

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

6th to 12th February 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Disaster Management

Q.1) Which of the following institution called on global governments to adopt a new ‘Fire Ready Formula,’ as it warned that incidences of wildfires would rise in the future?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNDP
- c) WHO
- d) WEF

ANS: A

Explanation: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), called on global governments to adopt a new ‘Fire Ready Formula,’ as it warned that incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.

Formula envisages 66% of spending to be devoted to planning, prevention, preparedness, and recovery and the remaining 34% to be spent on response.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following country saw extreme wildfire in 2019-20 terming it as “Black summer” season?

- a) Norway
- b) Australia
- c) Italy
- d) Canada

ANS: B

Explanation: Australia saw extreme wildfire in 2019-20 terming it as “Black summer” season.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) “FAST Version 3.0” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Hybrid vehicles
- b) Forest fires
- c) Sustainable fishing
- d) Forest produce marketing

ANS: B

Explanation: FSI Fire Alert System (FAST) Version 3.0: FSI has been alerting State Forest Departments of forest fire locations detected by Near Real Time monitoring of Forest Fire based on MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer) sensor and SNPP-VIIRS (Suomi-National Polar-orbiting Partnership - Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite).

It includes components like:

- Forest fire geoportal- VAN AGNI (forest fire) Geoportal
- Forest fire Danger rating for early warning.
- Large Forest Forest Fire programme based on SNPP-VIIRS.

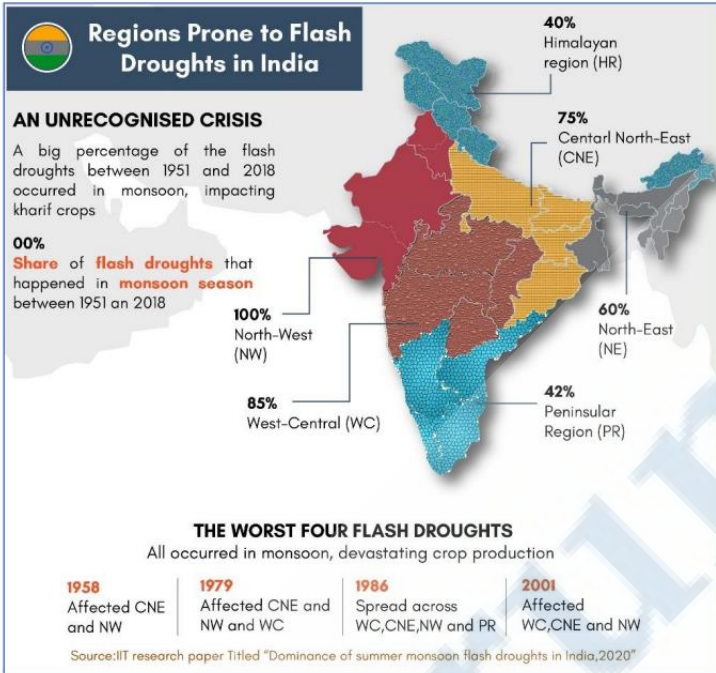
Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following region is prone to highest risk of flash drought in India?

- a) North West region
- b) Southern region
- c) North East region
- d) Northern region

ANS: A

Explanation: Flash drought is characterized by a period of rapid drought intensification with impacts on agriculture, water resources, ecosystems, and the human environment.



Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following is/are natural hazard/s under National Disaster Management Act, 2005?

- 1. Heat waves
- 2. Floods
- 3. Drought

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:

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Natural Hazards	Man made Hazards
Cyclone	Chemical
Tsunami	Nuclear
Heat Wave	Biological
Landslide	
Urban Floods	
Floods	
Earthquakes	

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following city/cities is/are come/s under the seismic zone 5?

1. Port Blair
2. Itanagar
3. Guwahati

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:

NERMP

National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project (Preparatory Phase)

- National Earthquake Risk Mitigation (Preparatory phase) has been approved as a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme with an outlay of Rs.24.87 crore, to be implemented within a period of two years (2013-15).
- The major components of National Earthquake Risk Mitigation (Preparatory phase) and their cost are as under:

State/UT	District	City	Population (2011 census)	Seismic Zone	State Capital
Andaman	North & Middle Andaman	Port Blair	105539	5	Yes
Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpare	Itanagar	176385	5	Yes
Assam	Kamrup Metropolitan	Guwahati		5	Yes
Bihar	Patna	Patna		4	Yes
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1054686	4	Yes
Delhi	NCT Delhi	Delhi		4	Yes
Gujarat	Rajkot	Rajkot		4	No
Haryana	Faridabad	Faridabad		4	No
Haryana	Gurugram	Gurugram	1514085	4	No
J&K	Srinagar	Srinagar		5	Yes

Source: https://ndma.gov.in/index.php/Mitigation_Preparedness/NERMP

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)”?

1. It was established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
2. It is headed by Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Emergence of an organization is always through an evolutionary process. NDMA has also gone through the same stages.

- The Government of India (GOI), in recognition of the importance of Disaster Management as a national priority, set up a High-Powered Committee (HPC) in August 1999 and a National Committee after the Gujarat earthquake, for making recommendations on the preparation of Disaster Management plans and suggesting effective mitigation mechanisms.
- The Tenth Five-Year Plan document also had, for the first time, a detailed chapter on Disaster Management.
- The Twelfth Finance Commission was also mandated to review the financial arrangements for Disaster Management.
- On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

Source: <https://ndma.gov.in/about-us/introduction>

Q.8) Arrange the following most severe natural calamities in chronological order:

1. Odisha Super Cyclone
2. Gujarat Earthquake
3. Indian Ocean Tsunami

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: India faced some of its most severe natural calamities like Orissa Super Cyclone (1999), Gujarat Earthquake (2001) and Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004).

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

Q.9) “IFLOWS” flood warning system was developed and implemented by which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: D

Explanation: Integrated Flood Warning system like IFLOWS-Mumbai: It is a state of art Integrated Flood Warning system for Mumbai which makes it possible to have an estimate of the flood inundation three days in advance, along with immediate weather updates.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following country has the world’s largest Uranium reserves?

- a) Australia
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Namibia
- d) Canada

ANS: B

Explanation: Kazakhstan has the world’s largest Uranium reserves and is also the largest producer (45% of world supply), followed by Namibia and Canada.

Source: FORUMIAS

Syber Security & Money Laundering

Q.1) Which of the following is/are member country/countries of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)?

1. India
2. Sri Lanka
3. Maldives

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: CSC is the renamed version of National Security Advisor (NSA) Level Trilateral on Maritime Security (of 2011) with India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius as members and Bangladesh and Seychelles as observer states and Secretariat at Colombo.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) “YAKSHA” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Military exercise
- b) Traditional farming
- c) Cyber security
- d) Space exploration

ANS: C

Explanation: YAKSHA, an EU-ASEAN partnership that develops cyber-security solutions tailored to specific national needs leveraging EU Know-How and local knowledge.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Minimum support price
- b) Criminal Justice system
- c) New education policy
- d) Cyber technology evolution

ANS: B

Explanation: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)”:

1. It is the process of identifying or verifying the identity of a person using their face.
2. It has the ability to gather demographic data on crowds.

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: Facial recognition is the process of identifying or verifying the identity of a person using their face. It relies on many of the processes and techniques associated with AI.

It captures, analyzes, and compares patterns based on the person's facial details. It may involve Face detection, Face capture and Face match. It also has the ability to gather demographic data on crowds.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The term “Ethereum (ETH)” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Crypto currency
- b) New element
- c) Ballistic missile
- d) Nuclear reactor

ANS: A

Explanation: The first Bitcoin alternative on our list, Ethereum (ETH), is a decentralized software platform that enables smart contracts and decentralized applications to be built and run without any downtime, fraud, control, or interference from a third party.

The goal behind Ethereum is to create a decentralized suite of financial products that anyone in the world can freely access, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or faith.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Bharat Gaurav Train”:

1. Bharat Gaurav Trains are theme-based trains launched by Indian Railways in November 2021.
2. Maiden Service of Bharat Gaurav Train commenced from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi.

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: Maiden Service of Bharat Gaurav Train commenced under Bharat Gaurav Scheme from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi.

- Bharat Gaurav Trains are theme-based trains launched by Indian Railways in November 2021.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. [SECOND WEEK] 2023

- To showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world.
- Leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap India's vast tourist potential.
- Bharat Gaurav Scheme guidelines apply to already running tourist circuit trains by IRCTC as well such as Buddhist Circuit Tourist Train.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) "Kodavas" often seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Assam
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Jharkhand

ANS: A

Explanation: Kodavas, also known as the people of Coorg, is a small community mainly living in Kodagu (Coorg) district in Karnataka.

They are a warlike tribe with three main groups as Kodava Mophlas or Kodava Mappilas, Kodagu Gowdas and The Bearys.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) "At the age of seven, he was taken to England along with his brothers. He studied at St. Paul's School London (1884) and King's College in Cambridge in 1890. Also, he scored 11th rank in the ICS examination but didn't clear the probation" – describes whom among the following?

- a) Subhash Chandra Bose
- b) Sri Aurobindo Ghosh
- c) B. R. Ambedkar
- d) Surendranath Banarjee

ANS: B

Explanation: Sri Aurobindo was a 20th century Bengali poet, philosopher, spiritual leader and a revolutionary freedom fighter.

- Born in Calcutta on 15 August 1872 as Aurobindo Ghose, he received his early education from a convent school in Darjeeling.
- At the age of seven, he was taken to England along with his brothers. He studied at St. Paul's School London (1884) and King's College in Cambridge in 1890. Also, he scored 11th rank in the ICS examination but didn't clear the probation.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “Gamosa” is recently got the geographical indication tag belongs to which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Assam
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Punjab

ANS: B

Explanation: The Assamese gamocha is mostly woven out of white threads with colourful and intricate inlays in red.

This is a traditional textile having great significance for the people of Assam. Gamocha is also known as ‘Bihuwaan, as it is an essential part of Bihu festival of Assam.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q10) “Rock cut sculptures of Unakoti” is recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Rock cut sculptures and Reliefs of Unakoti, Unakoti Range: It is located in north-eastern region of Tripura. Unakoti literally translates as “one less than a crore”.

It provides evidence of ancient Saiva worship in Tripura from 8th-9th centuries CE. Famous for its colossal rock cut panels depicting Hindu deities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Various Security Organizations

Q.1) “Dare to Dream” innovation contest often seen in news is related to?

- a) Defence
- b) Biotechnology
- c) Agriculture
- d) Nuclear reactor technology

ANS: A

Explanation: DRDO is a Government agency responsible for conducting research and development for the Indian military.

- Their technologies have been adopted by the Indian Army, the Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force as they work together to ensure the safety and security of our nation.
- One way they promote R&D is through their Technology Development Fund (TDF), which is focused on supporting MSMEs, or Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the development of indigenous technologies, another was the Dare to Dream Innovation Contest, a competition intended to scout for technologies from individuals, researchers and startups.
- Dare to Dream is a scheme to promote individuals and startups for innovations in Defence & Aerospace.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) provides a unique opportunity for start-ups and innovators to solve some key challenges in emerging technologies that can help boost India’s defence & aerospace capabilities.

Source: <https://tdf.drdo.gov.in/daretodream>

Q.2) India and which of the following country has signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)?

- a) Japan
- b) Singapore
- c) USA
- d) Russia

ANS: A

Explanation: India has signed military logistics agreements with several countries in the past. This includes the India-US Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), India-Japan Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and India-Australia Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), demonstrating all the Quad countries.

Source: <https://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/reciprocal-exchange-of-logistics-agreement-india>.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD)”:

1. It is a statutory body under ministry of home affairs.
2. National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science works under BPRD.

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 Government of India vied Resolution No.8/136/68-P.I (Pers.I) dated 28.08.1970 formally established the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), under the Ministry of Home Affairs giving a new orientation to then existing Police Research and Advisory Council (1966) for the following reasons and with the primary objective of modernization of police force.

- The Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science was established by Government of India in 1972 within the Bureau of Police Research and Development following recommendations of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to setup a Central Institute for teaching Criminology and Forensic Science.
- The ICFS made humble beginning in 1972 by organizing 2 training courses for senior officers of the Central Justice System.
- In 1976 it became an independent Department directly under Ministry of Home Affairs with a wider mandate which included promotion of Criminology and Forensic Science **through a variety of means.**

Source: https://bprd.nic.in/content/11_1_EvolutionofBPRD.aspx

Q.4) “Balasya Mulam Vigyanam” is the motto of which of the following?

- a) DRDO
- b) ISRO
- c) CSIR
- d) ICAR

ANS: A

Explanation: “Balasya Mulam Vigyanam”—the source of strength is science-drives the nation in peace and war.

DRDO has firm determination to make the nation strong and self-reliant in terms of science and technology, especially in the field of military technologies.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about DRDO?

- a) DRDO is the R&D wing of Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems.
- b) DRDO was formed in 1950 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
- c) DRDO is a network of more than 50 laboratories which are deeply engaged in developing defence technologies.
- d) DRDO's pursuit of self-reliance and successful indigenous development and production of strategic systems and platforms such as Agni and Prithvi series of missiles.

ANS: B

Explanation: DRDO is the R&D wing of Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems, while equipping our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment in accordance with requirements lay down by the three Services.

- DRDO's pursuit of self-reliance and successful indigenous development and production of strategic systems and platforms such as Agni and Prithvi series of missiles; light combat aircraft, Tejas; multi-barrel rocket launcher, Pinaka; air defence system, Akash; a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems; etc., have given quantum jump to India's military might, generating effective deterrence and providing crucial leverage.
- DRDO was formed in 1958 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
- DRDO was then a small organisation with 10 establishments or laboratories. Over the years, it has grown multi-directionally in terms of the variety of subject disciplines, number of laboratories, achievements and stature.
- Today, DRDO is a network of more than 50 laboratories which are deeply engaged in developing defence technologies covering various disciplines.

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

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Indian Coastal Guard”:

1. It is a multi-mission organization, conducting round-the-year real-life operations at sea.
2. Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) located at New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian Coast Guard is a multi-mission organization, conducting round-the-year real-life operations at sea.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. [SECOND WEEK] 2023

- Despite being relatively small, it has a wide range of task capabilities for both surface and air operations.
- The organization is headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG) exercising his overall command and superintendence from the Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) located at New Delhi.
- At CGHQ, he is assisted by four Deputy Director Generals of the rank of Inspector General, and other senior officers heading various staff divisions.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following para military force earlier called as “Crown Representative Police”?

- a) CRPF
- b) BSF
- c) ITBP
- d) Assam Rifles

ANS: A

Explanation: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the premier central police force of the Union of India for internal security. Originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939, it is one of the oldest Central para military forces (now termed as Central Armed Police Force).

Source: <https://crpf.gov.in/history-crpf.htm>

Q.8) Which of the following is the largest para military of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: CRPF is the largest CAPF having 01 Force Hqrs, 04 Zonal Hqrs, 21 Adm Sectors, 02 Ops Sectors, 39 Adm Ranges, 17 Ops Ranges, 43 Group Centres, 22 Training Institutions, 04 Composite Hospitals (100 Bedded), 18 Composite Hospitals (50 bedded), 06 Field Hospitals, 03 CWS, 07 AWS, 02 MWS and 01 SWS, 203 GD Bns, 05 VIP Security Bns, 06 Mahila Bns, 15 RAF, 10 CoBRA Bns, 05 Signal Bns, 01 PDG & 01 SDG.

Source: <https://crpf.gov.in/history-crpf.htm>

Q.9) Which of the following para military force guards the Indo – Nepal border?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: In the aftermath of the Chinese incursion in 1962, Sashastra Seema Bal was founded as a Special Service Bureau in May 1963.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. [SECOND WEEK] 2023

- In June 2001, SSB was designated as the Lead Intelligence Agency for Indo-Nepal and given responsibility for the Indo-Nepal border.
- In March 2004, SSB was also allocated to the Indo-Bhutan border. The Ministry of Home Affairs is in charge of Sashastra Seema Bal.

Source: <https://www.indiatimes.com/explainers/news/which-indian-paramilitary-force-guards-which-border>.

Q.10) Which of the following is NOT administered under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Presently, AFSPA is operational in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Nagaland, Manipur (except Imphal Municipal area) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Bilateral Relations

Q.1) “Nine-dash line” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Bay of Bengal
- b) South China Sea
- c) Red Sea
- d) Mediterranean Sea

ANS: B

Explanation: Southeast Asian countries like China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan have disputes over the contentious South China Sea region for centuries.

- The two primary points of contention are the Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands in the sea. Beijing stakes claim to most of the region and at the heart of this claim is the U-shaped ‘nine-dash line’ that includes as much as 90 per cent of these waters.
- This dotted line was adopted from Chinese maps in the 1940s, and represents Beijing’s claim over the sea and all the land features that are contained within the line.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Indus Water Treaty”:

1. It is brokered between India & Pakistan by IMF.
2. Chenab, Ravi and Beas waters were allotted to 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: D

Explanation: IWT was signed in 1960, between India and Pakistan and brokered by the World Bank.

- The treaty fixed and delimited the rights and obligations of both countries concerning the use of the waters of the Indus River system.
- All the water of the eastern rivers – Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi which amounts to around 33 million acre-feet (MAF) annually — is allocated to India and is for unrestricted use.
- And the water of western rivers – Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab which is around 135 MAF annually has been assigned mostly to Pakistan.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) “Helsinki Rules” often seen in news is related to?

- a) International rivers
- b) Solar Energy
- c) Global Warming Substances
- d) International Shipping

ANS: A

Explanation: The Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers is an international guideline regulating how rivers and their connected ground-waters that cross

national boundaries may be used, adopted by the International Law Association (ILA) in Helsinki, Finland in 1966.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are member country/countries of “South Asian Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)”?

1. Bangladesh
2. Pakistan
3. Afghanistan

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: South Asian Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka for project-based partnership.

The member countries share common aspirations of economic growth, economic diversification, inclusive growth and sustainability, and energy access and security.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) “International Logistics Performance Index” released by which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The International LPI (World Bank) is an indicator of logistics sector performance to benchmark and compare the performance of different countries’ logistics sector.

It measures the performance of six core components of logistics in any nation (see image); rated from 1 to 5 with 1 lowest and 5 as best in that component.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) India has 2+2 dialogues with which of the following country/countries?

- a) USA
- b) Japan
- c) Russia

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 2+2 dialogue is a format of meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies on strategic and security issues.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. [SECOND WEEK] 2023

- A 2+2 ministerial dialogue enables the partners to better understand and appreciate each other's strategic concerns and sensitivities taking into account political factors on both sides.
- India has 2+2 dialogues with four key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The terms “LEMOA & BECA” are often seen in news are related to?

- a) Military logistics agreement
- b) Civil Nuclear agreements
- c) Bilateral investment promotion agreement
- d) Bilateral disaster relief agreement

ANS: A

Explanation: India has signed four foundational defence agreement of USA.

- General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002 on military information exchange.
- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 to use each other's military base.
- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018 for interoperability between the two militaries and sale of high-end technology to India.
- Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020 to share high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) “CAATSA Act” often seen in news is related to which of the following country?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: CAATSA Act, also known as Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, was enacted by USA in 2017 to impose sanctions on three nations, i.e., Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are member country/countries of “AUKUS”?

1. Austria
2. United Kingdom
3. USA

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: AUKUS is a new three-way strategic defence alliance between Australia, the UK and US, initially to build a class of nuclear-propelled submarines, but also to work together in the Indo-Pacific region, where the rise of China is seen as an increasing threat, and develop wider technologies.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following country is NOT part of I2 – U2?

- a) Iran
- b) Israel
- c) India
- d) UAE

ANS: A

Explanation: India along with United States and two Middle east countries Israel, and the United Arab Emirates set up a new joint working group “I2-U2” to enhance cooperation and partnerships.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Under India – UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which of the following is/are covered?

1. Trade in goods & services
2. Rules of origin
3. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures

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-UAE signed the CEPA to deepen their economic ties. It is the first deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade.

The agreement will cover Trade in Goods and Services, Rules of Origin, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, IPR, Investment, Digital Trade and Cooperation in other Areas.

Source: FORUMIAS

Regional and global groupings

Q.1) Which of the following is/are official language/s of the United Nations?

1. Chinese
2. Hindi
3. Italian

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: United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the World War II.

- Its charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 and came into existence on October 24, 1945 after 51 countries have signed the charter.
- Its predecessor, the League of Nations, created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 was disbanded in 1946.
- Its mission is to maintain international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.
- Official Languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding UN – General Assembly:

1. It is composed of all member states, each of which has one vote.
2. The Security Council appoints the Secretary General of UN.

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: UN-General Assembly is the main deliberative organ and composed of all member states, each of which has one vote.

- The mandate of UNGA is to discuss, debate, and make recommendations on subjects pertaining to international peace and security, including development, disarmament, human rights, international law, and the peaceful arbitration of disputes between nations.
- It considers reports from the other four organs of the United Nations, assesses the financial situations of member states, and approves the UN budget, its most concrete role.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. [SECOND WEEK] 2023

- Sessions- The assembly meets in Regular session (annually from Sep to Dec), Special session and Emergency Special Session (within 24 hours) at the request of UN Security Council or majority of members or one-member state if the majority of states concur.
- It appoints Secretary General of UN based on the recommendations given by Security Council.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is NOT part of World Bank group?

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Development Association (IDA)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- UN – Secretariat

ANS: D

Explanation: The World Bank Group (WBG) is a family of five international organizations that make leveraged loans to developing countries.

The organizations are International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following institution of World Bank group provides insurance against certain types of risk, including political risk, primarily to the private sector?

- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)

ANS: B

Explanation: MIGA, established in 1988, provides insurance against certain types of risk, including political risk, primarily to the private sector.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Clean Air Initiative (CAI)” often seen in news is an initiative of?

- World Bank
- IMF
- WEF
- UNEP

ANS: A

Explanation: Clean Air Initiative (CAI) is a World Bank initiative to advance innovative ways to improve air quality in cities through partnerships in selected regions of the world by sharing knowledge and experiences.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following report is NOT released/published by World Bank?

- a) Global Economic Prospects
- b) Global Financial Development Report
- c) World Development Report
- d) World Economic Outlook

ANS: D

Explanation: The World Bank releases the following reports - Doing Business Report, Global Economic Prospects, Global Financial Development Report, International Debt Statistics, World Development Report, World Development Indicators, Poverty and Shared Prosperity.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following institution has the core responsibility to provide loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: IMF was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods in July 1944. The 44 countries at that conference sought to build a framework for economic cooperation to avoid a repetition of the competitive devaluations that had contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

- With the membership of 189 countries, the Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability.
- A core responsibility of the IMF is to provide loans to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following institution was created by “Versailles Peace Treaty”?

- a) International Labor Organization
- b) IMF
- c) United Nations
- d) World Bank

ANS: A

Explanation: International Labor Organization was created in 1919 by the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I.

- After the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the first specialized agency associated with the UN.
- The organization has 187 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands (a nation in the South Pacific, with political links to New Zealand).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Codex Alimentarius Commission” is associated with which of the following institution?

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) World Bank
- c) UNEP
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: The Codex Alimentarius Commission established by FAO and WHO is an international food standard setting body.

- It has recently adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme owing to India’s efforts to benchmark global spices trade.
- With the adoption of codex standards, spices have been included for the first time as commodities that will have universal standards.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following institution releases the “Gender Parity Index”?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization is responsible for promoting peace, social justice, human rights and international security through international cooperation on educational, science and cultural programs.

It publishes the Global Education Monitoring report and Gender Parity Index.

Source: FORUMIAS

Policies and International Organizations

Q.1) The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO has declared Kakatiya Ramappa Temple (Rudeshwara Temple), as a World Heritage site (WHS) is located at?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Telangana
- c) Karnataka
- d) Kerala

ANS: B

Explanation: The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO has declared Kakatiya Ramappa Temple (Rudeshwara Temple), Telangana as a World Heritage site (WHS). It is India's 39th WHS.

- Ramappa Temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recharla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva. The presiding deity here is Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- The temple is located at the foothills of a forested area, close to the shores of the Ramappa Cheruvu, a Kakatiya-built water reservoir.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements about World Health Organization (WHO):

1. It has 194-member countries.
2. Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

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: WHO is the first global health organization, replacing many regional and national health bodies. It has 194-member countries, and its secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland. It has the authority of directing and coordinating matters related to international health. World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of WHO, attended by delegations from all member states.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements about International Maritime Organization (IMO):

1. It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom.
2. The objective of IMO is the improvement of Maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution.

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 is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.

- Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.
- It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom. It is the first ever international organization devoted exclusively to maritime matters.
- The objective of IMO is the improvement of Maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) "CORSA" often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) ICAO
- b) IMO
- c) WHO
- d) UNESCO

ANS: A

Explanation: International Civil Aviation Organization was created after the Chicago convention on International Civil Aviation.

- It became a specialized agency of the United Nations linked to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Secretariat is located at Montreal, Canada.
- It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency as well as for aviation environmental protection.
- Recently, ICAO introduced a scheme to measure carbon emission, called as "CORSA - Carbon Offsetting and Reporting Scheme for International Aviation".

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) "Marrakesh Treaty" is associated with which of the following institution?

- a) WIPO
- b) WEF
- c) World Bank
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: Marrakesh Treaty of WIPO - It is to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired and print disabled. India was the first country to sign this treaty.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “Sahel region” often seen in news is related to which of the following Continent?

- a) Africa
- b) Asia
- c) Europe
- d) North America

ANS: A

Explanation: The Sahel, the vast semi-arid region of Africa separating the Sahara Desert to the north and tropical savannas to the south, is as much a land of opportunities as it is of challenges.

- Although it has abundant human and natural resources, offering tremendous potential for rapid growth, there are deep-rooted challenges—environmental, political and security— that may affect the prosperity and peace of the Sahel.
- For this reason, the United Nations has come up with a unique support plan targeting 10 countries to scale up efforts to accelerate prosperity and sustainable peace in the region.
- Countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

Source: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/sahel>

Q.7) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about International Fund for Agricultural Development?

- a) It is an international financial institution and specialized UN agency based in Vienna, Austria.
- b) It was setup after “The World Food Conference 1974” which was organized in response to the food crises of 1970s in Sahelian Countries of Africa.
- c) It is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- d) It provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries to finance innovative agricultural and rural development programmes and projects.

ANS: A

Explanation: International Fund for Agricultural Development is an international financial institution and specialized UN agency based in Rome, the UN’s food and agriculture hub.

- It was setup after “The World Food Conference 1974” which was organized in response to the food crises of 1970s in Sahelian Countries of Africa.
- IFAD is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- It provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries to finance innovative agricultural and rural development programmes and projects.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) “World Investment Report” often seen in news is published by?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was formed specifically to handle the problems of developing countries dealing with trade, investment and development issues.

Reports published by UNCTAD include Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, The Least Developed Countries Report, World Economic Situation and Prospects, Information and Economy Report, Technology and Innovation Report, and Commodities and Development Report.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements about “The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”:

1. It is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
2. It was established in 1978 and maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.

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 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.

- UN-Habitat was established in 1978 and maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.
- Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q10. "Human Development Report" often seen in news is released by?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: UNDP was formed in 1965 to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development.

- The status of UNDP is that of an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly.
- UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction and climate change. It also encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all of its programmes.
- The UNDP Human Development Report Office also publishes an annual Human Development Report (since 1990) to measure and analyze developmental progress.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “United Nations Environment Assembly”:

1. It is hosted by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) every two years.
2. It releases the Global Environment Outlook report.

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 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is hosted by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) every two years.

- It was created in 2012 to replace the Governing Council; the UNEA is the governing body of the UNEP.
- It brings together representatives of the 193 Member States of the UN, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world’s most pressing environmental challenges.
- All the members of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) are members of the UNEA.
- Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, the UNEP is led by a Senior Management Team that's chaired by our Executive Director. It releases the Global Environment Outlook report (GEO).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) “International Comparison Program” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Data-collection initiative
- b) International Solar programme
- c) Organic farming initiative for least developed countries
- d) Forum for cyber security

ANS: A

Explanation: International Comparison Program. It is the largest worldwide data-collection initiative, under the guidance of UN Statistical Commission (UNSC).

- Its goal is to produce Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) which are vital for converting measures of economic activities to be comparable across economies.
- Along with the PPPs, the ICP also produces Price Level Indices (PLI) and other regionally comparable aggregates of GDP expenditure.
- The World Bank has released new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) for reference year 2017, under International Comparison Program (ICP).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following organization is called as “Atoms for Peace”?

- a) IAEA
- b) WEF
- c) UNEP
- d) WIPO

ANS: A

Explanation: International Atomic Energy Agency seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons and materials by the early detection of the misuse.

- It was established as an autonomous organization which is not under direct control of the UN, but reports to both the UNGA and Security Council.
- It is widely known as the world’s “Atoms for Peace” organization.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following statement/s is/are correct regarding “Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”?

1. It is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
2. It was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.
3. It has 193 Member States.

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: Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is an independent, autonomous international organisation with a working relationship with the UN.

- It is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997.
- It has 193 Member States working together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.
- India signed the treaty in 1993. It was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The famous “Arthur Dunkel” was associated with which of the following organization?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: As Director-General of the GATT during 1980-1993, Mr Dunkel was at the helm of the launch of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations in September 1986 and steered the multilateral trading system to the doorstep of what is now known as the World Trade Organization.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. [SECOND WEEK] 2023

- The “Dunkel Draft” in December 1991 was an historic turning point in the negotiations.
- Mr Dunkel’s deep understanding of the technical issues combined with his shrewd diplomacy transformed hundreds of thousands of pages of diverse, often conflicting, proposals into a manageable single document of some 500 pages, distilling the essence of the future WTO.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)”:

1. It works to reach the most disadvantaged Children and adolescents and to protect the rights of every child, everywhere.
2. It is the first UN organisation to hold and make transactions in crypto-currencies ether and bitcoin.

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: UNICEF is the United Nations Children’s Fund working to reach the most disadvantaged Children and adolescents and to protect the rights of every child, everywhere.

- Its work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector.
- It is a special program of the United Nations. It is devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.
- UNICEF Crypto-currency Fund - It becomes first UN organisation to hold and make transactions in crypto-currencies ether and bitcoin.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Primary health
- b) Natural farming
- c) Cyber security
- d) Research education

ANS: A

Explanation: 120 UN members including India have recently signed the Astana Declaration, which vows to strengthen primary healthcare and achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

The declaration marked 40 years of the historic Alma Ata Declaration, which declared health a human right for all.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) “Contingent Reserves Arrangement” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Contingent Reserves Arrangement is to deal with any short-term balance of payments pressures that the BRICS nations may face.

It is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments to strengthen financial stability.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)”:

1. It has authorized capital of US 100 billion dollars and subscribed capital of USD 50 billion.
2. China is the largest share holder in AIIB.

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: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is a multilateral financial institution which brings countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.

- The membership is open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.
- It has authorized capital of US 100 billion dollars and subscribed capital of USD 50 billion.
- China is the largest shareholder in AIIB with a 26.06% voting power, followed by India with 7.62% and Russia with 5.92% voting power.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Permanent Court of Arbitration”:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague, Netherlands.
2. It was the first permanent intergovernmental organization to provide a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means.

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: Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague, Netherlands.

- It was the first permanent intergovernmental organization to provide a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means.
- It provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes between member states, international organizations, or private parties arising out of international agreements.
- The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.

Source: FORUMIAS