

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

February, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



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

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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

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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 STOVAR (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

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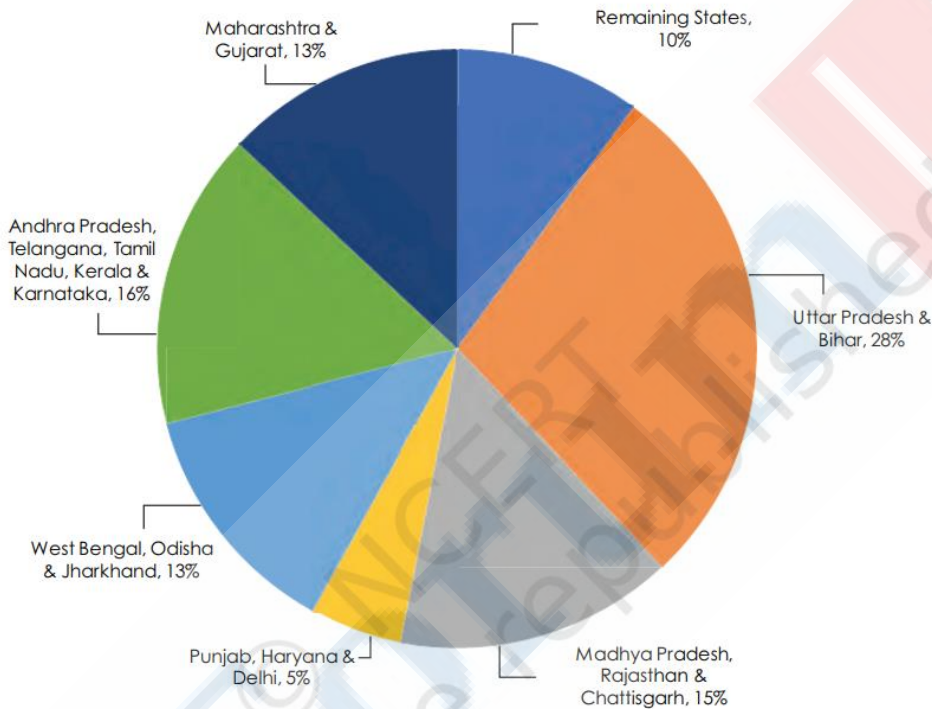
Q.6) Which of the following states will have highest share of population by 2041?

- 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

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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:

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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

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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

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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

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

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

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 Fire programme based on SNPP-VIIRS.

Source: FORUMIAS

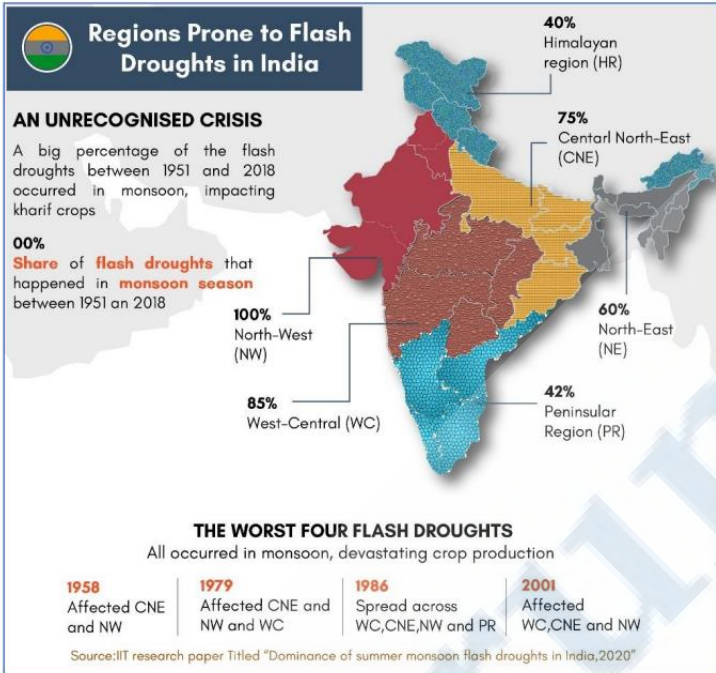
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Q.4) Which of the following region is prone to highest risk of flash drought in India?

- 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

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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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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

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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.

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- 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.

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- 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

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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

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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

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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

Q.10) “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.

- The “Dunkel Draft” in December 1991 was an historic turning point in the negotiations.

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- 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

Schemes – I

Q.1) Which of the following statements is NOT correct about FAME – II scheme?

- a) Government has approved Phase-II of FAME Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 1000Crore for a period of 3 years commencing from 1st April 2019.
- b) Out of total budgetary support, about 86 percent of fund has been allocated for Demand Incentive so as to create demand for Electric Vehicles (xEVs) in the country.
- c) This phase aims to generate demand by way of supporting 7000 Electric Buses (e-bus), 5lakh Electric Three Wheelers (e-3W), 55000 Electric Four Wheeler Passenger Cars (including Strong Hybrid) (e-4W)and 10lakh Electric Two Wheelers (e-2W).
- d) Vehicles, fitted with only advanced chemistry battery, meeting with minimum Technical Criteria and registered as "Motor Vehicle" as per Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) shall be eligible for incentive under the scheme.

ANS: A

Explanation: Government has approved Phase-II of FAME Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years commencing from 1st April 2019.

- Out of total budgetary support, about 86 percent of fund has been allocated for Demand Incentive so as to create demand for Electric Vehicles (xEVs) in the country.
- This phase aims to generate demand by way of supporting 7000 Electric Buses (e-bus), 5 lakh Electric Three Wheelers (e-3W), 55000 Electric Four Wheeler Passenger Cars (including Strong Hybrid) (e-4W)and 10 lakh Electric Two Wheelers (e-2W).
- However, depending upon off-take of different category of xEVs, these numbers may vary as the provision has been made for inter as well as intra segment wise fungibility. In addition, creation of Charging Infrastructure will also be supported under the Scheme.
- Vehicles, fitted with only advanced chemistry battery, meeting with minimum Technical Criteria and registered as "Motor Vehicle" as per CMVR shall be eligible for incentive under the scheme.
- With greater emphasis on providing affordable & environment friendly public transportation options for the masses, scheme will be applicable mainly to vehicles used for public transport or those registered for commercial purposes in e-3W, e-4W and e-bus segments. However, privately owned registered e-2Ws are also covered under the scheme as a mass segment.

Source: https://fame2.heavyindustries.gov.in/content/english/13_1_brief.aspx

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Witness Protection Scheme”:

1. It provides for five categories of witness as per threat perception.
2. The scheme provides for a State Witness Protection Fund for meeting the expenses of the 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: B

Explanation: Scheme provides for three categories of witness as per threat perception.

- Category A: Where the threat extends to life of witness or his family members, during investigation/trial or thereafter.
- Category B: Where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or his family members, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.
- Category C: Where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or his family member’s, reputation or property, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.

The Scheme provides for a State Witness Protection Fund for meeting the expenses of the scheme.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)”:

1. It aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through adopting of principle of e-Governance.
2. Digital Police Portal has been launched under the CCTNS project will enable citizens to register FIRs online.

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: Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) is a plan scheme conceived in the light of experience of a non-plan scheme namely - Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA) (2004-09).

- It aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through adopting of principle of e-Governance and creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled-state-of-the-art tracking system around ‘Investigation of crime and detection of criminals’.
- Ministry of Home Affairs and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) would play a key role in planning the program in collaboration with the Police leadership within States.
- Digital Police Portal has been launched under the CCTNS project will enable citizens to register FIRs online and the portal will initially offer seven Public Delivery Services in 34

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States & UTs, like Person and Address Verification e.g. of employees, tenants, nurses etc, permission for hosting Public Events, Lost & Found Articles and Vehicle theft etc.

- The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) aims to integrate the CCTNS project with the e-courts and e-prisons databases in the first instance and with the other pillars of the criminal justice system - Forensics, Prosecution, Juvenile homes and a nationwide Fingerprint data base of criminals in a phased manner.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) “e-Sahaj portal” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Natural resources
- Natural farming
- Security clearance in sensitive sectors
- War fund

ANS: C

Explanation: “e-Sahaj portal”: The portal allows organizations/ individuals to apply for security clearance in certain sensitive sectors before issue of licence/permit, permission, contract, etc. to companies/ bidders/individuals.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – Urban”?

- The eligibility criteria for the scheme is annual income cap is up to Rs 3 lakh for EWS, Rs 3-6 lakh for LIG and Rs 6 to 18 lakhs for MIG.
- The beneficiary family should not own a pucca house either in his/her name or in the name of any member of his/her family in any part of India.
- States have the flexibility for choosing best options to meet the demand of housing.
- Central grant of Rs. Two lakhs per house, on an average, will be available under the slum rehabilitation programme.

ANS: D

Explanation: “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – Urban”: Beneficiaries include Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low-Income Groups (LIGs) and Middle-Income Groups (MIGs).

- The annual income cap is up to Rs 3 lakh for EWS, Rs 3-6 lakh for LIG and Rs 6 to 18 lakhs for MIG.
- The beneficiary family should not own a pucca house either in his/her name or in the name of any member of his/her family in any part of India.
- Flexibility to States for choosing best options to meet the demand of housing in their states.
- Central grant of Rs. one lakh per house, on an average, will be available under the slum rehabilitation programme.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) have been designated as Central Nodal Agency for implementation of CLSS.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.6) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about “Smart Cities Mission”?

- a) It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- b) The Central Government proposes to give financial support of on an average Rs. 500crore per city per year.
- c) The Mission envisages covering 100 cities in five years (FY2015-16 to FY2019- 20).
- d) The Centre has extended the deadline of the mission to 2023 from the earlier deadline which was 2021.

ANS: B

Explanation: Smart Cities Mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and the Central Government proposes to give financial support of on an average Rs. 100 crore per city per year.

- An equal amount, on a matching basis, will have to be contributed by the State/ULB. The Centre has extended the deadline of the mission to 2023 from the earlier deadline which was 2021. The Mission envisages covering 100 cities in five years (FY2015-16 to FY2019- 20).
- The Mission may be continued thereafter in the light of an evaluation to be done by the MoHUA and incorporating the learning’s into the Mission.
- The total numbers of 100 Smart Cities have been distributed among the States and UTs on the basis of equitable criteria.
- The formula gives equal weightage (50:50) to urban population of the State/UT and the number of statutory towns in the State/UT.
- Based on this formula, each State/UT will, therefore, have a certain number of potential Smart Cities, with each State/UT having at least one.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Swachh Survekshan”:

1. It is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
2. Quality Council of India (QCI) is its implementation partner.

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: Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India. It was launched as part of the SBM.

- It is also the largest cleanliness survey in the world.
- The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society.
- Quality Council of India (QCI) is its implementation partner.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation – AMRUT”:

1. It was launched in 500 cities in 2015, with an aim to provide universal coverage of water supply in 500 selected AMRUT cities and substantial improvement in sewerage coverage.
2. The cities will submit roadmap for outcomes to be achieved by them during the mission period.

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: AMRUT was launched in 500 cities in 2015, with an aim to provide universal coverage of water supply in 500 selected AMRUT cities and substantial improvement in sewerage coverage.

- Universal coverage of water supply by providing household tap connections in all 4,378 statutory towns. 100% coverage of household sewage/ septage management in 500 AMRUT cities targeted.
- Effecting water source conservation, rejuvenation of water bodies and wells, recycle/ reuse of treated used water, and rainwater harvesting by involving community at large.
- Mission will co-opt women and youth for concurrent feedbacks about its progress. Women SHGs will be involved in water demand management, water quality testing and water infrastructure operations.
- The cities will submit roadmap for outcomes to be achieved by them during the mission period.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following city has awarded as World Green City Award 2022?

- a) Mysore
- b) Ujjain
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Vishakhapatnam

ANS: C

Explanation: Hyderabad recently received the prestigious World Green City Award 2022. Key facts Hyderabad has beaten the cities like Paris, Bogota, Mexico City, Montreal and Fortaleza to receive World Green City Award 2022 – the best across all six categories.

Hyderabad received the award at the International Association of Horticulture Producers (AIPH) 2022.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.10) “Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following state?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The state government of Tamil Nadu has notified the establishment of Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary.

- Tamil Nadu is set to host India’s first ever Slender Loris Sanctuary.
- Named Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary, it will span across 11,806 hectares in Karur and Dindigul districts, covering areas of Kadavur taluk in Karur and, Dindigul East.

Source: FORUMIAS

Schemes – II

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Namami Gange Yojana”:

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. Asian Development Bank is funding the projects through loan.

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: Namami Ganga Yojana is a central sector scheme. It covers 8 states/UTs, 47 towns & 12 rivers under the project.

- The basin covers 11 states viz., Uttarakhand, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi.
- The current focus of World Bank funded National Ganga River Basin Projects (NGRBP) of NMCG is on five major states on the main stem of river Ganga namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.
- Establishment of Clean Ganga Fund (charity fund) as a trust under the Indian Trusts Act. Donors are eligible for 100% I-T exemption and contributions also fall within the purview of CSR activity. World Bank is funding the projects through loan.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) “DHARMA - a web tool” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Dams
- b) Police verification
- c) Whistle blowers
- d) Drug controller

ANS: A

Explanation: DHARMA is a web tool to digitize all dam related data effectively. It will help to document authentic asset and health information pertaining to the large dams in the country, enabling appropriate actions to ensure need-based rehabilitation.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Atal Bhujal Yojna”:

1. It is Central Sector Scheme to be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25, with World Bank assistance.
2. It is implemented in 7 states only.

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: Atal Bhujal Yojna objective is to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation. It strengthens the institutional framework for participatory ground water management.

- It is a Central Sector Scheme to be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25, with World Bank assistance.
- It is implemented in seven States viz. of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY)”:

1. It is a welfare measure being implemented by the Employee’s State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.
2. It offers cash compensation to workers covered under Employees’ State Insurance (ESI) Scheme when they are rendered unemployed.

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: Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) is a welfare measure being implemented by the Employee’s State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.

- It offers cash compensation to workers covered under Employees’ State Insurance (ESI) Scheme when they are rendered unemployed.
- ESI Scheme aims to protect ‘employees’ against impact of incidences of sickness, maternity, disablement and death due to employment injury and to provide medical care to insured persons and their families.
- Minimum two year of insurable employment is required to claim relief.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following is/are beneficiary/beneficiaries of National Child Labor Project (NCLP) Scheme?

1. All child workers below the age of 14 years in the identified target area.
2. Adolescent workers below the age of 18 years in hazardous occupations/ processes.
3. Families of Child workers.

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: National Child Labor Project (NCLP) Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme.

- The overall approach of the project is to create an enabling environment in the target area, where children are motivated and empowered through various measures to enroll in schools and refrain from working, and households are provided with alternatives to improve their income levels.
- Children of the age between 5 to 8 years are rescued and linked to the formal education system.

Beneficiaries:

- All child workers below the age of 14 years in the identified target area.
- Adolescent workers below the age of 18 years in hazardous occupations/ processes.
- Families of Child workers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Employees’ State Insurance Scheme”:

1. It is a self-financing scheme that caters to the social security and health insurance needs of the employees.
2. The fund is regulated by the ESI Act, 1948, and is administered by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

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: Employees’ State Insurance Scheme is a self-financing scheme that caters to the social security and health insurance needs of the employees.

- The scheme is funded by both the employer and the employee, which would be remitted into the Employees State Insurance Fund.
- The fund is regulated by the ESI Act, 1948, and is administered by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), which is an autonomous body that was statutorily formed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The ESI Act, 1948, applies to organisations with 10 or more employees, drawing a salary of up to ₹21,000.

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- The Government of India through Ministry of Labour and Employment decides the rate of contribution under the ESI Act.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Industrial disputes
- b) Women welfare
- c) Child labor protection
- d) Food processing standards

ANS: A

Explanation: Samadhan (Software Application for Monitoring and Disposal, Handling of Industrial Disputes) Portal is a dedicated web portal for conciliation, arbitration and adjudication of the industrial disputes.

It brings all stakeholders - Government, Industry and Labour - involved in industrial disputes on single integrated platform.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries)”:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It was launched in 2005 to promote Cluster development of traditional industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) It is a Central Sector Scheme was launched in 2005 to promote Cluster development of traditional industries (Khadi, Coir & Village industries).

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal Agency for promotion of Cluster development for Khadi.
- Coir board is the nodal agency for promotion of Cluster development for coir.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “Raimona National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: The “last remaining stretches” of the Assam Valley tropical wet evergreen forests have become Assam’s seventh National Park.

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- The State government notified Dihing Patkai as a National Park, four days after creating the 422-sq. km Raimona National Park in western Assam's Kokrajhar district.
- Assam now has the third most National Parks after the 12 in Madhya Pradesh and nine in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, forest officials said.
- The five older National Parks in the State are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/dihing-patkai-is-assams-7th-national-park/article34770343.ece>

Q.10) "TAMRA portal" often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Mining
- b) Organic farming
- c) Solar energy
- d) Deep sea exploration

ANS: A

Explanation: TAMRA (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation) is a web portal and mobile application, to streamline the process of various statutory clearances required for mining operations. It displays block-wise, state-wise and mineral-wise information of the blocks to be auctioned.

Source: FORUMIAS

Schemes – III

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “National Mission on Edible Oils–Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)”:

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. It provides viability gap funding to farmers.

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: To enhance the edible oilseeds production and oils availability in the country by harnessing Oil Palm area expansion, increasing current palm oil production, government has launched the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. NMEO-OP will subsume the current National Food Security Mission–Oil palm programme.
- Assurance to the farmers in the form of the viability gap funding: The industry mandated to pay 14.3% of the Crude Palm Oil (CPO) price which will eventually go up to 15.3%.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about “Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)”?

- a) It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- b) It was launched in 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with a corpus of Rs. 1000crore.
- c) Financial assistance is provided in the form of Interest Subvention and Credit Guarantee for setting up post-harvest management Infrastructure.
- d) Beneficiaries of the scheme are Farmers, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHG), State Agencies/APMCs and others for building “community farming assets” and “post-harvest agriculture infrastructure.

ANS: B

Explanation: To mobilize a medium - long term debt Financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support in order to improve agriculture infrastructure in the country government has launched the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

- It is a Central Sector Scheme. It was launched in 2020 to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore.
- Financial assistance is provided in the form of Interest Subvention and Credit Guarantee for setting up post-harvest management Infrastructure.
- Beneficiaries: Farmers, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHG), State Agencies/APMCs and others for building “community farming assets” and “post-harvest agriculture infrastructure.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are implementing agency/agencies of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOS)?

1. Small Farmers agri Business Consortium (SFAC)
2. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
3. NABARD

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 implementing agencies of FPOs are Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD, NAFED, NERAMAC, Tamil Nadu-SFAC, SFACH, Watershed Development Department (WDD)- Karnataka & Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC)- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following statement is NOT correct about National Agriculture Market (E-NAM)?

- a) It's one of the objective is to promote genuine price discovery, increase farmers' options for sale and access to markets.
- b) It is a Central Sector scheme with funding coming from Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (AITF).
- c) e-NAM is a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to network the existing APMCs and other market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- d) NABARD has been selected as the lead agency to implement it.

ANS: D

Explanation: National Agriculture Market (E-NAM) is a Central Sector scheme with funding coming from Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (AITF).

- e-NAM is a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to network the existing APMCs and other market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has been selected as the lead agency to implement it.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following is/are beneficiary/beneficiaries of Kisan Credit Card (KCC)?

1. Tenant Farmers
2. Oral lessees
3. farmers engaged in animal husbandry and fisheries

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: To provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under single window for cultivation government has launched the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme.

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Beneficiaries are:

- All farmers- individuals/Joint borrowers who are owner cultivators.
- Tenant farmers, Oral lessees and Share Croppers etc.
- SHGs or Joint Liability Groups of farmers including tenant share croppers etc.
- farmers engaged in animal husbandry and fisheries

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) project was launched in which of the following language/languages?

1. Hindi
2. English
3. French

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) project was initiated in 2001 with a collaboration between the CSIR and the Ministry of AYUSH (erstwhile Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy).

- TKDL database contains more than 3.9 lakh formulations/ practices from the Indian systems of medicine AYUSH (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Sowa Rigpa) and Yoga in digitized format.
- It is in five languages: English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.
- It is available to only patent examiners through TKDL Access (Non-disclosure) Agreement.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following is NOT correct about “City Compost Scheme”?

- a) It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- b) Under the scheme, a market development assistance of Rs. 2500 per tonne of city compost for scaling up production and consumption of the product is being provided.
- c) Promotion of city compost will be done by fertilizer companies and marketing entities.
- d) An appropriate BIS standard/ Eco-Mark will be developed to ensure better market acceptance.

ANS: B

Explanation: To support Swachh Bharat Mission and provide City Compost at subsidized rates to farmers government has launched City Compost Scheme.

- It is a Central Sector Scheme. Under the scheme, a market development assistance of Rs. 1500 per tonne of city compost for scaling up production and consumption of the product is being provided.
- Promotion of city compost will be done by fertilizer companies and marketing entities. Companies will also adopt villages for promoting the use of compost.
- An appropriate BIS standard/ Eco-Mark will be developed to ensure better market acceptance.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Krishi Udan Scheme”:

1. Scheme intends to assist to farmers in transporting perishable agricultural products so that it improves their “value realisation”.
2. Under the scheme, the first domestic dedicated freighter carried perishable agricultural produce from Lengpui airport (Mizoram) to Kolkata airport.

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: Krishi Udan scheme intends to assist to farmers in transporting perishable agricultural products so that it improves their “value realisation”, especially in the north-east and tribal districts.

- Under the scheme, the first domestic dedicated freighter carried perishable agricultural produce from Lengpui airport (Mizoram) to Kolkata airport.
- Similarly, agricultural products are also transported from Guwahati International Airport to Hong Kong.
- The customs, plant quarantine and other necessary services are also available at Guwahati International Airport.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “Kali Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Assam
- d) Bihar

ANS: B

Explanation: Anshi National Park came into existence after a portion of Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary was carved out in 1987. It was brought under Project Tiger in 2007 along with the adjoining Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Situated in Uttara Kannada district, the combined area of Anshi Dandeli Tiger Reserve measures 1300 sq km.
- It was renamed Kali Tiger Reserve in 2015. The river Kali, known as the lifeline of the tiger reserve, cuts across the forestland.
- The park is bestowed with plentiful wildlife. Aside from tigers, the main predators in the park are leopard, sloth bear and dhole. Black panthers are also found here, albeit seen rarely.

Source: The Hindu

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

- a) Moral policing
- b) Coal ecosystem
- c) Foreign education
- d) Organic farming

ANS: B

Explanation: UTTAM (Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal) App is developed by the Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL).

- The App ensures accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in coal ecosystem.
- This App enables the citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third-Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.
- It has interactive map-based view to provide holistic coverage of coal quality across subsidiaries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Schemes, Laws and Acts

Q.1) “Khan Prahari” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Illegal coal mining
- b) Jail records
- c) Cyber activities
- d) Money laundering

ANS: A

Explanation: “Khan Prahari” is a tool for reporting any activity taking place related to illegal coal mining like rat hole mining, pilferage, etc.

One can upload geo-tagged photographs of the incident along with textual information directly to the system. The identity of the complainant shall not be revealed.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following agency/agencies is/are eligible for finance under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)?

- 1. Export Promotion Councils
- 2. Commodities Boards
- 3. SEZ Authorities

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) provides financial assistance for setting up and up-gradation of existing infrastructure with export linkages like border haats, cold chains, dry ports, etc.

The Central and State Agencies, including Export Promotion Councils, Commodities Boards, SEZ Authorities and Apex Trade Bodies recognised under the EXIM policy of Government of India are eligible for financial support under this scheme.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.3) Which of the following service/services sector/s is/are covered under “Champion Services Sector Scheme”?

1. Tourism & Hospitality services
2. Accounting & Financial services
3. Audio – Visual services

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:

	Title of Sectoral Scheme under the Umbrella Scheme	Nodal Ministry/Department
1.	CSSS-Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services	Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
2.	CSSS -Tourism and Hospitality Services	Ministry of Tourism
3.	CSSS -Medical Value Travel Services	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of AYUSH
4.	CSSS -Transport and Logistics Services	Department of Commerce
5.	CSSS -Accounting and Finance Services	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
6.	CSSS -Audio - Visual Services	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
7.	CSSS -Legal Services	Ministry of Law & Justice
8.	CSSS -Communication Services	Ministry of Communications
9.	CSSS-Construction and Related Engineering Services	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
10.	CSSS -Environmental Services	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
11.	CSSS -Financial Services	Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance
12.	CSSS -Education Services	Ministry of Human Resource Development

Source: https://commerce.gov.in/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/MOC_637177295864099394_Guidelines-CSSS.pdf

Q.4) “SWAYATT initiative” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Promoting start-up’s
- b) Farmer producer organization
- c) Patent awareness
- d) Disaster preparedness

ANS: A

Explanation: SWAYATT initiative is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM).

It will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to Government e-Marketplace, the national procurement portal.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.5) “Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan (PDDUSKVP) Scheme” is related to which of the following?

- a) Telecom skilled manpower creation
- b) Cyber personnel
- c) Village protection personnel
- d) Skilled organic farmers

ANS: A

Explanation: Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan (PDDUSKVP) Scheme to supplement telecom skilled manpower creation for the growth of telecom sector and to generate livelihood for the youth of the nation.

- The pilot phase of the scheme was approved in 2017 for commemorating the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay.
- In pilot phase, it will train 10,000 people from UP, MP, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab and Haryana the 1st phase on a pilot basis.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Financial inclusion
- b) LED street lights
- c) Solar pumps
- d) Roof top solar lanterns

ANS: A

Explanation: DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India) Project aims to improve the quality of service and achieve “financial inclusion” of un-banked rural population. It is a part of IT modernization project. It intends to provide a low power technology solution to each Branch Postmaster (BPM).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013”:

1. The NFSA covered 67% of the country’s population, including 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population.
2. Under the act priority households entitled to 5 kg of food-grains per person per month.

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 NFSA covered 67% of the country’s population, including 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population (overall 81.35 crore persons).

- State-wise coverage under NFSA was determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.
- Under the act, priority households entitled to 5 kg of food-grains per person per month.

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- Families covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (poorest of the poor): Entitled to 35 kg per month.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)”:

1. It is an apex level statutory autonomous institution set up by the Government of India under an Act of the Parliament in 1963.
2. It is an ISO 9001:2015 certified organization.

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: NCDC is an apex level statutory autonomous institution set up by the Government of India under an Act of the Parliament in 1963 exclusively for cooperatives at primary, district, apex / multistate and national level.

NCDC is under the administrative control of Ministry of Cooperation. NCDC is an ISO 9001:2015 certified organization.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “Undavalli caves” is recently seen in news, located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Undavalli Caves, a monolithic example of Indian rock-cut architecture and one of the finest testimonials to ancient viswakarma sthaphathis, are located in Vijayawada of Guntur district in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) “Sanjay Gandhi National Park” often seen in news is located at which of the following state?

- a) Telangana
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: B

Explanation: Sanjay Gandhi National Park, also known as SGNP, is an 87 km² protected area in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It was established in 1969 with its headquarters situated at Borivali. The 2400-year-old Kanheri caves, sculpted by monks out of the rocky basaltic cliffs, lie within the park.

Source: FORUMIAS

Organization and Bodies

Q.1) Which of the following institution/s is/are created under “UN Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS)”?

1. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
2. International Seabed Authority
3. International Whale Commission

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: UN Convention on the Law of Sea is the international agreement that resulted from the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

- It provides a regulatory framework for the use of the world’s seas and oceans, to ensure the conservation and equitable usage of resources and the marine environment and to ensure the protection and preservation of the living resources of the sea.
- 167 countries plus the UN Observer state Palestine, as well as the Cook Islands, Niue and the European Union have joined in the Convention.

The convention has created 3 new institutions on the international scene,

- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,
- International Seabed Authority,
- Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Seafarer wellbeing
- b) Ship pollution
- c) Weapons testing
- d) Deep sea exploration

ANS: A

Explanation: Liberian Registry has become the very first ship registry to sign onto the Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change, which was unveiled at the Davos summit. Signed by more than 500 organizations, it highlights the main actions that are required to be taken in order to resolve the crew change crisis.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) “Floriano­polis Declaration” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Whale
- b) Tiger
- c) Elephant
- d) Dolphin

ANS: A

Explanation: 2018 meeting of IWC held in Brazil adopted “Floriano­polis Declaration” proposed by Brazil.

- The declaration insists that commercial whaling is no longer a necessary economic activity and would allow the recovery of all whale population to pre-industrial whaling levels.
- It also aimed to give indefinite protection for the world's whale population.
- It is a non-binding agreement and was backed by 40 countries, with 27 pro-whaling states voting against.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) “London Club” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Nuclear suppliers group
- b) Wassenaar Arrangement
- c) Missile Technology Control Regime
- d) Australia Group

ANS: A

Explanation: Nuclear Suppliers Group is a voluntary, non-legally binding export control regime.

- Originally called “London Club”, it was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in 1974.
- It is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) “The Maastricht Treaty” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Commonwealth
- b) European Union
- c) African Union
- d) Gulf Cooperation council

ANS: B

Explanation: European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe.

- The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union on 31 January 2020. The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship.
- The latest major amendment to the constitutional basis of the EU, the Treaty of Lisbon, came into force in 2009.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “North Atlantic Treaty Organization”:

1. It is an intergovernmental political and military alliance setup by the US, Canada, and several western European nations to ensure their collective security against the Soviet Union.
2. Its head quarters are located at Vienna, Austria.

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: North Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded in 1949 as a mutual-defense and political alliance.

It is an intergovernmental political and military alliance setup by the US, Canada, and several western European nations to ensure their collective security against the Soviet Union. HQ - Brussels, Belgium.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following country is NOT a member of G7?

- a) Italy
- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) China

ANS: D

Explanation: G7 is an intergovernmental economic group consisting of 7 largest IMF advanced economies such as Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US. EU is also represented within the G7 as an invitee.

- These countries are the seven major advanced economies as reported by the IMF. Formerly called G8 with Russia in it, but due to Crimean crisis, Russia was ejected from the group.
- The organization was founded to facilitate shared macroeconomic initiatives by its members in response to the collapse of the exchange rate 1971.
- G7 summit is being held annually to discuss economic policies, while the G7 finance ministers have met at least semi-annually.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Financial Action Task Force”:

1. It was set up in 1989 by the G7 countries, with headquarters in Paris.
2. It has 39 members that include all 5 permanent members of UNSC.

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 was set up in 1989 by the G7 countries, with headquarters in Paris.

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- It has 39 members that include all 5 permanent members of UNSC and 2 regional organisations - Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission.
- Saudi Arabia, Israel and Indonesia are “observer countries” (partial membership). India became a full member in 2010.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are member country/countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

1. Oman
2. Iran
3. Iraq

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: It is a regional political and economic alliance of six Gulf States i.e., Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. HQ - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Its aim is to achieve ever closer union between the energy rich Gulf countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) “Bannerghatta National Park” often seen in news is located at?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Established in 1974, Bannerghatta National Park is spread over an area of 260.5 sq km. In 2002, a portion of the national park was carved out to create Bannerghatta Biological Park.

- It is situated on the outskirts of Bangalore, approximately 22 km away from the city. Lion safari, Tiger safari and Butterfly Park are major attractions here. The park also houses a zoo and a museum.
- The safari takes you through the different areas of the park where you can see tigers, lions, elephants, gaur and several other wild animals.

Source: FORUMIAS

Organization & Bodies – II

Q.1) Which of the following is/are member country/countries of “Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries”?

1. Russia
2. Algeria
3. Nigeria

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: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations to coordinate and unify their petroleum policies and ensure the stabilization of oil markets, in order to have regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.

- Members -Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Libya, UAE, Algeria, Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Congo.
- Qatar announced its termination of its membership from January 2019. Russia is not a member of OPEC. OPEC countries produce about two-fifths of the world’s crude oil.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following is a member country of “Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development”?

- a) India
- b) China
- c) Brazil
- d) Turkey

ANS: D

Explanation: Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development started with 18 European countries plus the US and Canada to create an organisation dedicated to economic development.

- It now has 38 member including not only most advanced countries but also emerging countries like Mexico, Chile and Turkey.
- European Commission also participates alongside members in discussions on the OECD.
- It also works closely with non-members like China, India, Brazil and South Africa through "Enhanced Engagement" programmes.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) “Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)” is an initiative of which of the following institution?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) is a joint initiative of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supporting countries in building tax audit capacity.

TIWB Programmes complement the broader efforts of the international community to strengthen co-operation on tax matters and contribute to the domestic resource mobilization efforts of developing countries.

Source: <http://www.tiwb.org/>

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “International Energy Agency (IEA)”:

1. It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the OECD.
2. India is the associate member of IEA.

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: International Energy Agency is an autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the OECD.

- It was initially designed to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil.
- Only OECD member states can become members of the IEA. Except for Chile, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Slovenia all OECD member states are members of the IEA.
- In 2018, Mexico officially joined IEA as its 30th member country. It is the first Latin American country in IEA.
- Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore and Thailand are the associate members of IEA.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “International Solar Alliance”:

1. It is an Indian initiative, jointly launched by India and France in Paris.
2. It aims to channel \$300 billion in 10 years to promote renewable energy projects under a global mega fund for clean energy.

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: International Solar Alliance is an Indian initiative, jointly launched by India and France in Paris, on the side lines of COP-21, the UN Climate Conference held at Paris.

- It is instituted to connect 121 solar-resource-rich nations for research, low-cost financing and rapid deployment of clean energy.
- HQ - India (Interim Secretariat - Gurgaon). It aims to channel \$300 billion in 10 years to promote renewable energy projects under a global mega fund for clean energy.
- Membership - The 121 prospective member countries (those falling between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) of the ISA and are also the United Nations member, can join the Alliance by signing and ratifying the Framework Agreement or by acceptance or approval.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is NOT a member country of Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

- a) Turkmenistan
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Kyrgyzstan
- d) Uzbekistan

ANS: A

Explanation: Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- Current member states (8) - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- Observer States (4) - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia. Dialogue Partners (6) - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey, Sri Lanka.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) “The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) SCO
- b) Warsaw Pact
- c) Interpol
- d) NATO

ANS: A

Explanation: The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) “Ashgabat Agreement” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) International solar policy
- b) International multi modal transport corridor
- c) International primary health policy
- d) International refugee policy

ANS: B

Explanation: Ashgabat Agreement aims to create multi modal international transport transit corridor.

- It has Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as founding members. Kazakhstan has also joined this arrangement subsequently. Pakistan joined Ashgabat agreement in 2016.
- India has also become member of the agreement, which would enable India to utilize this existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction with the Eurasian region.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)”:

1. It is a trade deal signed among 15 countries.
2. The members account for nearly 30% of the global GDP.

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: RCEP is a trade deal signed among 15 countries. These countries include 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia, China, South Korea, Japan and New Zealand.

- Negotiations on the details of the RCEP have been on since 2013. The members account for nearly 30% of the global GDP.
- The 3 largest economies in the pact, China, Japan and South Korea are part of a free trade agreement for the first time.

Source: FORUMIAS

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “BRICS”:

1. It represents over 40% of the world’s population and accounts for 22% of global GDP.
2. All members’ countries of BRICS are G-20 members.

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: BRICS is an association of 5 major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

- All five are G-20 members. It represents over 40% of the world’s population and accounts for 22% of global GDP.
- Since 2009, the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits. The recent 12th BRICS summit was hosted by Russia in 2020.

Source: FORUMIAS

Organization & Bodies – III

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)”:

1. It is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia.
2. Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Myanmar are member countries of SACEP.

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: South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia.

- The objective is to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
- Member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- It also acts as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, which comes under the purview of UNEP’s Regional Seas Programme.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are member country/countries of “Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)”?

1. Pakistan
2. Myanmar
3. Thailand

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: Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.

- The objective was to harness growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages.
- It comprises of India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal. Kathmandu declaration was released during the summit in 2018.

Source: FORUMIAS

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.3) Which of the following is NOT a member country of Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) India
- c) Cambodia
- d) Vietnam

ANS: A

Explanation: The Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established in 2000 and it comprises 6 member countries - India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

- The 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in July 2021. It is co-chaired by India and Cambodia.
- It noted the progress in the MGC Plan of Action 2019- 2022 implementation.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following is NOT a member country of QUAD?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Australia
- c) Japan
- d) India

ANS: A

Explanation: The Quadrilateral Group consists of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. It aims to strengthen the defence and security cooperation amongst the four countries.

- The idea was originally conceived in 2007 by the former Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzō Abe. It was proposed to check China's growing influence and assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It has a shared objective to ensure and support a "free, open and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding "Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)":

1. It is a trilateral approach to trade, mooted by Japan with India and Australia as the key-partners.
2. It is a direct response to individual companies and economies concerned about Chinese political behavior and the disruption that could lead to the supply chain.

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: Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) is a trilateral approach to trade, mooted by Japan with India and Australia as the key-partners.

- The initiative aims to reduce the dependency on a single nation (at present China).

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

- SCRI is a direct response to individual companies and economies concerned about Chinese political behaviour and the disruption that could lead to the supply chain.
- The initiative, first proposed by Japan with India and Australia as partners, potentially see other Asian and Pacific Rim nations later.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are members of Nordic Group?

1. Denmark
2. Finland
3. Norway

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 Nordic-Baltic Cooperation (NB8) or NB8 is a regional cooperation format which as of 1992 has brought together five Nordic countries and three Baltic countries.

The five Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and the three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) cooperate in an informal and close way.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: MERCOSUR is a full customs union and a trading bloc with members Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

- Venezuela was suspended from membership in 2016. Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname are its associate members. Observer countries are New Zealand and Mexico.
- Its purpose is to promote free trade and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency.
- India and the Mercosur bloc have stepped up efforts to expand their preferential trade agreement to make greater inroads into the other’s market.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)”:

1. It is an independent intergovernmental body.
2. Its objective is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

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 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body.

- The objective is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Currently has over 130 member States.
- A large number of NGOs, civil society groupings, individual stakeholders, also participate in the meet. It found that many of the world’s pollinator species are on the decline.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is NOT a member country of BASIC group?

- a) China
- b) India
- c) Brazil
- d) South Korea

ANS: D

Explanation: The 29th ministerial meeting of the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) countries on Climate Change was organised at Beijing, China recently.

- The meeting has called for "comprehensive" implementation of the Paris climate deal amid threats by US President Donald Trump to withdraw from it.
- The meeting worked out priorities and issues as a group to be highlighted at the UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Chile in December 2019.

Source: FORUMIAS

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.10) “Silent Valley National Park” often seen in news is located at?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The core of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the Silent Valley National Park is probably one of the most magnificent gifts of nature to mankind, a unique preserve of tropical rain forests in all its pristine glory with an almost unbroken ecological history.

- Silent Valley is closed on all sides with high and continuous ridges and steep escarpments, as a result the valley is shielded from the extremes of climate as well as anthropogenic interventions and so it remained an ecological island with a special micro climate.
- The river Kunthi descends from the Nilgiri Hills above an altitude of 2000 m and traverses the entire length of the valley finally rushing down to the plains through a deep gorge.
- Silent Valley falls within the revenue districts of Palakkad and Malappuram within the 76° 24' and 76° 29' East Longitude and 11° 4' and 11° 13' North Latitude.

Source: <https://forest.kerala.gov.in/index.php/about-us/wildlife/2015-03-16-09-50-24/national-parks/silent-valley-national-park>

Economic Survey – 2022 - 23

Q.1) Which of the following three shocks have hit the global economy (particularly Indian Economy) since 2020?

1. Pandemic-induced contraction of the global output.
2. Russian-Ukraine conflict leading to a worldwide surge in inflation.
3. Synchronized interest rate downs by major central banks.

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: In general, global economic shocks in the past were severe but spaced out in time. This changed in the third decade of this millennium. At least three shocks have hit the global economy since 2020.

- It all started with the pandemic-induced contraction of the global output, followed by the Russian-Ukraine conflict leading to a worldwide surge in inflation.
- Then, the central banks across economies led by the Federal Reserve responded with synchronised policy rate hikes to curb inflation.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.2) Many external agencies has predicted Indian economy will a as the fastest-growing major economy at 6.5-7.0 per cent in FY23. Which of the following measure/s/provision/s led to this growth?

1. Rebound of private consumption
2. Near-universal vaccination coverage overseen by the government.
3. High demand by world exports.

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: Despite these, agencies worldwide continue to project India as the fastest-growing major economy at 6.5-7.0 per cent in FY23.

- These optimistic growth forecasts stem in part from the resilience of the Indian economy seen in the rebound of private consumption seamlessly replacing the export stimuli as the leading driver of growth.
- The uptick in private consumption has also given a boost to production activity resulting in an increase in capacity utilisation across sectors.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

- The rebound in consumption was engineered by the near-universal vaccination coverage overseen by the government that brought people back to the streets to spend on contact-based services, such as restaurants, hotels, shopping malls, and cinemas, among others.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.3) Which of the following measure/s is/are going to be taken to improve the growth of the economy?

1. Expansion of public digital platforms.
2. PM Gati-Shakti
3. National Logistics Policy

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Growth is expected to be brisk in FY24 as a vigorous credit disbursal, and capital investment cycle is expected to unfold in India with the strengthening of the balance sheets of the corporate and banking sectors.

Further support to economic growth will come from the expansion of public digital platforms and path-breaking measures such as PM GatiShakti, the National Logistics Policy, and the Production-Linked Incentive schemes to boost manufacturing output.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.4) The term “pent-up” demand is recently seen in news is related to?

- a) Export demand
- b) Demand rise in due to a rise in the share of consumption in disposable income.
- c) Electric vehicles
- d) Processing sector demand

ANS: B

Explanation: The rebound in consumption has also been supported by the release of “pent-up” demand, a phenomenon not again unique to India but nonetheless exhibiting a local phenomenon influenced by a rise in the share of consumption in disposable income.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “External Commercial Borrowings (ECB’s)”:

1. ECB’s are commercial loans widely used by eligible resident entities that raise ECBs from recognized non-resident entities.
2. ECB’s are governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

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: External Commercial Borrowings are commercial loans widely used by eligible resident entities that raise ECBs from recognised non-resident entities.

ECBs should adhere to the criteria like minimum maturity period, maximum all-in-cost ceiling, permitted and non-permitted end-uses, etc. ECBs are governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “SVAMITVA Scheme”:

1. It was launched to establish of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (Abadi) areas.
2. It was launched by Ministry of finance.

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: Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).

- It was launched to establish of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (Abadi) areas,
- Provide ‘Record of Rights’ to village household owners with issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards).

Source: FORUMIAS

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Green Bond”:

1. It is a type of debt security created for funding or re-funding projects contributing positively to the climate and/or ecosystem.
2. The significant difference between Green Bonds and ordinary bonds is that the funds raised are only used to support initiatives that have a good influence on the environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: A Green Bond is a type of debt security created for funding or re-funding projects contributing positively to the climate and/or ecosystem.

- The significant difference between Green Bonds and ordinary bonds is that the funds raised are only used to support initiatives that have a good influence on the environment, such as green construction, renewable energy etc.
- When these bonds carry guarantees related to the repayment of principal and payment of interest by the sovereign or the government, they are called sovereign green bonds (SGrB).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) “MAARG portal” is often seen in news is launched by?

- a) Department of Finance
- b) Department of Economic Services
- c) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- d) Department of Disinvestment

ANS: C

Explanation: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has invited start-up applications for registration on MAARG portal.

MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth) portal is to facilitate mentorship for startups across diverse sectors, functions, stages, geographies, and backgrounds.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “Goods Trade Barometer” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) IMF
- d) World Bank

ANS: A

Explanation: Latest World Trade Organization (WTO) Goods Trade Barometer hints toward slowing of trade growth in the rest of 2022 and into 2023.

WTO's Goods Trade Barometer index is a composite leading indicator for world trade, providing real-time information on merchandise trade trajectory relative to recent trends.

Source: FORUMIAS

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.10) “Mukurthi National Park” is often seen in news is located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Every national park offers a lot for a discerning traveller. Some parks however are much more than just sanctuaries and havens for the wildlife.

- They are stunning and spectacular destinations that offer an absolute treat in ways much more than one.
- Mukurthi National Park is one such place that will make you happy with its stunning array of flora and enticing fauna.
- Located in a tranquil setting in the Nilgiri plateau, Mukurthi National Park is one of the most visited national parks in Tamil Nadu.

Source: <https://www.tamilnadutourism.tn.gov.in/destinations/mukurthi-national-park>

Economic Survey – 2022 - 23

Q.1) The Indian economy underwent a gamut of wide-ranging structural and governance reforms from 2014 – 22. The reform/s is/are based on the principle/s of?

1. Creating public goods.
2. Adopting trust-based governance.
3. Co-partnering with the private sector for development.

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: 2014-2022 is an important period in the economic history of India. The economy underwent a gamut of wide-ranging structural and governance reforms that strengthened the economy's fundamentals by enhancing its overall efficiency.

With an underlying emphasis on improving the ease of living and doing business, the reforms were based on the broad principles of creating public goods, adopting trust-based governance, co-partnering with the private sector for development, and improving agricultural productivity.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.2) Which of the following is/are reason/s for balance of payments crisis in the Indian economy in 1991?

1. High combined deficit of the central and state governments.
2. Elevated inflationary pressures.
3. Large and unsustainable current account deficit (CAD).

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 macroeconomic imbalances of the late 1980s and early 1990s pushed the government towards introducing the structural reforms of 1991.

The high combined deficit of the central and state governments, elevated inflationary pressures, and large and unsustainable current account deficit (CAD) led to a balance of payments crisis in the Indian economy.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.3) To create strong baseline for infrastructure creation and development, which of the following is/are launched by government of India?

1. Bharatmala
2. National Infrastructure Pipeline
3. National Monetization Pipeline

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 dedicated programs for road connectivity (Bharatmala), port infrastructure (Sagarmala), electrification, railways upgradation, and operationalising new airports/ air routes (UDAN) have significantly improved the physical infrastructure in the last few years.

With the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) in 2019 and the National Monetization Pipeline in 2021, a strong baseline for infrastructure creation and development has been put in place, providing a multitude of opportunities for foreign investment and engagement.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.4) Which of the following initiative/s launched by government to bring the economy into formal net?

1. Registration of un-organised workers on the eshram portal.
2. Street vendors on SVANidhi.
3. MSMEs on the Udayam portal.

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: Another vital contribution of digital infrastructure has been the greater formalisation of the economy.

- A report in The Economist (January 2023) attributes the trends of formalisation of the workforce in India to the transformed digital financial architecture, the digitalised GST system and growth in the usage of UPI.
- The creation of digital identities such as Aadhar, registration of unorganised workers on the eshram portal, street vendors on SVANidhi, taxpaying firms on GSTN, and MSMEs on the Udayam portal, has played a significant role in the inclusion of these groups under the formal economic net.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.5) Which of the following is/are launched by government of India to make unified digital interfaces resulting in a more efficient resource allocation in the economy?

1. National Single Window System
2. JanSamarth portal
3. UMANG app

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: Gains from economic and structural reforms tend to be more significant when the binding constraints of governance have been addressed.

- Unified digital interfaces that connect various initiatives/portals have simplified governance resulting in a more efficient resource allocation in the economy.
- The National Single Window System for business approvals, the JanSamarth portal for credit-linked Central Government scheme, and the UMANG app for access to Central and state government services are essential steps towards enhancing the ease of doing business through the integration of existing systems.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.6) Which of the following measure/s is/are taken by government to promote the agricultural productivity?

1. Agri Infrastructure Fund
2. Kisan Rail
3. Cluster Development Programme

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has supported the creation of various agriculture infrastructures.

- Kisan Rail exclusively caters to the movement of perishable Agri Horti commodities.
- Cluster Development Programme (CDP) has promoted integrated and market-led development for horticulture clusters.
- Support for creating a Start-up ecosystem in agriculture and allied sectors is also being provided to the farmers.
- All these measures are directed towards supporting the growth in agricultural productivity and sustaining its contribution to overall economic growth in the medium term.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

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

- a) Minority education
- b) Land resurvey
- c) Organic farming
- d) Solar energy

ANS: A

Explanation: NayaSavera scheme is free Coaching and Allied Scheme with the aim to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates from minority communities to get employment in Government Sector/ Public Sector Undertakings, jobs in private sector and admission in reputed institutions in technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)”:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. It is revamped version of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan.

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: For developing governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) government has launched Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It is revamped version of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan.
- It aims at making rural local bodies self-sustainable, financially stable and more efficient.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “Pench national park” often seen in news is located at?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Tucked on the border of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Pench National Park is administered by two Indian states.

While the forest is contiguous, you can't access the Maharashtra portion of the forest through the entry gates located in Madhya Pradesh. It is named after the river Pench, which drains a large area of the park.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) “Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Idukki is home to the Great Grizzled Squirrel of India. Numbering less than 200, they are among the most endangered species on the planet.

- Its unique location in the Western Ghats has ensured it gets less than 2 months of rainfall annually.
- The wildlife along with the deciduous trees makes it an ideal spot for trekking aficionados.
- The beautiful Sandalwood forest nearby is highly recommended for a visit. One can view herds of gaur and elephants strolling around casually in this area.
- Dry deciduous forests, high ranges and some grassland add to the diversity of the sanctuary.
- While making the journey from Karimuthi to Chinnar, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Hanuman Langur and peacocks can be spotted alongside the road.

Source: FORUMIAS

Economic Survey – 2022 - 23

Q.1) Which of the following is/are come/s under “non-debt capital receipts”?

1. Recovery of loans and advances from state governments
2. Recovery of loans given to foreign governments
3. Recovery of loans and advances from PSUs

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: the government divides non-debt capital receipts into more than a dozen sub-heads.

- There are two types of non-debt capital receipts, recoveries of loans and advances, and miscellaneous capital receipts.
- The recoveries of loans and advances include recovery of loans and advances from state governments and Union Territories with legislature, recovery of loans given to foreign governments, recovery of loans and advances from PSUs and other autonomous bodies.
- In miscellaneous capital receipts, proceeds from disinvestment in public-sector undertakings are included.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.2) Which of the following is/are implication/s of increase in capital expenditure of the government?

1. Strengthens aggregate demand
2. Crowds-in private spending in times of risk aversion
3. Enhances the longer-term supply-side productive capacity

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Government's thrust on Capital expenditure, particularly in the infrastructure-intensive sectors like roads and highways, railways, and housing and urban affairs, has longer-term implications for growth.

While on the one hand, capital expenditure strengthens aggregate demand and crowds-in private spending in times of risk aversion; it also enhances the longer-term supply-side productive capacity.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.3) Which of the following is/are change/s has taken place over the last few years in Union Budget?

1. From the Financial Year 2018, budget discontinued having Plan and Non-Plan classifications of Government expenditure.
2. The railway budget was merged with the Union Budget from Financial year 2018.
3. The date of the Budget was advanced to 1 February from the Budget Financial year 2018.

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 Budget FY18 discontinued having Plan and Non-Plan classifications of Government expenditure. The reform gave a greater emphasis to the Revenue and Capital classification of Government expenditure.

- Over the years, a broad understanding had been that Plan expenditures were good and Non-Plan expenditures were bad, resulting in skewed allocations in the Budget. The reform enabled effective planning and allocation of resources in the Budget.
- The railway budget was merged with the Union Budget from FY18. The reform gave a holistic picture of the government's financial position.
- The initiative envisaged facilitating multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and inland waterways, which has been strengthened in the subsequent years through Gatishakti.
- The date of the Budget was advanced to 1 February from the Budget FY18. The advancement of Budget presentation by a month has paved the way for early completion of the Budget cycle.
- It has also enabled the Ministries to ensure better planning and execution of schemes from the beginning of the financial year.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.4) Which of the following is/are come/s under transfer of funds to the States?

1. Taxes devolved to the States
2. Finance Commission Grants
3. Centrally Sponsored Schemes

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: Transfer of funds to the States comprises the share of States in Union taxes devolved to the States, Finance Commission Grants, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and other transfers.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.5) “Article 275” of Indian constitution often seen in news is related to?

- a) Grants from the Union to certain States
- b) Surcharge on certain duties and taxes for purposes of the Union
- c) Grants in lieu of export duty on jute and jute products
- d) Prior recommendation of President required to Bills affecting taxation in which States are interested

ANS: A

Explanation: Grants from the Union to certain States: — such sums as Parliament may by law provide shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India in each year as grants-in-aid of the revenues of such States as Parliament may determine to be in need of assistance, and different sums may be fixed for different States.

Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme”:

1. It was launched through Zonal Cultural Centre.
2. It strives to preserve and promote rare and vanishing art forms whether classical or folk/tribal.

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: Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme was launched through Zonal Cultural Centre.

- It strives to preserve and promote rare and vanishing art forms whether classical or folk/tribal.
- The young talents shall be nurtured to acquire skills in their chosen field of art through some financial assistance by the ZCCs in the form of scholarship under the guidance of Experts and Masters in these fields.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Defence Space Agency (DSA)”:

1. It is a tri-service agency of the Indian Armed Forces to command the space assets.
2. The headquarters is located at Ahmadabad.

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: DSA is a tri-service agency of the Indian Armed Forces to command the space assets of the Army, Navy and Air Force, including the military’s anti-satellite capability.

- DSA draws personnel from all three branches of the Armed Forces. It became operational in Nov, 2019.

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- Headquartered in Bengaluru, the agency is tasked with operating the space-warfare assets of India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following state/s is/are covered under “North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)”?

1. Assam
2. Sikkim
3. Nagaland

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) is a World Bank aided, multi-state livelihood project.

- The project aims “to improve rural livelihoods especially that of women, unemployed youth and the most disadvantaged, in four North Eastern States”.
- It covers two districts each in Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and 5 districts in Tripura.
- The project also works in partnerships with expert organizations to focus on cluster development through value chains.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) “SAFAR system” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Air quality
- b) Immunization
- c) Solar ventilation
- d) Organic fertilizers

ANS: A

Explanation: An integrated early warning System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

SAFAR envisages a research based management system where strategies of air pollution mitigation go hand in hand with nation’s economic development to target a win-win scenario.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) “Pin Valley National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?

- a) Bihar
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Assam
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: D

Explanation: Established in January 1987, the Pin Valley National Park is located in the districts of Lahaul and Spiti.

- A hilly but lush landscape, the Pin Valley’s elevation ranges from almost 11,500 feet (3,500 metres) at Ka Dogri to more than 20,000 feet (6,000 metres) at the park’s highest point.
- Extending to the South of the Dhankar Gompa, near the Tibetan border, the Park also happens to be one of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in the Himalayan region.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “World Gold Council”:

1. It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, and their aim is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold.
2. Headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The World Gold Council is the market development organization for the gold industry.

- Headquartered in London, United Kingdom, they have offices in India, China, Singapore and the United States.
- It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, and their aim is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold.
- They frequently publish research that demonstrates gold’s strength as a preserver of wealth both for investors and countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are member/s of Arctic Council?

1. United Kingdom
2. Denmark
3. Finland

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: Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

- The Ottawa Declaration lists the following countries as Members of the Arctic Council - Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.
- In addition, 6 organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have status as Permanent Participants.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”:

1. It is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.
2. It was adopted by the United Nations in 1996 and entered into force in 2001.

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: Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.

- It was adopted by the United Nations in 1996 but has not entered into force as eight specific states have not ratified the treaty.
- 166 states have ratified the CTBT and another 17 states have signed but not ratified it. China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States have signed but not ratified the Treaty.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) “Pelindaba Treaty” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Space activities
- b) Primary Health
- c) Nuclear treaty
- d) Chemical weapons

ANS: C

Explanation: The African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty/Pelindaba treaty prohibits the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, testing, possession, control or stationing of nuclear explosive devices in the territory of parties to the Treaty and the dumping of radioactive wastes in the African zone by Treaty parties.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) “Djibouti Code of Conduct” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Piracy control
- b) Controlled missile testing
- c) Commonwealth nations
- d) Solar energy surplus countries

ANS: A

Explanation: Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) aims to concern the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

- It is also known as Code of Conduct or Jeddah Amendment. It was adopted on 29th January 2009. It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- Under the code, the signatories agreed to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Biological Weapons Convention”:

1. It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.
2. The Geneva Protocol prohibits use but not possession or development of chemical and biological weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Biological Weapons Convention was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.

- The Geneva Protocol prohibits use but not possession or development of chemical and biological weapons.
- BWC commits the states to prohibit the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. It has 183 members (including India).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) “Budapest Convention” often seen in news is related to?

- a) Cyber crimes
- b) Outer space activities
- c) Arctic ocean
- d) International shipping

ANS: A

Explanation: Budapest Convention is the sole legally binding multilateral treaty that coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalizes certain cybercrime conduct. The convention is led by Council of Europe, which is distinct from European Union. Both members and non-members of Council of Europe are parties to the convention.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Singapore Convention”:

1. It is convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.
2. It will allow businesses to seek enforcement of a mediated settlement agreement across borders by applying directly to courts of countries that have signed and ratified the treaty.

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 (UN) Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation is the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.

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- It applies to international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, concluded by parties to resolve a commercial dispute.
- It will allow businesses to seek enforcement of a mediated settlement agreement across borders by applying directly to courts of countries that have signed and ratified the treaty.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)”:

1. It is an international maritime treaty which sets minimum safety standards in the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships.
2. It is administered by International Maritime Organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) is an international maritime treaty which sets minimum safety standards in the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships.

- SOLAS is administered by International Maritime Organization. It requires signatory flag states to ensure that ships flagged by them comply with at least these standards.
- The first version of SOLAS Treaty was passed in 1914 in response to the sinking of the RMS Titanic, which prescribed numbers of lifeboats and other emergency equipment along with safety procedures, including continuous radio watches.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the WTO.

- It sets down minimum standards for the regulation by national governments of many forms of intellectual property (IP) as applied to nationals of other WTO member nations.
- TRIPS were negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of (GATT) in 1994 and were administered by the WTO.

Source: FORUMIAS

Economic Survey 2022 – 23

Q.1) The “Standing Deposit Facility” is recently seen in news is related to?

- High net-worth individual deposits
- Deposit of excess funds by banks with the RBI
- State deposits with RBI
- Single nodal agency deposits

ANS: B

Explanation: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its April 2022 meeting, the committee introduced the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF), which allowed for the deposit of excess funds by banks with the RBI without the necessity of collateral in the form of government securities, thereby allowing effective liquidity management in a collateral-free manner.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.2) Which of the following is/are come/s under “Broad Money”?

- Currency with the public
- Demand deposits
- Time deposits

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation:

Item	FY17 [^]	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23*
1. Reserve Money (M0)	-12.9	27.3	14.5	9.4	18.8	13.0	10.3
1.a. Currency in Circulation (CiC)	-19.7	37.0	16.8	14.5	16.6	9.8	8.2
1.b. Bankers' Deposits with the RBI	8.4	3.9	6.4	-9.6	28.5	25.4	17.6
2. Narrow Money (M1)	-3.9	21.8	13.6	11.2	16.2	10.7	7.6
3. Broad Money (M3)	6.9	9.2	10.5	8.9	12.2	8.8	8.7
3.a. Currency with the Public	-20.8	39.2	16.6	14.5	17.1	10.3	8.4
3.b. Aggregate Deposits	6.9	5.8	9.6	8.0	11.3	8.4	9.2
Demand Deposits	18.4	6.2	9.6	6.8	14.8	10.9	6.2
Time Deposits	10.2	5.8	9.6	8.1	10.9	8.1	9.1

Source: RBI.

Note: [^]: March 31, 2017 over April 1, 2016, barring M0, CiC and Bankers' Deposits with the RBI.

*: Data for FY23 is as on December 30, 2022

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Gujarat International Finance Tech-city (GIFT) SEZ”:

1. It is India’s first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) under Special Economic Zone Act, 2005.
2. GIFT IFSC is a Multi Services Special Economic Zone with 105 hectares of land and commenced its business in April 2015.

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: Gujarat International Finance Tech-city (GIFT) SEZ is India’s first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) under Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 (“SEZ Act 2005”).

- It is being developed as a global financial services hub. GIFT IFSC is a Multi Services Special Economic Zone with 105 hectares of land and commenced its business in April 2015.
- Government of India operationalised International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT Multi Services SEZ in April 2015.
- The Union Budget 2016 provided competitive tax regime for the IFSC at GIFT SEZ.
- It is the vision of the Hon’ble Prime Minister that GIFT IFSC emerges as a hub for international financial services activities.

Source: Economic Survey & <https://giftsez.com/gift-financialhub.aspx>

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Ayushman Bharat Yojana scheme provides health coverage of ₹10 lakh per beneficiary family per annum to poor and vulnerable families.
2. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana scheme provides risk coverage of ₹5 lakh for accidental death and complete disability and ₹2 lakh for partial disability is given to beneficiaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation:

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Scheme name	Brief description	Achievement
Ayushman Bharat Yojana	The scheme provides health coverage of ₹5 lakh per beneficiary family per annum to poor and vulnerable families identified based on select deprivation and occupational criteria	Since inception, 19.7 crore beneficiaries have been provided Ayushman cards, and over 4.3 crore hospital admissions worth over ₹0.49 lakh crore have been authorised through a network of 28,667 empanelled health-care providers, including 13,115 private hospitals as of 20th January 2023.

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Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana	Under the scheme, risk coverage of ₹2 lakh for accidental death and complete disability and ₹1 lakh for partial disability is given to beneficiaries	Since its inception, 31.3 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled under the scheme, and 1.07 lakh claims have been disbursed as of 30th November 2022.
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana	Under the scheme, risk coverage of ₹2 Lakh is credited to the savings bank account of the holder in case of the death of the insured	Since its inception, 14.4 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled under the scheme, and 6.3 lakh claims have been disbursed as of 30th November 2022.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “the National Pension System (NPS)”:

1. It was introduced in 2009.
2. It is the primary pension system for government employees with a pay-as-you-go defined benefit plan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The National Pension System (NPS) was introduced in January 2004, the primary pension system for government employees with a pay-as-you-go defined benefit plan.

- NPS for government employees is a defined contribution plan with co-contribution from the government.
- The value of the pension corpus is marked-to-market, and accordingly, the rate of return is market determined.
- NPS was extended to all the citizens of the country in the age group of 18-70 years, including the unorganised sector workers (on a voluntary basis) in 2009.

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- In order to ensure that an avenue for savings is available to all sections of society, PFRDA launched “NPS-Corporate Sector Model” in 2011 to provide NPS to the employees of corporate entities, including PSUs.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.6) “Housing Price Index (HPI)” often seen in news is published by?

- NITI Aayog
- Ministry of Urban Development
- Reserve Bank of India
- National Housing Bank

ANS: D

Explanation: According to Housing Price Index (HPI) published by National Housing Bank (NHB), the overall increase in composite HPI assessment and HPI market price in Quarter Ending (QE) September 2022 over QE September 2021 indicates a revival in the housing finance sector.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)”:

1. It was launched in 2008.
2. Under this scheme, dedicated outlets known as Janaushadhi Kendras are opened to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched in 2008 to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

Under this scheme, dedicated outlets known as Janaushadhi Kendras are opened to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all and especially to the poor and the deprived.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) “Red Atlas Action Plan Map” often seen in news is related to?

- Vishakhapatnam
- Chennai
- Kochi
- Mangalore

ANS: B

Explanation: The atlas is aimed at flood mitigation, preparedness, operations and management aspects in Chennai.

It is prepared by India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in association with Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and Greater Chennai Corporation.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “SAMAGRA SHIKSHA”:

1. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented through a single State Implementation Society (SIS) at the State/UT level.

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: SAMAGRA SHIKSHA- An Integrated Scheme for School Education is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented through a single State Implementation Society (SIS) at the State/UT level.
- Focus on regional balance: Preference in the interventions would be given to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the 115 Aspirational districts.
- “DIKSHA”, digital portal for teachers to be used extensively for upgrading skills of teachers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) “Brahmagiri wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Brahmagiri Sanctuary is situated in southern side in Kodagu district of Karnataka State. It lies in between North latitude 11° 55’ to 12° 19’ and East longitude 75° 44’ to 76° 04’. It is named after the highest peak of the sanctuary called Brahmagiri Hill and the total area of the sanctuary is 181.29 km².

Source: [https://aranya.gov.in/aranyacms/\(S\(5tlbjwyseavyxwbiurntayps\)\)/English/WildLifeSanctuary](https://aranya.gov.in/aranyacms/(S(5tlbjwyseavyxwbiurntayps))/English/WildLifeSanctuary)

Economic Survey

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Human Development Report in India”:

1. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, 90 per cent of countries have registered a reduction in their Human Development Index (HDI) value in 2020 or 2021.
2. India ranked 132 out of 191 countries and territories in the 2021/2022 HDI 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: ‘Human Development’ is the key enabler for upward social mobility. The challenges posed by the aftermath of the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 and the ensuing Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022 have impacted the development trajectory of India and the world.

- In the wake of these developments, there was a global decline in human development.
- According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, 90 per cent of countries have registered a reduction in their Human Development Index (HDI) value in 2020 or 2021, indicating that human development across the world has stalled for the first time in 32 years.
- India ranked 132 out of 191 countries and territories in the 2021/2022 HDI report.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2022”:

1. The methodology involves measuring each person’s overlapping deprivations across 10 indicators in three equally weighted dimensions.
2. The MPI ranges from 0 to 1, and higher values imply higher multidimensional poverty.

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: Multidimensional poverty measures are hence used to create a more comprehensive picture. It reveals who is poor and how they are poor and the range of different deprivations experienced by them.

- One such measure is the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) which measures acute multidimensional poverty across more than 100 developing countries.
- The methodology involves measuring each person’s overlapping deprivations across 10 indicators in three equally weighted dimensions: health, education, and standard of living.

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- The health and education dimensions are based on two indicators each, while the standard of living is based on six indicators.
- All the indicators needed to construct the MPI for a country are taken from the same household survey.
- Each indicator is equally weighted within its dimension, so the health and education indicators are weighted 1/6 each, and the standard of living indicators are weighted 1/18 each.
- The MPI ranges from 0 to 1, and higher values imply higher multidimensional poverty. The MPI complements the international US\$ 1.90-a-day poverty line by identifying who is multi-dimensionally poor and shows the composition of multidimensional poverty.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)”:

1. It was launched on January 2019.
2. Its vision of a New India by 2022 wherein the focus is to raise living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth of all in the burgeoning economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Government of India launched the ‘Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ (Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)) initiative in January 2018 with a vision of a New India by 2022 wherein the focus is to raise living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth of all in the burgeoning economy.

The districts are prodded and encouraged first to catch up with the best district of their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with and learning from others in the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.4) “Mission Utkarsh” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Coal allocation
- b) Steel policy
- c) Aspirational districts programme
- d) Personnel grievances

ANS: C

Explanation: The ADP has emerged as a template for good governance, especially in remote and difficult areas.

- At present, two programmes have been conceptualised along the lines of ADP design, one is ‘Mission Utkarsh’ and the other is ‘Aspirational Blocks Programme’ (ABP).
- On 22 January 2022, ‘Mission Utkarsh’ was launched, under which 15 Central Ministries, having an interface with the public, have identified their low performing 10-15 districts.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.5) Which of the following is NOT a central code on labour laws?

- a) Code on Comprehensive Development
- b) Code on Wages
- c) Industrial Relations Code
- d) Code on Social Security

ANS: A

Explanation: In 2019 and 2020, 29 Central Labour Laws were amalgamated, rationalised, and simplified into four Labour Codes, viz., the Code on Wages, 2019 (August 2019), the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 (September 2020).

Source: Economic Survey

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

- a) National database on Minimum wages
- b) National database of un-organized workers
- c) National database of Solar energy
- d) National database of Uranium reserves

ANS: B

Explanation: The Government has been working on improving life and dignity of labour force of country by protecting and safeguarding the interest of workers, promoting their welfare and providing social security both in organised and unorganised sectors.

- Accordingly, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) has developed eShram portal for creating a National database of unorganised workers, which is verified with Aadhaar.
- It captures details of workers like name, occupation, address, occupation type, educational qualification, and skill types etc., for the optimum realisation of their employability and extends the benefits of the social security schemes to them.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “the SHG Bank Linkage Project (SHG-BLP)”:

1. It was launched in 2002.
2. It is emerged as world’s largest microfinance project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The SHG Bank Linkage Project (SHG-BLP), launched in 1992, has blossomed into the world’s largest microfinance project.

- The SHG movement, now in its 30th year, has emerged as a powerful intervention to cover the small and marginalised sections.
- Currently, bank-linked SHGs are promoted through Central Government, State Governments, NGOs, etc.
- They must practice the ‘Panchasutra’ of regular meetings, regular savings, regular inter-lending, timely repayment and up-to-date books of accounts to avail of loans from banks.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.8) “Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)” often seen in news is conducted by?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Industries
- c) Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- d) Department of Economic Affairs

ANS: C

Explanation: The ASI, conducted by MoSPI, is an important source of industrial statistics of the registered organised manufacturing sector of the economy.

It covers all factories registered under Sections 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948, i.e., those factories employing ten or more workers using power; and those employing twenty or more workers without using power.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.9) “Satkosai Tiger Reserve” is often seen in news is located at?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Situated in the heartland of Odisha, Satkosia Tiger Reserve is spread over four districts, including Nayagarh, Cuttack, Angul and Boudh.

- This tiger reserve comprises two adjoining sanctuaries, namely Baisipalli Sanctuary and Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary.
- Maintained by the Forest and Environment Department of the Government of Odisha, the area was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1976.
- The name ‘Satkosia’ originates from the word ‘Sat Kos’ – ‘Sat’ meaning seven and ‘Kos’ meaning two miles, which apparently indicates the 14 miles length of the gorge of River Mahanadi that crosses this wildlife region.
- India’s two bio-geographic regions – the Eastern Ghats and the Deccan Peninsula also converge at Satkosia, contributing to its vast biodiversity.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) “Vansda National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Vansda National Park, also known as Bansda National Park, is a protected area which represents the thick woodlands of the Dangs and southern Gujarat, and is situated in the Vansda tehsil, Navsari District of Gujarat state, India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Economic Survey

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)”:

1. It was launched in October 2020.
2. Its aim is to increase the employment generation in post Covid-19 recovery phase.

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 swift rebound of formal sector payroll addition can be attributed to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY), launched in October 2020 to boost the economy, increase the employment generation in post Covid-19 recovery phase, and to incentivise creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of employment lost during the pandemic.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.2) According to Economic Survey 2022 – 23, which of the following industry has highest EPFO payroll data?

- a) Expert Services
- b) Trading - Commercial Establishments
- c) Building and Construction Industry
- d) Textiles

ANS: A

Explanation: In terms of industrial composition, expert services (consisting of manpower agencies, private security agencies, and small contractors, etc.) form the largest share of EPFO payroll addition (41.1 per cent in FY23, April-November), followed by trading-commercial establishments (6.9 per cent).

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Table VI.8: EPFO payroll data for main industries across all age groups (in lakhs)

Industry	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (Apr-Nov)	% Share in 2022-23
Expert Services	35.2	37.0	51.7	43.4	41.1
Trading - Commercial Establishments	5.2	3.4	8.7	7.3	6.9
Others	1.5	2.6	7.3	7.1	6.8
Engineers - Engg. Contractors	4.1	4.9	6.2	5.6	5.4
Building and Construction Industry	5.1	4.7	6.0	5.5	5.2
Elec., Mech. or Gen. Engg. Products	3.8	3.8	4.9	4.9	4.7
Establishment engaged in Manufacture, Marketing Servicing, Usage of Computers	2.7	2.0	4.4	2.9	2.7
Establishments engaged in Cleaning, Sweeping Services	1.8	2.5	3.3	3.0	2.8
Textiles	1.7	1.7	3.1	2.0	1.0
Grand Total (All Industries)	78.6	77.1	122.3	105.4	100.0

Source: EPFO, MoLE

Note: Main Industries is a subset of all industries

Source: Economic Survey

Q.3) Which of the following work/s is/are taken under MGNREGS?

1. Land development share
2. Rural sanitation
3. Rural connectivity

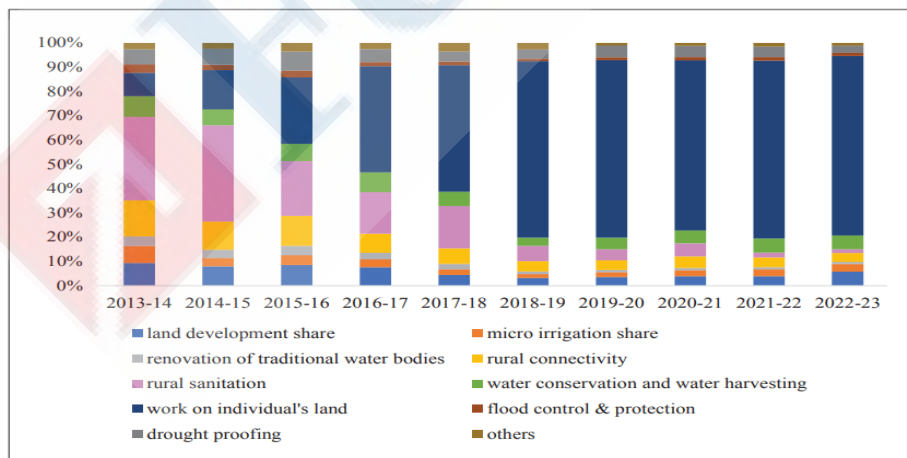
Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The number of works done under MGNREGS has steadily increased over the years, with 85 lakh completed works in FY22 and 70.6 lakh completed works so far in FY23 (as on 9 January 2023).

Figure VI.13: Share of completed works under MGNREGS (by count)



Source: MGNREGS Web portal, data for FY23 is as on 10 January 2023

Source: Economic Survey

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “National Career Service (NCS)”:

1. It was launched in July 2015, as a one-stop solution providing an array of employment and career-related services.
2. NCS portal has a job fair module to streamline the process of job fair activity on a single online platform by engaging all stakeholders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The ‘National Career Service (NCS)’ project was launched in July 2015, as a one-stop solution providing an array of employment and career-related services.

- It works towards bridging the gap between candidates and employers; candidates seeking training and career guidance and agencies providing training and career counseling.
- NCS portal has a job fair module to streamline the process of job fair activity on a single online platform by engaging all stakeholders i.e. model career centres, nodal officers, job seekers and employers.
- It is also supported by a dedicated helpline (multi-lingual) for assisting users.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.5) “UN SDG goal 4” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Education
- b) Poverty
- c) Hunger
- d) Gender equality

ANS: A

Explanation: “Quality Education” which is enlisted as Goal 4 under UN SDGs (SDG4), aims to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “PM Schools for Rising India”:

1. It is Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) launched on September 2022.
2. These schools will be equipped with modern infrastructure and showcase the implementation of the New Education Policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Government launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) called PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) on 7 September, 2022.

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- These schools will be equipped with modern infrastructure and showcase the implementation of the NEP and emerge as exemplary schools over a period of time, while offering leadership to other schools in the neighborhood.
- Under the scheme, there is a provision for setting up more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools, over the period FY23 to FY27 by strengthening the existing schools from those managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies.
- These schools will be equipped with modern infrastructure including labs, smart classrooms, libraries, sports equipment, art room etc. which is inclusive and accessible.
- They shall also be developed as green schools with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of organic lifestyle in curriculum.
- More than 20 lakh students are expected to be direct beneficiaries of the scheme.

Source: Economic Survey

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

- a) Disability Screening
- b) Coal auction
- c) Mobile tracking of goods
- d) Financial literacy

ANS: A

Explanation: PRASHAST, a Disability Screening mobile app, has been launched, covering 21 disabilities, including the benchmark disabilities as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

PRASHAST App will help in screening disability conditions at the school level and will generate the school wise report, for further sharing with the authorities for initiating the certification process, as per guidelines of Samagra Shiksha.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.8) In which of the following state/s, Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) programme is/are implementing?

1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Tamil Nadu

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: STARS Project is being implemented as a CSS in six states namely Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha and Kerala over a period of 5 years i.e., till FY25, partly funded by a loan from the World Bank.

The objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality and governance of school education in the selected states.

Source: Economic Survey

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Q.9) Which of the following scheme/s is/are implemented under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship?

1. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
2. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)
3. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

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: MSDE is implementing Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS).

Source: Economic survey

Q.10) “Betla National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Betla National Park is a national park located on the Chota Nagpur Plateau in the Latehar and Palamu district of Jharkhand, India. The park hosts a wide variety of wildlife.

Source: FORUMIAS

Economic Survey 2023

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

1. It is an innovative, indigenous, cost-effective, and integrated cloud-based telemedicine system application to enable patient-to-doctor tele-consultation.
2. It is operational in all states and UTs across India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: eSanjeevani is an innovative, indigenous, cost-effective, and integrated cloud-based telemedicine system application to enable patient-to-doctor tele-consultation to ensure a continuum of care and facilitate health services to all citizens in the confines of their homes, free of cost.

At present, eSanjeevani is operational in all states and UTs across India.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)”:

1. It is the world’s largest health insurance scheme that intends to minimize the Out of Pocket Expenditure of the target beneficiaries.
2. It provides health cover of 10 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

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: AB PM-JAY is the world’s largest health insurance scheme that intends to minimise the OOPE of the target beneficiaries arising due to expenditure on healthcare.

The scheme provides health cover of `5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.7 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) that form the bottom 40 per cent of the Indian population identified based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the SocioEconomic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) and other State schemes.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJY)”:

1. It is available to people in the age group of 18 to 60 years.
2. It provides risk coverage of 2 lakh in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.

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: Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJY) is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years and provides risk coverage of ₹2 lakh in case of death of the insured, due to any reason, at an annual premium of ₹436/. As on 11 January 2023, 14.96 crore persons have been enrolled cumulatively and 6,39,032 claims have been paid under PMJJY.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The percentage of the population living in India’s rural areas stands at 65 per cent for 2021.
2. 47 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture for livelihood.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The percentage of the population living in India’s rural areas was as high as around 80 per cent in the 1960s and remained over 70 per cent till 2007. It presently stands at 65 per cent for 2021.

Further, 47 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture for livelihood. Thus, the focus of the government on rural development is imperative.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.5) Which of the following is/are the component/s of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)?

1. Financial inclusion
2. Sustainable livelihoods
3. Social inclusion

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: NRLM aims to enable economically weak households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in sustainable and diversified livelihood options for them.

This is one of the world’s largest initiatives to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

The Mission seeks to achieve its objective through investing in four core components viz.,

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- social mobilisation and promotion and strengthening of self-managed and financially sustainable community institutions of the rural poor women;
- financial inclusion;
- sustainable livelihoods; and
- social inclusion, social development, and access to entitlements through convergence.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme”:

1. It aims at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household.
2. In case employment is not provided within 15 days from the date of registration of the demand for work or the date from which work has been demanded.

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 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA) aims at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

In case employment is not provided within 15 days from the date of registration of the demand for work or the date from which work has been demanded in case of advance applications, whichever is later, the worker is entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Mission Amrit Sarovar”:

1. It was launched on Mahatma Gandhi Anniversary on 2nd October 2022 with the objective to conserve water for the future.
2. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country during this Amrit Varsh, 75th Years of Independence.

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: Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched on National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2022 with the objective to conserve water for the future.

- The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country during this Amrit Varsh, 75th Years of Independence.

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- So far, against the initial target of 50,000 Amrit Sarovar, a total of more than 93,291 Amrit Sarovar sites have been identified and works have commenced on more than 54,047 sites.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.8) Which of the following is/are feature/s of Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)?

1. Focus on the rational utilisation of national resources with due regard to energy security.
2. Increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol.
3. India's industrial sector will continue on a strong growth path, with the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India'.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: India submitted its Long-Term Low Carbon Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) on November 14, 2022, at COP 27. The salient features of LT-LEDS are:

- Focus on the rational utilisation of national resources with due regard to energy security. The transitions from fossil fuels will be undertaken in a just, smooth, sustainable and allinclusive manner.
- Encompasses the objectives of the National Hydrogen Policy.
- Increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol.
- India's industrial sector will continue on a strong growth path, with the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India'.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.9) "Guru Ghasidas National Park" is recently seen in news is located at?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

ANS: B

Explanation: Guru Ghasidas National Park Guru Ghasidas (Sanjay) National park is a beautiful place, located in the Koriya district of the state of Chhattisgarh.

Total area of Lie Park is about 1440.71 km². It was declared as a National park in the year of 1981. The park has been renamed after the Satnami reformist hero, Guru Ghasidas.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.10) “Keoladeo National Park” often seen in news is located at?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) West Bengal
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: A

Explanation: Keoladeo National Park is a vast bird sanctuary and former royal game reserve in the north Indian state of Rajasthan. South of the ancient city of Bharatpur, the park’s woods and man-made wetlands protect over 350 species of migratory and resident birds, including herons, cormorants and eagles.

To the southeast, Fatehpur Sikri is home to sandstone temples and a mosque, built by Emperor Akbar in the 16th century.

Source: FORUMIAS

Economic Survey 2023

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Green House Gases (GHG's) emissions:

1. India contributed nearly 10% of the global green house gases emission.
2. India's per capita emission is less than world average.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Climate change is primarily attributed to disproportionately high cumulative emissions, both historical and high per capita annual emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) of the developed countries.

The global nature of the problem makes India one of the most vulnerable regions despite having contributed only about 4 per cent in the cumulative global emissions (for the period 1850-2019) and maintaining its per capita emission at far less than the world average.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme":

1. It is the flagship programme under National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).
2. It is implemented by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the aegis of Ministry of New Renewable Energy.

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: National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) is the flagship programme under the mission implemented by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the aegis of Ministry of Power.

Source: Economic Survey

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Bachat Lamp Yojana (BLY)”:

1. It was developed for replacement of inefficient bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs).
2. BLY involved support to LED deployment under “Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)” by providing technical assistance to partner agencies.

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: Bachat Lamp Yojana (BLY programme was developed for replacement of inefficient bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs).

- BLY involved support to LED deployment under “Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)” by providing technical assistance to partner agencies such as Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).
- Under BLY, 29 million bulbs were replaced with CFL resulting into energy saving of 3.598 billion units/ year.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.4) By which year, India has commitment to the net-zero emissions goal?

- a) 2050
- b) 2060
- c) 2070
- d) 2080

ANS: C

Explanation: While India is less responsible for the high stock of emissions, however, it has consistently engaged in demonstrating global leadership towards adopting various measures and ensuring a low-emission growth pathway with a commitment to the net-zero emissions goal by 2070.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.5) “Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Space research
- b) Village health clinics
- c) Green House Gas emissions
- d) Natural farming

ANS: C

Explanation: Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals.

- NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

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- The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve.
- Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.6) According to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) notes which of the following is/are high human vulnerability global hotspots?

1. East Africa
2. South Asia
3. The Arctic

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 IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) notes that high human vulnerability global hotspots are found particularly in West, Central & East Africa, South Asia, Central, and South America, Small Island Developing States, and the Arctic.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.7) Which of the following is/are mission/s under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)?

1. National Solar Mission
2. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
3. National Water Mission

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: In 2008, India launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), establishing eight National Missions, covering several initiatives and a slew of measures in the area of solar, water, energy efficiency, forests, sustainable habitat, sustainable agriculture, sustaining Himalayan ecosystem, capacity building and research and development (R&D).

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Figure VII.2: Progress on Eight National Missions of the NAPCC highlighting achievements across various domains

National Solar Mission	•Solar power capacity of 61.62 GW installed by October 2022
National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency	•PAT Cycle-VII notified in October 2021 for energy saving target of 6.63 Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MTOE)
National Mission on Sustainable Habitat	•721 km of metro rail network made operational by August 2022. •62.79 lakh individual household toilets and 6.21 lakh community and public toilets constructed by April 2022
National Mission for a Green India	•₹ 626.96 crore for afforestation targets over an area of 2.1 lakh ha
National Water Mission	•Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain 2022
National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change	•Created and strengthened 12 Centres of Excellence for climate change (June 2021)
National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems	•Inter-University Consortium •8 Major R&D Programmes initiated
National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture	•Key targets for FY 2022-2023 covering 0.15 lakh ha under organic farming and 10 lakh ha under micro irrigation

Source: Economic Survey

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC):

1. Article 4 of the Paris Agreement provides that each Party shall communicate or update its NDC every ten years.
2. To reduce the Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from the 2005 level.

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: India submitted its first NDC to UNFCCC in October 2015. This was updated in August 2022.

- The 2015 NDC comprised eight goals, three of which were quantitative targets to be achieved up to 2030.
- The three targets included cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources to reach 40 per cent, reduction in the emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 per cent compared to 2005 levels, and creation of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover.
- Article 4 of the Paris Agreement provides that each Party shall communicate or update its NDC every five years.
- To reduce the Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from the 2005 level.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.9) “CAMPA” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Afforestation fund
- b) Solar energy
- c) Marine resources
- d) Affordable energy through biomass

ANS: A

Explanation: With a cover of 23% of Geographical area of the country, forest in India comprise of a number of diverse forest types and reserved areas designated as National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

- In India, forest meet the livelihood needs of people living in and adjoining the forests in about 1, 73,000 villages. Forests also act as carbon sinks and regulators of water regime.
- Many development and industrial projects such as erection of dams, mining, and construction of industries or roads require diversion of forest land.
- Any project proponent, government or private must apply for forest clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), before the conversion of land take place. This proposal is to be submitted through the concerned forest department of the state government.
- If clearance is given, then compensation for the lost forest land is also to be decided by the ministry and the regulators.
- Due to certain discrepancies in the implementation of compensatory afforestation, some NGOs had approached The Hon'ble Supreme Court for relief.
- The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 10th July 2009 issued orders that there will be a Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) as National Advisory Council under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of Environment & Forests for monitoring, technical assistance and evaluation of compensatory afforestation activities.

Source: Economic Survey

Q.10) “Valmiki Tiger Reserve” often seen in news is located at?

- a) Bihar
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Valmiki Tiger Reserve forms the eastern most limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India and is the only tiger reserve of Bihar.

- Situated in the Gangetic Plains bio-geographic zone of the country, the forest has combination of bhabar and terai tracts.
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve lies in the north-western (mostly in the West Champaran) district of Bihar.
- Name of the district has been derived from two words Champa and Aranya meaning Forest of Champa trees.
- Sanctuary is reported to shelter of 250 species of birds 53 mammals, 145 birds, 26 reptile and 13 amphibians and Tiger Reserve.

Source: <https://tourism.bihar.gov.in/en/destinations/west-champaran/valmiki-tiger-reserve>

Economic Survey

Q.1) Which of the following scheme/s is/are promoted by the government to safeguard the forests?

1. Green Highway Policy – 2015
2. Policy for enhancement of Urban Greens
3. National Agro-forestry Policy

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The country ranks third globally with respect to the net gain in average annual forest area between 2010 and 2020.

- This gain is mainly attributed to the robust framework and policies of the National and State Governments that have promoted and safeguarded forests.
- Schemes like the Green India Mission (GIM), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green Highway Policy - 2015, Policy for enhancement of Urban Greens, National Agro-forestry Policy, and Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry (SMAF), etc. are among the most important ones.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.2) According to Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) estimates, which of the following state has the highest carbon stock of forests?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Goa
- d) Tripura

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) estimates the carbon stock of forests to be about 7,204 million tonnes in 2019, which is an increase of 79.4 million tonnes of carbon stock as compared to the estimates of the previous assessment for 2017.

- This translates into carbon emissions sequestered through forest and tree cover to be 30.1 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- Among the Indian States, Arunachal Pradesh has the maximum carbon stock in forests (1023.84 million tonnes), followed by Madhya Pradesh (609.25 million tonnes).

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q3. Which of the following is/are come/s under the category of critical minerals?

1. Cobalt
2. Nickel
3. Lithium

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 shift to a clean energy system is set to drive a huge increase in the requirements for critical minerals.

- This is because an energy system powered by clean energy technologies differs profoundly from one fuelled by traditional hydrocarbon resources.
- Cobalt, copper, lithium, nickel, and rare earth elements (REEs) are critical for producing electric vehicles and batteries and harnessing solar power and wind energy.
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) plants, wind farms and electric vehicles (EVs) generally require more minerals than their fossil fuel-based counterparts.
- A typical electric car requires six times the mineral inputs of a conventional car, and an onshore wind plant requires nine times more mineral resources than a gas-fired plant.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding CoP 27 of UNFCCC:

1. It was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Saudi Arabia.
2. India participated in COP 27, with a focus on mainstreaming the theme of LiFE - Lifestyle for Environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The COP 27 to the UNFCCC was held from 6 to 20 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

- India participated in COP 27, with a focus on mainstreaming the theme of LiFE - Lifestyle for Environment.
- The Indian Pavilion at COP 27 highlighted the theme of LiFE in various ways – models, audio-visual displays, activities, and 49 side events.
- India invited all countries to join the LiFE movement, which is a pro-people and pro-planet effort seeking to shift the world from mindless and wasteful consumption to mindful and deliberate utilisation of natural resources.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “the International Solar Alliance (ISA)”:

1. It is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization.
2. It works to create a global market system to tap the benefits of solar power and promote clean energy applications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a treaty-based inter-governmental organisation working to create a global market system to tap the benefits of solar power and promote clean energy applications.

- ISA’s mission is to unlock US\$ 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing.
- With the signing and ratification of the ISA Framework Agreement by 15 countries on 6 December 2017, ISA became the first international intergovernmental organisation to be headquartered in India.
- ISA is partnering with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society, and other international institutions to deploy cost effective and transformational solutions through solar energy, especially in the least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure”:

1. It was launched during the United Nations Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019 in New York.
2. It aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

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 CDRI was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India during the United Nations Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019 in New York.

- It is a global partnership of National Governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions.
- It aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.7) The term “LeadIT” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) IT software developer
- b) Companies committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement
- c) Natural farming cooperatives
- d) Crude oil companies

ANS: B

Explanation: The LeadIT gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement.

- It was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.
- LeadIT members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industries can and must progress on lowcarbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.8) Under Project Cheetah, eight Namibian wild cheetahs were introduced on 17 September 2022 in which of the following national park?

- a) Indravati National Park
- b) Pench National Park
- c) Sanjiv Gandhi National Park
- d) Kuno National Park

ANS: D

Explanation: The introduction of Cheetahs in India is being done under Project Cheetah, the world’s first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

The cheetah was declared extinct from India in 1952. Under the scheme, eight Namibian wild cheetahs were introduced on 17 September 2022 in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh. Out of the eight Cheetahs, there are five female and three male Cheetahs.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.9) “Extended Producer Responsibility” often seen in news is related to?

- a) Plastic management
- b) Space debris
- c) Nuclear waste
- d) Marine pollution

ANS: A

Explanation: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022, on 16 February 2022.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.10) “Pampadum Shola National Park” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Considering the ecological, faunal, floral, geographical and zoological significance of Pampadum Shola, the Government of Kerala declared it as a National Park in December 2003 vide notification No: 12875/F2/2003/ F& WLD dated 14/12/2003.

- The Park is located in the eastern part of Southern Western Ghats of Kerala on the way to Vattavada, near Top Station about 35 Kms from Munnar town.
- Pampadum Shola is nearly 35 Km from Munnar town and can be reached from Kochi (135 Km), and Kottayam (148 Km) by Road. The Kochi - Kodaikanal highway passes through this National Park.

Source: <https://forest.kerala.gov.in/index.php/about-us/wildlife/2015-03-16-09-50-24/national-parks/pampadum-shola-national-park>

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding agriculture growth in India:

1. The Indian agriculture sector has been growing at an average annual growth rate of 4.6 per cent during the last six years.
2. In recent years, India has also rapidly emerged as the net exporter of agricultural products.

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: With its solid forward linkages, the agriculture and allied activities sector significantly contributed to the country's overall growth and development by ensuring food security.

- The Indian agriculture sector has been growing at an average annual growth rate of 4.6 per cent during the last six years. It grew by 3.0 per cent in 2021-22 compared to 3.3 per cent in 2020- 21.
- In recent years, India has also rapidly emerged as the net exporter of agricultural products.
- In 2020-21, exports of agriculture and allied products from India grew by 18 per cent over the previous year. During 2021-22, agricultural exports reached an all-time high of **US\$ 50.2 billion.**

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the recommendation/s of Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income?

1. Diversification towards higher value crops
2. Better resource efficiency
3. Enhanced cropping intensity

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 interventions of the Government have been in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income, which had identified improvement in crop and livestock productivity, diversification towards higher value crops, better resource efficiency, enhanced cropping intensity, improvement in real prices received by farmers and shift from farm to non-farm occupations as being significant sources of growth.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.3) Which of the following is/are challenge/s faced by Indian agriculture?

1. Adverse impacts of climate change
2. Fragmented landholdings
3. Sub-optimal farm mechanization

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: While Indian agriculture has performed well, the sector needs re-orientation in the backdrop of certain challenges like adverse impacts of climate change, fragmented landholdings, sub-optimal farm mechanization, low productivity, disguised unemployment, rising input costs, etc.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Kisan Credit Card Scheme (KCC) was introduced in 2008 for farmers to empower them to purchase agricultural products and services on credit at any time.
2. The Government of India has introduced the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), to provide long-term credit to farmers at subsidized interest rates.

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: C

Explanation: Ensuring hassle-free credit availability at a cheaper rate to farmers has been the top priority of the Government of India.

- Accordingly, the Kisan Credit Card Scheme (KCC) was introduced in 1998 for farmers to empower them to purchase agricultural products and services on credit at any time.
- As of 30 December, 2022, banks issued Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to 3.89 crore eligible farmers with a KCC limit of ₹4,51,672 crore.
- With the Government of India extending the KCC facility to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers in 2018-19, the number of such cards in the fisheries and animal husbandry sector has also grown.
- As of 17 October 2022, 1.0 lakh KCCs have been sanctioned for the fisheries sector and 9.5 lakh (as of 4 November 2022) for the animal husbandry sector.
- To ensure that the farmers pay a minimal interest rate to the banks, the Government of India has introduced the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS), now renamed Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), to provide short-term credit to farmers at subsidised interest rates.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM)”:

1. Under the scheme, State Governments are being assisted in training and demonstrating agricultural machinery.
2. Under the scheme, Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) is set up to help the farmers to procure various farm machinery and equipment.

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: Farm mechanisation helps increase productivity through timely and efficient use of other inputs and natural resources while at the same time reducing the cost of cultivation and the drudgery associated with various farm operations.

Under the Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), State Governments are being assisted in training and demonstrating agricultural machinery and helping farmers procure various farm machinery and equipment besides setting up Custom Hiring Centres (CHC).

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. India has highest organic farmers in the world.
2. Sikkim became the first State in the world to become fully organic.

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: Organic and natural farming provides chemical fertiliser and pesticide-free food grains and other crops, improves soil health and reduces environmental pollution.

- India has 44.3 lakh organic farmers, the highest in the world, and about 59.1 lakh ha area was brought under organic farming by 2021-22.
- Sikkim voluntarily adopted going organic, and the process of getting the total cultivable land of 58,168 hectares under organic farming commenced at ground level in 2010.
- It became the first State in the world to become fully organic, and other States, including Tripura and Uttarakhand, have set similar targets.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “PM Kisan Scheme”:

1. It is a Central Sponsored Scheme to supplement the financial needs of land-holding farmers.
2. The financial benefit of ₹6,000 per year is transferred into the bank accounts of farmer families through DBT.

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: PM KISAN Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme to supplement the financial needs of land-holding farmers.

- The financial benefit of ₹6,000 per year is transferred into the bank accounts of farmer families through DBT. It is one of the largest DBT schemes in the world.
- About 11.3 crore farmers were covered under the Scheme in its April-July 2022-23 payment cycle.
- The Scheme, through a span of over 3 years, has successfully provided assistance of more than Rs. 2 lakh crore to crores of needy farmers.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)”:

1. It is a financing facility operational from the year 2020-21 to 2032-33.
2. It is for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farm assets, with benefits including 3 per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

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: Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) is a financing facility operational from the year 2020-21 to 2032-33 for the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farm assets; with benefits including 3 per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

- Under this, a provision of ₹1 lakh crore for 2020-21 to 2025-26 has been made, and interest subvention and credit guarantee assistance will be given until 2032-33.
- AIF scheme has the facility of convergence with any other scheme of the State or Central Government and can prove to be a milestone in investment in the agriculture sector.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)”:

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023

1. It was launched in the 2016 Kharif season to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to farmers in case of crop failure, helping stabilise their incomes.
2. The scheme is implemented through empanelled general insurance companies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: PMFBY was launched in the 2016 Kharif season to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to farmers in case of crop failure, helping stabilise their incomes. The scheme is implemented through empanelled general insurance companies.

- It is modified/revamped on a timely basis considering the prevailing policy regime and requirement of policy intervention in crop insurance in the country.
- The Scheme covers all Food & Oilseeds crops and Annual Commercial/Horticultural Crops for which past yield data is available and for which the requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) are being conducted under the General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES).
- The revamped Scheme w.e.f Kharif 2020 has many features, which include voluntary participation for all farmers, selection of Insurance Companies by the States for 3 years in a go, a two-step process of crop yield estimation, use of smart sampling technique through satellite data for crop cutting experiments, etc.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding millets:

1. Year 2023 was declared as the International Year of Millets (IYM) by UN General Assembly.
2. India's yield of millets is higher than global average.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The United Nations General Assembly, in its 75th session during March 2021, declared 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM).

- Millets are Smart Food with high nutritional value, are climate resilient, and align with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- These are also important by virtue of their mammoth potential to generate livelihood, increase farmers' income and ensure food & nutritional security all over the world.
- India produces more than 50.9 million tonnes (as per fourth advance estimate) of millet which accounts for 80 per cent of Asia's and 20 per cent of global production.
- The global average yield is 1229 kg/ha, whereas India has a higher average yield of 1239 kg/ha.

Source: Economic Survey 2023