment of the WTO, substantially extended the reach of multilateral rules and disciplines related to trade in goods, and introduced multilateral rules applicable to trade in agriculture (Agreement on Agriculture), trade in services (General Agreement on Trade in Services—GATS) as well as Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- A separate understanding on WTO dispute settlement mechanism (DSU) and trade policy review mechanism (TPRM) was also agreed upon.
- 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.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Which of the following institution formed as a result of "Fortaleza Declaration"?

- a) AIIB
- b) ADB
- c) New Development Bank
- d) ASEAN Bank

ANS: C

Explanation: Together with the process of globalization world regional forces have also been asserting their power through different short of alignments—the Fortaleza Declaration of heads of state (late July 2014) from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (the BRICS countries) is another such attempt —creation of a BRICS Bank i.e., New Development Bank (NDB).

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Economy

Q.1) Which of the following country first to implement regional level planning?

- a) Germany
- b) Russia
- c) United States of America
- d) France

ANS: C

Explanation: It was at the regional level that planning was used as a part of development policy by any country for the first time.

- It was the USA which started the first regional planning after the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was set up in 1916—for a large-scale rehabilitation in south-eastern USA covering parts of seven states.
- With the primary aim of flood control, soil conservation and providing electricity, the TVA/the regional plan was also involved in many related activities such as industrial development, forestry, wildlife conservation, town planning, construction of road and rail, encouraging sound agricultural practices and malaria control in the defined region.
- The US experience of regional planning became such a success in realising its well-defined goals that it emerged as a role model and an object of inspiration for many countries around the world in the coming decades—the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) in India (1948), the Volta River Project in Ghana (1966), etc.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) The terms “prestroika and glasnost” are associated with which of the following?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Soviet Union (USSR) under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev began a process of political and economic reforms, called prestroika (i.e., restructuring) and glasnost (i.e., openness) in 1985 to save the failed economic experiments in the state economy.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Who among the following is proposed the first blueprint of Indian planning?

- a) M. Visvesvaraya
- b) N.R. Sarkar
- c) Ramaswamy Mudaliar
- d) John Mathai

ANS: A

Explanation: The credit of proposing the first blueprint of Indian planning is given to the popular civil engineer and the ex-Dewan of the Mysore state, M. Visvesvaraya.

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- In his book *The Planned Economy of India*, published in 1934, he outlined the broad contours of his plan proposal.
- His ideas of state planning were an exercise in democratic capitalism (similar to the USA) with emphasis on industrialisation—a shift of labour from agricultural to industries, targeting to double the national income in one decade.
- Though there was no follow up by the British government on this plan, it aroused an urge for national planning among the educated citizens of the country.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Gandhian Plan:

1. It was prepared by Sriman Narayan Agarwal.
2. It was laid more emphasis on agriculture.

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: Espousing the spirit of the Gandhian economic thinking, Sriman Narayan Agarwal formulated *The Gandhian Plan* in 1944. The plan laid more emphasis on agriculture.

- Even if he referred to industrialization, it was to the level of promoting cottage and village-level industries, unlike the NPC and the Bombay Plan which supported a leading role for the heavy and large industries.
- The plan articulated a ‘decentralized economic structure’ for India with ‘self-contained villages’.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The First five year plan was accorded the highest priority to agriculture including irrigation and power projects.
2. The second five year plan was prepared by Harrod – Domar.
3. Due to wars with China and Pakistan third five year plan failed to meet its plan targets.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: First Plan: The period for this plan was 1951–56. As the economy was facing the problem of large-scale food grains import (1951) and the pressure of price rise, the plan accorded the highest priority to agriculture including irrigation and power projects.

- About 44.6 per cent of the plan outlay went in favour of the public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- The Plan was launched with all the lofty ideals of socio-economic development, which had frustrating outcomes in the following years.

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Second Plan: The plan period was 1956–61. The strategy of growth laid emphasis on rapid industrialization with a focus on heavy industries and capital goods.

- The plan was developed by Professor Mahalanobis. Due to the assumption of a closed economy, shortages of food and capital were felt during this Plan.

Third Plan: The Plan period was 1961–65. The Plan specifically incorporated the development of agriculture as one of the objectives of planning in India besides, for the first time, considering the aim of balanced, regional development.

- Enough misfortunes awaited this plan—two wars, one with China in 1961–62 and the other with Pakistan in 1965–66 along the Gujarat border and a severe drought-led famine in 1965–66 had to be faced.
- Due to heavy drain and diversion of funds, this plan utterly failed to meet its targets.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

1. It was launched during sixth five year plan.
2. Under this scheme the Members of Parliament recommend some works to the concerned District Magistrate.

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 Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is the last of the Central Plans and latest to have been launched, too.

- The scheme was launched on December 23, 1993 with only Rs. 5 lakh given to each MP which was increased to Rs. 1 crore in the year 1994–95.
- When the MPs did put a demand to increase the sum to Rs. 5 crore in 1997–98, finally the government enhanced it to Rs. 2 crore since 1998–99.
- In April 2011 the corpus was enhanced to Rs. 5 crore while announcing the new guidelines for the scheme.
- Basically, in the early 1990s there came a demand from the MPs cutting across party lines for such a scheme so that the fruits of development could directly reach the masses via their representatives.
- The government of the time decided to go in for such a scheme and the MPLADS came.
- Under this scheme the Members of Parliament recommend some works (i.e., creation of fixed community assets, based on locally felt developmental needs) to the concerned District Magistrate.
- The scheme is governed by a set of guidelines, which have been comprehensively revised and issued in November 2005.
- Its performance has improved due to pro-active policy initiatives, focus monitoring and review.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The Central sponsored schemes are 100% funded by central government.
2. These schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List.

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 exercise of planned development in India has evolved two type of schemes over the time, viz.,—Central Sector Scheme and Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

- The names are derived from the pattern of funding and the modality for implementation.
- The Central Sector Schemes are 100 per cent funded by the Union Government and implemented by the Central Government machinery.
- These schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List. In addition, the Central ministries also implement some schemes directly in the states/UTs, which are called Central Sector Schemes, but resources under these schemes are not generally transferred to states.
- 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 priorities in areas that require more attention.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) Which of the following Institution was replaced by NITI Aayog?

- a) National Development Council
- b) National Integration Council
- c) Planning Commission
- d) Zonal Councils

ANS: C

Explanation: By mid-2014, India did show a quite strong mandate and a very stable government came at the Centre.

- We find the new government showing a renewed vigour and zeal in several areas.
- One such area has been its attempts at 'redefining' the federal polity of the country for the purpose of promoting growth and development.
- We see a pronounced policy shift in the direction of 'empowering and keeping state in front' by giving them more financial space and responsibilities.
- Keeping its promises in the direction, the government abolished the Planning Commission (PC) and replaced it by a new body—the NITI Aayog.
- The acronym NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) The term “Washington Consensus” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Economic reforms
- b) Sustainable development
- c) Renewable energy
- d) Poverty alleviation

ANS: A

Explanation: Governments of the socialist or the planned economies were urged/suggested to privatize and liberalize, to sell off state-owned companies and eliminate government interventions in the economy.

- These governments were also suggested to take measures which could boost the aggregate demand in the economy (i.e., macroeconomic stability measures).
- The broad outlines of such a development strategy were regarded as being inspired by the Washington Consensus.
- This consensus is broadly termed as the popular meaning of the ‘economic reform’ followed by almost all the socialist, communist and planned developing economies during the 1980s in one form or the other—the term economic reform got currency around the world during this period.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Who among the following was prepared the “Sarvodaya Plan”?

- a) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- b) Subhash Chandra Bose
- c) Jayaprakash Narayan
- d) John Mathai

ANS: C

Explanation: After the reports of the NPC were published and the government was set to go for the five-year plans, a lone blueprint for the planned development of India was formulated by the famous socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan—the Sarvodaya Plan published in January 1950.

- The plan drew its major inspirations from the Gandhian techniques of constructive works by the community and trusteeship as well as the Sarvodaya concept of Acharya Vinoba Bave, the eminent Gandhian constructive worker.
- Major ideas of the plan were highly similar to the Gandhian Plan like emphasis on agriculture, agri-based small and cottage industries, self-reliance and almost no dependence on foreign capital and technology, land reforms, self-dependent villages and decentralised participatory form of planning and economic progress, to name the major ones.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Economy- Agriculture

Q.1) Which of the following sector/profession carries no burden of individual income tax?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Manufacturing
- c) Services
- d) Industries

ANS: A

Explanation: Agriculture is not only the biggest sector of the economy, but also the biggest private sector too. It is the only profession which still carries no burden of individual income tax.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) To realize the objectives of land reforms, the government took which of the following step/steps?

- 1. Abolition of Intermediaries
- 2. Tenancy reforms
- 3. Consolidation of land

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: To realise the objectives of land reforms, the government took three main steps which had many internal sub-steps:

- 1. **Abolition of Intermediaries:** Under this step, the age-old exploitative land tenure systems of the Zamindari, Mahalwari and Ryotwari were fully abolished.
- 2. **Tenancy Reforms:** Under this broader step, three inter-related reforms protecting the landtenants were affected:
 - Regulation of rent so that a fixed and rational rate of rent could be paid by the share-croppers to the land owners;
 - Security of tenure so that a share-cropper could feel secure about his future income and his economic security; and
 - Ownership rights to tenants so that the landless masses (i.e., the tenants, the share-croppers) could get the final rights for the land they plough —“land to the tillers”.
- 3. **Reorganization of Agriculture:** This step again has many inter-related and highly logical provisions in the direction of rational agrarian reforms:
 - Redistribution of land among the landless poor masses after promulgating timely ceiling laws—the move failed badly with few exceptions, such as West Bengal, Kerala and partially in Andhra Pradesh.
 - Consolidation of land could only succeed in the regions of the Green Revolution (i.e., Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh) and remained marred with many loopholes and corruption.

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- Cooperative farming, which has a high socio-economic moral base, was only used by the big farmers to save their lands from the draconian ceiling laws.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding agricultural census:

1. It is conducted for every 10 years.
2. For the first time 11th agricultural census data collection is conducted on smart phones and tablets.

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 Eleventh Agricultural Census (2021-22) was launched in the country today by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Tomar said that this computation will bring huge benefits in a vast and agricultural country like India.
- Shri Tomar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasis is being given on increasing farmer's income.
- Besides there is a need to change their standard of living, organize small farmers in order to empower them, attract them towards remunerative crops and ensure the quality of the produce at par with global standards.
- Agriculture Census is conducted every 5 years, which is being undertaken now after delay due to corona pandemic. The field work of agricultural census will start in August 2022.
- Agricultural Census is the main source of information on a variety of agricultural parameters at a relatively minute level, such as the number and area of operational holdings, their size, class-wise distribution, land use, tenancy and cropping pattern, etc.
- This is the first time that data collection for agricultural census will be conducted on smart phones and tablets, so that data is available in time.
- Most of the States have digitized their land records and surveys, which will further accelerate the collection of agricultural census data.
- The use of digitized land records and the use of mobile apps for data collection will enable the creation of a database of operational holdings in the country.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage>.

Q.4) Which of the following scheme/schemes is/are implemented by the government to doubling the income of farmers?

1. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana
2. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
3. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: With a view to improve the condition of Small and Marginal farmers and to double the income of farmers by 2022, Government is realigning its interventions from production-centric approach to farmers' income-centric initiatives, with focus on better and new technological solutions.

- These include implementation of schemes like, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Soil Health Card, Neem Coated Urea, Rainfed Area Development under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology (NMAET) etc.
- In addition, farmers are provided information through Focused Publicity Campaigns, Kisan Call Centres (KCCs), Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) of entrepreneurs, Agri Fairs and exhibitions, Kisan SMS Portal etc.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare>.

Q.5) Under green revolution, which of the following high yielding variety crop introduced for the first time?

- a) Wheat
- b) Rice
- c) Maize
- d) Pigeon pea

ANS: A

Explanation: It is the introduction of new techniques of agriculture, which became popular by the name of Green Revolution (GR) in early 1960s— at first for wheat and by the next decade for rice, too.

It revolutionized the very traditional idea of food production by giving a boost by more than 250 per cent to the productivity level.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding minimum support price (MSP):

1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is the approval authority of MSP.
2. It is an integral component of Agriculture Price Policy.

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 policies of Government of India and decision taken in recent years towards farmers' welfare have resulted insignificant improvement of food grain production and sustained agriculture growth despite COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all designated Rabi crops for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2022-23, when in advance of the sowing season.
- MSP is an integral component of Agriculture Price Policy and it targets to ensure support price to farmers and affordable prices to the consumer.
- Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the Government of India declares MSP after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned for agricultural crops such as Cereal, Pulses, Oilseeds and commercial crops every year at the beginning of the sowing season.
- MSP is announced for the Kharif crops of Paddy, Jowar, Bajara, Ragi, Maize, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Cotton, Groundnut, Sunflower Seed, Soyabean, Sesamum.
- The Rabi crops for which MSP is announced are Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur, Rapeseeds & Mustard, Safflower and Toria.
- Apart from this, MSP is announced for Copra, De-husked Coconut, Jute and Fair Remunerative Prices (FRP) is announced for Sugarcane.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage>

Q.7) Which of the following factors is/are considered by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

1. Cost of production
2. International prices
3. Terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The factors considered by CACP for fixing MSP include cost of production, domestic and international prices, demand-supply conditions, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage>

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):

1. It is implemented for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities.
2. It is implemented when there is at least 10 per cent increase in production or 10 per cent decrease in a normal year.

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 Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is similar to MSP, which is implemented on the request of state governments for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of fall in market prices.

- The scheme is implemented when there is at least 10 per cent increase in production or 10 per cent decrease in the ruling rates over the previous normal year.
- Proposal of MIS is approved on the specific request of the state/UT governments, if the states/UTs are ready to bear 50 per cent loss (25 per cent in case of North-Eastern states) incurred on its implementation.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) “The price at which the government allows off take of food grains from the FCI” is known as?

- a) Minimum support price
- b) Fair Remunerative Prices
- c) Issue price
- d) Both A & B

ANS: C

Explanation: Issue price: The price at which the government allows off take of food grains from the FCI (the price at which the FCI sells its food grains). The FCI has been fetching huge losses in the form of food subsidies.

- The food grains procured are transported to the godowns of the FCI located across the country (counted in the buffer stock).
- From here they head to the sale counters—to the TPDS or Open Market Sale.
- The transportation, godowning, the cost of maintaining the FCI, carriage losses, etc., make the food grains costlier (the additional expenses other than the MSP are known as the ‘economic cost of food grains’).
- To make the food grains affordable to the consumers, the issue prices for food grains are set lower than the total cost of procurement and distribution— the gap converts into the ‘food subsidy’.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Under which of the following department, the price stabilization fund was set up?

- a) Department of economic affairs
- b) Department of Consumer affairs
- c) Department of Agricultural Research And Education
- d) Department of financial services

ANS: B

Explanation: The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) to help regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses were also added subsequently.

- The PSF scheme was transferred from DAC&FW to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA) w.e.f. 1st April, 2016.
- The scheme provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility and discourages hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.
- For building such stock, the scheme promotes direct purchase from farmers/farmers' association at farm gate/Mandi.
- The PSF is utilized for granting interest free advance of working capital to Central Agencies, State/UT Governments/Agencies to undertake market intervention operations.
- Apart from domestic procurement from farmers/wholesale mandis, import may also be undertaken with support from the Fund.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160050>

Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948:

1. It was made clear that India is going to have mixed economic model.
2. It classified industries into three types.

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: Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948- It defined the broad contours of the policy delineating the role of the State in industrial development both as an entrepreneur and authority.

It made clear that India is going to have a Mixed Economic Model.

It classified industries into four broad areas:

- **Strategic Industries (Public Sector):** It included three industries in which Central Government had monopoly. These included Arms and ammunition, Atomic energy and Rail transport.
- **Basic/Key Industries (Public-cum-Private Sector):** 6 industries viz. coal, iron & steel, aircraft manufacturing, ship-building, manufacture of telephone, telegraph & wireless apparatus, and mineral oil were designated as “Key Industries” or “Basic Industries”. These industries were to be set-up by the Central Government. However, the existing private sector enterprises were allowed to continue.
- **Important Industries (Controlled Private Sector):** It included 18 industries including heavy chemicals, sugar, cotton textile & woollen industry, cement, paper, salt, machine tools, fertiliser, rubber, air and sea transport, motor, tractor, electricity etc. These industries continue to remain under private sector however, the central government, in consultation with the state government, had general control over them.
- **Other Industries (Private and Cooperative Sector):** All other industries which were not included in the above mentioned three categories were left open for the private sector.

The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act was passed in 1951 to implement the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1948.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding provisions of Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956:

1. "Schedule A" industries have complete monopoly by centre.
2. The provision of compulsory licensing for industries.

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 government was encouraged by the impact of the industrial policy of 1948 and it was only after eight years that the new and more crystallized policies were announced for the Indian industries. The new industrial policy of 1956 had the following major provisions.

Reservation of Industries: A clear-cut classification of industries (also known as the Reservation of Industries) was affected with three schedules:

- (i) **Schedule A:** This schedule had 17 industrial areas in which the Centre was given complete monopoly. The industries set up under this provision were known as the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) later getting popularity as 'PSUs'. Though the numbers of industries were only 17, the number of PSUs set up by the Government of India went to 254 by 1991.
- (ii) **Schedule B:** There were 12 industrial areas put under this schedule in which the state governments were supposed to take up the initiatives with a more expansive follow up by the private sector. This schedule also carried the provisions of compulsory licensing.
- (iii) **Schedule C:** All industrial areas left out of Schedules A and B were put under this in which the private enterprises had the provisions to set up industries. Many of them had the provisions of licensing and have necessarily to fit into the framework of the social and economic policy of the state and were subject to control and regulation in terms of the Industries Development and Regulation (IDR) Act and other relevant legislations.

One of the most important developments of independent India, the provision of compulsory licensing for industries, was cemented in this policy. All the schedule B industries and a number of schedule C industries came under this provision. This provision established the so-called 'License-Quota-Permit' regime (raj) in the economy.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding National Investment Fund (NIF):

1. It was constituted in 2015.
2. The corpus of NIF is permanent in nature.
3. The disinvestment proceedings of public sector undertaking were channelized into NIF.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Government had constituted the National Investment Fund (NIF) in November, 2005 into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized.

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- The corpus of NIF was to be of a permanent nature and NIF was to be professionally managed to provide sustainable returns to the Government, without depleting the corpus.
- Selected Public Sector Mutual Funds, namely UTI Asset Management Company Ltd., SBI Funds Management Private Ltd. and LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Company Ltd. were entrusted with the management of the NIF corpus.
- As per this Scheme, 75% of the annual income of the NIF was to be used for financing selected social sector schemes which promote education, health and employment.
- The residual 25% of the annual income of NIF was to be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable PSUs.

Source: <https://dipam.gov.in/national-investment-fund>

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

1. The enterprises are defined according to the manpower hired.
2. Micro enterprises can invest up to 1 crore rupees.

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: As per the SMSE Act, 2006 the MSME are classified in two classes — manufacturing and service enterprises—and they are defined in terms of investment in plant & machinery.

The Central Government notifies the following criteria for classification of micro, small and medium enterprises, namely:—

- (i) a micro enterprise, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed one crore rupees and turnover does not exceed five crore rupees;
- (ii) a small enterprise, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed ten crore rupees and turnover does not exceed fifty crore rupees;
- (iii) a medium enterprise, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed fifty crore rupees and turnover does not exceed two hundred and fifty crore rupees.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh &

https://msme.gov.in/sites/default/files/MSME_gazette_of_india.pdf

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):

1. It is a credit linked subsidy programme.
2. It is a central sector scheme being administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
3. KVIC is the implementing agency at national level.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Government of India approved the introduction of a credit linked subsidy programme called Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in 2008 for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas.

- It allows entrepreneurs to set up factories or units.
- It is a central sector scheme being administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- Implementing Agency at the National Level: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.6) At present in which of the following sector/sectors 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is/are allowed?

1. Medical devices
2. Insurance
3. Pensions

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The government said it will allow 100% FDI for medical devices manufacturing in India. All kinds of medical instruments, diagnostic tools and products, any technology and products including clinical implants were included in the category.

- Recently, the Ministry of Finance amended Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015 and clarified on the final rules for increased FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in the Insurance Sector.
- Parliament had passed the Insurance Amendment Bill 2021 to increase the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 74% from 49%.
- The Ministry of Finance has notified 'Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2021'.

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- The government notified a hike in the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49% under the national pension system (NPS), opening doors for experienced foreign partners in this space and facilitating more competition in the fledgling segment.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Which of the following is/are parameter/s of Ease of doing Business (EoDB)?

1. Sustainable development
2. Starting a business
3. Paying taxes

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Doing Business report, an annual publication (since 2004) of the World Bank Group ranks the countries of the world on the basis of their 'regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it'.

Popularly known as the 'ease of doing business report', it measures regulations affecting 11 areas of the life of a business:

- Starting a business,
- Dealing with construction permits,
- Getting electricity,
- Registering property,
- Getting credit,
- Protecting minority investors,
- Paying taxes,
- Trading across borders,
- Enforcing contracts,
- Resolving insolvency, and
- Labour market regulation.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) "UDAY – Scheme" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Electricity sector
- b) Iron & Steel sector
- c) Coal sector
- d) Agriculture sector

ANS: A

Explanation: Without improving the performance of the electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) of the state government's efforts towards 100 per cent village electrification, 24x7 power supply and clean energy cannot bear fruit.

- Power outages also adversely affect national priorities like 'Make in India' and 'Digital India'.

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- In addition, default on bank loans by financially stressed DISCOMs has the potential of seriously impacting the banking sector and the economy at large.
- For financial and operational turnaround of DISCOMs and to ensure a sustainable permanent solution to the problem, the UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) was launched by the GoI, in November 2015.
- The scheme also aims to reduce interest burden of the DISCOMs, cost of power and their AT&C (Aggregate Transmission & Technical) losses.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) “HRIDAY and AMRUT” schemes/programmes are often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Urban transformation
- b) Skill development
- c) Manufacturing clusters
- d) Urban agriculture

ANS: A

Explanation: HRIDAY (National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana) aims at preserving and revitalizing the soul and unique character of heritage cities in India.

- In the first phase, it contains 12 cities – Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni, Kanchipuram, Gaya and Warangal.
- AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) aims at improving basic urban infrastructure in 500 cities/towns which will be known as mission cities/towns.
- This a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) funded by GoI, States and the local bodies.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)”:

1. It is a mix of Engineering-ProcurementConstruction (EPC) Model and Build-Operate-Transfer – Annuity.
2. In this model the project cost is shared by the government and the private player in ratio of 50:50.

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: Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) is a mix of EPC and BOTANNUITY models.

- In this model the project cost is shared by the government and the private player in ratio of 40:60, respectively.
- The private player is responsible to construct and hand over the roads to the government which will collect toll (if wishes)—maintenance remaining the responsibility of the private player till the annuity period.
- Private Player is paid a fixed sum of economic compensation (called ‘annuity’, similar to the BOT-ANNUITY model of past) by the government for a fixed tenure (normally 15 years, though it is flexible).
- **The private player which demands lowest annuity (in bidding) gets the contract.**

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Economy- Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO):

1. It was established in 2001.
2. It is an attached office to NITI Aayog.
3. It is the apex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) office in the country.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) is an attached office of NITI Aayog.

- As the apex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) office in the country, DMEO supports the Government achieve the national development agenda through M&E of government policies and programs.
- Since its inception in 2015, the office aims to support rigorous, data-driven, citizen-centric, and outcomes-driven program management and policymaking.
- DMEO was established by the Government of India on 18th September, 2015 as an attached office of the NITI Aayog by merging the erstwhile Program Evaluation Office and Independent Evaluation Office.
- To ensure that DMEO is able to function independently, it has been given separate budgetary allocations and manpower in addition to complete functional autonomy.
- The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) was established by the Government of India in October, 1952 with a specific task of evaluating the community development programmes and other intensive area development schemes which were being funded by the Government of India.
- It worked as a Division of erstwhile Planning Commission and was headed by an Adviser (PEO) who reported to the Member, Planning Commission.
- PEO had 15 field units (7 Regional Evaluation Offices + 8 Project Evaluation Offices) located across the country.
- In an effort to accord more functional autonomy to the programme evaluation mechanism in the country, the Government of India established the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in November, 2010.
- The IEO was headed by a Director General, equivalent to a Union Minister of State in rank and status.

Source: <https://dmeo.gov.in/content/overview-0>

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

Q.2) The government aims to “transforming the development agenda of India” as its objective, which of the following institution is helping to realize this objective?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Election Commission
- c) Finance Commission
- d) Inter – State Council

ANS: A

Explanation: The government aims at ‘transforming the development agenda of India’ with the help of the NITI Aayog and has given a slogan, ‘from planning to NITI’.

- India has undergone a paradigm shift over the past six decades—politically, economically, socially, technologically as well as demographically.
- The role of the government in national development has seen a parallel evolution.
- Keeping with these changing times, the government decided to set up the NITI Aayog as a means to better serve the needs and aspirations of the people of India.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “National Food Security Mission”:

1. It was launched during 12th five year plan.
2. The crops grown under the scheme are rice, wheat and pulses.

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: National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 adopted a resolution to launch a Food Security Mission comprising rice, wheat and pulses to increase the annual production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12).

- Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), was launched in October 2007.
- The Mission met with an overwhelming success and achieved the targeted additional production of rice, wheat and pulses.
- The Mission continued during 12th Five Year Plan with new targets of additional production of food grains of 25 million tonnes of food grains comprising of 10 million tonnes rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat, 4 million tonnes of pulses and 3 million tonnes of coarse cereals by the end of 12th Five Year Plan.

Source: <https://www.nfsm.gov.in/Default2.aspx>

Q.4) Which of the following is NOT part of WTO box (Agricultural subsidies)?

- a) Amber box
- b) Red box
- c) Green box
- d) White box

ANS: D

Explanation: The agricultural subsidies, in the WTO terminology have in general been identified by 'boxes' which have been given the colours of the traffic lights —green (means permitted), amber (means slow down, i.e., to be reduced) and red (means forbidden). In the agriculture sector, as usual, things are more complicated.

- The WTO provisions on agriculture have nothing like red box subsidies, although subsidies exceeding the reduction commitment levels are prohibited in the 'amber box'.
- The 'blue box' subsidies are tied to programmes that limit the level of production.
- There is also a provision of some exemptions for the developing countries sometimes called the 'S & D box'.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding mega food park scheme:

1. It is based on "Cluster" approach.
2. It is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

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 Scheme of Mega Food Park aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to ensure maximizing value addition, minimizing wastage, increasing farmer's income and creating employment opportunities particularly in rural sector.

- The Mega Food Park Scheme is based on "Cluster" approach and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri / horticultural zone for setting up of modern food processing units in the industrial plots provided in the park with well-established supply chain.
- Mega food park typically consist of supply chain infrastructure including collection centers, primary processing centers, central processing centers, cold chain and around 25-30 fully developed plots for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units.
- The Mega Food Park project is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act.
- State Government, State Government entities and Cooperatives are not required to form a separate SPV for implementation of Mega Food Park project.
- Subject to fulfillment of the conditions of the Scheme Guidelines, the funds are released to the SPVs.

Source: <https://www.mofpi.gov.in/Schemes/mega-food-parks>

Q.6) Who among the following is headed the committee on capital account convertibility?

- a) S. S. Tarapore
- b) Vijay Kelkar
- c) C Rangarajan
- d) Venkata chellaih

ANS: A

Explanation: The Committee on Capital Account Convertibility (CAC) or Tarapore Committee was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India for suggesting a roadmap on full convertibility of Rupee on Capital Account.

- The committee submitted its report in May 1997. The committee observed that there is no clear definition of CAC.
- The CAC as per the standards refers to the freedom to convert the local financial assets into foreign financial assets or vice versa at the market determined rates of exchange.
- The Tarapore committee observed that the Capital controls can be useful in insulating the economy of the country from the volatile capital flows during the transitional periods and also in providing time to the authorities, so that they can pursue discretionary domestic policies to strengthen the initial conditions.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) “Global Investment Trends Monitor” report is released by which of the following?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Economic Intelligence Unit
- c) UNCTAD
- d) International Finance Corporation

ANS: C

Explanation: According to the recent Investment Trends Monitor Report issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) collapsed in 2020 by 42% to an estimated USD 859 billion from USD 1.5 trillion in 2019. Such a low level was last seen in the 1990s and is more than 30% below the investment decline that followed the 2008-2009 global financial crises.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) The terms “REER and NEER” are often seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Exchange rate
- b) Inflation index
- c) Digital currency
- d) Agriculture supply chains

ANS: A

Explanation: NEER is the weighted average of bilateral nominal exchange rates of the home currency in terms of foreign currencies.

- Conceptually, the REER, defined as a weighted average of nominal exchange rates adjusted for relative price differential between the domestic and foreign countries, relates to the purchasing power parity (PPP) hypothesis.

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been constructing five-country and thirty six-country indices of NEER and REER as part of its communication policy and to aid researchers and analysts. These indices are published in the Bank's monthly Bulletin.

Source: https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_ViewBulletin.aspx?Id=7129

Q.9) "Paris Club" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Nuclear suppliers group
- b) Informal group of creditor nations
- c) International climate research scientists group
- d) Arctic council group

ANS: B

Explanation: Paris club refers to an informal group of creditor nations focused on dealing with borrower nations that face difficulty in paying back their loans.

- The origin of the club is traced to a meeting that happened in Paris between officials from Argentina, which had trouble paying back its debt, with a group of lenders in 1956.
- It is similar to the London club, which is a group of commercial bankers formed in 1976 to deal with the financial problems of Zaire, and is focused on providing various forms of debt relief to countries that face financial distress due to their heavy debt load.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/what-is-paris-club>

Q.10) The "Doha Development Agenda (DDA)" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) WTO
- b) UNFCCC
- c) UNEP
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: The Nairobi Declaration reflects divergence amongst the WTO membership on the relevance of reaffirming the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) as the basis of future negotiations.

- This was despite the fact that India, along with many other developing countries, from groups such as the G-33, LDCs, and the Africa Group, wanted a reaffirmation of the mandate of the Doha Round.
- While reflecting that there are divergences, the Ministerial Declaration also notes the "strong commitment of all Members to advance negotiations on the remaining Doha issues".
- It records that WTO work would maintain development at its centre. It also reaffirms that provisions for special and differential treatment shall remain integral.

Source: TMH Ramesh singh

Economy

Q.1) “The World Employment and Social Outlook” report is released by which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Labour Organization
- d) UNESCO

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Labour Organization (ILO) published its flagship report titled, 'World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends (WESO Trends) 2022.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Research and Development (R&D) in India:

1. The Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) is around 1.2%.
2. India is a low spender in comparison to the developed countries and emerging economic powers of East Asia.

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 Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) as the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) is around 0.7%. The percentage expenditure for the last couple of years has shown a downward trend.

1. According to a report (2020) prepared by the Department of Science and Technology (DST); of the funding allocated to R&D in 2017-18, 61.4% of the amount went to DRDO (31.6%), Departments of Space (19%) and Atomic Energy (10.8%) together.
2. Approximately 37% was allocated to the general R&D agencies like the ICAR, CSIR, DST, DBT, ICMR etc. while only 0.9% was allocated to R&D in electronics, IT and renewable energy.
3. India is a low spender (only 0.66% of the GDP) in comparison to the developed countries and emerging economic powers of East Asia. In fact, India's expenditure on R&D is lower than Low and Middle Income Countries.
4. In most of the developed capitalist countries, defense-related R&D is undertaken by the private sector. In India, this expenditure is mostly borne by public funding.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following measure/measures is/are taken by government of India to promote research & development?

1. The weighted tax deduction on R&D expenditure.
2. Establishment of the Atal Innovation Mission in the NITI Aayog.
3. Implementation of SETU (Self Employment and Talent Utilization) programme.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Government of India has taken many initiatives in recent times to promote the R&D sector in India –

1. The weighted tax deduction of 200 per cent for R&D expenditure.
2. Establishment of the AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) in the NITI Aayog. This will be an innovation promotion platform involving academics, entrepreneurs, and researchers and draw upon national and international experiences to foster a culture of innovation, R&D and scientific research in India. The platform will also promote a network of worldclass innovation hubs.
3. SETU (Self Employment and Talent Utilization) programme, aimed at setting up world class technology business incubators to promote startup business in India coupled with Start-up-India, Make in India.
4. IMPRINT (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology), a Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.4) The “Baltic Dry Index (BDI)” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Crude oil index
- b) Continent shelf measuring index
- c) Precipitation measuring index
- d) Trade and Shipping index

ANS: D

Explanation: The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) is a shipping and trade index created by the London-based Baltic Exchange.

1. It measures changes in the cost of transporting various raw materials, such as coal and steel.
2. Members of the exchange directly contact shipping brokers to assess price levels for given shipping paths, a product to transport, and time to delivery or speed.
3. The Baltic Dry Index is a composite of four sub-indices that measure different sizes of dry bulk carriers or merchant ships: Capesize, Panamax, Supramax, and Handysize.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding insurance in India:

1. Oriental Life Insurance Company started by Europeans in Calcutta was the first life insurance company on Indian Soil.
2. Bombay Mutual Life Assurance Society is the first Indian life insurance company.
3. The life insurance company's act was passed in 1912.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Life Insurance in its modern form came to India from England in the year 1818. Oriental Life Insurance Company started by Europeans in Calcutta was the first life insurance company on Indian Soil.

1. However, later with the efforts of eminent people like Babu Muttylal Seal, the foreign life insurance companies started insuring Indian lives.
2. Bombay Mutual Life Assurance Society heralded the birth of first Indian life insurance company in the year 1870, and covered Indian lives at normal rates.
3. The Swadeshi movement of 1905-1907 gave rise to more insurance companies. The United India in Madras, National Indian and National Insurance in Calcutta and the Co-operative Assurance at Lahore were established in 1906.
4. In 1907, Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Company took its birth in one of the rooms of the Jorasanko, house of the great poet Rabindranath Tagore, in Calcutta.
5. The Indian Mercantile, General Assurance and Swadeshi Life (later Bombay Life) were some of the companies established during the same period.
6. Prior to 1912 India had no legislation to regulate insurance business. In the year 1912, the Life Insurance Companies Act, and the Provident Fund Act were passed.
7. The Life Insurance Companies Act, 1912 made it necessary that the premium rate tables and periodical valuations of companies should be certified by an actuary. But the Act discriminated between foreign and Indian companies on many accounts, putting the Indian companies at a disadvantage.
8. The first two decades of the twentieth century saw lot of growth in insurance business. From 44 companies with total business-in-force as Rs.22.44 crore, it rose to 176 companies with total business-in-force as Rs.298 crore in 1938.
9. The Insurance Act 1938 was the first legislation governing not only life insurance but also non-life insurance to provide strict state control over insurance business.
10. The demand for nationalization of life insurance industry was made repeatedly in the past but it gathered momentum in 1944 when a bill to amend the Life Insurance Act 1938 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly.
11. However, it was much later on the 19th of January, 1956, that life insurance in India was nationalized.

Source: <https://licindia.in/Top-Links/about-us/History>

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AICIL)”:

1. It was responsible to look after the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS).
2. It is jointly promoted by public sector insurance companies and development financial institutions.

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 public sector insurance company, Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AICIL) was set up by the Government of India in December 2002 (commenced its business in April 2003).

1. This is a dedicated agri-insurance company and aims “to serve the needs of farmers better and to move towards a sustainable actuarial regime”.
2. This company was responsible to look after the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which was launched in 1999.
3. Since January 2016, the company is looking after the newly launched PMFBY (Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana) which subsumed the existing agri-insurance schemes— the NAIS and the Modified NAIS (of 2010).
4. Till the AICIL was not set up, the agri-insurance responsibility of the government was being looked after by the General Insurance Corporation (GIC).
5. AICIL is jointly promoted by public sector insurance companies and development financial institutions—majority shares owned by the GIC (35 per cent) and NABARD (30 per cent) while the four public sectors general insurance companies own 8.75 per cent each in it.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) “R. N. Malhotra committee” is related to which of the following?

- a) Insurance sector
- b) Tourism sector
- c) Aviation sector
- d) Pension sector

ANS: A

Explanation: Under the process of economic reforms an Insurance Reforms Committee (IRC) was set up in April 1993 under the chairmanship of the ex-RBI Governor R. N. Malhotra. The committee handed over its report (January 1994) with the following major suggestions:

1. Decontrolling insurance sector, i.e., allowing Indian as well as foreign private sector insurance companies to enter the sector (the government did it in 1999 passing the IRDA Act).
2. Restructuring the LIC and the GIC and cutting down the government’s holding in them to 50 per cent (no follow up still, but the private insurance companies demanding it anxiously. The NDA government had taken steps in this area, but the UPA government has no such plans.) Late 2012, the government started sale of the LIC shares but to public sector undertakings— seen as a welcome move.
3. Delinking GIC and its four subsidiaries (which were done in 2000).
4. Discarding the system of licensing of surveyors by the controller of Insurance.

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5. Restructuring the Tariff Advisory Committee.
6. Setting up a regulatory authority for the insurance industry (the IRDA set up in 2000).

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding PMFBY (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana):

1. It provides financial support to farmers suffering crop loss or damage arising out of unforeseen events.
2. All farmers including share croppers and tenant farmers are eligible for this scheme.

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: PMFBY aims at supporting sustainable production in agriculture sector by way of:

1. Providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events.
2. Stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
3. Encouraging farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
4. Ensuring credit worthiness of the farmers, crop diversification and enhancing growth and competitiveness of agriculture sector besides protecting the farmers from production risks.

All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing notified crops in a notified area during the season who have insurable interest in the crop are eligible. Initially, it was compulsory for loanee farmers. However, now it has been made voluntary for all farmers, including loanee farmers.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding pradhan mantri kisan maan-dhan yojana (PM-KMY):

1. It covers all types of farmers.
2. The entry age for yojana is 18 to 50 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: D

Explanation: pradhan mantri kisan maan-dhan yojana (PM-KMY) objective is to provide social security to Small and Marginal Farmers in their old age when they have no means of livelihood and minimal or no savings to take care of their expenses.

Beneficiaries:

1. Small and Marginal Farmers (Cultivable land up to 2 hectares as per land records of the concerned State/UT)
2. Entry Age between 18 to 40 years

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3. Exclusions: Few categories of beneficiaries of higher economic status; Small and Marginal Farmers covered under any other statutory social security schemes such as National Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM), etc.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding pilgrimage rejuvenation and spiritual augmentation drive (PRASAD) scheme:

1. It is a central sponsored scheme.
2. It aims to promote local art, culture, handicraft, cuisine, etc.

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: pilgrimage rejuvenation and spiritual augmentation drive (PRASAD) scheme objectives:

1. Integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in a planned, prioritized and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience.
2. Harness pilgrimage tourism for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.
3. Enhancing the tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the religious destinations.
4. Promote local art, culture, handicraft, cuisine, etc.

It is a Central Sector Scheme. The scheme aims at infrastructure development such as entry points (road, rail and water transport), last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities like Information/ Interpretation Centers, ATM/ money exchange, eco-friendly modes of transport etc.

1. For components within public funding, Central Government will provide 100% fund. For improved sustainability of the project, efforts shall be made to involve PPP and CSR as well.
2. Centre has included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand in the scheme

Source: FORUMIAS

Economy-Infrastructure and Communication

Q.1) Which of the following measure/measures is/are attract the private sector investment in Infrastructure?

1. Bundling an infrastructure project.
2. Simplification and transparency in the clearance procedures.
3. Providing credible and independent regulatory framework.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Experts have suggested for expanding public investment in the sector supplemented duly by a vigorous effort of attracting private investment (domestic as well as foreign).

Creating the conducive environment to attract private investment in infrastructure should include:

1. Simplification and transparency in the clearance procedures;
2. Unbundling an infrastructure project so that the private sector may go for only those unbundled segment of the project whose they are able to bear; and
3. Providing credible and independent regulatory framework so that the private players get fair treatment.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following difficulty/difficulties faced by the government sector while provision of Infrastructure services?

1. Adequate scale of investment
2. Technical efficiency
3. Competitive market structure

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Putting in place the quality and efficient infrastructure services is essential to realize the full potential of the growth impulses surging through the Indian economy.

1. There is now a widespread consensus (now clearly accepted by the Planning Commission) that exclusive dependence on the government for the provision of all infrastructure services introduces difficulties concerning adequate scale of investment, technical efficiency, proper enforcement of user charges, and competitive market structure.
2. At the same time, complete reliance on private production, particularly without appropriate regulation, is also not likely to produce optimal outcomes.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Which of the following is/are components of “Integrated Power Development Scheme”?

1. Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks in the urban areas
2. Underground cabling
3. Schemes for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and IT enablement of balance urban towns are included under IPDS

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: In December 2014, the GoI launched a new programme – IPDS (Integrated Power Development Scheme) – a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) with a Central grant between 60 to 85 per cent.

1. Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks in the urban areas.
2. Metering of distribution transformers / feeders / consumers in the urban areas.
3. IT enablement of distribution sector and strengthening of distribution network under R-APDRP for 12th and 13th Plans by carrying forward the approved outlay for R-APDRP to IPDS.
4. Schemes for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and IT enablement of balance urban towns are also included under IPDS. Scope of IT enablement has been extended to all 4041 towns as per Census 2011.
5. Underground cabling to include additional demand of States and smart metering solution for performing UDAY States and Solar panels on Govt. buildings with net-metering are also permissible under the scheme.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.4) “Parichaalan” app is related to which of the following?

- a) Airways
- b) Roads
- c) Railways
- d) Shipping

ANS: C

Explanation: Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu today launched Parichaalan – a Mobile Application for Railway Freight Operations developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) the IT arm of Ministry of Railways.

1. ‘Parichaalan’ is a mobile application conceptualized and developed by CRIS to make decision making on freight operations absolutely easy and user friendly.
2. The application is a powerful tool as it not only represents data in a pictorial and graphical manner that is easily comprehensible but also makes the information dynamic and current in nature.
3. Instead of focusing on post-mortems, Parichaalan moves operations management systems to a higher level of real time decision making.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding national highways:

1. National highways consist of 4 percent of road network
2. National highways carry 40 percent of road traffic
3. National Highways Authority of India is mandated to implement National Highways Development Project (NHDP)

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Highways Authority of India is mandated to implement National Highways Development Project (NHDP) which is India's largest ever Highways Project in a phased manner.

1. The National Highways have a total length of 72,000 (approx) km to serve as the arterial network of the country.
2. Although National Highways constitute only about 2 per cent of the road network, it carries 40 per cent of the total road traffic.
3. Rapid expansion of passenger and freight traffic makes it imperative to improve the road network in the country.
4. Accordingly, Government of India launched major initiatives to upgrade and strengthen National Highways through various phases of National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

Source: <https://nhai.gov.in/#/about-nhdp>

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "Heli Sewa" portal:

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog to create an ecosystem between the helicopter operators and the district authorities to promote travel, tourism and enhance last mile connectivity.
2. It will facilitate the helicopter operators to obtain permissions, approvals and clearances, etc. within 48 hours and will thus reduce the hurdles of obtaining permissions in physical format.

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 Heli Sewa Portal is an initiative of Ministry of Civil Aviation and a platform to create an ecosystem between the helicopter operators and the district authorities to promote travel, tourism and enhance last mile connectivity. It will further boost the helicopter industry and economy on national level.

1. The Heli Sewa platform will facilitate operators to file their landing requests and intimate the district authorities' online using digital platform to undertake commitments at short notice for the corporate, charter, VIP flying, HEMS, Medical sorties, etc.
2. This platform will facilitate the helicopter operators to obtain permissions, approvals and clearances, etc. within 48 hours and will thus reduce the hurdles of obtaining permissions in physical format.
3. The Heli Sewa is a dynamic portal and will also act as a ready reckoner for the operators and district authorities with an option to update new helipads being developed over a period of time.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

4. The district authorities have the facility to upload/ update helipad details in their respective districts specifying the available infrastructure at the respective helipads for the convenience of the helicopter operators.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Smart city mission”:

1. It is operated as central sponsored scheme.
2. 100crore per city per year funding provided under the mission.

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 Smart City Mission will be operated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and the central government proposes to give it financial support to the extent of Rs. 48,000 crore over five years, i.e. on an average Rs. 100 crore per city per year.

1. An equal amount, on a matching basis, will have to be contributed by the state/ULB; therefore, nearly one lakh crore of government/ULB funds will be available for smart cities development.
2. In the first phase of implementation, twenty cities have been shortlisted to roll out the programme.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the “Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board”:

1. It is established under executive resolution in 2006.
2. It regulates production of crude oil and natural gas.

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 Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) was constituted under The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 (NO. 19 OF 2006) notified via Gazette Notification dated 31st March, 2006.

1. The Act provide for the establishment of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
2. Further as enshrined in the act, the board has also been mandated to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country.

Source: <https://pngrb.gov.in/eng-web/story.html>

Q.9) “The law which says that people generally spend a smaller part of their budget on food as their income rises” is related to which of the following?

- a) Law of self interest
- b) Gresham’s law
- c) Goodhart’s law
- d) Engel’s law

ANS: D

Explanation: The Engel’s law which says that people generally spend a smaller part of their budget on food as their income rises. The idea was suggested by Ernst Engel, a Russian statistician in 1857.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.10) Which of the following are international credit rating agencies?

- 1. Standard and Poor’s (S&P)
- 2. Moody’s Investor Services
- 3. FITCH
- 4. Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS)

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Presently, India is rated by six international credit rating agencies, namely Standard and Poor’s (S&P), Moody’s Investor Services, FITCH, Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS), the Japanese Credit Rating Agency (JCRA), and the Rating and Investment Information Inc., Tokyo(R&I). Information flow to these credit rating agencies has been streamlined.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Economy-IPRs and Indian IPR battles

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “World Intellectual Property Organization”:

1. It is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation.
2. It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 member states.

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: WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation. We are a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 member states. Our mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

Source: <https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/>

Q.2) On which of the following date world intellectual property day is observed annually?

- a) February 28
- b) March 21
- c) April 26
- d) May 14

ANS: C

Explanation: Every April 26, we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day to learn about the role that intellectual property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity.

1. World Intellectual Property 2022 recognizes the huge potential of young people to find new and better solutions that support the transition to a sustainable future.
2. Across the globe, young people are stepping up to innovation challenges, using their energy and ingenuity, curiosity and creativity to steer a course towards a better future.
3. Innovative, energetic and creative minds are helping to drive the changes we need to move to a more sustainable future. Discover how intellectual property rights can support the youth of tomorrow to create a better future.
4. This year the theme of World Intellectual Property Day is “IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future” and celebrates youth-led innovation and creativity.

Source: <https://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/2022/about.html>

Q.3) Which of the following works are protected under copyright throughout the world?

1. Films
2. Plays
3. Mathematical concepts

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Exhaustive lists of works covered by copyright are usually not to be found in legislation. Nonetheless, broadly speaking, works commonly protected by copyright throughout the world include:

1. literary works such as novels, poems, plays, reference works, newspaper articles;
2. computer programs, databases;
3. films, musical compositions, and choreography;
4. artistic works such as paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculpture;
5. architecture; and
6. Advertisements, maps, and technical drawings.

Copyright protection extends only to expressions and not to ideas, procedures, and methods of operation or mathematical concepts as such.

Source: <https://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/>

Q.4) “Berne Convention” is related to which of the following?

- a) Copy right
- b) Patents
- c) Industrial designs
- d) Trade marks

ANS: A

Explanation: The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, usually known as the Berne Convention, is an international agreement governing copyright, which was first accepted in Berne, Switzerland, in 1886.

Source: <https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/berne/>

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding patents:

1. It is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem.
2. To get a patent, technical information about the invention must be disclosed to the public in a patent application.

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: A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem.

To get a patent, technical information about the invention must be disclosed to the public in a patent application.

Source: <https://www.wipo.int/patents/en/>

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding industrial designs:

1. Industrial designs are applied to products of industry and handicraft items.
2. The duration of the protection of industrial designs is at least to 10 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: C

Explanation: In principle, the owner of a registered industrial design or of a design patent has the right to prevent third parties from making, selling or importing articles bearing or embodying a design which is a copy, or substantially a copy, of the protected design, when such acts are undertaken for commercial purposes.

1. Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of products of industry and handicraft items: from packages and containers to furnishing and household goods, from lighting equipment to jewelry, and from electronic devices to textiles.
2. Industrial designs may also be relevant to graphic symbols, graphical user interfaces (GUI), and logos. Industrial design rights are granted for a limited period.
3. The duration of the protection of industrial designs varies from country to country, but it amounts at least to 10 years.
4. In many countries, the total duration of protection is divided into successive renewable periods.

Source: https://www.wipo.int/designs/en/faq_industrialdesigns.html

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management”:

1. It is located at Chennai.
2. It is a centre of excellence.
3. It conducts research in IP and prepares study reports and policy analysis papers on subject of current relevance for policy and lawmakers.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management has been established at Nagpur as a National center of excellence for training, management, research, education in the field of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights.

1. The main objectives of this institute is to cater to the need of training of Examiners of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications, IP professionals, IP managers, imparting basic education to user communities, government functionaries and stake holders involved in creation, commercialization and management of intellectual property rights, facilitate research on IP related issues including preparation of study reports and policy analysis of relevance to Government.
2. Apart from this, Rajiv Gandhi NIIPM address the needs of increasing the general awareness and understanding of Government officers and users of IP systems including in universities and other educational institutions.
3. It will also conduct research in IP and prepare study reports and policy analysis papers on subject of current relevance for policy and lawmakers.

Source: <https://ipindia.gov.in/about-us-rg.htm>

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Patent System:

1. The first legislation in India relating to patents was the Act VI of 1856.
2. The Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, brought patent administration under the management of Controller of Patents for the first time.
3. After Independence, Government of India constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Bakshi Tek Chand, in 1949 to review the patent law in India.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The first legislation in India relating to patents was the Act VI of 1856. The objective of this legislation was to encourage inventions of new and useful manufactures and to induce inventors to disclose secret of their inventions.

1. The Act was subsequently repealed by Act IX of 1857 since it had been enacted without the approval of the British Crown. Fresh legislation for granting ‘exclusive privileges’ was introduced in 1859 as Act XV of 1859.
2. This legislation contained certain modifications of the earlier legislation, namely, grant of exclusive privileges to useful inventions only and extension of priority period from 6 months to 12 months. This Act excluded importers from the definition of inventor.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

3. This Act was based on the United Kingdom Act of 1852 with certain departures which include allowing assignees to make application in India and also taking prior public use or publication in India or United Kingdom for the purpose of ascertaining novelty.
4. The Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, (Act II of 1911) replaced all the previous Acts. This Act brought patent administration under the management of Controller of Patents for the first time. This Act was further amended in 1920 to enter into reciprocal arrangements with UK and other countries for securing priority.
5. In 1930, further amendments were made to incorporate, inter-alia, provisions relating to grant of secret patents, patent of addition, use of invention by Government, powers of the Controller to rectify register of patent and increase of term of the patent from 14 years to 16 years.
6. In 1945, an amendment was made to provide for filing of provisional specification and submission of complete specification within nine months.
7. After Independence, it was felt that the Indian Patents & Designs Act, 1911 was not fulfilling its objective. It was found desirable to enact comprehensive patent law owing to substantial changes in political and economic conditions in the country.

Accordingly, the Government of India constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Justice (Dr.) Bakshi Tek Chand, a retired Judge of Lahore High Court, in 1949 to review the patent law in India in order to ensure that the patent system is conducive to the national interest.

Source: <https://ipindia.gov.in/history-of-indian-patent-system.htm>

Q.9) “The Dindigul lock and the Kandangi saree” recently awarded GI tags related to which of the following state?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The products — the Dindigul lock and the Kandangi saree — were given the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.

While the application for the lock was made by the Dindigul Lock, Hardware and Steel Furniture Workers Industrial Co-operative Society Limited, the Amarar Rajeev Gandhi Handloom Weavers Co-operative Production and Sales Society Limited filed the application for the Kandangi saree.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/dindigul-lock-kandangi-saree-get-gi-tag>

Q.10) The validity term of a registered trademark in India is?

- a) 10 years
- b) 20 years
- c) 40 years
- d) Unlimited time

ANS: A

Explanation: The validity term of a registered trademark in India is ten years from the date of filing, renewable an unlimited number of times for a period of ten years.

1. A request to renew a trademark may be submitted within one year before the expiration of a trademark or 6 months after the expiration thereof upon payment of the surcharge.
2. A request for restoration of the mark can be filed within one year from the date of expiry of the validity term on payment of additional fees.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Economy- Environment and Ecology

Q.1) “It is a system formed by the interaction of all living organisms with each other and with the physical and chemical factors of the environment in which they live, all linked by transfer of energy and material” is?

- a) Biotic system
- b) Abiotic system
- c) Ecosystem
- d) Hydrosphere

ANS: C

Explanation: All plants, animals and human beings depend on their immediate surroundings. Often they are also interdependent on each other.

1. This relation between the living organisms, as well as the relation between the organisms and their surroundings forms an ecosystem.
2. There could be an ecosystem of large rain forest, grassland, desert, mountains, lake, river, ocean and even a small pond.

Source: NCERT - Our Environment

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding flora and fauna of Ladakh:

1. Groves of willows and poplars are seen in the valleys of Ladakh.
2. Robins, redstarts, Tibetan snowcock, raven and hoopoe are commonly found birds in Ladakh.

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: Due to high aridity, the vegetation is sparse. There are scanty patches of grasses and shrubs for animals to graze. Groves of willows and poplars are seen in the valleys.

1. During the summers, fruit trees such as apples, apricots and walnuts bloom. Several species of birds are sighted in Ladakh. Robins, redstarts, Tibetan snowcock, raven and hoopoe are common.
2. Some of these are migratory birds. The animals of Ladakh are wild goats, wild sheep, yak and special kinds of dogs.
3. The animals are reared to provide for the milk, meat and hides. Yak's milk is used to make cheese and butter. The hair of the sheep and goat is used to make woollens.

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Amazon vegetation”:

1. The forests of Amazon are so thick that the dense “roof” created by leaves and branches does not allow the sunlight to reach the ground.
2. Orchids, bromeliads grow as plant parasites in Amazon forests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Amazon Rainforests: As it rains heavily in this region, thick forests grow.

1. The forests are in fact so thick that the dense “roof” created by leaves and branches does not allow the sunlight to reach the ground.
2. The ground remains dark and damp. Only shade tolerant vegetation may grow here. Orchids, bromeliads grow as plant parasites.

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

Q.4) Which of the following tree/trees is/are found in tropical rain forests?

1. Ebony
2. Mahogany
3. Rosewood

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Tropical Evergreen Forests: These forests are also called tropical rainforests. These thick forests occur in the regions near the equator and close to the tropics.

1. These regions are hot and receive heavy rainfall throughout the year. As there is no particular dry season, the trees do not shed their leaves altogether. This is the reason they are called evergreen.
2. The thick canopies of the closely spaced trees do not allow the sunlight to penetrate inside the forest even in the day time. Hardwood trees like rosewood, ebony, and mahogany are common here.

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

Q.5) In which of the following place/places the tropical deciduous forest is/are found?

1. India
2. Northern Australia
3. Central America

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Tropical deciduous are the monsoon forests found in the large part of India, northern Australia and in Central America. These regions experience seasonal changes.

1. Trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water. The hardwood trees found in these forests are sal, teak, neem and shisham.
2. Hardwood trees are extremely useful for making furniture, transport and constructional materials. Tigers, lions, elephants, langoons and monkeys are the common animals of these regions.

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Mediterranean vegetation”:

1. Mediterranean trees adapt themselves to dry summers with the help of their thick barks and wax coated leaves which help them reduce transpiration.
2. Mediterranean regions are known as ‘Orchards of the world’ for their fruit cultivation.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: That most of the east and north east margins of the continents are covered by temperate evergreen and deciduous trees.

1. The west and south west margins of the continents are different. They have Mediterranean vegetation.
2. It is mostly found in the areas around the Mediterranean Sea in Europe, Africa and Asia, hence the name.
3. Mediterranean trees adapt themselves to dry summers with the help of their thick barks and wax coated leaves which help them reduce transpiration.
4. Mediterranean regions are known as ‘Orchards of the world’ for their fruit cultivation.

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding tropical grasslands:

1. These occur on either side of the equator and extend till the tropics.
2. The grass can grow very tall, about 3 to 4metres in height.

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: Tropical grasslands: These occur on either side of the equator and extend till the tropics. This vegetation grows in the areas of moderate to low amount of rainfall.

1. The grass can grow very tall, about 3 to 4metres in height. Savannah grasslands of Africa are of this type.
2. Elephants, zebras, giraffes, deer, leopards are common in tropical grasslands.

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

Q.8) Which of the following pair/pairs is/are NOT correctly matched?

1. North America – Prairie
2. Brazil – Llanos
3. South Africa – Down

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

Q.9) “Great Bear lake and Great Slave lake” are found in which of the following?

- a) South America
- b) North America
- c) Australia
- d) Europe

ANS: B

Explanation:



Source: NCERT – Our Environment

Q.10) Which of the following is celebrated as world water day?

- a) January 22
- b) February 22
- c) March 22
- d) April 22

ANS: C

Explanation: March 22 is celebrated as World Water Day when the need to conserve water is reinforced in different ways.

Source: NCERT – Our Environment

Environment- Protected Areas

Q1. Which of the following is/are marine protected area/areas?

1. Coringa
2. Fudam
3. Khijadia

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A marine protected area (MPA) is essentially a space in the ocean where human activities are more strictly regulated than the surrounding waters - similar to parks we have on land.

These places are given special protections for natural or historic marine resources by local, state, territorial, native, regional, or national authorities.

S.No.	State/UT	Name of MPA	Legal Status	Area	Year of Notificaion
1	Andhra Pradesh	Coringa	Sanctuary	235.70	1978
2	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Sanctuary	194.81	1989
3	Andhra Pradesh	Pulicat Lake	Sanctuary	600.00	1980
4	Daman & Diu	Fudam	Sanctuary	2.18	1991
5	Goa	Chorao Island	Sanctuary	1.78	1988
6	Gujarat	Marine (Gulf of Kachchh)	National Park	162.89	1995
7	Gujarat	Marine (Gulf of Kachchh)	Sanctuary	295.03	1980
8	Gujarat	Khijadia	Sanctuary	6.05	1981
9	Kerala	Kadalundi Vallikkunnu	Community Reserve	1.50	2007
10	Maharashtra	Malvan Marine	Sanctuary	29.12	1987
11	Maharashtra	Thane Creek Flamingo	Sanctuary	16.905	2015
12	Odisha	Bhitarkanika	National Park	145.00	1998
13	Odisha	Bhitarkanika	Sanctuary	525.00	1975
14	Odisha	Chilka (Nalaban)	Sanctuary	15.53	1987
15	Odisha	Gahirmatha	Sanctuary	1435.00	1997
16	Odisha	Balukhand Konark	Sanctuary	71.72	1984
17	Tamil Nadu	Gulf of Mannar Marine	National Park	526.02	1980
18	Tamil Nadu	Point Calimere	Sanctuary	17.26	1967
19	Tamil Nadu	Pulicat Lake	Sanctuary	153.67	1980
20	Tamil Nadu	Pulicat Lake Block-A & Block-B	Sanctuary	124.0727	2013
21	West Bengal	Sundarbans	National Park	1330.10	1984
22	West Bengal	West Sundarbans	Sanctuary	556.45	2013
23	West Bengal	Haliday Island	Sanctuary	5.95	1976
24	West Bengal	Sajnakhali	Sanctuary	362.40	1976
25	West Bengal	Lothian Island	Sanctuary	38.00	1976
Total Area				6852.14	

Source: http://www.wiienviis.nic.in/Database/MPA_8098.aspx

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding National Park:

1. An area, whether within a sanctuary or not, can be notified by the state government to be constituted as a National Park.
2. No human activity is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state.

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: An area, whether within a sanctuary or not, can be notified by the state government to be constituted as a National Park, by reason of its ecological, faunal, floral, geo-morphological, or zoological association or importance, needed to for the purpose of protecting & propagating or developing wildlife therein or its environment.

No human activity is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state under the conditions given in CHAPTER IV, WPA 1972.

Source: http://www.wiienviis.nic.in/Database/npa_8231.aspx

Q.3) Which of the following tiger reserve is NOT related to Karnataka state?

- a) Anshi – Dandeli tiger reserve
- b) Bhadra tiger reserve
- c) Nagarahole tiger reserve
- d) Bandhavgarh tiger reserve

ANS: D

Explanation: Karnataka have five tiger reserves, Nagarahole, Bhadra, and Anshi-Dandeli, apart from Bandipur and BRT Tiger Reserves.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/mm-wildlife-sanctuary-to-be-tiger-reserve-soon/article30898527.ece>

Q.4) Which of the following wildlife sanctuary/sanctuaries is/are located in Andhra Pradesh?

1. Gundla Brahmeshwaram
2. Jogimatti
3. Arabhithittu

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Any area other than area comprised with any reserve forest or the territorial waters can be notified by the State Government to constitute as a sanctuary if such area is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geo-morphological, natural or zoological significance, for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wildlife or its environment.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

Some restricted human activities are allowed inside the Sanctuary area details of which are given in CHAPTER IV, WPA 1972.

S.No	Name of State	S.No.	Name of Protected Area	Year of Notification	Area (in km ²)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	Coringa	1978	235.7
2		2	Gundla Brahmeswaram	1990	1193.68
3		3	Kambalakonda	2002	71.39
4		4	Koundinya	1990	357.6
5		5	Kolleru	1953	308.55
6		6	Krishna	1989	194.81
7		7	Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem	1978	2131.31
8		8	Nellapattu	1976	4.5892
9		9	Pulicat Lake	1976	600
10		10	Rollapadu	1988	6.14
11		11	Sri Lankamalleswara	1988	464.4282
12		12	Sri Penusila Narasimha	1997	1030.85
13		13	Sri Venkateswara	1985	172.35

Source: http://www.wiienvs.nic.in/Database/wls_8230.aspx

Q.5) “Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries” are part of which of the following?

- a) Agasthyamalai biosphere reserve
- b) Nilgiri biosphere reserve
- c) Seshachalam Hills
- d) Panna biosphere reserve

ANS: A

Explanation: Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. The programme of Biosphere Reserve was initiated by UNESCO in 1971.

The purpose of the formation of the biosphere reserve is to conserve in situ all forms of life, along with its support system, in its totality, so that it could serve as a referral system for monitoring and evaluating changes in natural ecosystems.

Agasthyamalai	12.11.2001	1828	Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries and their adjoining areas in Kerala.
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Source: http://www.wiienvs.nic.in/Database/br_8225.aspx

Q.6) Which of the following is NOT a Natural World Heritage Site of India?

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Nanda Devi
- c) Panna National Park
- d) Kaziranga National Park

ANS: C

Explanation: A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as of special cultural or physical significance.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

Natural World Heritage Sites in India (As on December, 2020)

Sl. No.	Name of WH Site	State Location	Year of Notification	Area (sq.km)
1	Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area	Himachal Pradesh	2014	905.4
2	Western Ghats	Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala	2012	7,953.15
3	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	Uttarakhand	1988	630.00 87.50
4	Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	1987	1,330.10
5	Kaziranga National Park	Assam	1985	429.96
6	Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	1985	28.73
7	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	1985	391.00

Source: http://www.wiienvs.nic.in/Database/whs_pas_8227.aspx

Q.7) Which of the following is/are criteria to designate Important Bird Areas (IBA)?

1. Site of one or more globally threatened bird species.
2. Site of biome-restricted species.
3. Have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory birds.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health. The IBA programme of Birdlife International aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for conservation of the world's birds and associated biodiversity.

The IBAs serve as conservation areas for protection of birds at the global, regional or sub-regional level. According to Birdlife International, designation of IBAs is based on standardized criteria, namely

1. hold significant numbers of one or more globally threatened bird species,
2. be one of a set of sites that together hold a suite of restricted-range species or biome-restricted species and
3. have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory birds.

The IBAs contain a range of habitats, such as wetlands, mudflats, microhabitats in biodiversity hotspots, grasslands and scrublands, making them excellent indicators of biodiversity richness (India's 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2014).

1. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS; www.bnhs.org) and Birdlife International have identified 467 IBAs in India (Islam and Rahmani, 2004).
2. Forty percent of these IBAs fall outside the PA network and thus form an important tool for landscape-level conservation planning. BNHS has also prepared a list of 96 new/potential sites which can be designated as IBAs in the future.

Source: http://www.wiienvs.nic.in/Database/IBA_8463.aspx

Q.8) Recently eight cheetahs were landed in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior is related to which of the following country?

- a) Namibia
- b) South Sudan
- c) Kenya
- d) Zimbabwe

ANS: A

Explanation: Over 70 years after they went extinct, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.

1. The big cats were flown in on a modified passenger B-747 Jumbo Jet, which took off from Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek and landed in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior.
2. The cheetahs will be released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of his birthday today, at Kuno National Park. On board the jet were eight Namibian wild cheetahs, five females and three males.

Reintroducing cheetahs

- 8 African cheetahs
- 3 males and 5 females

will arrive this week!

India had declared cheetahs extinct in **1952**

Sept 16 HOSEA KUTAKO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NAMIBIA

Boeing 747 "Jumbo Jet" (Modified) JAIPUR

Helicopter KUNO NATIONAL PARK, MADHYA PRADESH

Sept 17

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/cheetah-india-relocation-project-narendra-modi-big-cats-kuno-national-park-8156455/>

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Ramsar sites in India”:

1. India has 75 Ramsar Sites.
2. Uttar Pradesh has maximum number of sites.
3. Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve sites are located in Nagaland.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13,26,677 ha in the country in the 75th year of Independence.

1. The 11 new sites include: Four (4) sites in Tamil Nadu, Three (3) in Odisha, Two (2) in Jammu & Kashmir and One (1) each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
2. Designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources. India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
3. India signed it on 1st Feb 1982. During 1982 to 2013, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites, however, during 2014 to 2022, the country has added 49 new wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.
4. During this year itself (2022) a total of 28 sites have been declared as Ramsar sites. Based on the date of designation mentioned on Ramsar Certificate, the number is 19 for this year (2022) and 14 for previous year (2021).
5. Tamil Nadu has maximum no. of Ramsar sites (14 nos), followed by UP which has 10 nos. of Ramsar sites.
6. Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve sites are located in Jammu & Kashmir.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1851484>

Q.10) “Mollem” national park is located in which of the following state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Goa
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

ANS: B

Explanation: Spread over 240 sq km in the Western Ghats, Mollem National Park is located in Sanguem taluk in Goa close to the border with Karnataka.

1. The reserve also has several temples dating back to the Kadamba Dynasty. The national park is located near the town of Mollem, 60 km south east from Panaji, and the capital city of Goa.
2. The Mormugao–Londa railway line also passes amidst thick jungles of the national park. The park was earlier known as Mollem game sanctuary.
3. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1969 and renamed Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary. The core area of the sanctuary spread over 107 sq km was named Mollem National Park in 1978.
4. Since then the national park is called Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park.
5. Several species of snakes including the King Cobra, Hump-nosed pit viper, Indian rock python and Malabar pit viper are found in the park.

Source: The Hindu

Environment- Bio-Diversity and Conservation

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding green house gases/effect:

1. Green house gases absorb long wave radiation from the earth and emit it again towards the earth.
2. Without green house effect the average temperature at surface of Earth would have been more than 30 degrees Celsius.

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 greenhouse effect is a naturally occurring phenomenon that is responsible for heating of Earth's surface and atmosphere.

You would be surprised to know that without greenhouse effect the average temperature at surface of Earth would have been a chilly -18°C rather than the present average of 15°C .

Source: NCERT – Environmental Issues

Q.2) Which of the following is/are comes under in-situ conservation measures?

1. National Parks
2. Wildlife sanctuaries
3. Biosphere reserves

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Conserving the animals and plants in their natural habitats is known as in-situ conservation. The established natural habitats are:

1. National parks
2. Sanctuaries
3. Biosphere reserves and
4. Reserved forests
5. Protected forests

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Q.3) The “Red Data Book” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

1. IUCN
2. UNEP
3. WEF
4. UNESCO

ANS: A

Explanation: Species judged as threatened are listed by various agencies as well as by some private organizations. The most cited of these lists is the Red Data Book. It is a loose-leaf volume of information on the status of many kinds of species.

1. This volume is continually updated and is issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) located in Morges, Switzerland.
2. “Red” of course is symbolic of danger that the species both plants and animals presently experience throughout the globe.
3. The Red Data Book was first issued in 1966 by the IUCN’s Special Survival Commission as a guide for formulation, preservation and management of species listed.
4. In this Book, information for endangered mammals and birds are more extensive than for other groups of animals and plants, coverage is also given to less prominent organisms facing extinction.
5. The pink pages in this publication include the critically endangered species. As the status of the species changes, new pages are sent to the subscribers.

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Q.4) “European roller, red-backed shrike and rufous-tailed scrub-robin” are recently seen in news is related to?

- a) Reptiles
- b) Birds
- c) Butterflies
- d) Amphibians

ANS: B

Explanation: Last month, in a first, bird watchers from across the country congregated at Bhuj in Kutch district, Gujarat.

They documented eight birds — European roller, red-backed and red-tailed shrike, spotted flycatcher, rufous-tailed scrub-robin, greater white throat, common cuckoo and blue-cheeked bee-eater — that landed in Gujarat after marathon flights from Central Asia and Europe.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/annual-migration-of-birds-across-the-indian-subcontinent-has-begun/>

Q.5) In which of the following hills shoals (tropical grasslands) is/are found?

1. Niligiri hills
2. Palani hills
3. Anaimalai hills

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Extensive grass lands interspersed with densely forested gorges of evergreen vegetation known as sholas occur in the Nilgiris (an offshoot of Western ghats). Sholas also occur in Anaimalai and Palani hills.

1. The rain forests of the Western ghats have dense and lofty trees with much species diversity. Mosses, ferns, epiphytes, orchids, lianas and vines, herbs, shrubs make diverse habitat.
2. Ebony trees predominate in these forests. A variety of tropical orchids are found. Stratification in rain forests is very distinct three horizontal layers are distinguished.

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "lichens":

1. It is a combination of an alga and bacteria.
2. They are found in rivers and ground water.

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: A lichen is a peculiar combination of an alga and a fungus– the two live deriving mutual benefit.

1. They are group of greyish green plants which grow on rocks, tree-trunks, dead wood, etc.
2. The algae manufactures food which becomes available to the fungus, and the absorbs and retains water and thus keeps the algal cells moist. A example of symbiosis.
3. They are most common in wetlands, rare in rivers and streams and are not found in ground water.

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Malabar Civet”:

1. It is endemic to India and was first reported from Kerala.
2. It is nocturnal in nature and found exclusively in the Western Ghats.

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: Malabar Civet is considered to be one of the world’s rarest mammals. It is endemic to India and was first reported from Travancore, Kerala.

1. It is nocturnal in nature and found exclusively in the Western Ghats.
2. Habitat: Wooded plains and hill slopes of evergreen rainforests

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Q.8) Which of the following is/are insectivorous plants?

1. Drosera
2. Aldrovanda
3. Nepenthes

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Insectivorous plants of India:

1. **Drosera or Sundew:** inhabiting wet infertile soils or marshy places. The tentacles on the leaves secrete a sticky fluid that shines in the sun like dewdrops. Therefore the Drosera are commonly known as ‘sundews’. When an insect lured by these glistening drops alights on the leaf surface it gets stuck in this fluid and are absorbed and digested.
2. **Aldrovanda:** is a freefloating, rootless aquatic plant, the only species found in India, occurs in the salt marshes of Sunderbans, south of Calcutta. It also grows in fresh water bodies like ponds, tanks and lakes.
3. **Nepenthes:** The members of the family are commonly known as ‘pitcher plants’ because their leaves bear jar-like structures.

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “sea grass”:

1. They grow in shallow coastal waters with sandy or muddy bottoms & require comparatively calm areas.
2. Major Sea grass meadows in India occur along the south east coast of Tamil Nadu and in the lagoons of a few Lakshadweep Islands.

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: Sea grasses are (angiosperms) marine flowering plants that resemble grass in appearance. They produce flowers; have strap-like or oval leaves and a root system.

1. They grow in shallow coastal waters with sandy or muddy bottoms & require comparatively calm areas. They are the only group of higher plants adapted to life in the salt water.
2. Major Sea grass meadows in India occur along the south east coast of Tamil Nadu and in the lagoons of a few Lakshadweep Islands. There are few grass beds around Andaman and Nicobar islands also.

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Q.10) “Kaziranga national park” often seen in news is related to?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Jharkhand
- d) West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Kaziranga National Park is a protected area in the northeast Indian state of Assam.

1. Spread across the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River, its forests, wetlands and grasslands are home to tigers, elephants and the world’s largest population of Indian one-horned rhinoceroses.
2. Ganges River dolphins swim in the park’s waters. It’s visited by many rare migratory birds, and gray pelicans roost near Kaziranga village.

Source: Shankar IAS Environment book

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “PM – Gati Shakti”:

1. It is a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
2. It is based on six pillars.

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: Prime Minister launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

1. The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.
2. PM Gati Shakti will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.
3. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.
4. It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics). More details of the Plan can be found here.

PM Gati Shakti is based on six pillars:

1. **Comprehensiveness:** It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal. Each and every Department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & execution of projects in a comprehensive manner.
2. **Prioritization:** Through this, different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross-sectoral interactions.
3. **Optimization:** The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after identification of critical gaps. For the transportation of the goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.
4. **Synchronization:** Individual Ministries and Departments often work in silos. There is lack of coordination in planning and implementation of the project resulting in delays. PM Gati Shakti will help in synchronizing the activities of each department, as well as of different layers of governance, in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.
5. **Analytical:** The plan will provide the entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.

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6. Dynamic: All Ministries and Departments will now be able to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects, through the GIS platform, as the satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and progress of the projects will be updated on a regular basis on the portal. It will help in identifying the vital interventions for enhancing and updating the master plan.

Source: <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/pm-gati-shakti-national-master-plan-multi-modal-connectivity>

Q.2) Which of the following act is first enacted in India?

- The Copyright Act
- The Patents Act
- The Trademark Act
- The Designs Act

ANS: A

Explanation: The Copyright Act, 1957, Patents Act, 1970, Trade Mark Act, 1999, The Designs Act, 2000, The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and The Semi Conductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Act, 2000.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.3) "CIPAM" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Infrastructure
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Sustainable Development
- Financial Inclusion

ANS: B

Explanation: A professional body under the aegis of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) which ensures focused action on issues related to IPRs and addresses the 7 identified objectives of the policy.

- CIPAM assists in simplifying and streamlining of IP processes, apart from undertaking steps for furthering IPR awareness, commercialization and enforcement.
- CIPAM in partnership with industry associations has conducted IPR awareness programmes in various states.
- These programs received a very positive feedback from business owners, students, academicians, etc.
- The IPR Awareness Campaign is being conducted in schools, universities and industries across India.

Source: <https://cipam.gov.in/index.php/about/cipam/>

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “India State of Forest Report (ISFR):

1. It is an assessment of India’s forests for every five years.
2. It is conducted by Forest Survey 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: Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, released the ‘India State of Forest Report 2021’ prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country.

1. Sharing the findings, the Minister informed that the total forest and tree cover of the country is 80.9 million hectare which is 24.62 percent of the geographical area of the country.
2. As compared to the assessment of 2019, there is an increase of 2,261 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country.
3. The Minister expressed happiness over the fact that the present assessment reveals that 17 states/UT’s have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover and stated that the focus of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is not just to conserve the forests quantitatively but to enrich it qualitatively.
4. The ISFR-2021 provides information on forest cover, tree cover, mangrove cover, and growing stock, carbon stock in India’s forests, forest fire monitoring, and forest cover in tiger reserve areas, above ground estimates of biomass using SAR data & climate change hotspots in Indian forests.
5. In tune with the Government of India’s vision of digital India and the need for integration of digital data sets, FSI has adopted using the vector boundary layers of various administrative units up to districts level as provided by Survey of India along with digital open series topo sheets, in order to ensure comprehensive compatibility with the geographical areas as reported in Census, 2011.
6. The **biennial assessment of forest cover** of the country using mid-resolution Satellite data is based on interpretation of LISS-III data from Indian Remote Sensing satellite data (Resourcesat-II) with a spatial resolution of 23.5 meters with the scale of interpretation 1:50,000 to monitor forest cover and forest cover changes at District, State and National level.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1789635>

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Vande Bharat Trains:

1. It is an indigenously designed and manufactured semi high speed and self-propelled train.
2. The first Vande Bharat was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai as part of the ‘Make in India’ programme, at a cost of about Rs. 1000crore.

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: Vande Bharat Trains is an indigenously designed and manufactured semi high speed, self-propelled train that is touted as the next major leap for the Indian Railways in terms of speed and passenger convenience since the introduction of Rajdhani trains.

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1. The first Vande Bharat was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai as part of the 'Make in India' programme, at a cost of about Rs. 100 crore.
2. The Vande Bharat was India's first attempt at adaptation of the train set technology compared with conventional systems of passenger coaches hauled by separate locomotives.
3. The train set configuration, though complex, is faster, easier to maintain, consumes less energy, and has greater flexibility in train operation.

Source: PIB

Q.6) "Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary" is often seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Punjab
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: Threatened by untamed dogs and stray cattle, the blackbuck, Punjab's State animal, is fighting for survival at the Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary in the Fazilka district.

Change in land use and cropping patterns across the region over the years has also disturbed the natural habitat and consequent fall in the population of this majestic species.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/blackbucks-are-fighting-for-survival-in-punjab/article30558658.ece>

Q.7) "Velavedar Blackbuck national park" is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka

ANS: A

Explanation: This beautiful (Velavedar Blackbuck national park), 34-sq-km park that is an hour's drive north of Bhavnagar (Gujarat), encompasses large areas of pale, custard-coloured grassland stretching between two seasonal rivers and is famous for its blackbucks – beautiful, fast antelope that sport elegant spiraling horns as long as 65cm in mature males.

1. Some 1800 inhabit the park, alongside blue bulls (India's largest antelope) and birds such as wintering harriers from Siberia (about 2000 of them most years).
2. There are over 120 species of birds that can be found in the park and around. If you're lucky, you may even spot wolves! The best time to visit the sanctuary is early in the morning when chances of seeing the wolves are a lot more.
3. The sanctuary was established in July 1976, as an initial protected area of about 18 sq km. In 1980, another 16 sq km were added to increase the total area to 34 sq km.
4. Even though this is one of the smallest national parks of the country, it packs in a robust amount of species for the wildlife lover.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.8) What is the term of a patent in the Indian system?

- a) 10 years
- b) 20 years
- c) 30 years
- d) Unlimited period

ANS: B

Explanation: A Patent is a statutory right for an invention granted for a limited period of time to the patentee by the Government, in exchange of full disclosure of his invention for excluding others, from making, using, selling, importing the patented product or process for producing that product for those purposes without his consent.

The term of every patent granted is 20 years from the date of filing of application. However, for application filed under national phase under Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the term of patent will be 20 years from the international filing date accorded under PCT.

Source:https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/Final_FREQUENTLY_ASKED_QUESTIONS_

Q.9) Which of the following is/are criteria of invention to grant as patent?

- 1. It should be novel.
- 2. It should be non – obvious.
- 3. It should be capable of Industrial application.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: An invention is patentable subject matter if it meets the following criteria –

- 1. It should be novel.
- 2. It should have inventive step or it must be non-obvious
- 3. It should be capable of Industrial application.
- 4. It should not attract the provisions of section 3 and 4 of the Patents Act 1970.

Source:https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/Final_FREQUENTLY_ASKED_QUESTIONS_-PATENT.pdf

Q.10 “Manas wildlife sanctuary” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Tripura
- d) Manipur

ANS: B

Explanation: Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the State of Assam in North-East India, a biodiversity hotspot. Covering an area of 39,100 hectares, it spans the Manas River and is bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan.

- 1. The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the core zone of the 283,700 hectares Manas Tiger Reserve, and lies alongside the shifting river channels of the Manas River.

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2. The site's scenic beauty includes a range of forested hills, alluvial grasslands and tropical evergreen forests.
3. The site provides critical and viable habitats for rare and endangered species, including tiger, greater one-horned rhino, swamp deer, pygmy hog and Bengal florican.
4. Manas have exceptional importance within the Indian sub-continent's protected areas, as one of the most significant remaining natural areas in the region, where sizeable populations of a large number of threatened species continue to survive.

Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/>

Environment – Environmental Legislations

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. 5th June is celebrated as world environment day.
2. Wildlife act 1972 was the first legislation to deal with environment.

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: India is the first country in the world to have made provisions for the protection and conservation of environment in its constitution.

- On 5th June 1972, environment was first discussed as an item of international agenda in the U.N. Conference of Human Environment in Stockholm and thereafter 5th June is celebrated all over the world as World Environment Day.
- Soon after the Stockholm Conference our country took substantive legislative steps for environmental protection.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act was passed in 1972, followed by the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and subsequently the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) “It shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures” is related to?

- a) Article 21
- b) Article 29
- c) Article 48 – a
- d) Article 51 – a

ANS: D

Explanation: Article 51-A (g) Provides: It shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.”

Thus our constitution includes environmental protection and conservation as one of our fundamental duties.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:

1. It has eight schedules which give varying degrees of protection.
2. Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted.

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 Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 is enacted for protection of plants and animal species. The Act provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants. It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection.

- Schedule I and part II of Schedule II provide absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties.
- Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected, but the penalties are much lower.
- Schedule V includes the animals which may be hunted.
- The specified endemic plants in Schedule VI are prohibited from cultivation and planting.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986:

1. The Act empowers the State Government to take all appropriate measures to prevent and control pollution.
2. It has relaxed the rule of "Locus Standi".

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 genesis of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, thus, is in Article 48A (Directive Principles of State Policy) and Article 51A (g) (Fundamental Duties) of the Indian Constitution.

- The **Act empowers the Central Government** to take all appropriate measures to prevent and control pollution and to establish effective machinery for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and protecting controlling and abating environmental pollution.
- The Central Government or any other person duly authorized is empowered to collect the samples of air, water, soil or other substances as evidence of the offences under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The Act prescribes a special procedure for handling hazardous substances and the concerned person has to handle the hazardous substances according to the procedure of the Act.
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has relaxed the **rule of "Locus Standi"** and because of such relaxation even a common citizen can approach the Court provided he has given a

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notice of sixty days of the alleged offence and his intention to make a complaint to the Central Government or any other competent authority.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.5) Which of the following is/are objective/objectives of National Forest Policy, 1988?

1. Conserving the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests with the vast variety of flora and fauna,
2. Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchments areas of rivers, lakes and reservoirs.
3. Checking the extension of sand-dunes in the desert areas of Rajasthan and along the coastal tracts.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The principal aim of National Forest Policy, 1988 is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which is vital for sustenance of all life forms, human, animal and plant.

Objectives:

Conserving the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests with the vast variety of flora and fauna, which represent the remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources of the country.

- Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchments areas of rivers, lakes, reservoirs in the “interest of soil and water conservation, for mitigating floods and droughts and for the retardation of siltation of reservoirs.
- Checking the extension of sand-dunes in the desert areas of Rajasthan and along the coastal tracts.
- Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands.
- Increasing the productivity of forests to meet essential national needs.
- Encouraging efficient utilization of forest produce and maximizing substitution of wood.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.6) Which of the following is the nodal agency for implementation of forest rights act, 2006?

- a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- c) The Ministry of Agriculture
- d) The NITI Aayog

ANS: A

Explanation: The Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Tribal Affairs or any officer or authority authorized by the Central Government in this behalf shall be the nodal agency for the implementation of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

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

- a) Sustainable agriculture
- b) Plastic Management
- c) Electronic Waste
- d) Municipal Solid Waste

ANS: B

Explanation: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper developed to reduce plastic menace from nature.

- The patent certificate was issued to KVIC’s Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur, on 2nd August 2021, by the Controller of Patent, Intellectual Property of India.
- The idea of developing plastic-mixed handmade paper was invented in September 2018, and in just two months, i.e. in November 2018, the project was executed by the team of scientists at KNHPI.
- The plastic-mixed handmade paper was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLastic from Nature).
- This is the first of its kind project in India, where plastic waste is de-structured, degraded, diluted and used with paper pulp while making handmade paper and thus reduces plastic waste from nature.
- The invention is aligned with the Prime Minister’s call for fighting the menace of single-use plastic.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1742710>

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding National Green tribunal (NGT):

1. It is guided by principles of natural justice.
2. It is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.

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 National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.

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- The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.
- Initially, the NGT is proposed to be set up at five places of sittings and will follow circuit procedure for making itself more accessible.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.

Source: <https://www.greentribunal.gov.in/about-us>

Q.9) “Mouling National Park” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Nagaland
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Tripura

ANS: C

Explanation: Mouling National Park is a national park located in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, spread primarily over the Upper Siang district and parts of the West Siang and East Siang district.

It was the second national park to be created in the state, after Namdapha National Park in 1972.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.10) “Tampara lake” is recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Odisha
- c) Karnataka
- d) Kerala

ANS: B

Explanation: Tampara Lake is among the most prominent freshwater lakes in the State of Odisha situated in Ganjam district.

- The depression on the ground gradually filled with rainwater from catchment flow and was called “Tamp” by the British and subsequently termed “Tampara” by the locals.
- The wetland supports at least 60 species of birds, 46 species of fishes, at least 48 species of phytoplanktons, and more than seven species of terrestrial plants and macrophytes.
- The wetland is an important habitat for vulnerable species such as Cyprinus carpio, common pochard (Aythya ferina), and river tern (Sterna aurantia).
- With an estimated average fish yield of 12 tonnes per year, the wetland is an important source of livelihood for the local communities.
- Along with fishes the wetland also provides provisioning services like water for agriculture, and domestic use and is a well-known tourism and recreation site.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage>.

Environment–Environmental Organizations

Q.1) Consider the following statement regarding “National Wildlife Action Plan”:

1. First action plan was adopted in 2002.
2. Present action plan has 5 components and 17 themes.

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 first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983, based upon the decision taken in the XV meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife held in 1982.

- The first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) of 1983 has been revised and the Wildlife Action Plan (2002- 2016) has been adopted.
- India’s National Wildlife Action Plan (3rd NWAP) for the period 2017-2031 and Secure Himalaya were released on the occasion.
- The Plan focuses on preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable development. The NWAP has five components, 17 themes, 103 conservation actions and 250 projects.
- The five components are – strengthening and promoting the integrated management of wildlife and their habitats;
- Adaptation to climate change and promoting integrated sustainable management of aquatic biodiversity in India; promoting eco-tourism, nature education and participatory management;
- Strengthening wildlife research and monitoring of development of human resources in wildlife conservation and enabling policies and resources for conservation of wildlife in India.
- The Plan will help to mainstream wildlife conservation in development planning processes.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment & <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage>

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB):

1. It was established in 1992.
2. National Afforestation Programme is a flagship programme of (NAEB).

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 Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) in August 1992.

- National Afforestation and Eco development Board has evolved specific schemes for promoting afforestation and management strategies, which help the states in developing specific

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afforestation and management strategies and eco-development packages for augmenting biomass production through a participatory planning process of Joint Forest Management and micro-planning.

- NAFIP is a flagship programme of National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) and provides physical and capacity building support to the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs), which are the implementing agencies.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) “CAMPA” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Afforestation fund
- b) Renewable energy
- c) Electric vehicles
- d) Bio piracy

ANS: A

Explanation: While according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for nonforest purpose, Central Government stipulates conditions that amounts shall be realised from the user agencies to undertake compensatory afforestation and such other activities related to conservation and development of forests, to mitigate impact of diversion of forest land.

In April 2004, the central government, under the orders of the Supreme Court, constituted the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for the management of money towards compensatory afforestation, and other money recoverable, in compliance of the conditions stipulated by the central government and in accordance with the Forest (Conservation) Act.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Social Forestry”:

1. The National Commission on Agriculture first used the term social forestry in 1976.
2. Social forestry also aims at raising plantations by the common man so as to meet the growing demand for food, fuel wood, fodder, fiber and fertilizer.

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 National Commission on Agriculture, Government of India, first used the term ‘social forestry’ in 1976.

- It was then that India embarked upon a social forestry project with the aim of taking the pressure off the forests and making use of all unused and fallow land.
- Social forestry also aims at raising plantations by the common man so as to meet the growing demand for food, fuel wood, fodder, fiber and fertilizer etc, thereby reducing the pressure on the traditional forest area.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Animal Welfare Board of India”:

1. It was set up in accordance with section 4 of wildlife protection act, 1972.
2. Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale pioneered the setting up of the Board.

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 Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

- The Animal Welfare Board of India, the first of its kind to be established by any Government in the world, was set up in 1962, in accordance with Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960.
- Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale pioneered the setting up of the Board, with its Headquarters at Chennai and it was shifted to Ballabgarh (Haryana) in 2018.
- She guided the activities of the Board for nearly twenty years till her demise in 1986.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.6) Which of the following is/are powers of Central Zoo Authority?

1. Recognition of zoos
2. Permission for acquisition of wild - captive animals
3. Cognizance of offences

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The amendment made to the Wild Life (Protection) Act in 1991 added a new chapter dealing with zoos to the Act and allowed for the Central Government to constitute an authority known as the Central Zoo Authority to oversee the functioning and development of zoos in the country.

According to the provisions of this chapter, only such zoos which were operated in accordance with the norms and standards prescribed by the Central Zoo Authority would be granted ‘recognition’ to operate by the Authority.

Powers:

- Recognition of zoos
- Permission for acquisition of wild / captive animals
- Cognizance of offences
- Grant of licences, certificate of ownership, recognition, etc

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)”:

1. It is a statutory and autonomous body.
2. Anybody seeking any kind of intellectual property rights on a research based upon biological resource or knowledge obtained from India has to obtain prior approval of the NBA.

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 National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India’s Biological Diversity Act (2002).

The NBA is a Statutory, Autonomous Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

Objectives of the NBA:

- Anybody seeking any kind of intellectual property rights on a research based upon biological resource or knowledge obtained from India has to obtain prior approval of the NBA.
- The NBA will impose benefit-sharing conditions.
- For ensuring equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated knowledge, Sections 19 and 21 stipulate prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) before their access.
- Ensures protection to the knowledge of local people relating to biodiversity through measures such as registration of such knowledge.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.8) “Wildlife Crime Control Bureau” was established by amending which of the following act?

- a) The prevention of cruelty to animals act, 1960
- b) The wild life (protection) act, 1972
- c) The biodiversity act, 2002
- d) The forest rights act, 2006

ANS: B

Explanation: The Government of India constituted a statutory body, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau on 6th June 2007, by amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The bureau would complement the efforts of the state governments, primary enforcers of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other enforcement agencies of the country.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.9) “Periyar National Park” is related to which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Jharkhand

ANS: A

Explanation: Periyar National Park, also known as Periyar Tiger Reserve, is in the mountainous Western Ghats of Kerala, southern India.

This wildlife sanctuary is home to tigers and a significant elephant population, as well as rare lion-tailed macaques, sambar deer, leopards and Indian bison. In the park's north, Periyar Lake is popular for boat rides.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.10) “Biosphere Reserve (BR)” is an international designation given by?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNESCO
- c) IUCN
- d) WEF

ANS: B

Explanation: “Biosphere Reserve (BR) is an international designation by UNESCO for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large area of terrestrial or coastal/ marine ecosystems or a combination thereof.

- BRs are designated to deal with one of the most important questions of reconciling the conservation of biodiversity, the quest for economic and social development and maintenance of associated cultural values.
- BRs are thus special environments for both people and the nature and are living examples of how human beings and nature can co-exist while respecting each other's needs.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169754>

Environment – Environmental Legislations

Q.1) “GLOBE programme” is recently seen in news is related to?

- a) Environmental education
- b) Renewable energy
- c) Bio-geo chemical cycles
- d) Plastic management

ANS: A

Explanation: Since our founding on Earth Day 1994, the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program has been providing students and the public worldwide with the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to our understanding of the Earth system and global environment.

As an international science and education program, GLOBE is dedicated to supplying the STEM professionals of tomorrow with the scientific knowledge necessary to tackle Earth's biggest mysteries.

Source: <https://www.globe.gov/about>

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Mangroves For the Future (MFF)”:

1. It is a partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystems for sustainable development.
2. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the member countries of MFF.

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: Mangroves for the Future are a partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystems for sustainable development.

Mission of MFF is to promote healthy coastal ecosystems through a partnership-based, people-focused, policy-relevant and investment-orientated approach, which builds and applies knowledge, empowers communities and other stakeholders, enhances governance, secures livelihoods, and increases resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

- Member countries: India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam.
- Outreach countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste.
- Dialogue countries: Kenya, Malaysia.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) “Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)” is related to which of the following?

- a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- c) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- d) Forest Rights Act, 2006

ANS: C

Explanation: As per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 the local bodies constitute the BMC in accordance with Section 41, within their area of jurisdiction for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals, micro-organisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity. The BMC consists of a Chairperson, and six persons nominated by local bodies, including 1/3rd women and 18% SC/ST.

Source: <http://nbaindia.org/text/14/BiodiversityManagementCommittees.html>

Q.4) “National Biodiversity Authority” is often seen in news is established to implement which of the following act?

- a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- c) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- d) Forest Rights Act, 2006

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 by the Central Government to implement India’s Biological Diversity Act (2002).

- The NBA is a statutory body and that performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for Government of India on issue of Conservation, sustainable use of biological resource and fair equitable sharing of benefits of use.
- The Biological diversity Act (2002) mandates implementation of the provisions of the Act through decentralized system with the NBA focusing on advice the Central Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;
- Advice the State Government in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified under Sub-Section (1) of Section 37 as heritage sites and measures for the management of such heritage sites.

Source: <http://nbaindia.org/content/16/14/1/introduction.html>

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

1. Prime Minister is the chairman of NTCA.
2. NTCA has been constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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 National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been constituted under section 38 L (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- Further, as per the section 38 L, sub section 2 of the said Act, the authority consists of the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Chairperson), the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Vice-Chairperson), three members of Parliament, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other members.
- The authority derives its power from section 38 O (1) of WLPA, 1972 and functions under the guidance of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members.

Source: <https://ntca.gov.in/about-us/#ministers>

Q.6) “Agenda 21” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) UNCED
- b) IUCN
- c) UNCCD
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Also known as the Rio Summit, Rio Conference, Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The issues addressed included:

- Systematic scrutiny of patterns of production — particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste including radioactive chemicals
- Alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels which are linked to global climate change
- New reliance on public transportation systems in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smog
- The growing scarcity of water.

The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- Forest Principles

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

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Q.7) “Nagarhole, Bandipur and Madumalai, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani hills” is related in which of the following?

- a) Niligiri biosphere reserve
- b) Gulf of Mannar biosphere reserve
- c) Agasthyamalai biosphere reserve
- d) Seshachalam Hills biosphere reserve

ANS: A

Explanation: Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. The programme of Biosphere Reserve was initiated by UNESCO in 1971.

Nilgiri	01.09.1986	5520 (Core 1240 & Buffer 4280)	Part of Wayanad, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Madumalai, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani hills (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka).
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Source: http://www.wiienvis.nic.in/Database/br_8225.aspx

Q.8) “Chandoli National Park” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Chhattisgarh

ANS: B

Explanation: Sitting amid the Sahyadri Hills in the Western Ghats, Chandoli National Park constitutes the southern part of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

- The park measures 317.6 sq km, straddling across three districts of Maharashtra – Satara, Kolhapur and Sangli.
- In 1985, it was established as a wildlife sanctuary and elevated to the status of a national park in 2004. It is fed mainly by the river Warna and the reservoir of Chandoli dam, built on the river.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.9) “Yashwant Sagar” is recently awarded as Ramsar site is located in which of the following state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Uttar Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13,26,677ha in the country in the 75th year of Independence.

- The 11 new sites include: Four (4) sites in Tamil Nadu, Three (3) in Odisha, Two (2) in Jammu & Kashmir and One (1) each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

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- Designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources.

S.No	Name of wetland	Area in Ha	State
1.	Tampara Lake	300	Odisha
2.	Hirakud Reservoir	65400	
3.	Ansupa Lake	231	
4.	Yashwant Sagar	822.90	Madhya Pradesh

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1851484>

Q.10) “National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)” was established under which of the following act?

- a) Environment (Protection) Act
- b) Wildlife Protection Act
- c) Forest Conservation Act
- d) Forest Rights Act

ANS: A

Explanation: NGRBA was constituted on February 2009 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- The NGRBA is a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating body of the centre and the states.
- The objective of the NGRBA is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.
- The Authority has both regulatory and developmental functions. The Authority will take measures for effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga in keeping with sustainable development needs.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Environment – India & Climate Change

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Emissions gap report is released by UNEP.
2. India's per capita greenhouse gas emissions were below the world average.

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: At 2.4 tCO₂e (tonne carbon dioxide equivalent), India's per capita greenhouse gas emissions were far below the world average of 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020, according to a new report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- The “Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window”, released ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt next month, also said the international community is still falling far short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5° C in place.
- To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit global temperature rise in this century to well below 2° C, preferably to 1.5° C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- “World average per capita GHG emissions (including land use, land-use change, and forestry – LULUCF) were 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020.
- The US remains far above this level at 14 tCO₂e, followed by 13 tCO₂e in the Russian Federation, 9.7 tCO₂e in China, about 7.5 tCO₂e in Brazil and Indonesia, and 7.2 tCO₂e in the European Union.”
- “India remains far below the world average at 2.4 tCO₂e. On average, least developed countries emit 2.3 tCO₂e per capita annually,” the report said.
- Per capita emissions range widely across G20 members: emissions of India are about half of the G20 average, whereas Saudi Arabia reaches more than twice the G20, it said.

Source: <https://thewire.in/environment/india-per-capita-greenhouse-gas-emissions-uneep>

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “NATCOM project”:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for communicating to the UNFCCC about anthropogenic emissions of GHGs from various sources.
2. It is a World Bank project funded under the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

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 Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, has initiated a National Communication (NATCOM) project for communicating to the UNFCCC about anthropogenic emissions of GHGs from various sources and their removal by sinks not controlled by the Montreal Protocol.

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- As a UNDP project funded under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), NATCOM is as per the commitment under UNFCCC.
- The NATCOM process comprises comprehensive scientific and technical exercises for estimating GHG emissions from different sectors, reduce uncertainties in current estimations, develop sector- and technology-specific emission coefficients pertinent to India, and assess the adverse impacts of climate change and strategies for adapting to these impacts.
- NATCOM will also provide the general description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the convention.
- NATCOM will lead to developing a reliable database and capacity that will help to fulfill commitments under the Convention.
- The process is also expected to initiate efforts to identify areas of Targeted Research on climate change according to sustainable development plans of the country.

Source: <https://www.tropmet.res.in/~icrp/icrpv11/icrp7.html>

Q.3) “International Consultation and Analysis” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) UNDP
- b) UNFCCC
- c) GEF
- d) WEF

ANS: B

Explanation: India submitted its first Biennial Update Report (BUR) today, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), towards fulfillment of the reporting obligation under the Convention.

- As per the provisions of the Convention, countries need to periodically provide information in the form of their National Communication.
- BUR contains national GHG inventory of India for the year 2010, prepared in accordance with the guidelines of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- As per the rules of UNFCCC, BURs are subjected to an international process known as International Consultation and Analysis (ICA).
- It is a process that includes international scrutiny of BUR in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty. All BURs are subjected to ICA process.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=135727>

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)”:

1. It was launched in 2018.
2. It consists of eight missions.

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 National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released by the Prime Minister on 30th June 2008.

- It outlines a national strategy that aims to enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India’s development path.

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- It stresses that maintaining a high growth rate is essential for increasing living standards of the vast majority of people of India and reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- There are eight –National Missions which form the core of the National Action Plan.
- They focus on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation.

Source: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2021/dec/doc202112101.pdf>

Q.5) “Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT)” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Organic Farming
- b) Energy Efficiency
- c) Renewable Energy
- d) Uranium Enrichment

ANS: B

Explanation: NMEEE aims to strengthen the market for energy efficiency by creating conducive regulatory and policy regime and has envisaged fostering innovative and sustainable business models to the energy efficiency sector. The Mission is implemented since 2011.

NMEEE consists of four initiatives to enhance energy efficiency in energy intensive industries:

- Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT)
- Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE)
- Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP)
- Framework for Energy Efficient Economic Development (FEEED)

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.6) “Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)” is often seen in news is first reported in?

- a) Earth Summit
- b) Stockholm conference
- c) Kyoto protocol
- d) Montreal protocol

ANS: A

Explanation: The concept of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) was enshrined as Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration at the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

- The declaration states: “In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities.
- The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.”
- Similar language exists in the Framework Convention on Climate Change; parties should act to protect the climate system “on the basis of equality and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.”

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) “NICRA project” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Solar energy
- c) Plastic mitigation
- d) Energy from industrial waste

ANS: A

Explanation: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India launched a flagship network project ‘National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture’ (NICRA) in 2011.

- The project aims at strategic research on adaptation and mitigation, demonstration of technologies on farmers’ fields and creating awareness among farmers and other stakeholders to minimize the climatic change impacts on agriculture.
- In the strategic research, the main thrust areas covered are (i) identifying most vulnerable districts/regions, (ii) evolving crop varieties and management practices for adaptation and mitigation, (iii) assessing climate change impacts on livestock, fisheries and poultry and identifying adaptation strategies.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1743354>

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)”:

1. It was established to meet the cost of adaptation to climate change for the State and Union Territories of India.
2. NABARD has been designated as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for implementation of adaptation projects under NAFCC.

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 National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established in August, 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation to climate change for the State and Union Territories of India that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

- Government has set up a budget provision of Rs.350 crores for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17, with an estimated requirement of Rs. 181.5 crores for financial year 2017-18 for NAFCC.
- The projects under NAFCC prioritize the needs that build climate resilience in the areas identified under the SAPCC (State Action Plan on Climate Change) and the relevant Missions under NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change).
- Considering the existing arrangement with NABARD as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Adaptation Fund (AF) under Kyoto Protocol and its presence across the country, NABARD has been designated as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for implementation of adaptation projects under NAFCC by Govt. of India.
- Under this arrangement, NABARD would perform roles in facilitating identification of project ideas/concepts from State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC), project formulation,

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appraisal, sanction, disbursement of fund, monitoring & evaluation and capacity building of stakeholders including State Governments.

Source: <https://www.nabard.org/content>.

Q.9) “Chitragudi Bird Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located in?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13,26,677 ha in the country in the 75th year of Independence.

- The 11 new sites include: Four (4) sites in Tamil Nadu, Three (3) in Odisha, Two (2) in Jammu & Kashmir and One (1) each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- Designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources.

Chitragudi Bird Sanctuary	260.47	Tamil Nadu
Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	94.23	
Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	112.64	
Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	96.89	

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1851484>

Q.10) “Kalesar National Park” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Haryana
- b) Punjab
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Kalesar National Park is situated in the foot hills of Shiwalik ranges of mighty Himalayas. On map it is located between 30° 18' to 30° 27' North latitude & 77° 18' to 77° 35' East longitude.

- It falls under Yamunanagar District of Haryana, sharing boundary with three States viz., Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal & U.P.
- The Yamuna river form the Eastern boundary with Uttar Pradesh, the main Shiwalik ridge separates State boundary among Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal in the north.
- Kalesar National Park is named after the Kalesar (shiva) temple located in protected area.
- The whole area is full of bio-diversity having dense Sal forests, Khair forests and patches of grass lands, which support an amazing variety of plants and animal species.
- The park was declared as National Park on 8th December 2003 having an area of 11570 acres.
- Just adjacent to the National Park is Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary and it was notified on 13th December 1996, having an area of 13209 acres.

Source: <https://haryanaforest.gov.in/centers/kalesar-national-park-district-yamunanagar/>

Environment – Climate Change

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding rise in temperature:

1. A rise in temperature of 1 to 3 degree Celsius will have positive effect on cereals in low latitude areas.
2. Warming of more than 3°C is expected to have negative effect on production in all regions.

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: Climate Change can affect crop yield as well as the types of crops that can be grown in certain areas, by impacting agricultural inputs such as water for irrigation, amounts of solar radiation that affect plant growth, as well as the prevalence of pests.

- Rise in temperatures caused by increasing green house gases is likely to affect crops differently from region to region.
- For example, moderate warming (increase of 1 to 3°C in mean temperature) is expected to benefit crop yields in temperate regions, while in lower latitudes especially seasonally dry tropics, even moderate temperature increases (1 to 2°C) are likely to have negative impacts for major cereal crops.
- Warming of more than 3°C is expected to have negative effect on production in all regions.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) Which of the following is/are used as carbon sink/s?

1. Oceans
2. Soil
3. Un-mineable mines

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Carbon sequestration may be carried out by pumping carbon into ‘carbon sinks’—an area that absorbs carbon.

- Natural sinks - Oceans, forests, soil etc.
- Artificial sinks - Depleted oil reserves, un-mineable mines, etc.

Carbon capture has actually been in use for years. The oil and gas industries have used carbon capture for decades as a way to enhance oil and gas recovery. Only recently have we started thinking about capturing carbon for environmental reasons.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) “Climate Neutral Now” initiative is often seen in news is related to?

- a) IUCN
- b) UNFCCC Secretariat
- c) UNEP
- d) World Bank

ANS: B

Explanation: The Climate Neutral Now Initiative is one of several initiatives launched by the UNFCCC secretariat to increase climate action by engaging non-Party stakeholders (sub-national governments, companies, organizations, individuals).

- It was launched in 2015 based on a mandate to promote the voluntary use of carbon market mechanisms recognized under the Convention.
- It has evolved to become a much wider tool for awareness-raising, capacity building, partnership development, promoting and facilitating the estimation of carbon footprints, the reduction of those footprints, and voluntary compensation (offsetting).

Source: <https://unfccc.int/climate-neutral-now>

Q.4) Which of the following is/are come/comes under Kyoto Protocol?

1. International Emissions Trading
2. Clean Development Mechanism
3. Joint Implementation

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: One important element of the Kyoto Protocol was the establishment of flexible market mechanisms, which are based on the trade of emissions permits. Under the Protocol, countries must meet their targets primarily through national measures. However, the Protocol also offers them an additional means to meet their targets by way of three market-based mechanisms:

- International Emissions Trading
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Joint implementation (JI)

Source: https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol

Q.5) “Global Environment Facility” is established with the help of which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) AIIB
- d) IMF

ANS: A

Explanation: The GEF was established in 1991 by the World Bank in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to provide funding to protect the global environment.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.6) Consider the following statements Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

1. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
2. It is open to all member countries of the United Nations (UN) and WMO.

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 UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, in December 1988, on the subject and endorsed the UNEP/ WMO proposal for the setting up of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

- It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide the governments of the world with a clear scientific view of what is happening to the world's climate.
- The Secretariat coordinates all the IPCC work and liaises with Governments. The secretariat is supported by WMO and UNEP and hosted at WMO headquarters in Geneva.
- It is open to all member countries of the United Nations (UN) and WMO. Currently 195 countries are members of the IPCC.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) "The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes" is often seen in news is related to?

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) GEF
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: Biocarbon Fund:

- Administered by the World Bank
- Area of focus - Adaptation, Mitigation - general, Mitigation - REDD
- Date operational - 2004

The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes supports developing countries' efforts to reduce emission through testing jurisdictional approaches that integrate reducing deforestation and degradation, sustainable forest management with the climate smart agricultural practices to green supply chains.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.8) “Madhav National Park” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Jharkhand

ANS: B

Explanation: The Madhav National Park is situated near Shivpuri town and is a part of the upper Vindhyan hills.

- The Park was the hunting ground of Mughal emperors and Maharaja of Gwalior. It got the status of a National Park in 1958.
- There are two entry points for the park; one situated on NH-25 (Old Jhansi road) about 5 km from Shivpuri town while the other is on NH-3 (Agra-Mumbai road) at a distance of 7 km from Shivpuri towards Gwalior.
- The Park is gifted with a diverse ecosystem comprising of lakes, forests and grasslands. The forest is home to antelopes like Nilgai, Chinkara and Chowsinga and Deer including Chital, Sambar and Barking Deer.
- Animals like the Leopard, Wolf, Jackal, Fox, Wild Dog, Wild Pig, Porcupine, Python etc are also sighted in the park.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.9) “Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?

- a) Assam
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary falling under Kokrajhar district and some adjacent areas of Dhubri district of Assam, India.

It is famous for the golden langur and is the second protected habitat for golden langur in India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/kaziranga-wildlife-rehab-centre-completes-20-years/article65821438.ece>

Q.10) “Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is related to?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The renowned Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Srirangapatna has been declared a Ramsar site underlining its status as a wetland of international importance. This is also the first and the only Ramsar site in Karnataka.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/ranganathittu-bird-sanctuary-is-now-a-ramsar-site/article65722536.ece>

Environment – Environmental Impact Assessment

Q.1) Which of the following is/are consequence/s of sand mining?

1. Forces the river to change its course.
2. Depletion of groundwater tables.
3. Adversely impacting the habitat of micro-organisms.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Environmental consequences of sand mining:

- Forcing the river to change its course: Sand and boulders prevent the river from changing the course and act as a buffer for the riverbed.
- Illegally dredged sand is equivalent to robbing water: Sand holds a lot of water, and when it is mindlessly mined and laden on to trucks, large quantities of water is lost in transit.
- Depletion of groundwater tables: Sand, on a riverbed it acts as a link between the flowing river and the water table and is part of the aquifer.
- For e.g.: Illegal and excessive sand mining in the riverbed of the Papagani catchment area in Karnataka has led to the depletion of groundwater levels and environmental degradation in the villages on the banks of the river in both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- Adversely impacting the habitat of micro-organisms: There are a lot of micro-organisms that are not visible and widely known, but are critical to soil structure and fertility. When sand is dredged, literally it takes away their habitat.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) “Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)” is related to which of the following?

- a) Elephants
- b) Tigers
- c) Butterflies
- d) Bees

ANS: D

Explanation: Bees are not summertime nuisance, they are small and hard-working insects actually make it possible for many of your favorite foods to reach your table.

- From apples to almonds to the pumpkin in our pumpkin pies, we have bees to thank.
- Now, a condition known as Colony Collapse Disorder is causing bee populations to plummet, which means these foods are also at risk.
- Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a new tag name presently being given to a condition that is characterized by an unexplained rapid loss of a Bee colony’s adult population.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) “Neonicotinoids” are often seen in news is related to?

- a) Insecticides
- b) Pesticides
- c) Fertilizers
- d) Micro plastics

ANS: A

Explanation: Neonicotinoids are a new class of insecticides chemically related to nicotine. The name literally means “new nicotine-like insecticides”.

- Like nicotine, the neonicotinoids act on certain kinds of receptors in the nerve synapse.
- They are much more toxic to invertebrates, like insects, than they are to mammals, birds and other higher organisms.
- Neonicotinoids share a common mode of action that affects the central nervous system of insects, resulting in paralysis and death.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) Which of the following measure/s reduce the wildlife collision with trains?

1. Vulnerable patches for wildlife to be identified as wild life crossing spots.
2. Electronically tag prominent wildlife.
3. Coordination between Ministry of Environment & Forests and Railways.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Wildlife (elephant, leopard, etc) deaths due to collision with trains:

- Coordination between MoEF and Railways has to be enhanced to ensure the safety of wildlife.
- Vulnerable patches for wildlife to be identified as wild life crossing spots, and signage put up to warn train drivers and other railway personnel, to enable them to give directions for trains to slow down their speed in these patches in the normal course.
- Update the list of well known vulnerable patches for wild life, and conveying them to the Railways.
- Electronically tag prominent wildlife like elephants, leopards, etc particularly in high traffic areas, so that wildlife and forest personnel could keep track of their movements, and warn railway officials well in time to enable them to avoid accident.
- Once they are electronically tagged, forest personnel could track their movements, and keep them from harm.
- Improvement in infrastructure for forest and Railway staff, such as, equipped with walkie talkies, constant connection with the control room, etc.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.5) Which of the following is/are under schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?

1. Sharks
2. Rays
3. Skates

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: With a view to stop the inhuman hunting of sharks and to enable the enforcement agencies to monitor the illegal hunting/poaching of the species of Sharks, Rays and Skates (Elasmobranchs) listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Minister of for Environment and Forests has approved a policy for prohibiting the removal of shark fins on board a vessel in the sea.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.6) “Environment Impact Assessment” in India is statutorily backed by?

- a) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- c) Forest Rights Act, 2006
- d) Indian Forest Act, 1927

ANS: A

Explanation: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.

Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986 which contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) “PARIVESH” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) National Parks
- b) Protection of inland fisheries
- c) Environmental Management System
- d) Zero Budget Natural Farming

ANS: C

Explanation: PARIVESH is a Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System. Key features include single registration and single sign-in for all types of clearances (i.e. Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ), unique-ID for all types of clearances required for a particular project and a single Window interface for the proponent to submit applications for getting all types of clearances (i.e. Environment, Forests, Wildlife and CRZ clearances).

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.8) Which of the following is the first country to implement the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)?

- a) Canada
- b) Australia
- c) United States of America
- d) Netherlands

ANS: C

Explanation: The first country to give importance to EIA through its National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969 was the United States.

A large number of countries followed, which were having industries. Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and Japan adopted EIA legislation in 1973, 1974, 1981 and 1984, respectively.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.9) Which of the following Biosphere Reserve/s is/are part of World Network of Biosphere Reserves?

- 1. Nilgiris
- 2. Nokrek
- 3. Nanda Devi

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: There are 18 biosphere reserves in the country, only nine, including the Nilgiris, Nanda Devi, Nokrek, Gulf of Mannar, Sundarban, and Great Nicobar, have been included in the network.

- Biosphere reserves are “representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over a large area of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof and representative examples of bio-geographic zones/provinces.”
- Globally, 621 biosphere reserves from 117 countries are included in the network so far, according to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/Agasthyamala-likely-to-be-part-of-World-biosphere-reserves/article60514619.ece>

Q.10) Kanger Valley National Park is located in which of the following state?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: B

Explanation: The name of Kanger Ghati National Park is derived from the Kangar River, which flows in its length. Kanger Valley is spread over 200 square kilometers.

- Kanger Valley got the status of a national park in the year 1982. It is a friendly place for high mountains, deep valleys, giant trees and various species of wildlife.
- Kanger Valley National Park is a typical mixed humid deciduous type of forest, in which the Sal, Saugaun, teak and bamboo trees are available in abundance.
- The most popular species in this area is Bastar Maina which enchant everyone with their human voice.
- The state bird, Bastar Maina, is a type of Hill maina (*gruncula Dhariosoa*), which is capable of emulating the human voices. The forest is home to migrant and resident birds.

Source: <https://bastar.gov.in/en/tourist-place/kanger-ghati-national-park/>

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following service/s is/are provided by ecosystem?

1. Purification of air and water.
2. Detoxification and decomposition of wastes.
3. Moderation of floods, droughts, temperature extremes and the forces of wind.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Goods and Services provided by ecosystems include:

- Provision of food, fuel and fibre
- Provision of shelter and building materials
- Purification of air and water
- Detoxification and decomposition of wastes
- Stabilization and moderation of the Earth's climate
- Moderation of floods, droughts, temperature extremes and the forces of wind.
- Generation and renewal of soil fertility, including nutrient cycling.
- Pollination of plants, including many crops Control of pests and diseases

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) Which of the following is/are characteristic/s of ecotone?

1. It may be very narrow or quite wide.
2. It has the conditions intermediate to the adjacent ecosystems.
3. It is linear as it shows progressive increase in species composition of one in coming community and a simultaneous decrease in species of the other out going adjoining community

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Ecotone is a zone of junction between two or more diverse ecosystems. For e.g. the mangrove forests represent an ecotone between marine and terrestrial ecosystem. Other examples are – grassland, estuary and river bank.

Characteristics of Ecotone:

- It may be very narrow or quite wide.
- It has the conditions intermediate to the adjacent ecosystems. Hence it is a zone of tension.
- It is linear as it shows progressive increase in species composition of one in coming community and a simultaneous decrease in species of the other out going adjoining community.

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- Well developed ecotones contain some organisms which are entirely different from that of the adjoining communities.
- Sometimes the number of species and the population density of some of the species is much greater in this zone than either community. This is called edge effect.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. In bioaccumulation there is an increase in concentration of a pollutant from the environment to the first organism in a food chain.
2. In biomagnification there is an increase in concentration of a pollutant from one link in a food chain to another.

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: Movement of these pollutants involves two main processes:

- i) Bioaccumulation
- ii) Biomagnification

Bioaccumulation:

- It refers to how pollutants enter a food chain.
- In bioaccumulation there is an increase in concentration of a pollutant from the environment to the first organism in a food chain.

Biomagnification:

- Biomagnification refers to the tendency of pollutants to concentrate as they move from one trophic level to the next.
- Thus in biomagnification there is an increase in concentration of a pollutant from one link in a food chain to another.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) Which of the following is NOT a Sedimentary biogeochemical cycle?

- a) Phosphorous
- b) Nitrogen
- c) Calcium
- d) Magnesium

ANS: B

Explanation: Phosphorus, calcium and magnesium circulate by means of the sedimentary cycle. The element involved in the sedimentary cycle normally does not cycle through the atmosphere but follows a basic pattern of flow through erosion, sedimentation, mountain building, volcanic activity and biological transport through the excreta of marine birds.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “eutrophication”:

1. It is primarily caused by the leaching of phosphate and - or nitrate containing fertilisers from agricultural lands into lakes or rivers.
2. The growth of green algae which we see in the lake surface layer is the physical identification of an Eutrophication.

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: EUTROPHICATION:

- Greek word – Eutrophia means adequate & healthy nutrition.
- Eutrophication is a syndrome of ecosystem, response to the addition of artificial or natural nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates through fertilizer, sewage, etc that fertilize the aquatic ecosystem.
- It is primarily caused by the leaching of phosphate and - or nitrate containing fertilisers from agricultural lands into lakes or rivers.
- The growth of green algae which we see in the lake surface layer is the physical identification of an Eutrophication.
- Some algae and blue-green bacteria thrive on the excess ions and a population explosion covers almost entire surface layer is known as algal bloom. This growth is unsustainable, however.
- As Algal Bloom covers the surface layer, it restricts the penetration of sunlight. Diffusion of gas from atom
- Oxygen is required by all respiring animals in the water and it is replenished by diffusion and photosynthesis of green plants.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.6) “Montreux Record” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Wetlands
- b) Renewable energy
- c) Organic farming
- d) River pollution

ANS: A

Explanation: Montreux Record is the principal tool under the Ramsar Convention, is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

- It highlights those sites where adverse changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.
- Montreux Record is employed to identify priority sites for positive national and international conservation attention. Sites may be added to and removed from the Record only with the approval of the Contracting Parties in which they lie.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) Which of the following is/are source/s of geothermal energy?

1. Cambay graben
2. Damodar valley
3. West coast

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: India has a potential for producing around 10,600 MW of power from geothermal resources.

- Although India was among the earliest countries to begin geothermal projects since the 1970's, at present there are no operational geothermal plants in India. 340 hot springs were identified across India.
- These have been grouped together and termed as different geothermal provinces based on their occurrence in specific geotectonic regions, geological and structural regions such as occurrence in orogenic belt regions, structural grabens, deep fault zones, active volcanic regions etc.

Orogenic regions:

- Himalayan geothermal province
- Naga-Lushai geothermal province
- Andaman-Nicobar Islands geothermal province

Non-orogenic regions:

- Cambay graben,
- Son-Narmada-Tapigraben,
- West coast,
- Damodar valley,
- Mahanadi valley

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.8) Which of the following schedule of wildlife protection act, 1972 is related to species "vermin"?

- a) Schedule I
- b) Schedule II
- c) Schedule III
- d) Schedule V

ANS: D

Explanation: Animals listed in schedule 5 are called "vermin" which can be hunted.

Mice, rat, common crow and flying fox (fruit eating bats) are the list of animals (only 4 nos) in schedule 5 [i.e. vermin].

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Seaweeds are macroscopic algae.
2. Seaweeds, the larger and visible marine plants are found attached to rocks, corals and other submerged strata.

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: Seaweeds are (thalloid plants) macroscopic algae, which mean they have no differentiation of true tissues such as roots, stems and leaves. They have leaf-like appendages.

- Seaweeds, the larger and visible marine plants are found attached to rocks, corals and other submerged strata in the intertidal and shallow sub tidal zones of the sea.
- Seaweeds grow in shallow coastal waters wherever sizable substrata is available.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.10) Which of the following vulture/s is/are found in India?

1. Red – Headed vulture
2. White – Rumped vulture
3. Egyptian vulture

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: India has nine species of ‘endangered’ and ‘critically endangered’ raptors that include five vulture species (Red-headed Vulture, Indian Vulture, White-rumped Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture and Egyptian Vulture), one owl species (Forest Owlet), one falcon (Saker Falcon) and two eagles (Steppe Eagle and Pallas’s Fish-eagle).

- There are many reasons for loss in the number of these birds, ranging from chemical poisoning, and human disturbances to their preferred habitats, hunting, habitat degradation and pollution.
- For their role in maintaining the food chain and giving us free ecosystem service, they and their habitat should be protected.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/education/in-sync-with-nature/article65418700.ece>

Environment

Q.1) Who among the following is the competent authority to declare certain areas as wildlife sanctuaries?

- a) Central Government
- b) State Government
- c) National Green Tribunal
- d) Gram Sabha

ANS: B

Explanation: The Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 provided for the declaration of certain areas by the State Government as wildlife sanctuaries if the area was thought to be of adequate ecological, geo-morphological and natural significance.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. National Parks enjoy a greater degree of protection than sanctuaries.
2. Certain activities which are regulated in sanctuaries, such as grazing of livestock, are prohibited in National Parks.

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: National Parks enjoy a greater degree of protection than sanctuaries. Certain activities which are regulated in sanctuaries, such as grazing of livestock, are prohibited in National Parks. Wildlife sanctuary can be created for a particular species (for e.g. grizzled giant squirrel w.l.s in srivalliputhur) whereas the national park is not primarily focused on a particular species.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme”:

1. It is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme.
2. It proposes an interdisciplinary research agenda and capacity building that target the ecological, social and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the reduction of this loss.

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 Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme aiming to set a scientific basis for the improvement of the relationships between people and their environment globally.

- Launched in the early 1970s, it proposes an interdisciplinary research agenda and capacity building that target the ecological, social and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the reduction of this loss.
- Concerned with problems at the interface of scientific, environmental, societal and development issues, MAB combines natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and safeguard natural ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that is socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.
- The agenda of the MAB Programme is defined by its main governing body, the International Coordinating Council in concentration with the broader MAB Community.
- For implementation of its interdisciplinary work onground, MAB relies on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and on thematic networks and partnerships for knowledge-sharing, research and monitoring, education and training, and participatory decision making.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) Which of the following is/are biodiversity hotspots of India?

1. The Himalayas
2. Indo- Burma
3. The western Ghats

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: There are 4 biodiversity hot spots present in India.

They are:

1. The Himalayas
2. Indo- Burma and
3. The western Ghats & Sri Lanka
4. Sunderland

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding project tiger:

1. It was launched on April 1st, 1973.
2. It has been the largest species conservation initiative of its kind in the world.
3. The National Tiger Conservation Authority addresses the ecological as well as administrative concerns for conserving tigers, by providing a statutory basis for protection of tiger reserves.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Govt. of India had launched “Project Tiger” on 1st April 1973 to promote conservation of the tiger. Project Tiger has been the largest species conservation initiative of its kind in the world.

- While the field implementation of the project, protection and management in the designated reserves is done by the project States, who also provide the matching grant to recurring items of expenditure, deploy field staff/officers, and give their salaries, the Project Tiger Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was mandated with the task of providing technical guidance and funding support.
- Considering the urgency of the situation, Project Tiger has been converted into a statutory authority (NTCA) by providing enabling provisions in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 through an amendment, viz. Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.
- This forms one of the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force appointed by the Prime Minister.
- The NTCA addresses the ecological as well as administrative concerns for conserving tigers, by providing a statutory basis for protection of tiger reserves, apart from providing strengthened institutional mechanisms for the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and endangered species.
- The Authority also ensures enforcing of guidelines for tiger conservation and monitoring compliance of the same, apart from placement of motivated and trained officers having good track record as Field Directors of tiger reserves. It also facilitates capacity building of officers and staff posted in tiger reserves, apart from a time bound staff development plan.
- The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 has come into force with effect from the 4th of September, 2006, and the NTCA has also been constituted on the same date.

Source: <https://www.tigernet.nic.in/aboutntca.html>

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding project elephant:

1. It was launched in February, 1992 as centrally sponsored scheme.
2. States are being given only financial assistance in achieving the objectives of the Project.

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: Project Elephant was launched in February, 1992 as centrally sponsored scheme to assist states having free ranging populations of wild elephants and to ensure long term survival of identified viable populations of elephants in their natural habitats.

- The Project is being mainly implemented in 13 States / UTs , viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Small support is also being given to Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- States are being given financial as well as technical assistance in achieving the objectives of the Project.
- Help is also provided to other states with small populations of elephants for the purpose of census, training of field staff and mitigation of human-elephant conflict.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) “MIKE” programme is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Elephant
- b) Tiger
- c) Butterflies
- d) Lions

ANS: A

Explanation: Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme: Mandated by COP resolution of CITES, MIKE program started in South Asia in the year 2003 with following purpose is:

To provide information needed for elephant range States to make appropriate management and enforcement decisions, and to build institutional capacity within the range States for the long-term management of their elephant populations.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.8) “Dachigam National Park” is often seen in news is located at?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Punjab

ANS: C

Explanation: Dachigam National Park is located 22 km (kilometer) from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. It covers an area of 141 sq km (square kilometer).

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- The name literally stands for ‘ten villages’, which could be in memory of the ten villages that were relocated in order to create the park.
- Dachigam was initially established to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to Srinagar city. A protected area since 1910, it was declared as a national park in 1981.
- The park is best known as the home of the hangul, or Kashmir stag. Dachigam is open throughout the year, but the best time to visit is between April and August.
- The closest airport is at Srinagar. Habitat to Kashmir Stag: Only area where Kashmir stag is found.

Source: <https://srinagar.nic.in/tourist-place/dachigam-national-park/>

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Dolphins are listed in schedule I of wildlife protection act, 1972.
2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests notified the Ganges River Dolphin as the National Aquatic Animal.

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: Dolphins are animals of aquatic ecosystems. They are found in the sea, brackish water and fresh water.

- A total of 15 species of marine and harbour dolphins have been reported from Indian waters and coasts. Besides, the Irrawady Dolphins are found in brackish waters of Odisha.
- Amongst the fresh water dolphins, the Gangetic Dolphin is found in the Ganges river and its tributaries. Apart from this, Indus River Dolphins have also been reported in Indus River in Punjab.
- All fresh water, brackish water and marine Dolphins (Cetaceans) are listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection against hunting.
- Gangetic Dolphin is one of the 17 species identified for taking up ‘Recovery programme of Critically Endangered Species, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat’.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forests notified the Ganges River Dolphin as the National Aquatic Animal.
- The River Dolphin inhabits the Ganges-BrahmaputraMeghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river **systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.**

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

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Q.10) “Kazinag National Park” is located at?

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Assam
- c) Nagaland
- d) Tripura

ANS: A

Explanation: Kazinag National Park is situated in north bank of Jhelum close to Line of Control in Baramulla district about 70 km away from the capital city of Srinagar.

- Climate:- Kazinag is a temperate system, with warm summers and cold winters, and a temperature range of -20 to +30°C.
- Precipitation is mainly in the form of snow in winter and rains in early spring with occasional showers during summer.
- Four distinct seasons can be classified during a year, viz. Spring, summer, Autumn and Winter.

Source: <http://jkwildlife.com/wild/Files/discover/kazinag.asp>

Environment – Environmental Pollution

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding carbon monoxide:

1. It is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels.
2. It is also produced from the combustion of natural and synthetic products such as cigarettes.

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: Carbon monoxide (CO):

It is a colourless, odourless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels including petrol, diesel, and wood.

- It is also produced from the combustion of natural and synthetic products such as cigarettes.
- It lowers the amount of oxygen that enters our blood.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Ozone”:

1. It occurs naturally in the upper layers of the atmosphere.
2. Vehicles and industries are the major source of ground level ozone emissions.

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: It occurs naturally in the upper layers of the atmosphere. This important gas shields the earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

- However, at the ground level, it is a pollutant with highly toxic effects. Vehicles and industries are the major source of groundlevel ozone emissions.
- Ozone makes our eyes itch, burn, and water. It lowers our resistance to cold and pneumonia.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

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Q.3) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are released due to burning of fossil fuels?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Hydro carbons
3. Suspended particulate matter

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

Name Of Pollutant	Sources	Health Effects
Sulphur Oxides	Thermal power plants and industries	Eye and throat irritation, cough, allergies, impairs enzyme function in respiratory system. Reduces exchange of gases from lung surface.
Nitrogen Oxides	Thermal power plant, industries and vehicles	Irritation and inflammation of lungs, breathlessness, impairs enzyme function in respiratory system and causes bronchitis and asthma.
Suspended Particulate Matter (SOM)	Vehicular emissions and burning of fossil fuels	Lung irritation reduces development of RBC and cause pulmonary malfunctioning.
Carbon Monoxide	Vehicular emissions and burning of fossil fuels	Difficulty in breathing, severe headaches, irritation to mucous membrane, unconsciousness and death
Carbon Dioxide	Burning of fossil fuels	Impairs reflexes, judgment and vision, severe headaches and heart strain.
Smog	Industries and vehicular pollution	Respiratory problems and intense irritation to the eyes.
Ozone	Automobile emissions	Breathlessness, asthma, wheezing, chest pain, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.
Chlorofluorocarbons	Refrigerators, sprays, emissions from jets	Depletion of stratospheric ozone layer, global warming.
Hydrocarbons	Burning of fossil fuels	Carcinogenic effect on lungs, kidney damage, hypertension, respiratory distress, irritation of eyes, nose and throat, asthma, bronchitis and impairs enzyme function in respiratory system.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are has been identified for regular monitoring under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme?

1. Sulfur dioxide
2. Oxides of nitrogen
3. Fine Particulate Matter

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Under N.A.M.P., four air pollutants viz ., Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of

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Nitrogen as NO₂, Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM / PM₁₀) and Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) have been identified for regular monitoring at all the locations. The monitoring of meteorological parameters such as wind speed and wind direction, relative humidity (RH) and temperature were also integrated with the monitoring of air quality.

Source: <https://cpcb.nic.in/about-namp>

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding air quality index (AQI):

1. It is a color coded index was launched in 2014.
2. There are six categories in AQI.

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: AQI is a number, which is a measure of air quality. The higher the AQI, the worse the air.

- After staying above 450 for a couple of days, the AQI in Delhi on Sunday had come down to around 320.
- The colour-coded AQI index was launched in India in 2014, and it helps the public and the government understands the condition of the air and what subsequent measures are to be taken to combat the situation, based on its severity.
- There are six categories of AQI, namely 'Good' (0-50), 'Satisfactory' (50-100), 'moderately polluted' (100-200), 'Poor' (200-300), 'Very Poor' (300-400), and 'Severe' (400-500).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/what-is-aqi-delhi-air-pollution-8253034/>

Q.6) "Putrescibility" process is related to which of the following?

- a) Decomposition
- b) Hydrocarbons
- c) Solar Energy
- d) Bio pesticides

ANS: A

Explanation: Putrescibility is the process of decomposition of organic matter present in water by microorganisms using oxygen.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) "MARPOL Convention" is related to which of the following?

- a) Pollution from Ships
- b) Pollution from Automobiles
- c) Pollution from Bio fertilizers
- d) Pollution from radioactive substances

ANS: A

Explanation: The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

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- The MARPOL Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 at IMO. The Protocol of 1978 was adopted in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977.
- As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent Convention.
- The combined instrument entered into force on 2 October 1983. In 1997, a Protocol was adopted to amend the Convention and a new Annex VI was added which entered into force on 19 May 2005.

Source: [https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-\(MARPOL\).aspx](https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx)

Q.8) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was established under?

- a) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- b) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- c) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- d) The National Environmental Tribunal Act, 1995

ANS: A

Explanation: The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), statutory organization, was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Source: <https://cpcb.nic.in/Introduction>

Q.9) “Minamata convention” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Cadmium
- b) Mercury
- c) Uranium
- d) Arsenic

ANS: B

Explanation: The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

Source: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en>

Q.10) “Keibul Lamjao National Park” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Manipur
- b) Nagaland
- c) Tripura
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Manipur is the home of brow-antlered deer called "Sangai" (*Rucervus eldii eldii*), one of the endangered deer species in the world, now available only in Keibul Lamjao National Park of the State. It is also called as Manipur Dancing Deer.

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- The National Park is located in the South-Eastern part of the Loktak Lake, which is the largest natural freshwater lake in North-East India.
- The unique floating biomass of vegetations, which forms meadows, locally called 'Phumdi' plays a crucial role as the habitat of Sangai.
- It has a combination of aquatic wetland and terrestrial eco-system. This National Park has also been declared as a Ramsar site.
- The Sangai was declared extinct in 1951 and then re-discovered at Keibul Lamjao in 1953. The first census of Sangai conducted in 1975, counted 14 heads only.
- Therefore, the Forest Department took initiative in 1975 and notified Keibul Lamjao National Park in 1977.
- With intensive in-situ conservation efforts by the Forest Department, the population has grown and as per the 2016 ground census, the population of Sangai has reached 260.

Source: <https://forest.manipurforest.gov.in/about-us>

Environment

Q.1) Which of the following document/s is/are part of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)?

1. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
2. Agenda 21
3. Forest principles

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Also known as the Rio Summit, Rio Conference, Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The issues addressed included:

- Systematic scrutiny of patterns of production — particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste including radioactive chemicals
- Alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels which are linked to global climate change
- New reliance on public transportation systems in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smog
- The growing scarcity of water

The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- Forest Principles

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) Which of the following is/are goals of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?

1. The conservation of biodiversity
2. Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity
3. Sharing the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): CBD is a legally binding Convention recognized for the first time, that the conservation of biological diversity is “a common concern

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of humankind” and is an integral part of the development process. The agreement covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources.

Objectives: The conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

Three main goals:

- The conservation of biodiversity
- Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity
- Sharing the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) “Cartagena Protocol” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Bio safety
- b) Organic farming
- c) Solar Energy
- d) Ozone depleting substances

ANS: A

Explanation: Cartagena Protocol on Bio safety to the Convention on Biological Diversity Bio safety refers to the need to protect human health and the environment from the possible adverse effects of the products of modern biotechnology.

The Convention clearly recognizes these twin aspects of modern biotechnology.

- Access to and transfer of technologies
- Appropriate procedures to enhance the safety of biotechnology technologies.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) “Aichi Targets” are often seen in news is related to?

- a) Biodiversity
- b) Ozone depletion
- c) Coral Restoration
- d) Zero budget natural farming

ANS: A

Explanation: The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are twenty actions adopted under 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020', which is a ten year framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to save biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people.

Source: <https://environmentandforest.assam.gov.in/information-services/aichi-targets-0>

Q.5) “Waterfowl convention” is related to which of the following?

- a) Benn convention
- b) Vienna convention
- c) Ramsar convention
- d) Stockholm convention

ANS: C

Explanation: The Convention on Wetlands [waterfowl convention] is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

- It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975, and it is the only global environmental treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem.
- Ramsar is not affiliated with the United Nations system of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, but it works very closely with the other MEAs and is a full partner among the “biodiversity-related cluster” of treaties and agreements.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)”:

1. It is an international agreement between governments entered into force in 1975.
2. It is administered through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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: In the early 1960s, international discussion began focusing on the rate at which the world’s wild animals and plants were being threatened by unregulated international trade.

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments entered into force in 1975, and became the only treaty to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild. Currently 176 countries are Parties to CITES.
- CITES is administered through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- A Secretariat, located in Geneva, Switzerland, oversees the implementation of the treaty and assists with communications between countries.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.7) “Bonn Convention” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Living modified organisms
- b) Migratory species
- c) Space debris
- d) Solar energy

ANS: B

Explanation: The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.

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It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.8) “Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Rotterdam convention
- b) Basel convention
- c) Vienna convention
- d) Stockholm convention

ANS: D

Explanation: The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries on 22 May 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden and entered into force on 17 May 2004.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.9) “Bison National Park” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Tripura
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Rajbari (Bison) National Park is a national park in the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, in Tripura, India. It covers an area of about 31.63 square kilometers.

Source: <https://forest.tripura.gov.in/forest-wildlife-resources>

Q.10) “Kigali Agreement” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Peat lands
- b) Ozone depleting substance
- c) Sustainable agriculture
- d) Climate technology

ANS: B

Explanation: Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer held in Kigali, Rwanda amended the 1987 Montreal Protocol to phase out Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Environment

Q.1) Which of the following is/are source/s of Black Carbon?

1. Biomass burning
2. Cooking with solid fuels
3. Diesel exhaust

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Black carbon (BC) is a solid particle or aerosol, (though not a gas) contributes to warming of the atmosphere.

Black carbon, commonly known as soot, is a form of particulate air pollutant, produced from incomplete combustion. It consists of pure carbon in several linked forms.

Source:

- biomass burning,
- cooking with solid fuels, and
- Diesel exhaust, etc.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.2) Which of the following has the highest green warming potential?

- a) Carbon Dioxide
- b) Methane
- c) Nitrous Oxide
- d) Hydro Fluoro Carbons

ANS: D

Explanation: The Global Warming Potential (GWP) for a gas is a measure of the total energy that a gas absorbs over a particular period of time (usually 100 years), compared to carbon dioxide.

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S. No	GAS	GWP (100-year)	LIFETIME (years)
1	Carbon di oxide	1	100
2	Methane	21	12
3	Nitrous oxide	310	120
4	Hydro fluoro carbons (HFCs)	140-11,700	1-270
5	Perfluoro carbons (PFCs)	6,500-9,200	800-50,000
6	Sulfur hexafluoride (SF6)	23,900	3,200

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding ocean acidification:

1. Oceans are act as reservoir of carbon dioxide.
2. In ocean acidification, the concentration of hydrogen ions in the ocean increases.

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: Oceans are an important reservoir for CO₂, absorbing a significant quantity of it (one-third) produced by anthropogenic activities and effectively buffering climate change.

- Ocean acidification is the change in ocean chemistry - lowering of ocean pH (i.e. increase in concentration of hydrogen ions) driven by the uptake of carbon compounds by the ocean from the atmosphere.
- As the uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide by the ocean increases, the concentration of hydrogen ions in the ocean increases, the concentration of carbonate ions decreases, the pH of the oceans decreases and the oceans become less alkaline – this process is known as ocean acidification.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.4) “Dobson Unit” is related to which of the following?

- a) Ozone measurement
- b) Ocean Acidification
- c) Soil organic matter
- d) Nuclear radiation

ANS: A

Explanation: The most common measure of total ozone abundance is the Dobson unit (named after the pioneering atmospheric physical Gordon Dobson) which is the thickness of the ozone

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column (compressed at Standard Temperature and Pressure (STP)) in milli-centimeters. At STP one Dobson unit is equal to 2.69×10^{20} molecules per square meter.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Q.5) Which of the following is/are comes under blue carbon?

1. Mangroves
2. Tidal Marshes
3. Sea grasses

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Blue Carbon refers to coastal, aquatic and marine carbon sinks held by the indicative vegetation, marine organism and sediments.

- In particular, coastal ecosystems such as tidal marshes, mangroves, and sea grasses remove carbon from the atmosphere and ocean, storing it in plants and depositing it in the sediment below them by natural processes.
- These coastal ecosystems are very efficient at sequestering and storing carbon - each square mile of these systems can remove carbon from the atmosphere and oceans at rates higher than each square mile of mature tropical forests.

Source: <https://www.thebluecarboninitiative.org/about#ecosystems>

Q.6) “Silent Valley National Park” is often seen in news is located at?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka
- d) Uttarakhand

ANS: A

Explanation: The core of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the Silent Valley National Park is probably one of the most magnificent gifts of nature to mankind, a unique preserve of tropical rain forests in all its pristine glory with an almost unbroken ecological history.

- Silent Valley is closed on all sides with high and continuous ridges and steep escarpments, as a result the valley is shielded from the extremes of climate as well as anthropogenic interventions and so it remained an ecological island with a special micro climate.
- The river Kunthi descends from the Nilgiri Hills above an altitude of 2000 m and traverses the entire length of the valley finally rushing down to the plains through a deep gorge.

Source: <https://forest.kerala.gov.in/index.php/wildlife/2015-03-16-09-50-24/national-parks/silent-valley-national-park>

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA)”:

1. It is a rating tool that helps people assesses the performance of their building against certain nationally acceptable benchmarks.
2. It is developed jointly by TERI and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

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: GRIHA is an acronym for Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment. GRIHA is a Sanskrit word meaning – ‘Abode’. Human Habitats (buildings) interact with the environment in various ways.

- Throughout their life cycles, from construction to operation and then demolition, they consume resources in the form of energy, water, materials, etc. and emit wastes either directly in the form of municipal wastes or indirectly as emissions from electricity generation.
- GRIHA attempts to minimize a building’s resource consumption, waste generation, and overall ecological impact to within certain nationally acceptable limits / benchmarks.
- GRIHA is a rating tool that helps people assesses the performance of their building against certain nationally acceptable benchmarks. It evaluates the environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle, thereby providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a ‘green building’.
- The rating system, based on accepted energy and environmental principles, will seek to strike a balance between the established practices and emerging concepts, both national and international.
- GRIHA has been conceived by TERI and developed jointly with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.

Source: <https://www.grihaindia.org/about-griha>

Q.8) “Clean Development Mechanism” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Montreal Protocol
- c) Cartagena Protocol
- d) Marrakesh accords

ANS: A

Explanation: The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries.

- Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets.
- The mechanism is seen by many as a trailblazer. It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind, providing standardized emissions offset instrument, CERs.

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- A CDM project activity might involve, for example, a rural electrification project using solar panels or the installation of more energy-efficient boilers.
- The mechanism stimulates sustainable development and emission reductions, while giving industrialized countries some flexibility in how they meet their emission reduction or limitation targets.

Source: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-kyoto-protocol/mechanisms-under-the-kyoto-protocol/the-clean-development-mechanism>

Q.9) “Sunshine Coast Biosphere reserve” is recently seen in news is related to?

- a) Australia
- b) Japan
- c) Canada
- d) Italy

ANS: A

Explanation: Located in Southeast Queensland, a short distance from Brisbane, the area features a picturesque coastline, dunes, beaches, extensive waterways and wetlands, as well as a range of mountain in the hinterland.

- Home to two First Nation groups, the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples, and the biosphere reserve sustains a highly valued natural environment and rich biodiversity, particularly in the 2,585 km² terrestrial and marine protected areas.
- It supports both traditional and cutting-edge economic activities, including strong food, agribusiness and tourism sectors. The region receives about 8 million visitors per year.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-designates-11-new-biosphere-reserves>

Q.10) “Mrugavani National Park” is often seen in news is located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) Telangana

ANS: D

Explanation: Mrugavani National Park is a national park located in Hyderabad, Telangana State, India. It is situated at Chilkur in Moinabad mandal, 20 km from MGBS and covers an area of 3.6 square kilometres (1.4 sq mi) or 1211 acres.

- It is home to a 600 different types of plant life. The Park is home to around 350 spotted deers. The animals include: indian hare, forest cat, civet, Indian rat snake, Russell’s viper, cheetal and the flower pecker
- It was declared as a National Park in 1994. The climate here is pleasant most of the time. There is a point in the park which is at a height for high point views and there is also a watch tower so as to watch animals closely.

Source: <https://rangareddy.telangana.gov.in/tourist-place/mrugavani-national-park/>

Environment - Contemporary Issues

Q.1) “SAMARTH Mission” is recently seen in news is related to?

- a) Organic farming
- b) Bio fertilizers
- c) Zero carbon electricity
- d) Smart Agriculture

ANS: C

Explanation: SAMARTH (Sustainable Agrarian Mission on use of Agro Residue in TPPs) Mission to promote use of agro-residue to produce zero-carbon electricity.

It mandates that all thermal power plants in the country use between 5-10% of biomass alongside coal to produce power.

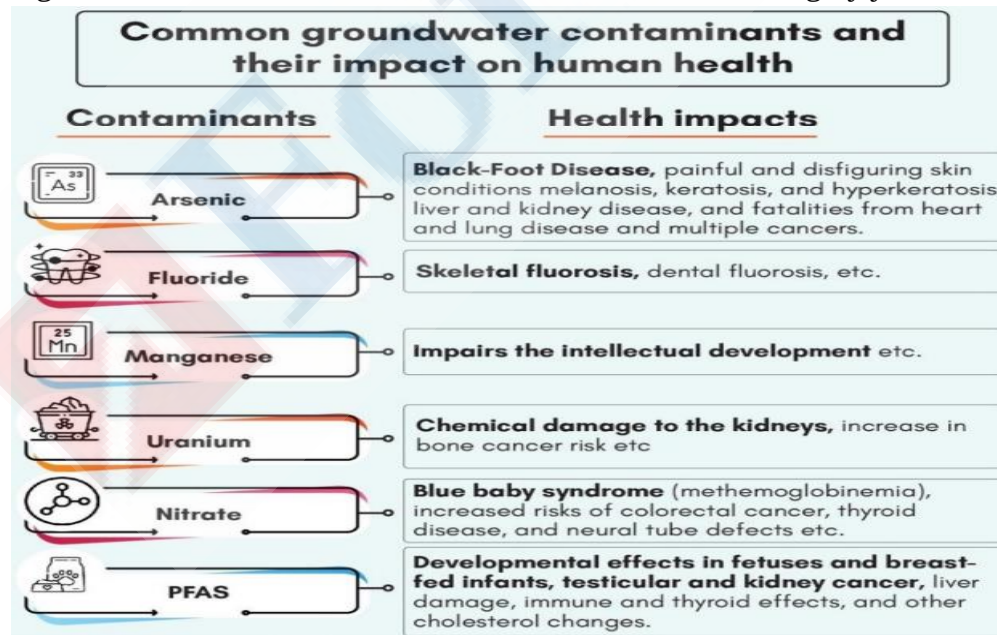
Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) “Blackfoot disease” is often seen in news is due to contamination of water with which of the following?

- a) Arsenic
- b) Cadmium
- c) Nitrate
- d) Uranium

ANS: A

Explanation: Blackfoot disease is an endemic peripheral vascular disease found among the inhabitants of a limited area on the southwest coast of Taiwan, where artesian well water with a high concentration of arsenic has been used for more than eighty years.



Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources.
2. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) was constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

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: Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, is the National Apex Agency entrusted with the responsibilities of providing scientific inputs for management, exploration, monitoring, assessment, augmentation and regulation of ground water resources of the country.

- Central Ground Water Board was established in 1970 by renaming the Exploratory Tube wells Organization under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- It was merged with the Ground Water Wing of the Geological Survey of India during 1972.
- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) was constituted under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country.
- The Authority is engaged in various activities related to regulation of ground water development to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Source: <http://cgwb.gov.in/aboutcgwb.html>

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) is located at Cochin, Kerala.
2. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is located at Palakaranai, Tamil Nadu.
3. National Institute of Oceanography headquarters is located at Goa.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) with its headquarters at Dona Paula, Goa, and regional centres at Kochi, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam, is one of the 37 constituent laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi.

- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) was established in November 1993 at Tamil Nadu, as an autonomous society under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. NIOT is managed by a Governing Council and the Director is the head of the Institute.
- National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has been established in Chennai in the year 1998, as an autonomous R&D institution by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.

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- It is a knowledge-based institution of high quality and dedication, offers services and seeks to find complete solutions for the kinds of difficulties and improvements in the entire spectrum of the wind energy sector by carrying out further research.
- It has a Wind Turbine Test Station (WTTS) at Kayathar with the technical & partial financial support by DANIDA, Govt. of Denmark.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) “Sustainable use of Wild Species” report is recently seen in news is released by?

- a) GEF
- b) WEF
- c) IUCN
- d) IPBES

ANS: D

Explanation: The IPBES Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species is a stark reminder that human beings are interdependent with all living beings.

- Millions of people are living in harmony with nature in UNESCO designated sites worldwide, from Biosphere reserves to World heritage sites. This is a wealth of experience and solutions to reconcile and make peace with nature.
- It is not too late to act, and UNESCO is fully committed to mobilize the full force of education, science and culture to lead this global transformative change.

Source: <https://ipbes.net/sustainable-use-assessment>

Q.6) “Nanda Lake” is recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The 10 new sites — six in Tamil Nadu and one each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha — encompass an area of 1,51,842.41 hectares, bringing India’s total wetland area to 1.2 million hectares.

The sites are Koothankulam Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary, all in Tamil Nadu, Satkosia Gorge in Odisha, Nanda Lake in Goa, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka, and Sirpur Wetland in Madhya Pradesh.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/10-more-indian-wetland-sites-get-ramsar-tag-number-rises-to-64/article65722839.ece>

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Natural Resource Accounting (NRA):

1. It is an accounting system that deals with stocks and stock changes of natural assets, comprising biota, subsoil assets, water and land with their aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
2. It captures details of 34 major minerals, 58 minor minerals and all four fossils fuels.

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: NRA is an accounting system that deals with stocks and stock changes of natural assets, comprising biota (produced or wild), subsoil assets (proved reserves), water and land with their aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

- The asset accounts capture details of 34 major minerals, 58 minor minerals and all four fossils fuels.
- Its aim is to provide information on the state of natural resources and the changes affecting them.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following is recently completed 50 years of its formation in 2022?

- a) UNEP
- b) WEF
- c) Stockholm conference
- d) GEF

ANS: C

Explanation: Recently, Stockholm+50 meeting was held at Stockholm, Sweden to commemorate the 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (also known as the Stockholm Conference), which made the environment a pressing global issue for the first time.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE)” project is funded by?

- a) World Bank
- b) UNDP
- c) UNEP
- d) ADB

ANS: A

Explanation: Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE) is part of the World Bank approved a \$400 million multi-year financing envelope to help India to- enhance its coastal resources, protect coastal populations from pollution, erosion, and sea level rise, and improve livelihood opportunities for coastal communities.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/loans-credits/2020/04/28/india-enhancing-coastal-ocean-resources-efficiency>

Q.10) “Pakhui tiger reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

ANS: B

Explanation: Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary lies in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya, in the East Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh.

- It was given its status in 1977 and was earlier part of the Khellong Forest Division. It was declared a tiger reserve in 2002.
- The habitat is comprised of lowland semi-evergreen, evergreen and Eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests.
- Over 300 species of flowering plants (angiosperms) have been recorded in the lowland areas of the park. It is also abundant in orchids.
- The Pakhui Tiger Reserve (PTR) is home to large cats like the tiger, leopard and the clouded leopard, and canids like the wild dog and Asiatic jackal.
- The elephant, barking deer, Indian bison and sambar deer are the most commonly spotted herbivores here.

Source: SHANKAR IAS Environment

Polity – Indian Constitution

Q.1) Which of the following is/are functions of a constitution?

1. It is to provide a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.
2. It is to specify who has the power to make decisions in a society.
3. It is to set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The first function of a constitution is to provide a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.

- The second function of a constitution is to specify who has the power to make decisions in a society. It decides how the government will be constituted.
- So the third function of a constitution is to set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. These limits are fundamental in the sense that government may never trespass them.

Source: NCERT - Indian Constitution at Work

Q.2) Which of the following section/s of the constitution has provision/s which enable/s the government to take welfare measures?

1. Preamble of Indian Constitution
2. Fundamental Rights
3. Directive Principles of State Policy

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Indian Constitution enables the government to take positive welfare measures some of which are legally enforceable.

- As we go on studying the Indian Constitution, we shall find that such enabling provisions have the support of the Preamble to our Constitution, and these provisions are found in the section on Fundamental Rights.
- The Directive Principles of State of Policy also enjoin government to fulfill certain aspirations of the people.

Source: NCERT - Indian Constitution at Work

Q.3) Which of the following is/are provision/s of Cabinet Mission Plan?

1. Each Province and each Princely State were allotted seats proportional to their respective population roughly in the ratio of 1:1, 00,000.
2. The seats in each Province were distributed among the three main communities, Muslims, Sikhs and general, in proportion to their respective populations.
3. Members of each community in the Provincial Legislative Assembly elected their own representatives by the method of proportional representation.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constituent Assembly was composed roughly along the lines suggested by the plan proposed by the committee of the British cabinet, known as the Cabinet Mission. According to this plan:

- Each Province and each Princely State or group of States were allotted seats proportional to their respective population roughly in the ratio of 1:10,00,000.
- As a result the Provinces (that were under direct British rule) were to elect 292 members while the Princely States were allotted a minimum of 93 seats.
- The seats in each Province were distributed among the three main communities, Muslims, Sikhs and general, in proportion to their respective populations.
- Members of each community in the Provincial Legislative Assembly elected their own representatives by the method of proportional representation with single transferable vote.
- The method of selection in the case of representatives of Princely States was to be determined by consultation.

Source: NCERT - Indian Constitution at Work

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding regulating act, 1773:

1. It designated the Governor of Bengal as the Governor of India.
2. It permitted the servants of the Company from engaging in private trade.

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 features of Regulating Act, 1773 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.

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- 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'.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following act resulted in end of trade monopoly of East India Company?

- a) Regulating Act, 1773
- b) Pitt's India Act, 1784
- c) Charter Act of 1793
- d) Charter Act of 1813

ANS: D

Explanation: Charter Act of 1813 abolished the trade monopoly of the company in India i.e., the Indian trade was thrown open to all British merchants. However, it continued the monopoly of the company over trade in tea and trade with China.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding charter act, 1833:

1. It deprived the Governor of Bombay and Madras of their legislative powers.
2. It ended the activities of the East India Company as a commercial body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Charter Act of 1833 was the final step towards centralization in British India. The features of this Act were as follows:

- It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the GovernorGeneral of India and vested in him all civil and military powers.
- Thus, the act created, for the first time, Government of India having authority over the entire territorial area possessed by the British in India.
- Lord William Bentick was the first Governor-General of India.
- It deprived the Governor of Bombay and Madras of their legislative powers. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India.
- The laws made under the previous acts were called as Regulations, while laws made under this act were called as Acts.
- It ended the activities of the East India Company as a commercial body, which became a purely administrative body.
- It provided that the Company's territories in India were held by it 'in trust for His Majesty, His heirs and successors'.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Councils Act of 1861:

1. It made a beginning of the representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process.
2. It initiated the process of decentralization by restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

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: Indian Councils Act of 1861: After the great revolt of 1857, the British Government felt the necessity of seeking the cooperation of the Indians in the administration of their country.

- In pursuance of this policy of association, three acts were enacted by the British Parliament in 1861, 1892 and 1909.
- The Indian Councils Act of 1861 is an important landmark in the constitutional and political history of India.

The features of this Act were as follows:

- It made a beginning of the representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process.
- It, thus, provided that the Viceroy should nominate some Indians as non-official members of his expanded council.
- In 1862, Lord Canning, the then Viceroy, nominated three Indians to his legislative council—the Raja of Benaras, the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao.
- It initiated the process of decentralisation by restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.
- It, thus, reversed the centralising tendency that started from the Regulating Act of 1773 and reached its climax under the Charter Act of 1833.
- This policy of legislative devolution resulted in the grant of almost complete internal autonomy to the provinces in 1937.
- It also provided for the establishment of new legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Punjab, which were established in 1862, 1886 and 1897, respectively.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Councils Act of 1909:

1. Satyendra Prasad Sinha became the first Indian to join the Viceroy's executive council.
2. It introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of separate electorate.

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: 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 Polity

Q.9) Which of the following act introduced the “diarchy” system?

- a) Government of India Act of 1919
- b) Indian Councils Act of 1909
- c) Government of India Act of 1935
- d) Indian Councils Act of 1892

ANS: A

Explanation: Government of India Act of 1919 divided the provincial subjects into two parts—transferred and reserved.

- The transferred subjects were to be administered by the Governor with the aid of Ministers responsible to the legislative council.
- The reserved subjects, on the other hand, were to be administered by the Governor and his executive council without being responsible to the legislative council.
- This dual scheme of governance was known as 'dyarchy'—a term derived from the Greek word diarche which means double rule. However, this experiment was largely unsuccessful.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Which of the following is/are members of Simon Commission?

1. Clement Atlee
2. Harry Levy-Lawson
3. Donald Howard

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The seven members of Simon commission were Sir John Simon, Clement Atlee, Harry Levy-Lawson, Edward Cadogan, Vernon Hartshorn, George Lane-Fox, Donald Howard.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following is/are the feature/s of Government of India Act of 1935?

1. It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units.
2. It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place.
3. It introduced bicameralism.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Act marked a second milestone towards a completely responsible government in India. It was a lengthy and detailed document having 321 Sections and 10 Schedules. The features of this Act were as follows:

- It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.
- It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres.
- Moreover, the Act introduced responsible Governments in provinces, that is, the Governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.
- It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all.
- It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral consisting of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them.
- It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (Scheduled Castes), women and labour (workers).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Independence Act of 1947:

1. It ended the British rule in India and declared India as an independent and sovereign state.
2. It provided for the partition of India and creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan.

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: On February 20, 1947, the British Prime Minister Clement Atlee declared that the British rule in India would end by June 30, 1948; after which the power would be transferred to responsible Indian hands.

- This announcement was followed by the agitation by the Muslim League demanding partition of the country.
- Again on June 3, 1947, the British Government made it clear that any Constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly of India (formed in 1946) cannot apply to those parts of the country which were unwilling to accept it.
- On the same day (June 3, 1947), Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India, put forth the partition plan, known as the Mountbatten Plan.
- The plan was accepted by the Congress and the Muslim League. Immediate effect was given to the plan by enacting the Indian Independence Act 1947.

The features of this Act were as follows:

- It ended the British rule in India and declared India as an independent and sovereign state from August 15, 1947.
- It provided for the partition of India and creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan with the right to secede from the British Commonwealth.
- It abolished the office of Viceroy and provided, for each dominion, a governor general, who was to be appointed by the British King on the advice of the dominion cabinet.
- His Majesty's Government in Britain was to have no responsibility with respect to the Government of India or Pakistan.
- It empowered the Constituent Assemblies of the two dominions to frame and adopt any constitution for their respective nations and to repeal any act of the British Parliament, including the Independence act itself.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

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Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946.
2. The Muslim League boycotted the meeting and insisted on a separate state of Pakistan.
3. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

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.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) The “Union Constitution Committee” of constituent assembly was headed by?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Sardar Patel
- c) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- d) J.B. Kripalani

ANS: A

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 others were minor committees.

The names of these committees and their Chairman are given below: Major Committees

- Union Powers Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru
- Union Constitution Committee -Jawaharlal Nehru
- Provincial Constitution Committee -Sardar Patel

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following article/s of Indian Constitution came into force on 26th November, 1949?

1. Article 5
2. Article 60
3. Article 324

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Some provisions of the Constitution pertaining to citizenship, elections, provisional parliament, temporary and transitional provisions, and short title contained in Articles 5, 6, 7,

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8, 9, 60, 324, 366, 367, 379, 380, 388, 391, 392 and 393 came into force on November 26, 1949, itself.

- The remaining provisions (the major part) of the Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950.
- This day is referred to in the Constitution as the 'date of its commencement', and celebrated as the Republic Day.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is adopted as the symbol (seal) of the Constituent Assembly?

- a) Lion
- b) Tiger
- c) Elephant
- d) Horse

ANS: C

Explanation: Elephant was adopted as the symbol (seal) of the Constituent Assembly.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following is/are federal feature/s of Indian Constitution?

1. Written Constitution
2. Flexibility of Constitution
3. Integrated Judiciary

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution of India establishes a federal system of Government. It contains all the usual features of a federation, viz., two Governments, division of powers, written Constitution, supremacy of Constitution, rigidity of Constitution, independent judiciary and bicameralism.

However, the Indian Constitution also contains a large number of unitary or non-federal features, viz., a strong Centre, single Constitution, single citizenship, flexibility of Constitution, integrated judiciary, appointment of state governor by the Centre, all-India services, and emergency provisions and so on.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary is often seen in news is located at?

- a) Telangana
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: A

Explanation: Some of the other prominent wildlife sanctuaries in Telangana are Mrugavani National Park, KBR Park, Pranahita wildlife sanctuary, Shivaram wildlife Sanctuary, Nagarjuna

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Sagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, Shamirpet Deer Park, Nehru Zoological Park, Manjira Wildlife Sanctuary etc.

The Deccan plateau is a region of unique and great biodiversity, reflected in the various wildlife havens of the region. There are many facilities provided, for tourists to enjoy a glimpse of the wildlife habitat.

Source: <https://www.telanganatourism.gov.in/partials/destinations/wild-life.html>

Q.9) “Ntangki National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Nagaland
- c) Tripura
- d) Meghalaya

ANS: B

Explanation: Located 40 km from the town of Peren and about 37 km from Dimapur is the Ntangki National Park also known as the Intanki by many.

- Spread over a distance of 200 sq km, this park was established by the British administrators in the year 1923.
- Considered one of the best National Parks in the North East, it has thick rain forests which creates natural habitat for many birds, reptiles and mammals.
- Mountains, cliffs and dense forests make it a great place for camping and other adventurous activities.
- Here in this National Park you can see wild buffaloes (mithun) and hoolok gibbon which is found only in Nagaland.
- Apart from this the park also boasts of tigers, sloth bear, wild dogs and flying squirrels, making it a must visit spot for any tourist coming to this district. The virgin nature of the park adds a lot to its beauty.

Source: <https://peren-district.nic.in/tourist-place/ntangki-national-park/>

Q.10) “Simlipal Tiger Reserve” is often seen in news is located at?

- a) Odisha
- b) Assam
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: A

Explanation: The Simlipal Tiger Reserves in Odisha underwent the massive fires recently. The wildfires broke in the biosphere reserve situated in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.

Similipal Tiger Reserve It is a tiger reserve situated in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha in the northern part. The reserve derives its name from Simul tree (silk cotton tree).

Source: FORUMIAS

Polity – The Preamble

Q.1) Which of the following country introduced the preamble for the first time?

- a) Netherlands
- b) United States of America
- c) France
- d) Britain

ANS: B

Explanation: The American Constitution was the first to begin with a Preamble. Many countries, including India, followed this practice. The term 'Preamble' refers to the introduction or preface to the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Preamble:

1. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the Objectives Resolution.
2. It was amended by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act (1978).

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 Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly.

It has been amended by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976), which added three new words—Socialist, Secular and Integrity.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following words is/are found in the preamble?

1. Justice
2. Equality
3. Fraternity

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

The Preamble in its present form reads:

“We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN *SOCIALIST SECULAR* DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, Social, Economic and Political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all; FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity *and integrity* of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION”.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Being a sovereign state, India can either acquire a foreign territory or cede a part of its territory in favor of a foreign state.
2. The Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism.

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 word ‘sovereign’ implies that India is neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation, but an independent state.

- There is no authority above it, and it is free to conduct its own affairs (both internal and external).
- Though in 1949, India declared the continuation of her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations and accepted the British Crown as the head of the Commonwealth, this extraconstitutional declaration does not affect India’s sovereignty in any manner.
- Further, India’s membership of the United Nations Organization (UNO) also in no way constitutes a limitation on her sovereignty.
- Being a sovereign state, India can either acquire a foreign territory or cede a part of its territory in favour of a foreign state.
- The Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism i.e., all religions in our country (irrespective of their strength) have the same status and support from the state.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following provisions of the Fundamental Rights ensure civic equality?

1. Article 14
2. Article 17
3. Article 18

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Preamble secures to all citizens of India equality of status and opportunity. This provision embraces three dimensions of equality—civic, political and economic. The following provisions of the chapter on Fundamental Rights ensure civic equality:

- Equality before the law (Article 14).
- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
- Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16).
- Abolition of untouchability (Article 17).
- Abolition of titles (Article 18).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 1 describes India, as a Federation of States.
2. Article 2 empowers the Parliament to admit or establish new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

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: Article 1 describes India, that is, Bharat as a 'Union of States' rather than a 'Federation of States'. This provision deals with two things: one, name of the country; and two, type of polity.

Article 2 empowers the Parliament to 'admit into the Union of India, or establish, new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit'.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following provision/s provided under Article 3?

1. Form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states.
2. Increase the area of any state.
3. Diminish the area of any state.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Article 3 authorizes the Parliament to:

- form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state;
- increase the area of any state;
- diminish the area of any state;
- alter the boundaries of any state; and
- alter the name of any state.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following are the members of Fazl Ali Commission?

- a) K.M. Panikkar and H.N. Kunzru
- b) K. M. Panikkar and S.K. Dhar
- c) S. K. Dhar and H.N. Kunzru
- d) H. N. Kunzru and Pattabhi Sitaramayya

ANS: A

Explanation: The creation of Andhra state intensified the demand from other regions for creation of states on linguistic basis.

- This forced the Government of India to appoint (in December, 1953) a threemember States Re-organisation Commission under the chairmanship of Fazl Ali to re-examine the whole question.
- Its other two members were K.M. Panikkar and H.N. Kunzru.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Which of the following Constitutional Amendment made Sikkim fully fledged state?

- a) 35th Constitutional Amendment
- b) 36th Constitutional Amendment
- c) 37th Constitutional Amendment
- d) 38th Constitutional Amendment

ANS: B

Explanation: Till 1947, Sikkim was an Indian princely state ruled by Chogyal. In 1947, after the lapse of British paramount, Sikkim became a 'protectorate' of India, whereby the Indian Government assumed responsibility for the defense, external affairs and communications of Sikkim.

- In 1974, Sikkim expressed its desire for greater association with India. Accordingly, the 35th Constitutional Amendment Act (1974) was enacted by the parliament.

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- This amendment introduced a new class of statehood under the constitution by conferring on Sikkim the status of an 'associate state' of the Indian Union.
- For this purpose, a new Article 2-A and a new schedule (10th Schedule containing the terms and conditions of association) were inserted in the Constitution.
- This experiment, however, did not last long as it could not fully satisfy the aspirations of the people of Sikkim.
- In a referendum held in 1975, they voted for the abolition of the institution of Chogyal and Sikkim becoming an integral part of India.
- Consequently, the 36th Constitutional Amendment Act (1975) was enacted to make Sikkim a full-fledged state of the Indian Union (the 22nd state).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution deals with the citizenship from Articles 5 to 11.
2. The Citizenship Act (1955) provides for acquisition and loss of citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution deals with the citizenship from Articles 5 to 11 under Part II. However, it contains neither any permanent nor any elaborate provisions in this regard.

- It only identifies the persons who became citizens of India at its commencement (i.e., on January 26, 1950).
- The Citizenship Act (1955) provides for acquisition and loss of citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.
- Originally, the Citizenship Act (1955) also provided for the Commonwealth Citizenship. But, this provision was repealed by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Fundamental Rights

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding fundamental rights:

1. The framers of the Constitution derived inspiration from the French Constitution to frame fundamental rights for Indians.
2. Part III of Indian constitution is related to fundamental rights.

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 Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35. In this regard, the framers of the Constitution derived inspiration from the Constitution of USA (i.e., Bill of Rights).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Fundamental Rights are guaranteed by the Constitution to all persons without any discrimination.
2. The Fundamental Rights are meant for promoting the ideal of political democracy.

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 Fundamental Rights are guaranteed by the Constitution to all persons without any discrimination.

- They uphold the equality of all individuals, the dignity of the individual, the larger public interest and unity of the nation.
- The Fundamental Rights are meant for promoting the ideal of political democracy.
- They prevent the establishment of an authoritarian and despotic rule in the country, and protect the liberties and freedoms of the people against the invasion by the State.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) The right to property fundamental right was deleted through which of the following amendment act?

- a) 1st Constitutional amendment act
- b) 9th Constitutional amendment act
- c) 42nd Constitutional amendment act
- d) 44th Constitutional amendment act

ANS: D

Explanation: The right to property was deleted from the list of Fundamental Rights by the 44th Amendment Act, 1978.

It is made a legal right under Article 300-A in Part XII of the Constitution. So at present, there are only six Fundamental Rights.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is/are feature/s of fundamental rights?

1. Some of them are available only to the citizens while others are available to all persons.
2. They are not qualified but absolute.
3. They are sacrosanct or permanent.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution are characterised by the following:

- Some of them are available only to the citizens while others are available to all persons whether citizens, foreigners or legal persons like corporations or companies.
- They are not absolute but qualified. The state can impose reasonable restrictions on them. However, whether such restrictions are reasonable or not is to be decided by the courts. Thus, they strike a balance between the rights of the individual and those of the society as a whole, between individual liberty and social control.
- All of them are available against the arbitrary action of the state. However, some of them are also available against the action of private individuals.
- Some of them are negative in character, that is, place limitations on the authority of the State, while others are positive in nature, conferring certain privileges on the persons.
- They are justiciable, allowing persons to move the courts for their enforcement, if and when they are violated.
- They are defended and guaranteed by the Supreme Court. Hence, the aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court, not necessarily by way of appeal against the judgement of the high courts.
- They are not sacrosanct or permanent. The Parliament can curtail or repeal them but only by a constitutional amendment act and not by an ordinary act. Moreover, this can be done without affecting the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Fundamental rights can be suspended during the operation of a National Emergency except the rights guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21.
2. The six rights guaranteed by Article 19 can be suspended only when emergency is declared on 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: A

Explanation: Fundamental rights can be suspended during the operation of a National Emergency except the rights guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21.

Further, the six rights guaranteed by Article 19 can be suspended only when emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression (i.e., external emergency) and not on the ground of armed rebellion (i.e., internal emergency).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is/are covered under the definition of state (Article 12)?

1. Executive
2. Legislature
3. Statutory authorities

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The term 'State' has been used in different provisions concerning the fundamental rights. Hence, Article 12 has defined the term for the purposes of Part III.

According to it, the State includes the following:

- Government and Parliament of India, that is, executive and legislative organs of the Union government.
- Government and legislature of states, that is, executive and legislative organs of state government.
- All local authorities that is, municipalities, panchayats, district boards, improvement trusts, etc.
- All other authorities, that is, statutory or non-statutory authorities like LIC, ONGC, SAIL, etc.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following is/are covered under definition of law (Article 13)?

1. Permanent laws enacted by the Parliament.
2. Temporary laws like ordinances issued by the President.
3. Delegated legislation.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Article 13 declares that all laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of any of the fundamental rights shall be void. In other words, it expressly provides for the doctrine of judicial review.

This power has been conferred on the Supreme Court (Article 32) and the high court's (Article 226) that can declare a law unconstitutional and invalid on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights.

The term 'law' in Article 13 has been given a wide connotation so as to include the following:

- Permanent laws enacted by the Parliament or the state legislatures;
- Temporary laws like ordinances issued by the president or the state governors;
- Statutory instruments in the nature of delegated legislation (executive legislation) like order, bye-law, rule, regulation or notification; and
- Non-legislative sources of law, that is, custom or usage having the force of law.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following is not part of Right to freedom?

- a) Protection in respect of conviction for offences
- b) Protection of life and personal liberty
- c) Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
- d) Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases

ANS: C

Explanation:

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Right to freedom (Articles 19–22)	(a) Protection of six rights regarding freedom of: (i) speech and expression, (ii) assembly, (iii) association, (iv) movement, (v) residence, and (vi) profession (Article 19). (b) Protection in respect of conviction for offences (Article 20). (c) Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21). (d) Right to elementary education (Article 21A). (e) Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases (Article 22).
Right against exploitation (Articles 23–24)	(a) Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23). (b) Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc. (Article 24).
Right to freedom of religion (Article 25–28)	(a) Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion (Article 25). (b) Freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 26). (c) Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion (Article 27). (d) Freedom from attending

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) “Mandal Commission” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Reservation
- b) Judicial writs
- c) Child labor
- d) Taxes

ANS: A

Explanation: In 1979, the Morarji Desai Government appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission under the chairmanship of B.P. Mandal, a Member of Parliament, in terms of Article 340 of the Constitution to investigate the conditions of the socially and educationally backward classes and suggest measures for their advancement.

- The commission submitted its report in 1980 and identified as many as 3743 castes as socially and educationally backward classes.
- They constitute nearly 52% component of the population, excluding the scheduled castes (SCs) and the scheduled tribes (STs).
- The commission recommended for reservation of 27% government jobs for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) so that the total reservation for all ((SCs, STs and OBCs) amounts to 50%.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

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Q.10) Which of the following article is related protection against arbitrary and excessive punishment to an accused person?

- a) Article 19
- b) Article 20
- c) Article 22
- d) Article 23

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 20 grants protection against arbitrary and excessive punishment to an accused person, whether citizen or foreigner or legal person like a company or a corporation.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Fundamental Duties

Q.1) Which of the following right/s confer to a person under article 22?

1. Right to be informed of the grounds of arrest.
2. Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner.
3. Right to be produced before a magistrate within 48 hours including the journey time.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Article 22 has two parts—the first part deals with the cases of ordinary law and the second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law.

The first part of Article 22 confers the following rights on a person who is arrested or detained under an ordinary law:

- Right to be informed of the grounds of arrest.
- Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner.
- Right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours including the journey time.
- Right to be released after 24 hours unless the magistrate authorizes further detention.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is/are preventive laws enacted by parliament of India?

1. National Security Act.
2. Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.
3. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The preventive detention laws made by the Parliament are:

- Preventive Detention Act, 1950. Expired in 1969.
- Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), 1971. Repealed in 1978.
- Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974.
- National Security Act (NASA), 1980.
- Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act (PBMSECA), 1980.
- Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA), 1985. Repealed in 1995.
- Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PITNDPSA), 1988.

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- Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2002. Repealed in 2004.
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, as amended in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2019.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following right/s confer upon religious denomination under article 26?

1. Right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes.
2. Right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion.
3. Right to own and acquire movable and immovable property.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: According to Article 26, every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the following rights:

- Right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;
- Right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;
- Right to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and
- Right to administer such property in accordance with law.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following article called by Dr. Ambedkar, “an Article without which this constitution would be a nullity, It is the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it”?

- a) Article 14
- b) Article 21
- c) Article 24
- d) Article 32

ANS: D

Explanation: A mere declaration of fundamental rights in the Constitution is meaningless, useless and worthless without providing effective machinery for their enforcement, if and when they are violated.

- Hence, Article 32 confers the right to remedies for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen.
- In other words, the right to get the Fundamental Rights protected is in itself a fundamental right. This makes the fundamental rights real.
- That is why Dr. Ambedkar called Article 32 as the most important article of the Constitution—‘an Article without which this constitution would be a nullity. It is the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it’.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that Article 32 is a basic feature of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):

1. Part IV of the constitution is related to DPSP.
2. DPSP are borrowed from the Irish Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Directive Principles of State Policy are enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution from Articles 36 to 51.

- The framers of the Constitution borrowed this idea from the Irish Constitution of 1937, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described these principles as 'novel features' of the Indian Constitution.
- The Directive Principles along with the Fundamental Rights contain the philosophy of the Constitution and is the soul of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following provisions of Constitution is related to "Instrument of Instructions"?

- a) Preamble
- b) Fundamental Rights
- c) Directive Principles of State policy
- d) Both B and C

ANS: C

Explanation: The Directive Principles resemble the 'Instrument of Instructions' enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935.

- In the words of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 'the Directive Principles are like the instrument of instructions, which were issued to the Governor-General and to the Governors of the colonies of India by the British Government under the Government of India Act of 1935.
- What is called Directive Principles is merely another name for the instrument of instructions. The only difference is that they are instructions to the legislature and the executive'.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following provision/s is/are covered under article 39?

1. The right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens.
2. The equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good.
3. Equal pay for equal work for men and women.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Socialistic principles reflect the ideology of socialism. They lay down the framework of a democratic socialist state, aim at providing social and economic justice, and set the path towards welfare state. They direct the state: To secure

- the right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens;
- the equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good;
- prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production;
- equal pay for equal work for men and women;
- preservation of the health and strength of workers and children against forcible abuse; and
- opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) “To promote international peace and security and maintain just and honorable relations between nations” is related to which of the following?

- a) Article 40
- b) Article 41
- c) Article 48
- d) Article 51

ANS: D

Explanation: To promote international peace and security and maintain just and honorable relations between nations; to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, and to encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration (Article 51).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Which of the following Directive Principles is/are added under 42nd Amendment Act?

1. To secure opportunities for healthy development of children.
2. To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor.
3. To minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added four new Directive Principles to the original list. They require the State:

- To secure opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39).

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- To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor (Article 39 A).
 - To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).
 - To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life (Article 48 A).
- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 added one more Directive Principle, which requires the State to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities (Article 38).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Which of the following amendment act added a new directive principle related to cooperative societies?

- a) 75th Amendment act
- b) 79th Amendment act
- c) 86th Amendment act
- d) 97th Amendment act

ANS: D

Explanation: The 97th Amendment Act of 2011 added a new Directive Principle relating to cooperative societies.

It requires the state to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies (Article 43B).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Amendment of Constitution

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding fundamental duties:

1. The Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of French.
2. The original constitution has ten fundamental duties.

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 rights and duties of the citizens are correlative and inseparable; the original constitution contained only the fundamental rights and not the fundamental duties.

- In other words, the framers of the Constitution did not feel it necessary to incorporate the fundamental duties of the citizens in the Constitution.
- However, they incorporated the duties of the State in the Constitution in the form of Directive Principles of State Polity.
- Later in 1976, the fundamental duties of citizens were added in the Constitution. In 2002, one more Fundamental Duty was added.
- The Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of erstwhile USSR.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding fundamental duties:

1. Sardar Swaran Singh Committee was set up in 1976 to make recommendations about fundamental duties.
2. The 44th Constitutional Amendment act, 1978 was enacted to add a new part on fundamental duties.

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: 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.

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- 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.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) “Article 51A” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Preamble
- b) Fundamental Rights
- c) Directive Principle of State Policy
- d) Fundamental Duties

ANS: D

Explanation: The Congress Government at Centre accepted Swaran Singh Committee 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.
- The ruling Congress party declared the non-inclusion of fundamental duties in the Constitution as a historical mistake and claimed that what the framers of the Constitution failed to do was being done now.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) “To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years” this duty was added by which of the following constitutional amendment?

- a) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act
- b) 44th Constitutional Amendment Act
- c) 76th Constitutional Amendment Act
- d) 86th Constitutional Amendment Act

ANS: D

Explanation: To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) The term “Basic Structure” was came into effect by which of the following?

- a) Keshavananda Bharati case
- b) Minerva mills case
- c) Shah Bano case
- d) Waman rao case

ANS: A

Explanation: The Parliament cannot amend those provisions which form the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution. This was ruled by the Supreme Court in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding amendment of the constitution:

1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
2. The bill requires prior permission of the president.

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 procedure for the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368 is as follows:

- 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 of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following provision/s is/are amended through simple majority?

1. Admission or establishment of new states.
2. Second Schedule.
3. Directive Principles of State Policy.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. These provisions include:

- Admission or establishment of new states.
- Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.
- Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
- Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following provision/s is/are amended through special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures?

1. Election of the President and its manner.
2. Supreme Court and high courts.
3. Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority.

If one or some or all the remaining states take no action on the bill, it does not matter; the moment half of the states give their consent, the formality is completed.

There is no time limit within which the states should give their consent to the bill. The following provisions can be amended in this way:

- Election of the President and its manner.
- Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
- Supreme Court and high courts.
- Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
- Goods and Services Tax Council.
- Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
- Representation of states in Parliament.
- Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Which of the following is/are element/s of the “basic structure” of the constitution?

1. Supremacy of the Constitution.
2. Secular character of the Constitution.
3. Federal character of the Constitution.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The present position is that the Parliament under Article 368 can amend any part of the Constitution including the Fundamental Rights but without affecting the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution.

However, the Supreme Court is yet to define or clarify as to what constitutes the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution.

From the various judgments, the following have emerged as ‘basic features’ of the Constitution or elements of the ‘basic structure’ of the constitution:

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- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity
- Secular character of the Constitution
- Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary
- Federal character of the Constitution
- Unity and integrity of the nation
- Welfare state (socio-economic justice)

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Part IVA” of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Fundamental Rights
- b) Directive Principle of State Policy
- c) Fundamental Duties
- d) Emergency Provisions

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 Polity

Polity – Centre – Form of Government, State Relations

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary form of government, both at the Centre and in the states.
2. In Parliamentary system the executive is responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts.

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 Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary form of government, both at the Centre and in the states.

- Articles 74 and 75 deal with the parliamentary system at the Centre and Articles 163 and 164 in the states.
- Modern democratic governments are classified into parliamentary and presidential on the basis of nature of relations between the executive and the legislative organs of the government.
- The parliamentary system of government is the one in which the executive is responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts.
- The presidential system of government, on the other hand, is one in which the executive is not responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts, and is constitutionally independent of the legislature in respect of its term of office.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is/are feature/s of parliamentary government in India?

1. The President is both nominal and real executive.
2. Majority party rule.
3. Collective responsibility.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The features or principles of parliamentary government in India are:

Nominal and Real Executives: The President is the nominal executive (de jure executive or titular executive) while the Prime Minister is the real executive (de facto executive).

- Thus, the President is head of the State, while the Prime Minister is head of the government.

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- Article 74 provides for a council of ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. The advice so tendered is binding on the President.

Majority Party Rule: The political party which secures majority seats in the Lok Sabha forms the government.

- The leader of that party is appointed as the Prime Minister by the President; other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the prime minister.
- However, when no single party gets the majority, a coalition of parties may be invited by the President to form the government.

Collective Responsibility: This is the bedrock principle of parliamentary government. The ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament in general and to the Lok Sabha in particular (Article 75).

- They act as a team, and swim and sink together. The principle of collective responsibility implies that the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry (i.e., council of ministers headed by the prime minister) from office by passing a vote of no confidence.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are feature/s of presidential system of government?

1. Non – responsibility.
2. Single membership.
3. Fusion of powers.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

Parliamentary System	Presidential System
<i>Features:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dual executive.2. Majority party rule3. Collective responsibility.4. Political homogeneity5. Double membership.6. Leadership of prime minister.7. Dissolution of Lower House.8. Fusion of powers.	<i>Features:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Single executive.2. President and legislators elected separately for a fixed term.3. Non-responsibility4. Political homogeneity may not exist.5. Single membership6. Domination of president.7. No dissolution of Lower House.8. Separation of powers.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following country/countries is/are following federal model of government?

1. Switzerland
2. Japan
3. Spain

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Political scientists have classified governments into unitary and federal on the basis of the nature of relations between the national government and the regional governments.

- By definition, a unitary government is one in which all the powers are vested in the national government and the regional governments, if at all exist, derive their authority from the national government.
- A federal government, on the other hand, is one in which powers are divided between the national government and the regional governments by the Constitution itself and both operate in their respective jurisdictions independently.
- Britain, France, Japan, China, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Spain and so on have the unitary model of government while the US, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Russia, Brazil, Argentina and so on have the federal model of government.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following is/are feature/s of federal government?

1. Written Constitution
2. Rigid Constitution
3. Supremacy of the Constitution

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

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Federal Government	Unitary Government
1. Dual Government (that is, national government and regional government)	1. Single government, that is, the national government which may create regional governments
2. Written Constitution	2. Constitution may be written (France) or unwritten (Britain)
3. Division of powers between the national and regional government	3. No division of powers. All powers are vested in the national government
4. Supremacy of the Constitution	4. Constitution may be supreme (Japan) or may not be supreme (Britain)
5. Rigid Constitution	5. Constitution may be rigid (France) or flexible (Britain)
6. Independent judiciary	6. Judiciary may be independent or may not be independent
7. Bicameral legislature	7. Legislature may be bicameral (Britain) or unicameral (China)

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The USA is the first and the oldest federation in the world.
2. The term “federation” has no where been used in the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: A federation can be formed in two ways, that is, by way of integration or by way of disintegration.

- In the first case, a number of militarily weak or economically backward states (independent) come together to form a big and a strong union, as for example, the US.
- In the second case, a big unitary state is converted into a federation by granting autonomy to the provinces to promote regional interest (for example, Canada).
- The US is the first and the oldest federation in the world. It was formed in 1787 following the American Revolution (1775–83).
- It comprises 50 states (originally 13 states) and is taken as the model of federation.
- The Canadian Federation, comprising 10 provinces (originally 4 provinces) is also quite old–formed in 1867.
- The Constitution of India provides for a federal system of government in the country.
- The framers adopted the federal system due to two main reasons–the large size of the country and its sociocultural diversity.

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- They realized that the federal system not only ensures the efficient governance of the country but also reconciles national unity with regional autonomy.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Who among the following described the Constitution of India as “quasi-federal”?

- a) KC Wheare
- b) Ivor Jennings
- c) Paul Appleby
- d) Morris Jones

ANS: A

Explanation: It is clear that the Constitution of India has deviated from the traditional federal systems like US, Switzerland and Australia and incorporated a large number of unitary or nonfederal features, tilting the balance of power in favour of the Centre.

- This has prompted the Constitutional experts to challenge the federal character of the Indian Constitution. Thus, KC Wheare described the Constitution of India as “quasi-federal”.
- He remarked that “Indian Union is a unitary state with subsidiary federal features rather than a federal state with subsidiary unitary features.”

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent List from State List. Which of the following is/are transferred subject/s?

1. Education
2. Forests
3. Land

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent List from State List, that is,

- education,
- forests,
- weights and measures,
- protection of wild animals and birds, and
- Administration of justice; constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Which of the following act/s is/are passed by centre on request of states?

1. Prize Competition Act, 1955
2. Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
3. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: When the legislatures of two or more states pass resolutions requesting the Parliament to enact laws on a matter in the State List, then the Parliament can make laws for regulating that matter.

- Some examples of laws passed under the above provision are Prize Competition Act, 1955; Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;
- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976; and Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) In which of the following ways Centre exercise control over the state's legislative matters?

1. The governor can reserve certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President.
2. Bills on certain matters enumerated in the State List can be introduced in the state legislature only with the previous sanction of the president.
3. The Centre can direct the states to reserve money bills and other financial bills passed by the state legislature for the President's consideration during a financial emergency.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Besides the Parliament's power to legislate directly on the state subjects under the exceptional situations, the Constitution empowers the Centre to exercise control over the state's legislative matters in the following ways:

- (i) The governor can reserve certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President. The president enjoys absolute veto over them.
- (ii) Bills on certain matters enumerated in the State List can be introduced in the state legislature only with the previous sanction of the president. (For example, the bills imposing restrictions on the freedom of trade and commerce).
- (iii) The Centre can direct the states to reserve money bills and other financial bills passed by the state legislature for the President's consideration during a financial emergency.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Central Government

Q.1) “Rajamannar Committee” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Appointment of President
- b) Formation of State Finance Commission
- c) Centre – State relations
- d) Formation of Cabinet Committees

ANS: C

Explanation: In 1969, the Tamil Nadu Government (DMK) appointed a threemember committee under the chairmanship of Dr. P.V. Rajamannar to examine the entire question of Centre-state relations and to suggest amendments to the Constitution so as to secure utmost autonomy to the states.

The committee submitted its report to the Tamil Nadu Government in 1971.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is/are recommendation/s of sarkaria commission while appointing governor?

- 1. He should be eminent in some walk of life.
- 2. He should be a person from outside the state.
- 3. He should be a detached figure and not too intimately connected with the local politics of the state.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: While selecting Governors, the Central Government should adopt the following strict guidelines as recommended in the Sarkaria Commission report and follow its mandate in letter and spirit:

- (i) He should be eminent in some walk of life
- (ii) He should be a person from outside the state
- (iii) He should be a detached figure and not too intimately connected with the local politics of the state
- (iv) He should be a person who has not taken too great a part politics generally and particularly in the recent past

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) “Article 263” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Inter – State council
- b) Zonal council
- c) Goods & Services Tax council
- d) Joint Administrative Forum

ANS: A

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 Polity

Q.4) “Article 301” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse
- b) Contracts
- c) Borrowing by States
- d) Administrative tribunals

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 301 declares that trade; commerce and intercourse throughout the territory of India shall be free.

- The object of this provision is to break down the border barriers between the states and to create one unit with a view to encourage the free flow of trade, commerce and intercourse in the country.
- The freedom under this provision is not confined to interstate trade, commerce and intercourse but also extends to intra-state trade, commerce and intercourse.
- Thus, Article 301 will be violated whether restrictions are imposed at the frontier of any state or at any prior or subsequent stage.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “zonal councils”:

1. They are established by States Re-organization Act of 1956.
2. States Re-organization Act divided the country into five zones and provided a zonal council for each zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Re-organization Act of 1956.

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- The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- While forming these zones, several factors have been taken into account which includes: the natural divisions of the country, the river systems and means of communication, the cultural and linguistic affinity and the requirements of economic development, security and law and order.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “National Emergency”:

1. Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency.
2. The proclamation of Emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month from the date of its issue.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: 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 proclamation of Emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month from the date of its issue.
- Originally, the period allowed for approval by the Parliament was two months, but was reduced by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) “Article 356” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) President rule
- b) Financial emergency
- c) Suspension of provisions of article 19 during emergencies
- d) Effect of Proclamation of Emergency

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’.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) “Part V” is related to which of the following?

- a) The Union
- b) The States
- c) The Union Territories
- d) The Panchayats

ANS: A

Explanation: The articles 52 to 78 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the Union executive.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Which of the following is/are consist/s of Union Executive?

- 1. President
- 2. Prime Minister
- 3. Attorney General

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

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

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding financial emergency:

- 1. Article 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency.
- 2. It does not come under the purview of 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 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.

- The 38th Amendment Act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the president in declaring a Financial Emergency final and conclusive and not questionable 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.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity – Revision

Q.1) Which of the following member/s is/are participating President Election?

1. Elected members of Lok Sabha
2. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha
3. Members of state legislative councils

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: 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.

Where an assembly is dissolved, the members cease to be qualified to vote in presidential election, even if fresh elections to the dissolved assembly are not held before the presidential election.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is/are qualification/s for election as President?

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. He should have completed 35 years of age.
3. He should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: A person to be eligible for election as President should fulfill the following qualifications:

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should have completed 35 years of age.
- He should be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.

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- He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.

A sitting President or Vice President of the Union, the Governor of any state and a minister of the Union or any state is not deemed to hold any office of profit and hence qualified as a presidential candidate.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Who among the following President of India was appointed as president without election?

- N. Sanjeeva Reddy
- V.V. Giri
- Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
- Giani Zail Singh

ANS: A

Explanation:

			secured (%)		secured (%)
1.	1952	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	507400 (83.81)	K.T. Shah	92827 (15.3)
2.	1957	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	459698 (99.35)	N.N. Das	2000 (0.4)
3.	1962	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	553067 (98.24)	Ch.Hari Ram	6341 (1.1)
4.	1967	Dr. Zakir Hussain	471244 (56.23)	K. Subba Rao	363971 (43.4)
5.	1969	V.V. Giri	420077 (50.22)	N. Sanjeeva Reddy	405427 (48.5)
6.	1974	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	756587 (80.18)	Tridev Chaudhuri	189186 (19.8)
7.	1977	N. Sanjeeva Reddy	—	Unopposed	—
8.	1982	Giani Zail Singh	754113 (72.73)	H.R. Khanna	282685 (27.6)

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Who among the following is/are appointed by President of India?

1. Comptroller and Auditor general of India
2. Chief Election Commissioner
3. Attorney General of India

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: President appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India, the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners, the attorney general, the chairman and

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members of the Union Public Service Commission, the governors of states, the chairman and members of finance commission, and so on.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following member/s is/are participating Vice President Election?

1. Elected members of Lok Sabha
2. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha
3. Elected members of State Legislative Assembly

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Vice-President, like the president, is elected not directly by the people but by the method of indirect election.

- He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- Thus, this Electoral College is different from the Electoral College for the election of the President in the following two respects:
- It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament (in the case of president, only elected members).
- It does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies (in the case of President, the elected members of the state legislative assemblies are included).

Explaining the reason for this difference, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar observed: The President is the head of the State and his power extends both to the administration by the Centre as well as to the states.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Who among the following Vice President of India is/are appointed as Vice President without election?

1. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
2. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma
3. M. Hidayatullah

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

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Sl. No.	Election Year	Victorious Candidate	No. of Votes secured	Runner-up Candidate	No. of Votes secured
1.	1952	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	–	Unopposed	–
2.	1957	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	–	Unopposed	–
3.	1962	Dr. Zakir Hussain	568	N. Samant Singh	14
4.	1967	V.V. Giri	486	Prof. Habib	192
5.	1969	G.S. Pathak	400	H.V. Kamath	156
6.	1974	B.D. Jatti	521	N.E. Horo	141
7.	1979	M. Hidayatullah	–	unopposed	–
8.	1984	R. Venkataraman	508	B.C. Kambley	207
9.	1987	Dr. Shankar	–	unopposed	–

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding functions of Vice President:

1. He acts as the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
2. He acts as President when a vacancy occurs in the office of the President.

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 functions of Vice-President are two-fold:

- He acts as the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. In this capacity, his powers and functions are similar to those of the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- In this respect, he resembles the American vice-president who also acts as the Chairman of the Senate—the Upper House of the American legislature.
- He acts as President when a vacancy occurs in the office of the President due to his resignation, impeachment, and death or otherwise.
- He can act as President only for a maximum period of six months within which a new President has to be elected.
- Further, when the sitting President is unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause, the Vice-President discharges his functions until the President resumes his office.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding functions of Prime Minister:

1. He recommends persons who can be appointed as ministers by the president.
2. He guides, directs, controls, and coordinates the activities of all the ministers.

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 Prime Minister enjoys the following powers as head of the Union council of ministers:

- He recommends persons who can be appointed as ministers by the president. The President can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Prime Minister.
- He allocates and reshuffles various portfolios among the ministers.
- He can ask a minister to resign or advise the President to dismiss him in case of difference of opinion.
- He presides over the meeting of council of ministers and influences its decisions.
- He guides, directs, controls, and coordinates the activities of all the ministers.
- He can bring about the collapse of the council of ministers by resigning from office.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding appointment of council of ministers:

1. The council of ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
2. A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can also be appointed as a minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, while the other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

- This means that the President can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Prime minister.
- Usually, the members of Parliament, either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, are appointed as ministers.
- A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can also be appointed as a minister.
- But, within six months, he must become a member (either by election or by nomination) of either House of Parliament; otherwise, he ceases to be a minister.
- A minister who is a member of one House of Parliament has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of the other House also, but he can vote only in the House of which he is a member.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Which of the following is/are feature/s of Cabinet Committees?

1. They are extra-constitutional.
2. They are of two types—standing and ad hoc.
3. They are set up by the President on the advice of Prime Minister.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The following are the features of Cabinet Committees:

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

Source: Laxmikanth Polity