

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

30th Jan to 5th Feb 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

Science

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI)”:

1. The islands are governed as a single Union Territory by the Central Government of India.
2. They are also home to India’s only integrated tri-service command of the armed forces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The entire island chain consists of 836 islands including islets and rocky outcrops, of which some 38 are permanently inhabited.

- The islands are governed as a single Union Territory by the Central Government of India, through the Andaman Nicobar Administration.
- The ANI are also home to India’s only integrated tri-service command of the armed forces—the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) for maritime surveillance and enhancing India’s strategic presence in the eastern Indian Ocean.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The 6th edition of bilateral exercise, ‘Eastern BridgeVI’ Air Force Exercise is taking place between India and?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Yemen
- c) Oman
- d) Bangladesh

ANS: C

Explanation: The 6th edition of bilateral exercise, ‘Eastern BridgeVI’ Air Force Exercise is taking place between India and Oman at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) In which of the following area/s, additive manufacturing is/are used?

1. Automotive sector
2. Consumer products
3. Aerospace sector

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: AM is a process in which a three-dimensional object is built from a computer-aided design (CAD) model, usually by successively adding materials in a layer-by-layer fashion.

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- The addition of material can happen in multiple ways, namely power deposition, resin curing, filament fusing.
- Additive Manufacturing, market globally focused on the sectors including automotive, consumer products, medical, business machines, aerospace, government/military, academic and others.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and which of the following institute, successfully demonstrated a Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link for a distance of 100 Km?

- IIT Delhi
- IIT Kanpur
- IIT Madras
- IIT Guwahati

ANS: A

Explanation: Scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and IIT Delhi successfully demonstrated a Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link for a distance of 100 Km between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh.

- It is a secure communication technology that uses quantum physics to construct a cryptographic protocol.
- It allows two parties to generate a shared secret key that is only known to them and can be used to encrypt and decrypt messages, thus achieving a very highly secure communication.
- In traditional cryptography, the security is usually based on the fact that an adversary is unable to solve a certain mathematical problem while in QKD, security is achieved through the laws of quantum physics.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO)” project, often seen in news is proposed to establish at?

- Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh
- Karnataka
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands

ANS: A

Explanation: Tamil Nadu government has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that it would not permit the proposed INO at Bodi West Hills in Theni district.

- INO is a multi-institutional effort aimed at building a world-class underground laboratory and an Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector for studying neutrinos.
- It aims to assess the properties of neutrino particles and to make precision measurements of the parameters related to neutrino oscillations.
- It is jointly funded by the Dept. of Atomic Energy and the Dept. of Science and Technology.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “PARAM PRAVEGA”, often seen in news is related to?

- a) Super Computer
- b) Ballistic Missile
- c) Frigates
- d) Submarine

ANS: A

Explanation: Param Pravega is one of the most powerful super-computers in India, and the largest in an Indian academic institution.

It was installed and commissioned by Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) India’s first graphene innovation center established at which of the following place?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: India’s first graphene innovation center to be established in Thrissur, Kerala. Graphene is the thinnest and strongest material in the world and has good chemical stability, high electrical conductivity and a large surface area while being transparent and lightweight.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Parker Solar Probe”, often seen in news is launched by?

- a) NASA
- b) European Space Agency
- c) JAXA
- d) Roscosmos

ANS: A

Explanation: Parker Solar Probe Launched by NASA in 2018. Using data from PSP, scientists were able to peer beneath Venus' thick atmosphere to take the first visible light images of the surface.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The Maiden edition of IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX22) was conducted at?

- a) Goa
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

ANS: A

Explanation: Maiden edition of IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX22) was conducted at Goa and in Arabian Sea with the aim to enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.

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IONS, established in 2007, is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “EX-DUSTLIK” exercise is conducted between India and which of the following?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Iran
- d) Iraq

ANS: B

Explanation: EX-DUSTLIK, the third edition of the India - Uzbekistan exercise was conducted in Uzbekistan.

Source: FORUMIAS

Science

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Financial Action Task Force (FATF)”:

1. It is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing.
2. FATF's decision making body meets three times per 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: Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

- It has 39 members so far, including India. FATF's decision making body, the FATF Plenary, meets three times per year.
- FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) In which of the following area/s, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is/are in operation?

1. Assam
2. Meghalaya
3. Tripura

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: AFSPA grants extra-ordinary powers and immunity to the armed forces to bring back order in the “disturbed areas”.

- An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- Presently, AFSPA is operational in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Nagaland, Manipur (except Imphal Municipal area) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) VARUNA is a bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) Britain
- d) Italy

ANS: B

Explanation: VARUNA: It is a bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “HELINA”, often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Nuclear reactor
- b) Helicopter based missile
- c) Hybrid railway engine
- d) Space booster

ANS: B

Explanation: HELINA (Helicopter based NAG) is third generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

The system has all weather day and night capability. It can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as explosive reactive armour.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following para – military force launched the “Operation Sard Hawa”?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) SSB
- d) ITBP

ANS: A

Explanation: Border Security Force (BSF) launched operation ‘Sard Hawa’ at the international border of Rajasthan, under which vigil will be beefed-up to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog in the area.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The term “Vikrant” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Aircraft Carrier
- b) Submarine
- c) Indigenous commercial aircraft
- d) Frigate

ANS: A

Explanation: Vikrant, a STOBAR (short take-off but arrested landing) aircraft carrier, has an indigenous content of 76%.

- Designed by the Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Design, Vikrant has been built at the state-owned Cochin Shipyard Limited.

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- Apart from India, only US, UK, Russia, France and China have the capability to build aircraft carriers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Pinaka-ER”, is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Surface to air missile
- b) Submarine based missile
- c) Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System
- d) Torpedo

ANS: C

Explanation: Pinaka-ER Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System (MBRLS) was successfully tested at Pokharan range.

- New Pinaka ER gives it a range of around 70 km, over the 45 km existing range of the missile. Pinaka can fire a salvo of 12 rockets over a period of 44 seconds.
- It has been designed by DRDO Armament Research and Development Establishment laboratory and Pune-based High Energy Materials Research Laboratory.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Agni – Prime”:

1. It is the sixth missile in the Agni series.
2. It has a range of 2,000 to 3,000 kilometres.

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: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' from APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha in Balasore.

It is the sixth missile in the Agni series; it has a range of 1,000-2,000 kilometres making it capable of covering vital targets all across Pakistan.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Pralay Missile”:

1. It is an indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile.
2. It has a range of 150-500 kilometres with an accuracy of less than 10 metres.

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: Pralay: Indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile. Has a range of 150-500 kilometres with an accuracy of less than 10 metres.

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Has a guidance system that includes state-of-the-art navigation mechanisms and integrated avionics.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The term “ASIGMA”, is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Messaging service
- b) Missile system
- c) Radar system
- d) Sound system

ANS: A

Explanation: Army Secure Indigenous Messaging Application (ASIGMA) is an in-house messaging service to meet real time data transfer and messaging requirements of the Army.

- It is being deployed on the Army’s internal network as a replacement of Army Wide Area Network (AWAN) messaging application.
- It has a variety of contemporary features including multi-level security, message prioritisation and tracking, dynamic global address book and various options to meet the Army’s requirements.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Society

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding demography:

1. It studies the trends and processes associated with population.
2. The term is of Greek origin and is composed of the two words, demos (people) and graphein (describe).

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: Demography is the systematic study of population. The term is of Greek origin and is composed of the two words, demos (people) and graphein (describe), implying the description of people.

Demography studies the trends and processes associated with population including – changes in population size; patterns of births, deaths, and migration; and the structure and composition of the population, such as the relative proportions of women, men and different age groups.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about Census?

1. The American census of 1790 was probably the first modern census of the World.
2. In India, first censuses were conducted by the British Indian government between 1857-62.
3. In India, first decennial censuses have been conducted since 1881.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The practice of the collection of social statistics by the state is in itself much older, but it acquired its modern form towards the end of the eighteenth century.

- The American census of 1790 was probably the first modern census, and the practice was soon taken up in Europe as well in the early 1800s.
- In India, censuses began to be conducted by the British Indian government between 1867-72, and regular ten yearly (or decennial) censuses have been conducted since 1881.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) The “Essay on Population” was written by which of the following?

- a) Thomas Robert Malthus
- b) Adam Smith
- c) David Ricardo
- d) John Marshall

ANS: A

Explanation: Among the most famous theories of demography is the one associated with the English political economist Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834).

Malthus’s theory of population growth – outlined in his Essay on Population (1798) – was a rather pessimistic one.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) What is the age-group of higher proportion of working population required for Demographic Dividend?

- a) 10 – 30
- b) 15 – 64
- c) 20 – 40
- d) 25 – 64

ANS: B

Explanation: The dependency ratio is a measure comparing the portion of a population which is composed of dependents (i.e., elderly people who are too old to work, and children who are too young to work) with the portion that is in the working age group, generally defined as 15 to 64 years.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) In which of the following period, population growth rate in India was reported negative?

- a) 1901 – 11
- b) 1911 – 21
- c) 1921 – 31
- d) 1931 – 41

ANS: B

Explanation: Between 1901–1951 the average annual growth rate did not exceed 1.33%, a modest rate of growth. In fact between 1911 and 1921 there was a negative rate of growth of – 0.03%.

This was because of the influenza epidemic during 1918–19 which killed about 12.5 million persons or 5% of the total population of the country.

Source: NCERT

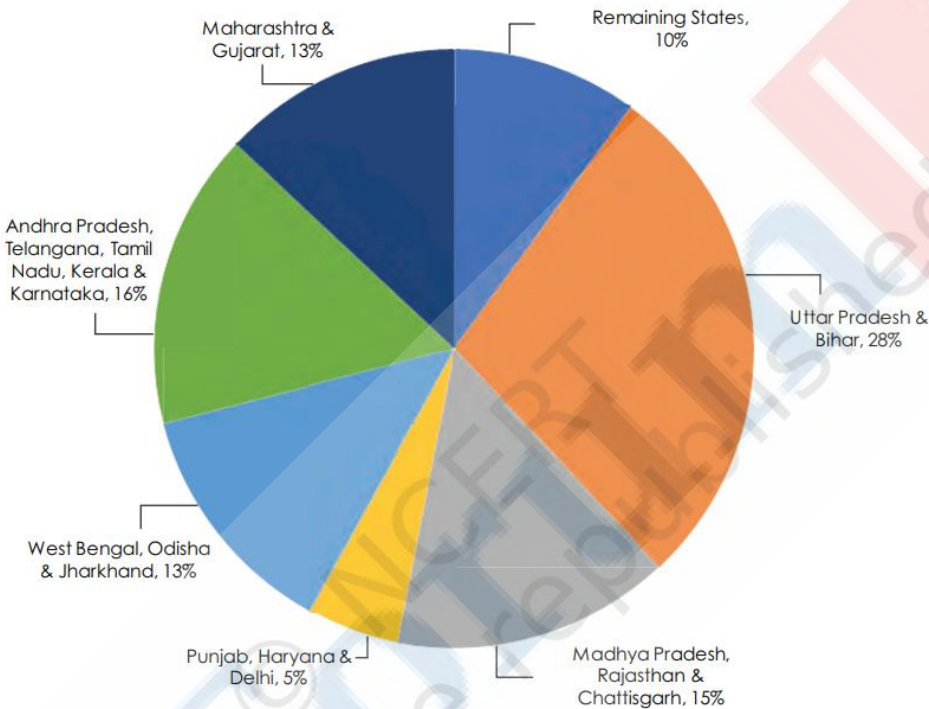
Q.6) Which of the following states will have highest share of population by 2041?

- a) Uttar Pradesh & Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan
- c) West Bengal & Odisha
- d) Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu

ANS: A

Explanation:

**CHART 2: REGIONAL SHARES OF PROJECTED POPULATION
GROWTH UPTO 2041**



Source: NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following country was the first to announce family planning explicitly?

- a) USA
- b) France
- c) India
- d) China

ANS: B

Explanation: In fact, India was perhaps the first country to explicitly announce such a policy in 1952.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following goal/s is/are correct about National Health Policy, 2017?

1. Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
2. Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.
3. Reduce neo-natal mortality to 16 and still birth rate to “single digit” by 2025.

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: Important Goals of National Health Policy 2017:

- Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 2.5 % by 2025.
- Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- Establish regular tracking of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) Index as a measure of burden of disease and its trends by major categories by 2022.
- Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.
- Reduce less than Five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and Maternal Mortality Rate from current levels to 100 by 2020.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Varna is the name given to a four-fold division of society.
2. Jati is a generic term referring to species or kinds of anything, ranging from inanimate objects to plants, animals and human beings.

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: As is well-known, the English word ‘caste’ is actually a borrowing from the Portuguese casta, meaning pure breed.

- The word refers to a broad institutional arrangement that in Indian languages (beginning with the ancient Sanskrit) is referred to by two distinct terms, varna and jati.
- Varna, literally ‘colour’, is the name given to a four-fold division of society into brahmana, kshatriya, vaishya and shudra, though this excludes a significant section of the population composed of the ‘outcastes’, foreigners, slaves, conquered peoples and others, sometimes referred to as the panchamas or fifth category.
- Jati is a generic term referring to species or kinds of anything, ranging from inanimate objects to plants, animals and human beings.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) The Satyashodhak Samaj was founded by whom among the following?

- a) Jotirao Govindrao Phule
- b) Ayyankali
- c) M G Ranade
- d) B R Ambedkar

ANS: A

Explanation: Jotirao Govindrao Phule denounced the injustice of the caste system and scorned its rules of purity and pollution. In 1873 he founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth Seekers Society), which was devoted to securing human rights and social justice for low-caste people.

Source: NCERT

Govt. Schemes

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Mid Day Meal Scheme:

1. The nodal ministry is Ministry of Education.
2. It covers students enrolled in government schools from Class 1 to 5.

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: B

Explanation:

Mid Day Meal Scheme

- Historical Background: The roots of the Mid Day Meal Scheme can be traced back to the pre-independence era when a midday meal programme was introduced in the 1920s by the erstwhile Madras Municipal Corporation
- In post-Independence India, Tamil Nadu was the first state to roll out a school feeding scheme in 1956.
- In 1984, Kerala became the second state in the country to have a school lunch programme. Over the next few years, many other states launched their own versions of the scheme and finally in 1995, the Centre launched the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

Status of the scheme today:

- The Mid Day Meal Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It has been renamed as PM Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM Poshan in 2021.
- Currently, the scheme covers children across Classes 1 to 8 (age group 6 to 14) in government and government-aided schools and those run by local bodies.
- Moreover, this Mid Day Meal is not just a scheme but a legal entitlement of all school-going children in primary and upper primary classes, through the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 as well as the Supreme Court's ruling in People's Union of Civil Liberties vs Union of India and Others(2001).
- The Nodal ministry for the scheme is Ministry of Education.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Which of the following statement given below about I-STEM is/are correct?

1. The portal is the gateway for researchers to locate the specific facility(ies) they need for their R&D work.
2. The Portal Is an initiative under the aegis of Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council(PM-STIAC) mission.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About I-STEM Portal:

I-STEM was launched in 2020. It is a National Web portal for sharing R&D (Research and Development) facilities.

Purpose: The portal is the gateway for researchers to locate the specific facility(ies) they need for their R&D work and identify the one that is either located closest to them or available the soonest.

Initiatives: The Portal Is an initiative of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under the aegis of Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council(PM-STIAC) mission.

Goals of I-STEM Portal:

The goal of I-STEM is to strengthen the R&D ecosystem of the country by connecting researchers with resources.

This will be done by promoting technologies and scientific equipment development indigenous and providing necessary supplies and support to researchers by enabling them access to existing publicly funded R&D facilities in the country through the I-STEM web portal.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) With respect to Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN), which of the statements given below is correct?

- a) It has been set up as a single lapsable reserve fund for a share of Health.
- b) It will be made from the share of health in the proceeds of Health and Education Cess.
- c) The fund will be administered and maintained by the Ministry of Finance.
- d) Both (a) and (b)

ANS: B

Explanation: About Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN):

This program will ensure access to universal & affordable health care through a fund that does not lapse at the end of the financial year.

Features:

- It has been set up as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for a share of Health.
- It will be made from the share of health in the proceeds of Health and Education Cess.
- The fund will be administered and maintained by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Fund utilization: The fund will be utilized for the following flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare:

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)

National Health Mission

- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
- Emergency & disaster preparedness and responses during health emergencies

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements about Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme:

1. It is based on the principle that taxes and duties should not be exported, and taxes and levies borne on the exported products should be either exempted or remitted to exporters.
2. The scheme is applicable only to labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture, leather, gems & jewellery and textiles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: What is the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme?

- The RoDTEP Scheme is based on the globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should not be exported, and taxes and levies borne on the exported products should be either exempted or remitted to exporters.
- The scheme rebates/refunds the embedded Central, State and local duties/taxes to the exporters that were so far not being rebated/refunded.

What changes have been made to the scheme?

- The RoDTEP Scheme has now been expanded to the pharmaceuticals, chemicals and iron & steel sectors.
- Until now, the scheme was applicable to labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture, leather, gems & jewellery and textiles.
- These changes have been made against the backdrop of exports facing headwinds due to recessionary trends recession in some of the developed markets and supply chain disruptions triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Hunar Haat:

1. Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. It aims to provide exposure and employment opportunities to various artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts to display their handmade and indigenous products.

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: A

Explanation: What is Hunar Haat?

Organized by: Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.

Purpose: It is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from minority communities.

Aim: To provide exposure and employment opportunities to various artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts to display their handmade and indigenous products.

Significance: Hunar Haat has proved to be immensely beneficial and encouraging for artisans and craftsmen as lakhs of people visit the “Hunar Haat” and purchase indigenous handmade products of artisans on a large scale.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes:

1. It offers incentives on incremental sales for products manufactured in India.
2. It encourages investments from within India and from outside.

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: Production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes:

PLI scheme offers incentives on incremental sales for products manufactured in India for 13 identified sectors announced in Budget 2021-22.

Aim: To boost domestic manufacturing under the government’s Atma-nirbhar Bharat initiative. It focuses on reducing import bills and improving the cost competitiveness of local goods. PLI scheme offers incentives on incremental sales for products manufactured in India.

Objective:

- 1) Target specific product areas;
- 2) Introduce non-tariff measures in order to compete more effectively with cheap imports; 3) Blend domestic and export sales to make manufacturing competitive and sustainable; and
- 4) Promote manufacturing at home while encouraging investment from within and outside India.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Which of the following given statement about National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) is/are correct?

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. The NUDM aims to institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM):

Launched by: It has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). In partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).

Aim: To build the shared digital infrastructure that will strengthen the capacity of the urban ecosystem to solve complex problems.

Approach: The digital infrastructure will be built across three pillars of People, Process and platform. The infrastructure will provide holistic support to cities and towns.

Target: The NUDM aims to institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery. The NUDM will be completed in 2022 cities by 2022. Further, it will be expanded across all cities and towns in India by 2024.

Significance:

- The digital infrastructure will help cities to consolidate and cross-leverage the various digital initiatives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It will also enable the cities and towns to benefit from holistic and diverse forms of support. Such as satisfying the needs and local challenges of the towns and cities.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Atal Bhujal Yojana:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The funding pattern of the scheme is 50:50 between the Government of India and the World Bank.
3. The scheme was announced in the 2016-17 Union Budget.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About Atal Bhujal Yojana:

- Atal Bhujal Yojana is a central sector scheme under the ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The scheme was announced in the 2016-17 Union Budget.
- It aims to recharge groundwater sources and ensure the efficient use of water by involving people at the local level.

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- The funding pattern of the scheme is 50:50 between the Government of India and the World Bank.
- The scheme will seek to strengthen the institutional framework and bring about behavioural changes at community level for sustainable groundwater resource management. It envisages community-led Water Security Plans.
- The scheme will be implemented in water-stressed areas of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

1. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
2. It aims to replace unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum 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: C

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna:

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- It was launched in May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.

Key features:

Aim: To replace unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)

- Families below the poverty line are to be provided with LPG connections with a support of Rs. 1,600 per connection.
- Oil Marketing Companies would provide an option for the new consumer to opt for loan to cover the cost of a cooking stove and first refill.
- The LPG connections will be issued in the name of the women of the households.

Target:

- Initially the target was installation of 5 crore new LPG connections by 2019
- Target revised to 8 crore- to be achieved by 2019-20

Beneficiaries:

- BPL households identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census data.
- All SC/STs households beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana(PMAY) (Gramin).
- Beneficiaries of Antyoday Anna Yojana (AAY).
- Forest dwellers
- Most Backward Classes (MBC)
- Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes
- People residing in Islands
- People residing in river island

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Samagra Shiksha Scheme:

1. The scheme extends from pre-school to class XII.
2. It is central sector 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: A

Explanation: Samagra Shiksha Scheme:

About scheme: Samagra Shiksha – an Integrated Scheme for School Education has been launched throughout the country as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 2018-19. This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

Objective: It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. It envisages the ‘school’ as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.

Source: ForumIAS

Indian Society

Q.1) The term “laissez-faire” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Free market
- b) Bonded labour
- c) Controlled market
- d) Agricultural market

ANS: A

Explanation: Adam Smith supported the idea of a ‘free market’, that is, a market free from all kinds of regulation whether by the state or otherwise.

This economic philosophy was also given the name laissez-faire, a French phrase that means ‘leave alone’ or ‘let it be’.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) The term “Nakarattars” is related to which of the following?

- a) Trading networks
- b) Temple construction styles
- c) Indigenous farming system
- d) Drainage network

ANS: A

Explanation: The Nattukottai Chettiars (or Nakarattars) of Tamil Nadu, provide an interesting illustration of how these indigenous trading networks were organised and worked.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) “Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same” – related to?

- a) Article 16
- b) Article 22
- c) Article 29
- d) Article 32

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian Constitution on minorities and cultural diversity Article 29:

- Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.
- No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or received out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Archeological Survey of India (ASI)”:

1. It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham.
2. It is an attached office under Ministry of Culture.

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: Archeological Survey of India (ASI) is the premier organization for archaeological research, scientific analysis, and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and preservation of protected monuments.

- It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham. It is an attached office under Ministry of Culture.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Adi Sankaracharya”:

1. He took guidance from guru Govinda Bhagavatpada.
2. He propagated ‘Advaita Vedanta’ and ‘Dashanami Sampradaya.

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: Adi Sankaracharya (788 and 820 CE) was an Indian philosopher and theologian, Sankara (Jagatguru) and was a firm believer in ancient Hinduism.

- He is considered as an incarnation of Lord Shiva. He took guidance from guru Govinda Bhagavatpada under whom he studied ‘Gaudapadiya Karika’, ‘Brahmasutra’, Vedas, and Upanishads.
- He propagated ‘Advaita Vedanta’ and ‘Dashanami Sampradaya.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “Parakram Diwas” was celebrated to remember whom among the following?

- a) Subhash Chandra Bose
- b) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- c) B R Ambedkar
- d) Bhagat Singh

ANS: A

Explanation: Parakram Diwas (also called Parakram Divas) is celebrated on January 23 every year. It is an Indian national holiday marking the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (popularly called Netaji), a prominent nationalist, politician, and freedom fighter.

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This day was set aside by the government of India on Netaji's 125th birthday to inspire Indians, especially the youth, to emulate his courage, doggedness, selfless service, and patriotic fervor even in the face of oppression.

Source: The Hindu

Q.7) Jallikattu is a bull-taming sport that has traditionally been part of the festival of Pongal related to which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Madhya Pradesh

ANS: C

Explanation: Jallikattu is a bull-taming sport of Tamil Nadu that has traditionally been part of the festival of Pongal.

The festival is a celebration of nature, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest, of which cattleworship is part.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) India's First Open Rock Museum was inaugurated at which of the following?

- a) CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad.
- b) IIT Madras
- c) IIT Bombay
- d) IISc Bangalore

ANS: A

Explanation: India's First Open Rock Museum was inaugurated at campus of CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad.

Museum displays around 35 different types of rocks gathered from different states with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding "Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)":

- 1. It is awarded by Government of India to children between the ages of 5 and 18.
- 2. Each awardee of PMRBP is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs 10 Lakh and a certificate.

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: Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) is awarded by Government of India to children between the ages of 5 and 18 to recognise their exceptional abilities and outstanding achievement.

- It is given in six fields of innovation, scholastic achievements, sports, art and culture, social service and bravery.

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- Each awardee of PMRBP is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a certificate.
- Formerly known as the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, it is India's highest civilian honour for exceptional achievers under the age of 18.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The famous Living root bridges are located in which of the following state?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Living root bridges are Ficus elastica-based suspension bridges within dense tropical rainforests of Meghalaya.

- Ficus elastica – a tree that grows abundantly in the subtropical terrain of Meghalaya.
- Ranging in span from 15 feet to 250 feet, these bridges are grown by indigenous Khasi tribes over a time period of 15 to 30 years, and last for several centuries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Society

Q.1) Which of the following act/s is/are subsumed under Code on Social Security, 2020?

1. Employees' Compensation Act, 1923
2. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
3. The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Code on Social Security, 2020 to consolidate nine central labour legislations on social security to extend social security to all employees and workers either in the organized or unorganized or any other sectors (including the new forms of jobs that are emerging).

The subsumed laws include Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The "State of World Population 2022" report was published by?

- a) WHO
- b) United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA)
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) UNDP

ANS: B

Explanation: United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Released State of World Population 2022 titled as "Seeing the Unseen: The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy".

- UNFPA is an international development agency, created in 1968 to support the execution of projects and programmes in the area of population and sexual and reproductive health.
- Its mandate is established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are three verticals of Accessible India Campaign?

1. Built-up environment.
2. Transportation sector.
3. ICT ecosystem.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya BharatAbhiyan) objective is to achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) for creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), the campaign has been divided into three verticals;

- built-up environment,
- transportation sector (airports, railways, public transport) and
- ICT ecosystem (websites and public documents, sign language interpreters and TV viewing).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) “E – DAR” portal is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Conservation of forests
- b) Road accidents
- c) Nuclear reactor
- d) Cyber attacks

ANS: B

Explanation: E-Detailed Action Report (E - DAR) portal is a web portal from the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in consultation with insurance companies for integrated data and instant information on road accidents.

The portal will bring relief to victims’ families; check fake claims etc. through Digitalized Detailed Accident Reports (DAR).

Q.5) “VAJRA Scheme” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Research faculty scheme
- b) Elephant protection scheme
- c) High yield variety seeds development scheme
- d) Solar energy scheme

ANS: A

Explanation: Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme: It aims to bring overseas scientists and academicians including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to India to work in public funded Institutions and Universities for a specific period of time.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)”:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme, launched in 2013.
2. It seeks to provide strategic funding to eligible state higher educational 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: Ministry of Education has approved the continuation of the RUSA scheme till March 31, 2026. RUSA is a centrally sponsored scheme, launched in 2013.

- It seeks to provide strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
- Under the new phase, RUSA aims to reach out to unserved, underserved areas; remote and rural areas; LWE (left-wing extremism) areas; aspirational districts, tier-2 cities, etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) “SHRESTHA scheme” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Higher education
- b) Manual Scavenging
- c) Solar based street lights
- d) Natural Farming

ANS: A

Explanation: Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTHA); Ministry of Education has joined hands with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for SHRESTHA.

Objective of SHRESTHA: Enhance reach of development Intervention of the Government and fill the gap in service deficient SCs dominant areas.

Earlier known as ‘Grant in-aid to voluntary and other organisations for Scheduled Castes’, SHRESTHA has two Modes with:

- Mode 1: To provide high quality residential education to bright scheduled caste (SC) students.
- Mode 2: It provides Grant-in-aid to Schools/ Hostels run by voluntary and other organisations meeting the required criteria.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “National Assessment And Accreditation Council (NAAC)”:

1. It was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of University Grants Commission (UGC).
2. It evaluates institutions of higher education on a range of parameters, including their governance structure, teaching and learning.

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: NAAC was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of University Grants Commission (UGC).

- It evaluates institutions of higher education on a range of parameters, including their governance structure, teaching and learning, research etc.
- NAAC gives institutions grades ranging from A++ to C. If an institution is given a D, it means it is not accredited.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)”:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme that aims to develop personality and leadership qualities of youth.
2. Scheme beneficiaries are in age-group of 15-29 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: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to continue RYSK Scheme for another five years from 2021 -22 to 2025-26.

- RYSK is a Central Sector Scheme that aims to develop personality and leadership qualities of youth and to engage them in nation building activities.
- It is an umbrella scheme with several sub-schemes under it including Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, National Youth Corps, and National Young Leaders Programme etc. Scheme beneficiaries are in age-group of 15-29 years.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) “SEED scheme” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) De-notified tribes
- b) Education
- c) Primary health centers
- d) Natural farming centers

ANS: A

Explanation: The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTS (SEED) is an umbrella scheme for empowering Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities (DNTs, NTs, SNTs).

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) “Care at work” – report is recently seen in news is released by?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Organization (ILO) has released a report, titled Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work.

The report provides a global overview of national laws and practices regarding care policies, namely maternity protection, paternity, parental and other care-related leave policies, as well as childcare and long-term care services.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following convention/s is/are signatory by India?

- 1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- 2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- 3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: India is signatory to international conventions, such as

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The constitution “Guarantees equal rights for both sexes, and entitles women to enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political rights on an equal footing with men” – related to?

- a) Article 301
- b) Article 314
- c) Article 325
- d) Article 352

ANS: C

Explanation: Article 325: Guarantees equal rights for both sexes, and entitles women to enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political rights on an equal footing with men.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) “The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)” often seen in news is related to?

- a) Women Empowerment
- b) Primary healthcare
- c) Tribal welfare
- d) Higher education

ANS: A

Explanation: The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), 1995 endorses affirmative action for women in the political spheres for the achievement of democratic transformation, women's empowerment and achieving the goals of sustainable development.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) “SAMARTH” scheme often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Women entrepreneurship
- b) Solar energy
- c) Skill development for trans-genders
- d) Digital literacy

ANS: A

Explanation: Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women – “SAMARTH” launched by Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, it aims to provide women an opportunity to be self-reliant and independent by undertaking selfemployment opportunities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) “SHRESTHA Scheme” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Residential education
- b) Women welfare
- c) Scientific research fellow scheme
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment recently launched Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTHA). SHRESTHA provides level playing field and high quality free residential education to poor and meritorious scheduled caste (SC) students from class 9th to class 12th.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) GOAL programme is joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal affairs and which of the following to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode?

- a) IBM
- b) Facebook
- c) Google
- d) Apple

ANS: B

Explanation: GOAL programme is joint initiative of Facebook India with Ministry of Tribal affairs to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.

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- It aims to digitally up-skill 10 lakh youth from tribal communities and open up opportunities for them using digital technology.
- It will create a platform for Self-Help Groups and families associated with TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India) to take their products global.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)”:

1. It was founded in 1997 to fight against illicit drugs and international crime.
2. It was formed by merging the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

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: UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC) was founded in 1997 to fight against illicit drugs and international crime.

It was formed by merging the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “MOTHER TONGUE SURVEY OF INDIA (MTSI)”:

1. It was taken ministry of culture.
2. According to the survey, Hindi is the most widely spoken mother tongue.

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: Ministry of Home Affairs recently completed MTSI. MTSI surveys the mother tongues, which are returned consistently across two and more Census decades and analyses their linguistic features.

- As per analysis of 2011 linguistic census data, more than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongues.
- Hindi is the most widely spoken mother tongue, with 43.6 per cent of population declaring it as mother tongue.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The State of food security and nutrition in the world report released by which of the following?

- a) WEF
- b) FAO
- c) World Bank
- d) ADB

ANS: B

Explanation: The State Of Food Security And Nutrition In The World (Sofi) Report, 2022 is a joint publication by Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, UN World Food Programme and WHO.

Source: FORUMIAS