

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

27th Feb to 5th March 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Economic Survey 2022 – 23

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

- a) High net-worth individual deposits
- b) Deposit of excess funds by banks with the RBI
- c) State deposits with RBI
- d) 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”?

- 1. Currency with the public
- 2. Demand deposits
- 3. Time deposits

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:

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:

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

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.

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

- 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

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-loaning, 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

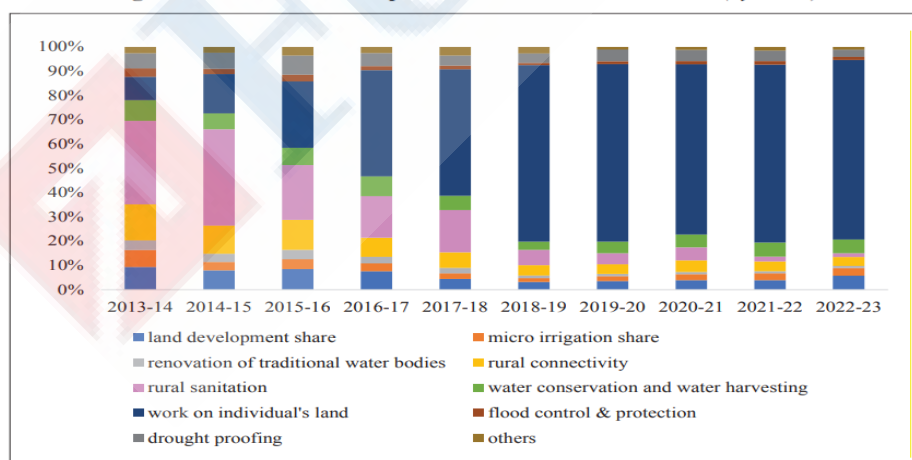
Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

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

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

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).

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

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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

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

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

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)”:

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