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# Prelims Marathon

March, 2023

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## *National Income & Central Bank and Its Power*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are considered as distribution network model/s?**

1. State
2. Market
3. State – Market mix

**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 the arena of distribution network, we have three historically existing models—state, market and state-market mix.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) The famous “Wealth of Nations” book was written by?**

- a) Adam Smith
- b) David Ricardo
- c) J. M. Keynes
- d) B. R. Ambedkar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The capitalistic form of economy has its origin in the famous work of Adam Smith—Wealth of Nations (1776).

Adam Smith (1723–1790), the Scottish philosopher-economist professor at the University of Glasgow, whose writings formed the basis of classical economics, had stressed certain fine ideas which were to take fancy among some of the western countries and finally capitalism took birth.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) The famous “The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money” book was written by?**

- a) Adam Smith
- b) David Ricardo
- c) J. M. Keynes
- d) B. R. Ambedkar

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The belief in the self-correcting quality of the market and the ‘invisible hand’ of Adam Smith got a major setback in early 20th century during the Great Depression (1929).

- The impact of the depression spread from the USA to other economies of Western Europe escalating large scale unemployment, downfall in demand and economic activities and lockouts in industrial enterprises. The prevailing Smithonian macro ideas failed to check the crisis.

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- A new approach was needed which came in the famous work, The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money (1936) by the English economist at Cambridge University, John Maynard Keynes (1883–1946).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) The term “market socialism” was coined by which of the following?**

- a) Adam Smith
- b) David Ricardo
- c) J. M. Keynes
- d) Oscar Lange

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** On the margins of these developments, it is interesting to note the developments that occurred in the state economies of the time.

- It was Oscar Lange (1904–65), the Polish philosopher, who in 1950s suggested the same things for the socialist economy as Keynes had suggested for the capitalist economy.
- Lange praised the state economy for many of its good things, but also suggested inclusion of some of the good things of the capitalistic economy.
- He advised the state economies to adopt ‘market socialism’ (the term was coined by him).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) The “World Development Report” often seen in news is released by?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The World Development Report is an annual report published since 1978 by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or World Bank. Each WDR provides in-depth analysis of a specific aspect of economic development.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

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

- a) Economic reforms
- b) Migratory species protection
- c) Marine pollution
- d) Organic farming

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The term ‘Washington Consensus’ was coined by the US economist John Williamson (in 1989) under which he had suggested a set of policy reforms which most of the officials in Washington (i.e., International Monetary Fund and World Bank) thought would be good for the crisis-driven Latin American countries of the time.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are come/s under Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?**

1. National private consumption
2. Gross investment
3. Government spending

**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:** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the value of the all final goods and services produced within the boundary of a nation during one year period.

For India, this calendar year is from 1st April to 31st March. It is also calculated by adding national private consumption, gross investment, government spending and trade balance (exports-minus-imports).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) GDP minus the total value of the 'wear and tear' (depreciation) is equal to?**

- a) Net Domestic Product
- b) Net National Product
- c) Gross National Product
- d) Base effect

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Net Domestic Product (NDP) is the GDP calculated after adjusting the weight of the value of 'depreciation'.

- This is, basically, net form of the GDP, i.e., GDP minus the total value of the 'wear and tear' (depreciation) that happened in the assets while the goods and services were being produced.
- Every asset (except human beings) goes for depreciation in the process of their uses, which means them 'wear and tear'.
- The governments of the economies decide and announce the rates by which assets depreciate (done in India by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and a list is published, which is used by different sections of the economy to determine the real levels of depreciations in different assets.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) Gross National Product (GNP) is the GDP of a country added with its 'income from abroad'. Which of the following is/are come/s under income from abroad?**

1. Private remittances
2. Interest on external loans
3. External grants

**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:** Gross National Product (GNP) is the GDP of a country added with its 'income from abroad'. Here, the trans-boundary economic activities of an economy are also taken into account. The items which are counted in the segment 'Income from Abroad' is:

- Private Remittances: the net outcome of the money which inflows and outflows on account of the 'private transfers' by Indian nationals working outside of India (to India) and the foreign nationals working in India (to their home countries).
- Interest on External Loans: the net outcome on the front of the interest payments, i.e., balance of inflow (on the money lend out by the economy) and outflow (on the money borrowed by the economy) of external interests.
- External Grants: the net outcome of the external grants i.e., the balance of such grants which flow to and from India. Today, India offers more such grants than it receives. India receives grants (grants or loan-grant mix) from few countries as well as UN bodies (like the UNDP) and offers several developmental and humanitarian grants to foreign nations.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.10) "Nelapattu bird sanctuary" is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Named after the village - 'Nelapattu', located just adjoining in the Sanctuary in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh is this wetland mainly for migratory water birds.

- The farmers of Nelapattu and their bird visitors have a symbiotic relationship. The bird 'Guano' (waste matter) acts as a natural fertilizer to the crops and the villagers in turn protect the birds.
- The largest breeding ground for the Grey pelicans in South East Asia, with approximately 1,500 pelicans breeding every year.
- The local people of Nelapattu, Muchalagunta, Mylangam, etc; protect the birds as "celestial birds", as their arrival brings good rains and good crops.

**Source: <http://forests.ap.gov.in/nelapattu.php>**

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## *Central Bank in India and its powers and Contribution*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Base Year was revised from 2004–05 to 2011–12 by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).
2. It was done in accordance with the recommendation of the National Statistical Commission (NSC).

**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 Central Statistics Office (CSO), in January 2015, released the new and revised data of National Accounts, effecting two changes:

- The Base Year was revised from 2004–05 to 2011–12. This was done in accordance with the recommendation of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), which had advised to revise the base year of all economic indices every five years.
- This time, the methodology of calculating the National Accounts has also been revised in line with the requirements of the System of National Accounts (SNA)-2008, an internationally accepted standard.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies)”:**

1. NBFC’s raise funds from the public, directly or indirectly, and lend them to ultimate spenders.
2. NBFC’s advance loans to the various wholesale and retail traders, small-scale industries and self-employed persons.

**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:** NBFC’s raise funds from the public, directly or indirectly, and lend them to ultimate spenders.

- They advance loans to the various wholesale and retail traders, small-scale industries and self-employed persons.
- Thus, they have broadened and diversified the range of products and services offered by a financial sector.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) “NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies)” are regulated by which of the following?**

- a) RBI
- b) Department of Financial Services
- c) Department of Economic Services
- d) Department of Disinvestment

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** RBI, the regulator of the NBFCs, has gives a very wide definition of such companies (a kind of ‘umbrella’ definition)—“a financial institution formed as a company involved in receiving deposits or lending in any manner.”

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are classified under the NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies)?**

- 1. Asset Finance Company (AFC)
- 2. Investment Company (IC)
- 3. Loan Company (LC)

**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 NBFCs have been reclassified into three categories:

- (i) Asset Finance Company (AFC)
- (ii) Investment Company (IC) and
- (iii) Loan Company (LC).

Under this classification, an AFC is defined as a financial institution whose principal business is that of financing the physical assets, which support various productive and economic activities in the country.

Such NBFCs are supposed to play a very vital role in financing infrastructure projects in 2016–17, as per the Government of India.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Reserve Bank of India”:**

- 1. It was set up by the RBI Act, 1934.
- 2. It was nationalized in 1955.

**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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was set up in 1935 (by the RBI Act, 1934) as a private bank with two extra functions—regulation and control of the banks in India and being the banker of the government.

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After nationalization in 1949, it emerged as the central banking body of India and it did not remain a 'bank' in the technical sense.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Which of the following function/s is/are performed by the “Reserve Bank of India”?**

1. It is the issuing agency of the currency and coins including rupee one currency and coin.
2. Distributing agent for currency and coins issued by the Government of India.
3. Banker of the government.

**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 governments have been handing over different functions to the RBI, which stand today as given below:

- (i) It is the issuing agency of the currency and coins other than rupee one currency and coin (which are issued by Ministry of Finance itself with the signature of the Finance Secretary on the note).
- (ii) Distributing agent for currency and coins issued by the Government of India.
- (iii) Banker of the government.
- (iv) Bank of the banks/Bank of last resort.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “The cash reserve ratio (CRR)”:**

1. It is the ratio of the total deposits of a bank in India which is kept with the RBI in the form of cash.
2. The ratio is fixed by the Department of Financial Services.

**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 cash reserve ratio (CRR) is the ratio (fixed by the RBI) of the total deposits of a bank in India which is kept with the RBI in the form of cash. This was fixed to be in the range of 3 to 15 per cent.

A recent Amendment (2007) has removed the 3 per cent floor and provided a free hand to the RBI in fixing the CRR.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**



**Q.8) The statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) is/are maintained under which of the following form/s?**

1. Cash.
2. Gold.
3. Unencumbered approved securities valued at a price as specified by the RBI from time to time.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In terms of Section 24 (2-A) of the B.R. Act, 1949 all Scheduled Commercial Banks, in addition to the average daily balance which they are required to maintain under Section 42 of the RBI, Act, 1934, are required to maintain in India,

- a) in cash, or
- b) in gold valued at a price not exceeding the current market price,
- c) in unencumbered approved securities valued at a price as specified by the RBI from time to time.

an amount which shall not, at the close of the business on any day, be less than 25 per cent or such other percentage not exceeding 40 per cent as the RBI may from time to time, by notification in gazette of India, specify, of the total of its demand and time liabilities in India as on the last Friday of the second preceding fortnight,

At present, all SCBs are required to maintain a uniform SLR of 25 per cent of the total of their demand and time liabilities in India as on the last Friday of the second preceding fortnight which is stipulated under section 24 of the B.R. Act, 1949.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) Which of the following institution/s is/are raise the money under “Bank Rate”?**

1. Government of India
2. State Governments
3. RBI

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The interest rate which the RBI charges on its long-term lending's is known as the Bank Rate.

The clients who borrow through this route are the Government of India, state governments, banks, financial institutions, co-operative banks, NBFCs, etc.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

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

- a) Bihar
- b) Assam
- c) West Bengal
- d) Odisha

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Singalila National Park is a National park of India located on the Singalila Ridge at an elevation of more than 2300 metres above sea level, in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. It is well known for the trekking route to Sandakphu that runs through it.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

## *Money and Banking*

**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. The rate of interest the RBI charges from its clients on their short-term borrowing is the repo rate.
2. In practice it is not called an interest rate but considered a discount on the dated government securities.

**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 rate of interest the RBI charges from its clients on their short-term borrowing is the repo rate in India.

- Basically, this is an abbreviated form of the 'rate of repurchase' and in western economies it is known as the 'rate of discount'.
- In practice it is not called an interest rate but considered a discount on the dated government securities, which are deposited by institution to borrow for the short term.
- When they get their securities released from the RBI, the value of the securities is lost by the amount of the current repo rate.
- The Call Money Market of India (inter-bank market) operates at this rate and banks use this route for overnight borrowings.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about reverse repo rate?**

1. It is the rate of interest the RBI pays to its clients who offer short-term loan to it.
2. It is reverse of the repo rate and this was started in November 2006 as part of liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by the RBI.
3. In practice, financial institutions operating in India park their surplus funds with the RBI for shortterm period and earn money.

**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:** It is the rate of interest the RBI pays to its clients who offer short-term loan to it. It is reverse of the repo rate and this was started in November 1996 as part of liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by the RBI.

- In practice, financial institutions operating in India park their surplus funds with the RBI for shortterm period and earn money.

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- It has a direct bearing on the interest rates charged by the banks and the financial institutions on their different forms of loans.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)”:**

1. It was come into effect from 2015.
2. Under this scheme, banks can borrow overnight up-to 1 per cent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) from the RBI.

**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:** MSF is a new scheme announced by the RBI in its Monetary Policy, 2011–12 which came into effect from May, 2011.

Under this scheme, banks can borrow overnight up-to 1 per cent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) from the RBI, at the interest rate 1 per cent (100 basis points) higher than the current repo rate.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are the participant/s of call money market?**

1. Commercial banks
2. Cooperative banks
3. Regional rural 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: C**

**Explanation:** The call money market is an important segment of the money market where borrowing and lending of funds take place on overnight basis.

- Participants in the call money market in India currently include scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)—excluding regional rural banks), cooperative banks (other than land development banks), insurance.
- Prudential limits, in respect of both outstanding borrowing and lending transactions in the call money market for each of these entities, are specified by the RBI.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Open Market Operations (OMOs):**

1. It is the sale/purchase of government securities (G-Sec) to/from the market by RBI.
2. It is an effective qualitative policy tool of RBI.

**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:** OMOs are conducted by the RBI via the sale/purchase of government securities (G-Sec) to/from the market with the primary aim of modulating rupee liquidity conditions in the market.

OMO is an effective quantitative policy tool in the armory of the RBI, but is constrained by the stock of government securities available with it at a point in time.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Market Stabilization Scheme (MSS)”:**

1. It was introduced in 2014.
2. It has features of both, SLR and CRR.

**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:** Market Stabilization Scheme (MSS) was introduced in 2004. Surplus liquidity of a more enduring nature arising from large capital inflows is absorbed through sale of short-dated government securities and treasury bills.

The mobilized cash is held in a separate government account with the Reserve Bank. The instrument thus has features of both, SLR and CRR.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Regional Rural Banks (RRB’s)”:**

1. They were set up in 1975.
2. Its aim is to take banking services to the doorsteps of the rural masses specially in the remote areas with no access to banking services.

**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 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were first set up on 2 October, 1975 (only 5 in numbers) with the aim to take banking services to the doorsteps of the rural masses specially in the remote areas with no access to banking services with twin duties to fulfill:

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- (i) To provide credit to the weaker sections of the society at concessional rate of interest who previously depended on private money lending, and
- (ii) To mobilize rural savings and channelize them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Which of the following committee/s is/are associated with Regional Rural Banks?**

1. Kelkar Committee
2. Bhandari Committee
3. Basu Committee

**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:** Following the suggestions of the Kelkar Committee, the government stopped opening new RRBs in 1987—by that time their total number stood at 196.

- Due to excessive leanings towards social banking and catering to the highly economically weaker sections, these banks started incurring huge losses by early 1980s.
- For restructuring and strengthening of the banks, the governments set up two committees—the Bhandari Committee (1994–95) and the Basu Committee (1995–96).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding District Central Co-Operative Banks-DCCBs:**

1. One district can have no more than one DCCB with a number of DCCBs reporting to the SCB.
2. They were under the supervision of NABARD.

**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:** One district can have no more than one DCCB with a number of DCCBs reporting to the SCB.

They were under supervision of the RBI—later on this function was delegated to the NABARD.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

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

- a) Nagaland
- b) Manipur
- c) Mizoram
- d) Tripura

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Keibul Lamjao National Park is a national park in the Bishnupur district of the state of Manipur in India.

It is 40 km<sup>2</sup> in area, the only floating park in the world, located in North East India, and an integral part of Loktak Lake.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Banking reforms since Independence*

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**Q.1) Who among the following was headed a high level committee on Financial System (CFS) to examine all aspects relating to structure, organization, function and procedures of the financial system?**

- a) Sukomay Chakavarthy
- b) Kaka Kelkar
- c) Narsimham
- d) Rangarajan

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The three decades after nationalisation had seen a phenomenal expansion in the geographical coverage and financial spread of the banking system in the country.

- As certain weaknesses were found to have developed in the system during the late eighties, it was felt that these had to be addressed to enable the financial system to play its role ushering in a more efficient and competitive economy.
- Accordingly, a high level committee on Financial System (CFS) was set up on 14 August, 1991.
- To examine all aspects relating to structure, organization, function and procedures of the financial system—based on its recommendations, a comprehensive reform of the banking system was introduced in the fiscal 1992–93.
- CFS was headed by Narsimham.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Which of the following recommendation/s is/are given by Narsimham Committee – I?**

1. CRR should be progressively reduced.
2. SLR should be brought down to minimum level.
3. Directed credit programme should be continued.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The RBI was advised not to use the CRR as a principal instrument of monetary and credit control, in place it should rely on open market operations (OMOs) increasingly.

- CRR should be progressively reduced from the present high level of 15 per cent to 3 to 5 per cent;
- Concerning the SLR it was advised to cut it to the minimum level (i.e., 25 per cent) from the present high level of 38.5 per cent in the next 5 years (it was cut down to 25 per cent in October 1997).
- Directed credit programme should be phased out gradually. As per the committee, agriculture and small scale industries (SSIs) had already grown to a mature stage and they did not require any special support.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**



**Q.3) Which of the following recommendation/s is/are given by Narsimham Committee – I with respect to interest rates?**

1. Interest rates to be broadly determined by market forces.
2. Bank rate to be the anchor rate and all other interest rates to be closely linked to it.
3. The RBI to be the sole authority to simplify the structure of interest rates.

**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 major recommendations on the structure of interest rates are:

- (i) Interest rates to be broadly determined by market forces;
- (ii) All controls of interest rates on deposits and lending to be withdrawn;
- (iii) Concessional rates of interest for PSL of small sizes to be phased out and subsidies on the IRDP loans to be withdrawn;
- (iv) Bank rate to be the anchor rate and all other interest rates to be closely linked to it; and
- (v) The RBI to be the sole authority to simplify the structure of interest rates.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are recommendation/s of M. Narsimham Committee – II?**

1. Merger of the PSBs and the financial institutions (AIFIs) were suggested.
2. A 3-tier banking structure was suggested after merger.
3. Higher norms of Capital-to-Risk—Weighted Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) suggested.

**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 Narasimham Committee-II (popularly called by the Government of India) handed over its reports in April 1998, which included the following major suggestions:

- (i) Need for a stronger banking system for which mergers of the PSBs and the financial institutions (AIFIs) were suggested—stronger banks and the DFIs (development financial institutions, i.e., AIFIs) to be merged while weaker and unviable ones to be closed.
- (ii) A 3-tier banking structure was suggested after mergers.
- (iii) Higher norms of Capital-to-Risk—Weighted Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) suggested—increased to 10 per cent.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “differential rate of interest (DRI)”:**

1. It was launched in 1992, by the recommendation of Narsimham Committee.
2. It makes obligatory upon all the public sector banks in India to lend 1 per cent of the total lending of the preceding year to the poorest among the poor.

**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 differential rate of interest (DRI) is a lending programme launched by the government in April 1972 which makes it obligatory upon all the public sector banks in India to lend 1 per cent of the total lending of the preceding year to ‘the poorest among the poor’ at an interest rate of 4 per cent per annum.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Which of the following sector/s is/are come/s under priority sector lending?**

1. Agriculture
2. Small & Medium enterprises
3. Road & Water transport

**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:** All Indian banks have to follow the compulsory target of priority sector lending (PSL).

The priority sector in India are at present the sectors— agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), road and water transport, retail trade, small business, small housing loans (not more than Rs. 10 lakhs), software industries, self help groups (SHGs), agro-processing, small and marginal farmers, artisans, distressed urban poor and indebted noninstitutional debtors besides the SCs, STs and other weaker sections of society.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) SARFAESI Act is often seen in news, related to which of the following?**

- a) Nonperforming assets
- b) Priority sector lending
- c) Credit Risk Weighted Ratio
- d) Interest rates

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Government finally cracked down on the wilful defaulters by passing the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.

The Act gives far reaching powers to the banks/FIs concerning NPAs.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Basel Accords is often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Capital Adequacy
- b) Developmental Financial Institutions
- c) Private sector lending
- d) Merging of Banks

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) norm has been the last provision to emerge in the area of regulating the banks in such a way that they can sustain the probable risks and uncertainties of lending.

It was in 1988 that the central banking bodies of the developed economies agreed upon such a provision, the CAR—also known as the Basel Accord.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) Which of the following is called as Narrow Money?**

- a) M0
- b) M1
- c) M2
- d) M3

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In banking terminology, M1 is called narrow money as it is highly liquid and banks cannot run their lending programmes with this money.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

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

- a) Nagaland
- b) Assam
- c) Tripura
- d) Mizoram

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ntangki National park is rich in flora and fauna and is one of the best National Parks in Nagaland has several species of plants and trees that are exclusively found in this region.

- The topography of this park makes it excellent for trekking and hiking for the people who want to explore the region internally.
- Ntangi covers a total area of 202.02 Km<sup>2</sup> and was declared as a National Park in 1993.
- You will find some of the most unique species of animals here including the Hoolock gibbon, Palm civets, Black stork, Tiger, Golden langur, Flying squirrel, Sloth bear, Wild dogs, Monitor lizard, Python among several others.
- The park has semi-tropical trees mostly and is known for its lush greenery.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “High Powered Money”:**

1. The currency issued by the central bank is called high power money.
2. It is generally backed by supporting reserves and its value is guaranteed by the government and it is the source of all other forms of money.

**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 central banks of all the countries are empowered to issue the currency.

- The currency issued by the central bank is called ‘high power money’ because it is generally backed by supporting ‘reserves’ and its value is guaranteed by the government and it is the source of all other forms of money.
- The currency issued by the central bank is, in fact, is a liability of the central bank and the government.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Minimum Reserve System (MRS)”:**

1. The RBI is required to maintain a reserve equivalent of Rs. 200 crores in gold and foreign currency with itself, of which Rs. 115 crores should be in gold.
2. Against this reserve, the RBI is empowered to issue currency to any extent.

**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 RBI is required to maintain a reserve equivalent of Rs. 200 crores in gold and foreign currency with itself, of which Rs. 115 crores should be in gold.

- Against this reserve, the RBI is empowered to issue currency to any extent.
- This is being followed since 1957 and is known as the Minimum Reserve System (MRS).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are part of “Reserve Money (RM)”?**

1. RBI’s net credit to the Government
2. RBI’s net credit to the Banks
3. Net forex reserve with the RBI

**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 gross amount of the following six segments of money at any point of time is known as Reserve Money (RM) for the economy or the government:

- (i) RBI’s net credit to the Government;
- (ii) RBI’s net credit to the Banks;
- (iii) RBI’s net credit to the commercial banks;
- (iv) net forex reserve with the RBI;
- (v) government’s currency liabilities to the public;
- (vi) net non-monetary liabilities of the RBI.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are credit rating agency/agencies?**

1. Fitch Ratings
2. Moody’s Investors Service
3. Dominion Bond Rating Service

**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’s sovereign debt is usually rated by six major sovereign credit rating agencies (SCRAs) of the world which are:

- (i) Fitch Ratings,
- (ii) Moody’s Investors Service,
- (iii) Standard and Poor’s (S&P),
- (iv) Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS),
- (v) Japanese Credit Rating Agency (JCRA), and
- (vi) Rating and Investment Information Inc., Tokyo (R&I).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “millets”:**

1. The Government notified Millets as Nutri-cereals in April 2018.
2. Under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), millets have been introduced to provide nutritional 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:** Given the nutritional value of the millets, the Government notified Millets as Nutri-cereals in April 2018.

- Under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), millets have been introduced to provide nutritional support.
- A sub-mission on Nutri-cereals is being implemented since 2018-19 in 212 districts of 14 States.
- India has more than 500 start-ups working in the millet value chains, while the Indian Institute of Millets Research has incubated 250 start-ups under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana – Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation (RKVYRAFTAAR).

**Source: Economic Survey**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are come/s under the allied sector/s of agriculture?**

1. Forestry & logging
2. Fishing & aquaculture
3. Mining & Quarrying

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The allied sectors of Indian agriculture - livestock, forestry & logging and fishing & aquaculture are gradually becoming sectors of buoyant growth and a potential source of better farm incomes.

**Source: Economic Survey**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)”:**

1. It was launched in 2020 worth of 15,000crores.
2. Under this scheme, the Central Government provides a 3 per cent interest subvention to the borrower.

**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:** Cognisant of the importance of allied sectors, the Government has made several critical interventions to enhance infrastructure and improve livestock productivity and disease control.

- As a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (ANB) stimulus package, the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) worth ₹15,000 crore was launched in 2020.
- Under this scheme, the Central Government provides a 3 per cent interest subvention to the borrower and credit guarantees up to 25 per cent of total borrowing.

**Source: Economic Survey**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)”:**

1. It was launched 2014.
2. PMMSY marks the highest-ever investment in the fisheries sector in India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In May 2020, as a part of the ANB package, the Government of India launched its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with a total outlay of ₹20,050 crore.

PMMSY marks the highest-ever investment in the fisheries sector in India, to be implemented over five years from FY21 to FY25 in all States/Union Territories to drive sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector while ensuring socio-economic development of the fishers, fish farmers and fish workers.

**Source: Economic Survey**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “cooperative societies”:**

1. 98 per cent of villages are covered by Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS).
2. 19 per cent of agriculture finance is through cooperative societies.

**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 cooperative societies, especially in the agriculture, dairy and fisheries sectors, provide the rural population with livelihood opportunities and a financial safety net with a communitybased approach. Cooperatives hold the key to rural economic transformation.

- There are 8.5 lakh registered cooperatives in the country, having more than 29 crore members mainly from the marginalised and lower-income groups in the rural areas, and 98 per cent of villages are covered by Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS).
- To realise the vision of “Sahakar-see-Samriddhi”, a renewed impetus was given to the growth of the cooperative sector.
- Currently, around 19 per cent of agriculture finance is through cooperative societies.

**Source: Economic Survey**

**Q.10) Which of the following tiger reserve is NOT part Karnataka state?**

- a) Bandipur
- b) Bhadra
- c) Nagarahole
- d) Pench

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Karnataka has been declared as No.1 State in Tiger Population in the country. At present the Tiger population is estimated around 300.

- As per India Tiger estimate 2010 conducted by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.
- The State has 5 Tiger Reserves namely, Bandipur, Bhadra, Nagarahole, Dandeli-Anshi and BRT Tiger Reserves which is headed by Additional Pricipal Chief Conservator of Forests (Project Tiger), Mysuru & Shivamogga.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



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## *Capital Markets and Money Markets*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. The short-term financial market is known as the capital market.
2. The long-term financial market is known as the money market.

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:** Financial markets in every economy are having two separate segments today, one catering to the requirements of short-term funds and the other to the requirements of long-term funds.

The short-term financial market is known as the money market, while the long-term financial market is known as the capital market.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Who among the following is/are participant/s of money market?**

1. Financial institutions
2. Government
3. Companies

**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:** Money market is the short-term financial market of an economy. In this market, money is traded between individuals or groups (i.e., financial institutions, banks, government, companies, etc.), who are either cash-surplus or cash-scarce.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding trading in money market:**

1. Trading is done on a rate known as discount rate which is determined by the market.
2. The repo rate of the time works as the guiding rate for the current discount rate.

**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:** Trading is done on a rate known as discount rate which is determined by the market and guided by the availability of and demand for the cash in the day-to-day trading.

- The 'repo rate' of the time (announced by the RBI) works as the guiding rate for the current 'discount rate'.
- Borrowings in this market may or may not be supported by collaterals.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are way/s for raising long term capital?**

1. Bank loans
2. Corporate bonds
3. Debentures

**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:** Long-term capital can be raised either through bank loans, corporate bonds, debentures or shares (i.e., from the capital market).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Which of the following committee/s is/are related to money market in India?**

1. Chakravarthy Committee
2. Vahul Committee
3. Kelkar committee

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The organised form of money market in India is just close to three decades old. However, its presence has been there, but restricted to the government only.

It was the Chakravarthy Committee (1985) which, for the first time, underlined the need of an organised money market in the country and the Vahul Committee (1987) laid the blue print for its development.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are indigenous banker/s?**

1. Reddis
2. Multanis
3. Chettiars

**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:** Indigenous Bankers: Indigenous bankers receive deposits and lend money in the capacity of an individual or private firm. There are, basically, four such bankers in the country functioning as nonhomogenous groups:

- Gujarati Shroffs: They operate in Mumbai, Kolkata as well as in industrial, trading and port cities in the region.
- Multani or Shikarpuri Shroffs: They operate in Mumbai, Kolkata, Assam tea gardens and North Eastern India.
- Marwari Kayas: They operate mainly in Gujarat with a little bit of presence in Mumbai and Kolkata.
- Chettiars: They are active in Chennai and at the ports of southern India.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) At present, which of the following treasury bill/s is/are issued by the government?**

1. 14-day treasury bills
2. 91-day treasury bills
3. 182-day treasury bills

**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:** Treasury Bills (TBs) is an instrument of the money market though present since Independence got organized only in 1986.

They are used by the Central Government to fulfill its short-term liquidity requirement up-to the period of 364 days. There developed five types of the TBs in due course of time:

- 14-day (Intermediate TBs)
- 14-day (Auctionable TBs)
- 91-day TBs
- 182-day TBs
- 364-day TBs

Out of the above five variants of the TBs, at present only the 91-day TBs, 182-day TBs and the 364-day TBs are issued by the government. The other two variants were discontinued in 2001.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Certificate of Deposit (CD)”:**

1. It is issued by banks.
2. They are not negotiable and tradable in the money market.

**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:** Organized in 1989, the Certificate of Deposit (CD) is used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period ranging less than one year—they are negotiable and tradable in the money market.

Since 1993 the RBI allowed the financial institutions to operate in it— IFCI, IDBI, IRBI (IIBI since 1997) and the Exim Bank—they can issue CDs for the maturity periods above one year and up to three years.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) Which of the following institution/s is/are issue/s the Commercial Bill (CB)?**

1. Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)
2. Scheduled Commercial Banks
3. Co-operative 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: D**

**Explanation:** Organized in 1990, a CB is issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and the Mutual Funds. It replaced the old Bill Market available since 1952 in the country.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

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

- a) Kerala
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Sikkim

**ANS: B**

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

- 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**

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## *Inflation and Unemployment*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. A persistent increase in the general level of prices is called as inflation.
2. When the general level of prices is falling over a period of time this is known as disinflation.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** A rise in the general level of prices; a sustained rise in the general level of prices; persistent increases in the general level of prices; an increase in the general level of prices in an economy that is sustained over time; rising prices across the board —is inflation.

When the general level of prices is falling over a period of time this is deflation, the opposite situation of inflation. It is also known as disinflation.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements:**

1. A price index is a weighted average of the prices of a number of goods and services.
2. Inflation is measured from point-to-point.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** A price index is a weighted average of the prices of a number of goods and services.

- In the index the total weight is taken as 100 at a particular year of the past (the base year), this when compared to the current year shows a rise or fall in the prices of current year, there is a rise or fall in the '100' in comparison to the base year—and this inflation is measured in digits.
- Inflation is measured 'point-to-point'. It means that the reference dates for the annual inflation is January 1 to January 1 of two consecutive years (not for January 1 to December 31 of the concerned year).
- Similarly, the weekly rate of inflation is the change in one week reference being the two consecutive last days of the week (i.e., 5 p.m. of two Fridays in India).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. The supply decreases with the same level of demand and thus the situation of demand-pull inflation arise.
2. The price rise which is the result of increase in the production cost is cost-push inflation.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** A mis-match between demand and supply pulls up prices. Either the demand increases over the same level of supply, or the supply decreases with the same level of demand and thus the situation of demand-pull inflation arise.

- This was a Keynesian idea. The Keynesian School suggests cuts in spending as the way of tackling excess demand mainly by increasing taxes and reducing government expenditure.
- An increase in factor input costs (i.e., wages and raw materials) pushes up prices. The price rise which is the result of increase in the production cost is cost-push inflation.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are measure/s to control inflation?**

1. Supply side measures
2. Cost side measures
3. Following loose monetary 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 governments resort to the following options to check rising inflation:

- (i) As a supply side measure, the government may go for import of goods which are in short-supply—as a short-term measure (as happened in India in the case of ‘onion’ and meeting the buffer stock norm of wheat). As a long-term measure, governments go on to increase the production to matching the level of demand. Storage, transportation, distribution, hoarding are the other aspects of price management of this category.
- (ii) As a cost side measure, governments may try to cool down the price by cutting down the production cost of goods showing price rise with the help of tax breaks—cuts in the excise and custom duties (as happened in June 2003 in India in the case of crude oil and steel 8). This helps as a short-term measure. In the long-term, better production process, technological innovations etc., are helpful. Increasing income of the people is the monetary measure to avoid the heat of such inflation.
- (iii) The governments may take recourse to tighter monetary policy to cool down either the demand-pull or the cost-push inflations.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Which of the following inflation has increase of annual rates in million or even trillion?**

- a) Inflation
- b) Low inflation
- c) Galloping inflation
- d) Hyper inflation

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The hyper inflation is 'large and accelerating' which might have the annual rates in million or even trillion.

- In such inflation not only the range of increase is very large, but the increase takes place in a very short span of time, prices shoot up overnight.
- The best example of hyperinflation that economists cite is of Germany after the First World War—in early 1920s. At the end of 1923, prices were 36 billion times higher than two years earlier.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) The excess of total government spending above the national income is known as?**

- a) Inflation tax
- b) Inflationary gap
- c) Deflationary gap
- d) Inflation spiral

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The excess of total government spending above the national income (i.e., fiscal deficit) is known as inflationary gap.

This is intended to increase the production level, which ultimately pushes the prices up due to extra-creation of money during the process.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) "It is a graphic curve which advocates a relationship between inflation and unemployment in an economy" – related to?**

- a) Kuznets curve
- b) Phillips curve
- c) Gini coefficient
- d) Laffer curve

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Phillips curve is a graphic curve which advocates a relationship between inflation and unemployment in an economy.

- As per the curve there is a 'trade off' between inflation and unemployment, i.e., an inverse relationship between them.
- The curve suggests that lower the inflation, higher the unemployment and higher the inflation, lower the unemployment.
- During the 1960s, this idea was among the most important theories of the modern economists.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

- This concept is known after the economists who developed it—Alban William Housego Phillips (1914–75).
- Bill Phillips (popular name) was an electrical engineer from New Zealand and was an economist at the London School of Economics when propounded the idea.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) “It is a situation in an economy when inflation and unemployment both are at higher levels, contrary to conventional belief” – is related to?**

- a) Skew inflation
- b) Stag inflation
- c) Inflation premium
- d) Inflation targeting

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Stagflation is a situation in an economy when inflation and unemployment both are at higher levels, contrary to conventional belief.

- Such a situation first arose in the 1970s in the US economy (average unemployment rate above 6 per cent and the average rate of inflation above 7 per cent) and in many Euro-American economies.
- This took place as a result of oil price increases of 1973 and 1979 and anticipation of higher inflation. The stag-flationary situation continued till the early 1980s.
- Conventional thinking that a trade-off existed between inflation and unemployment (i.e., Phillips Curve) was falsified and several economies switched over to alternative ways of economic policies, such as monetarist and supply-side economics.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding GDP deflator?**

1. It is the ratio between GDP at Current Prices and GDP at Constant Prices.
2. It is acclaimed as a better measure of price behavior because it covers all goods and services produced in the country.

**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:** GDP deflator is the ratio between GDP at Current Prices and GDP at Constant Prices.

- If GDP at Current Prices is equal to the GDP at Constant Prices, GDP deflator will be 1, implying no change in price level.
- If GDP deflator is found to be 2, it implies rise in price level by a factor of 2, and if GDP deflator is found to be 4, it implies a rise in price level by a factor of 4.
- GDP deflator is acclaimed as a better measure of price behavior because it covers all goods and services produced in the country (because the weight of services has not been equitably accounted in the Indian ‘headline inflation’, i.e., inflation at WPI).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.10) “Neora valley national park”, is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Neora Valley National Park is a national park in Kalimpong district, West Bengal, India that was established in 1986. It spreads over an area of 88 km<sup>2</sup>, and is a rich biological zone in eastern India.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Government Budgeting and Fiscal Policy*

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**Q.1) “Annual Financial Statement” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) Article 72
- b) Article 110
- c) Article 112
- d) Article 280

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Constitution of India has a provision (Art. 112) for such a document called Annual Financial Statement to be presented in the Parliament before the commencement of every new fiscal year—popular as the Union Budget. Same provision is there for the states, too.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are part of budget?**

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

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

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

- (i) Actual data of the preceding year (here preceding year means one year before the year in which the Budget is being presented. Suppose the Budget presented is for the year 2017–18, the Budget will give the final/actual data for the year 2016–17. After the data either we write ‘A’, means actual data/final data or write nothing (India writes nothing).
- (ii) Provisional data of the current year (i.e., 2017–18) since the Budget for 2017–18 is presented at the end of the fiscal 2016–17; it provides Provisional Estimates for this year (shown as ‘PE’ in brackets with the data).
- (iii) Budgetary estimates for the following year (here following year means one year after the year in which the Budget is being presented or the year for which the Budget is being presented, i.e., 2018–19). This is shown with the symbol ‘BE’ in brackets with the concerned data.).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are interim data of a budget?**

1. Revised estimate
2. Quick estimate
3. Advance estimate

**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:** Revised Estimate is basically a current estimation of either the budgetary estimates (BE) or the provisional estimates (PE). It shows the contemporary situation. It is an interim data.

- Quick Estimate (QE) Quick Estimate is a kind of revised estimate which shows the latest situation and is useful in the process of going for future projections for some sector or sub-sector. It is an interim data.
- Advance Estimate (AE) Advance Estimate is a kind of quick estimate but done ahead (is advance) of the final stage when data should have been collected. It is an interim data.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are non tax revenue receipts?**

1. Dividends
2. Interests
3. Grants

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Non-tax Revenue Receipts includes all money earned by the government from sources other than taxes. In India they are:

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are part of revenue expenditure?**

1. Interest
2. Salaries
3. Subsidies

**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:** All expenditures incurred by the government are either of revenue kind or current kind or compulsive kind. The basic identity of such expenditures is that they are of consumptive kind and do not involve creation of productive assets. They are either used in running of a productive process or running a government. A broad category of things that fall under such expenditures in India are:

- (i) Interest payment by the government on the internal and external loans;
- (ii) Salaries, Pension and Provident Fund paid by the government to government employees;
- (iii) Subsidies forwarded to all sectors by the government;
- (iv) Defence expenditures by the government;
- (v) Postal Deficits of the government;

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements:**

1. When balance of the government's total receipts and total expenditures turns out to be negative is called as primary deficit.
2. The deficit excluding the interest liabilities for a year is called as fiscal deficit.

**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:** When balance of the government's total receipts (i.e., revenue + capital receipts) and total expenditures (i.e., revenue + capital expenditures) turns out to be negative, it shows the situation of fiscal deficit, a concept being used since the fiscal 1997-98 in India.

- The fiscal deficit excluding the interest liabilities for a year is the primary deficit, a term India started using since the fiscal 1997-98.
- It shows the fiscal deficit for the year in which the economy had not to fulfill any interest payments on the different loans and liabilities which it is obliged to—shown both in quantitative and percentage of GDP forms.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) The FRBM act is often seen in news was enacted in which of the following year?**

- a) 2001
- b) 2002
- c) 2003
- d) 2004

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The fiscal consolidation which followed in 1991 failed to give the desired results as there was no defined mandate for it. Neither was there any statutory obligation to do so.

- This is why the Fiscal Reforms and Budget Management Act (FRBMA) were enacted on 26 August, 2003 to provide the support of a strong institutional/statutory mechanism.
- Designed for the purpose of medium-term management of the fiscal deficit, the FRBMA came into effect on 5 July, 2004.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Which of the following statement/s is/are presented along with the budget?**

1. Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement
2. Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement
3. Macroeconomic Framework Statement

**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:** Along with the Budget and Demands for Grants, the GoI to lay the following three statements before the Parliament in each financial year:

- (a) Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement (FPSS);
- (b) Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement (MTFPS); and
- (c) Macroeconomic Framework Statement (MFS).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) The “begur wildlife sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Begur Wildlife Sanctuary is one among the several hidden gems of Wayanad district. The lush greenery and rare faunal species make it a must-visit destination.

- The Western Ghats form the perfect backdrop for a wonderful safari here. One can come across bear, bison, elephants, jungle cats, monkeys, panther, spotted deer, wild boars and packs of wild dogs here.

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- Nature lovers will find many a picturesque picnic spot in this area, located about 20 km east of Mananthavady in Wayanad. It is a unique destination that is slowly gaining traction among our visitors.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Assam
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Tripura

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Balpakram National Park is quite famous for its immense archaeological and geological value.

- The park is the breeding ground of leopards, langurs, boars and the rarely found, golden cat besides being also known for the unique red panda.
- The literal meaning of the word ‘balpakram’ is ‘a place where there are perpetual winds’. It is located at a distance of about 167 kilometres from Tura, Meghalaya.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Balance of Payments*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are consist/s of foreign exchange reserves?**

1. Foreign currency assets
2. Special drawing rights
3. Digital currency assets

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The total foreign currencies (of different countries) an economy possesses at a point of time is its 'foreign currency assets/reserves'.

The Forex Reserves (short for 'foreign exchange reserves') of an economy is its 'foreign currency assets' added with its gold reserves, SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) and Reserve Tranche in the IMF.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are leading item/s of export/s in 2022?**

1. Petroleum products
2. Organic & inorganic chemicals
3. Gold

**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:** During FY23 (till December 2022) India's exports have displayed resilience on the back of record levels of exports in FY22.

Petroleum products, gems & jewellery, organic & inorganic chemicals, drugs & pharmaceuticals were among the leading export items.

**Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 23**

**Q.3) Which of the following risk/s is/are faced by emerging economy/economies in 2022 – 23?**

1. Elevated external borrowing costs
2. Sticky high inflation
3. Volatile commodity markets

**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 emerging markets face a host of risks emanating from elevated external borrowing costs, sticky high inflation, and volatile commodity markets, uncertain global economic growth outlook, and spill over's from policy tightening in advanced economies.

**Source: Economic Survey 2022 – 2023**

**Q.4) Which of the following institution publishes the “International Debt Statistics”?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Cross-country comparison of external debt, (as per the World Bank's International Debt Statistics), indicates that India continues to be among the less vulnerable countries and its key debt indicators compare well with other indebted countries of the developing world.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) “In the foreign exchange market when exchange rate of a domestic currency is cut down by its government against any foreign currency” – described as?**

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

**ANS: B**

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**



**Q.6) Which of the following is/are consist/s of current account of balance of payments?**

1. Exports
2. Interest Payments
3. Transfers

**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 the external sector, it refers to the account maintained by every government of the world in which every kind of current transactions is shown—basically this account is maintained by the central banking body of the economy on behalf of the government.

Current transactions of an economy in foreign currency all over the world are—export, import, interest payments, private remittances and transfers.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) “S.S. Tarapore Committee” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) Currency convertibility
- b) Foreign portfolio investments
- c) Priority sector lending
- d) External commercial borrowings

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** An economy might allow its currency full or partial convertibility in the current and the capital accounts.

- If domestic currency is allowed to convert into foreign currency for all current account purposes, it is a case of full current account convertibility.
- Similarly, in cases of capital outflow, if the domestic currency is allowed to convert into foreign currency, it is a case of full capital account convertibility.
- After the recommendations of the S.S. Tarapore Committee (1997) on Capital Account Convertibility, India has been moving in the direction of allowing full convertibility in this account, but with required precautions.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) The terms “REER & NEER” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) Exchange rate
- b) External aid
- c) External borrowings
- d) Foreign trade agreements

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) of the rupee is a weighted average of exchange rates before the currencies of India’s major trading partners.

- When the weight of inflation is adjusted with the NEER, we get the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) of the rupee.

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- Since inflation has been on the higher side in recent months, the REER of the rupee has been more against it than the NEER.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) “Extended fund Facility (EFF)” is recently seen in news is related to?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Extended fund Facility (EFF) is a service provided by the IMF to its member countries which authorizes them to raise any amount of foreign exchange from it to fulfil their BoP crisis, but on the conditions of structural reforms in the economy put by the body. It is the first agreement of its kind. India had signed this agreement with the IMF in the financial year 1981–82.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Delhi
- d) Rajasthan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Blackbuck National Park is a national park in India located at Velavadar in the Bhavnagar District of Gujarat state, India. Established in 1976 in the Bhal region of Saurashtra, the park is located around 42 km from the district headquarters city of Bhavnagar.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *India & International Institutions*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding hard currency:**

1. It has a high level of liquidity.
2. Indian Rupee, Japanese Yen and American Dollar are the examples of hard currency.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Hard Currency is the international currency in which the highest faith is shown and is needed by every economy. The strongest currency of the world is one which has a high level of liquidity.

- Basically, the economy with the highest as well as highly diversified exports that are compulsive imports for other countries (as of high-level technology, defence products, life saving medicines and petroleum products) will also create high demand for its currency in the world and become the hard currency.
- It is always scarce. Upto the Second World War, the best hard currency was the Pound Sterling (£) of the UK, but soon it was replaced by the US Dollar.
- Some of the best hard currencies of the world today are the US Dollar, the Euro(€), Japanese Yen (¥) and the UK Sterling Pound (£).
- Meanwhile, by late 2015, the IMF allowed the SDR to be denominated in the chinese Yuan—paving the way for a new hard currency to be implemented in 2016.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) “Global Investment Trends Monitor” is recently seen in news is released by?**

- a) IMF
- b) World Bank
- c) UNCTAD
- d) World Economic Forum

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Global Investment Trends Monitor is released by UNCTAD.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are institutions called as Bretton Woods' twins?**

1. World Trade Organization
2. World Bank
3. International Monetary Fund

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

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are function/s of International Monetary Fund (IMF)?**

1. It facilitates international monetary cooperation.
2. It promotes exchange rate stability and orderly exchange arrangements.
3. It provides long term low interest loans for developmental activities in least developed countries.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The main functions of the IMF are as given below:

- (i) to facilitate international monetary cooperation;
- (ii) to promote exchange rate stability and orderly exchange arrangements;
- (iii) to assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments and the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions; and
- (iv) to assist member countries by temporarily providing financial resources to correct mal-adjustment in their balance of payments (BoPs).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding IMF's Quota:**

1. IMF reviews members' quotas once in every ten years.
2. While 75 per cent of the quota is to be paid in cash, the balance 25 per cent can be paid in securities.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: D**

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

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) "Financial Transactions Plan (FTP)" is often seen in news is related to?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** India has been borrowing from the IMF due to critical balance of payment (BoP) situations—once between 1981–84 (SDR 3.9 billion) and next during 1991 (SDR 3.56 billion). All the loans taken from the IMF have been repaid. India is now a contributor to the IMF as it participates in the Financial Transactions Plan (FTP) of the IMF since September 2002—at this time India was in strong balance of payment situation and in a comfortable forex reserves position.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “International Development Agency (IDA)”:**

1. It is
2. interest free loans for a period of 35 – 40 years.
3. Which of also known as the soft window of the World Bank.

**It provides 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 Development Agency (IDA) which is also known as the soft window of the WB was set up in 1960 with the basic aim of developing infrastructural support among the member nations, long-term lending for the development of economic services.

- Its loans, known as credits are extended mainly to economies with less than \$895 per capita income.
- The credits are for a period of 35–40 years, interest-free, except for a small charge to cover administrative costs. Repayment begins after a 10-year grace period.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Which of the following institution is known as private arm of the World Bank?**

- a) International Development Agency
- b) International Finance Corporation
- c) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- d) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**ANS: B**

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

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Asian Development Bank (ADB)”:**

1. India is one of the founding members of ADB.
2. Its headquarters is located at Manila, Philippines.

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

- Asian development Bank has its headquarters situated at Manila, Philippines.
- The purpose of the Bank is to foster economic growth and co-operation in the region of Asia and the Far East and to contribute to economic development of the developing member countries, collectively and individually.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.10) “Satkosia Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Odisha

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Forests surrounding the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi River including the stretch of river flowing through the gorge with rich diversity of habitats and mosaic of landscapes having a fascinating floral and faunal composition were notified as Satkosia Gorge sanctuary in May, 1976.

- The contiguous forest area to the south of this sanctuary in Nayagarh District was notified as the Baisipali sanctuary in the year 1981.
- These two sanctuaries together covering an area of 963.87 sq km. have been notified as Satkosia Tiger Reserve vide Notification No.8F(S)-32/2006/20807/F&E Dated, Bhubaneswar, the 31st December, 2007. It has a core area of 523.61 sq km and a buffer area of 440.26 sq km.

**Source: <https://www.satkosia.org/>**

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## *Five Year Plans and Economic Reforms in India*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)”:**

1. Its predecessor was Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC).
2. All UN members were members of OECD.

**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 roots of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris, go back to the rubble of Europe after World War II.

- The Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was established in 1947 to run the US-financed Marshall Plan for reconstruction of a continent ravaged by war.
- Encouraged by its success and the prospect of carrying its work forward on a global stage, Canada and the US joined OEEC members in signing the new OECD Convention on 14 December, 1960.
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was officially born on September 30, 1961, when the Convention entered into force.
- It now has 38 member including not only most advanced countries but also emerging countries like Mexico, Chile and Turkey.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) “The Planned Economy of India” book was written by which of the following?**

- a) M. Visvesvaraya
- b) N.R. Sarkar
- c) B. R. Ambedkar
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru

**ANS: A**

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

In his book The Planned Economy of India, published in 1934, he outlined the broad contours of his plan proposal.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**



**Q.3) Who among the following was/were the member/s of National Planning Committee?**

1. Mahatma Gandhi
2. Subhash C. Bose
3. J. L. Nehru

**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:** Though the Gandhians and some of the business and propertied representatives were opposed to commit the party to centralised state planning (including Mahatma Gandhi), it was on the initiative of the INC president Subhash C. Bose that the National Planning Committee (NPC) was set up in October 1938 under the chairmanship of J. L. Nehru to work out concrete programmes for development encompassing all major areas of the economy.

- Basically, the NPC was set up in a conference of the Ministers of Industries of the Congress-ruled States (though other states were also invited to participate) where M. Visvesvaraya, J.R.D. Tata, G.D. Birla and Lala Sri Ram and many others including academicians, technocrats, provincial civil servants, trade unionists, socialists and communists, etc., were also invited.
- The 15-member NPC with 29 sub-committees and a total of 350 members produced 29 volumes of recommendations.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Who among the following is NOT a member of Bombay Plan?**

- a) J.R.D. Tata
- b) John Mathai
- c) Kasturbhai Lalbhai
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Bombay Plan was the popular title of 'A Plan of Economic Development for India', which was prepared by a cross-section of India's leading capitalists.

- The eight capitalists involved in this plan were Purshotamdas Thakurdas, J.R.D. Tata, G.D. Birla, Lala Sri Ram, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, A.D. Shroff, Avdeshir Dalal and John Mathai. The Plan was published in 1944– 45.
- Out of these eight industrialists, Purshotamdas Thakurdas was one among the 15 members of the National Planning Committee (1938);
- J.R.D. Tata, G.D. Birla and Lala Sri Ram, were members of the sub-committees (29 in total) of the National Planning Committee.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Who among the following was formulated the “Gandhian Plan”?**

- a) Sriman Narayan Agarwal
- b) Lala Sri Ram
- c) Purshotamdas Thakurdas
- d) Avdeshir Dalal

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Espousing the spirit of the Gandhian economic thinking, Sriman Narayan Agarwal formulated The Gandhian Plan in 1944.

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

Area report	:	Prepared by
1. Industrial credit	:	Gadgil
2. Agricultural Development	:	Kheragat
3. Cooperatives	:	Saraiya

**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:** In the 1940s, we see several area-specific reports being published:

- (i) Gadgil Report on Rural Credit
- (ii) Kheragat Report on Agricultural Development
- (iii) Krishnamachari Report on Agricultural Prices
- (iv) Saraiya Report on Cooperatives
- (v) A series of reports on Irrigation (ground water, canal, etc.)

All these reports, though prepared with great care and due scholarship, the government had hardly any zeal to implement the plans on their findings. But independent India was greatly benefited when the planning started covering all these areas of concern.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) Which of the following body/institution replaced the Planning Commission?**

- a) Zonal Council
- b) Inter State Council
- c) National Integration Council
- d) National Development Council

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** On January 1, 2015, the government formally abolished the PC by replacing it with the newly created body—the NITI Aayog.

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- With this there ended an era in the economic history of independent India. Whether it was better to revive the PC or abolish it has been a matter of much debate among the discipline experts, politicians and the media.
- The debate, at times, had emotional tones, too. But the government has its own wisdom behind the action (a detailed discussion on it has been included as the last sub-topic of this Chapter titled 'NITI Aayog').

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Which of the following plan was prepared by the Professor Mahalanobis?**

- a) First plan
- b) Second Plan
- c) Sixth Plan
- d) Eighth Plan

**ANS: B**

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

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.9) The Ramsar site “Kolleru Lake” is located at which of the following?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** A natural eutrophic lake, situated between the two major river basins of the Godavari and the Krishna, fed by two seasonal rivers and a number of drains and channels, which functions as a natural flood balancing reservoir between the deltas of the two rivers.

- It provides habitat for a number of resident and migratory birds, including declining numbers of the vulnerable Grey Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), and sustains culture and capture fisheries, agriculture and related occupations of the people in the area.
- Damage and losses due to flooding in monsoon seasons and partial drying out during summers, the results of inadequate management planning and action, are seen as areas for improvement.
- WWF-India has been of great assistance in preparing the site's designation. Ramsar site no 1209.

**Source: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/1209>**

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

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Mizoram
- c) Tripura
- d) Nagaland

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Situated in the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, the Rajbari National Park is one of India’s well-known National Parks. It is located at Tripura, India.

- The park is spread over a whopping 31.63 square kilometres. Visiting this park would prove to be a visual treat to its visitors.
- The park is very famous across the country owing to its picturesque surroundings.
- It is one of the many places in India where one could witness Mother Nature at her best.
- One can expect to come across various wild animals including the world-famous Indian Gaur (also known as bison), deer, Golden langurs, Pheasants, and many such endearing species.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

## *Revision*

**Q.1) Who among the following was prepared the “People’s Plan”?**

- a) M. N. Roy
- b) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- c) Acharya Vinoba Bave
- d) Jayaprakash Narayan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In 1945, yet another plan was formulated by the radical humanist leader M.N. Roy, Chairman of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of Indian Trade Union.

The plan was based on Marxist socialism and advocated the need of providing the people with the ‘basic necessities of life’.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are central plan/s?**

- 1. Five year plans
- 2. Twenty point programme
- 3. Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

**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 Plans which are formulated by the Central Government and financed by it for the implementation at the national level are known as Central Plans. Over the years, the Centre has launched three such plans and the governments have maintained continuity in their implementation. The three central plans are:

- Five-Year Plans,
- Twenty-Point Programme, and
- Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) In which of the following period, annual plans are implemented in India?**

- a) 1962 – 65
- b) 1966 – 69
- c) 1972 – 75
- d) 1989 – 92

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The period of the three consecutive Annual Plans was 1966–69. Though the Fourth Plan was ready for implementation in 1966, the weak financial situation as well as the low morale after the defeat by China, the government decided to go for an Annual Plan for 1966–67.

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- Due to the same reasons the government went for another two such plans in the forthcoming years.
- The broader objectives of these Annual Plans were inside the design of the Fourth Plan which would have been implemented for the period 1966–71 had the financial conditions not worsened by then.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) “There is a price rise of one or a small group of commodities over a sustained period of time” – described as?**

- a) Stagflation
- b) Skewflation
- c) Galloping inflation
- d) Hyper inflation

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Economists usually distinguish between inflation and a relative price increase.

- ‘Inflation’ refers to a sustained, across-the-board price increase, whereas ‘a relative price increase’ is a reference to an episodic price rise pertaining to one or a small group of commodities.
- This leaves a third phenomenon, namely one in which there is a price rise of one or a small group of commodities over a sustained period of time, without a traditional designation.
- ‘Skewflation’ is a relatively new term to describe this third category of price rise.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. Inflation redistributes wealth from creditors to debtors.
2. Rising inflation indicates lowering aggregate demand.

**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:** There are multi-dimensional effects of inflation on an economy both at the micro and macro levels. It redistributes income, distorts relative prices, destabilizes employment, tax, saving and investment policies, and finally it may bring in recession and depression in an economy.

- Inflation redistributes wealth from creditors to debtors, i.e., lenders suffer and borrowers benefit out of inflation. The opposite effect takes place when inflation falls (i.e., deflation).
- Rising inflation indicates rising aggregate demand and indicates comparatively lower supply and higher purchasing capacity among the consumers.
- Usually, higher inflation suggests the producers to increase their production level as it is generally considered as an indication of higher demand in the economy.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are quasi – regulatory agency/agencies?**

1. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
2. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
3. National Housing Bank (NHB)

**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:** Several other government bodies perform quasi-regulatory functions— National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and National Housing Bank (NHB).

NABARD supervises regional rural banks as well as state and district cooperative banks. NHB regulates housing finance companies, and SIDBI regulates the state finance corporations (SFCs).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Financial Sector Development Council (FSDC)”:**

1. Prime Minister is the chairman of FSDC.
2. It resolves inter-agency disputes.

**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:** Few years back, an important addition was made to the regulatory architecture— the Financial Sector Development Council (FSDC) was set up which replaced the High Level Committee on Capital Markets.

- The council is convened by Ministry of Finance and does not have statutory authority— it is structured as a council of regulators—Finance Minister as chairman. It has a permanent secretariat.
- The council resolves inter-agency disputes; look after the regulation of financial conglomerates that fall under various regulators’ purview; and performs wealth management functions dealing with multiple products.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Who among the following is the lender of last resort?**

- a) SIDBI
- b) RBI
- c) Department of Financial Services
- d) SBI

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** As a Banker to Banks, the Reserve Bank also acts as the ‘lender of the last resort’.

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It can come to the rescue of a bank that is solvent but faces temporary liquidity problems by supplying it with much needed liquidity when no one else is willing to extend credit to that bank. The Reserve Bank extends this facility to protect the interest of the depositors of the bank and to prevent possible failure of the bank, which in turn may also affect other banks and institutions and can have an adverse impact on financial stability and thus on the economy.

**Source:** [https://m.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS\\_Overview.aspx?fn=2758](https://m.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Overview.aspx?fn=2758)

**Q.9) “Surplus liquidity of a more enduring nature arising from large capital inflows is absorbed through sale of short-dated government securities and treasury bills” – described as?**

- a) Liquidity Adjustment Facility
- b) Standing Deposit Facility
- c) Market Stabilization Scheme
- d) Open Market Operations

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) is an instrument for monetary management was introduced in 2004.

- Surplus liquidity of a more enduring nature arising from large capital inflows is absorbed through sale of short-dated government securities and treasury bills.
- The mobilised cash is held in a separate government account with the Reserve Bank. The instrument thus has features of both, SLR and CRR.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.10) “Pong dam Lake” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Sikkim
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Pong dam Lake is also called the Pong reservoir or the Maharana Pratap Sagar.

- In 1983, the entire reservoir was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh government.
- In 1994, the Government of India declared it a “Wetland of National Importance”.
- Pong Dam Lake was declared as Ramsar Site in November 2002.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



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## *Agriculture*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are cropping season/s of Indian subcontinent?**

1. Kharif
2. Rabi
3. Jayads

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** There are certain special terms used to understand the cropping seasons of India. The agricultural crop year in India is from July to June.

- The Indian cropping season is classified into two main seasons- (i) kharif and (ii) rabi based on the monsoon.
- The kharif cropping season is from July to October during the South-West/Summer Monsoon and the rabi cropping season is from October to March (North-East/Returning/Winter Monsoon).
- The crops grown between March and June are summer crops, known as jayads.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are kharif crop/s?**

1. Arhar
2. Cotton
3. Rice

**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 kharif crops include rice, maize, sorghum, pearl millet/bajra, finger millet/ragi (cereals), arhar (pulses), soyabean, groundnut (oilseeds), cotton, etc.

The rabi crops include wheat, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard (oilseeds) etc.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.3) Which of the following step/s is/are taken under land reforms in India?**

1. Abolition of intermediaries
2. Tenancy reforms
3. Reorganization of agriculture

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

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Minimum Support Price (MSP)”:**

1. It is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
2. It is announced on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

**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:** Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices—a guarantee price to save farmers from distress sale.

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The MSPs are announced at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP, 1985).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.5) For which of the following crop, the “Market Intervention Scheme” is announced?**

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Horticultural products
- d) Maize

**ANS: C**

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

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) “The price at which the government allows off take of food grains from the FCI” – described as?**

- a) Minimum Support Price
- b) Offer Price
- c) Issue Price
- d) Buffer Price

**ANS: C**

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

The food grains procured are transported to the godowns of the FCI located across the country (counted in the buffer stock). From here they head to the sale counters—to the TPDS or Open Market Sale.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.7) “Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM)” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) WTO
- b) UNEP
- c) UNDP
- d) World Bank

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Special Safeguard Mechanism of the WTO is a special protection mechanism for developing countries that allows developing countries to raise tariffs on agricultural imports that are injurious to domestic farmers.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Which of the following sector/s is/are comes under the Kisan Credit Card scheme?**

1. Agriculture
2. Animal Husbandry
3. 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:** 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.

**Source: Economic Survey**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme”:**

1. It was launched in 2014.
2. It creates an online transparent, competitive bidding system to ensure farmers get remunerative prices for their produce.

**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 Government of India launched the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme in 2016 to create an online transparent, competitive bidding system to ensure farmers get remunerative prices for their produce.

- Under the e-NAM Scheme, the Government provides free software and assistance of ₹75 lakh per APMC mandi for related hardware, including quality assaying equipment and the creation of infrastructure like cleaning, grading, sorting, packaging, compost unit, etc.
- As on 31 December 2022, more than 1.7 crore farmers and 2.3 lakh traders have been registered on e-NAM portal.

**Source: Economic Survey**

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Dudhwa National Park is a national park in the Terai belt of marshy grasslands in northern Uttar Pradesh, India.

It stretches over an area of 490.3 km<sup>2</sup>, with a buffer zone of 190 km<sup>2</sup>. It is part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in the Kheri and Lakhimpur districts.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Industry and Investment Models*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are part of eight core industry/industries?**

1. Textiles
2. Coal
3. Cement

**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:** Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity. The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)”:**

1. It provides 100% coverage to banks to extend emergency credit to businesses/MSMEs hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. It covers Collateral Free Automatic Loans up to Rs. 5lakh crores to eligible MSMEs.

**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:** ECLGS aims to provide 100% guaranteed coverage to the banks, NBFCs and other lenders in order to enable them to extend emergency credit to businesses/MSMEs hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and struggling to meet their working capital requirements.

- Under ECLGS, 100% guarantee coverage to be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for Collateral Free Automatic Loans up to Rs. 3 lakh crores to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers, in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.
- Government periodically announced ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 and ECLGS 3.0 and now ECLGS 4.0 to enhance the utility and impact of ECLGS by providing additional support to MSMEs.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally.
2. India is the largest provider of generic medicines globally.
3. India is the leading vaccine manufacturer globally with a market share of 60 per cent.

**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 the mobile phone segment, India has become the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally, with the production of handsets going up from 6 crore units in FY15 to 29 crore units in FY21.

- The Indian Pharmaceuticals industry plays a prominent role in the global pharmaceuticals industry.
- India is ranked 3rd worldwide in the production of pharma products by volume and 14th by value.
- The sector is the largest provider of generic medicines globally, occupying a 20 per cent share in global supply by volume, and is also the leading vaccine manufacturer globally with a market share of 60 per cent.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Industrial Policy Resolution, 1948”:**

1. Policy announced India will be a mixed economy.
2. Coal, power, railways and civil aviation were kept under the central list.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Announced on 8 April, 1948 this was not only the first industrial policy statement of India, but also decided the model of the economic system (i.e., the mixed economy), too. Thus, it was the first economic policy of the country. The major highlights of the policy are given below:

- (i) India will be a mixed economy.
- (ii) Some of the important industries were put under the Central List such as coal, power, railways, civil aviation, arms and ammunition, defense, etc.
- (iii) Some other industries (usually of medium category) were put under a State List such as paper, medicines, textiles, cycles, rickshaws, twowheelers, etc.
- (iv) Rest of the industries (not covered by either the central or the state lists) were left open for private sector investment—with many of them having the provision of compulsory licensing.
- (v) There was a 10 year period for review of the policy.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) In which of the following industrial policy, the provision of “License-Quota-Permit” was established?**

- a) Industrial Policy Resolution, 1948
- b) Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956
- c) Industrial Policy Statement, 1969
- d) Industrial Policy Statement, 1973

**ANS: B**

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

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

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.6) Which industrial policy encouraged the government to enact the Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act?**

- a) Industrial Policy Resolution, 1948
- b) Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956
- c) Industrial Policy Statement, 1969
- d) Industrial Policy Statement, 1973

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The committees on industrial licensing policy review not only pointed out several shortcomings of the policy, but also accepted the useful role of industrial licensing.

Finally, it was in 1969 that the new industrial licensing policy was announced which affected the following major changes in the area:

- (i) The Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act was passed. The Act intended to regulate the trading and commercial practices of the firms and checking monopoly and concentration of economic power.
- (ii) The firms with assets of Rs. 25 crore or more were put under obligation of taking permission from the Government of India before any expansion, green-field venture and takeover of other firms (as per the MRTP Act). Such firms came to be known as the ‘MRTP Companies’. The upper limit (known as the ‘MRTP limit’) for such companies was revised upward to Rs. 50 crore in 1980 and Rs. 100 crore in 1985.
- (iii) For the redressal of the prohibited and restricted practices of trade, the government did set up an MRTP Commission.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**



**Q.7) Which of the following is/are the highlight/s of New Industrial Policy, 1991?**

1. De – reservation of Industries
2. De – licensing of Industries
3. Continuation of MRTP Act

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The major highlights of the policy are as follows:

- De – reservation of Industries: The industries which were reserved for the Central Government by the IPR, 1956, were cut down to only eight. In coming years many other industries were also opened for private sector investment.
- De-licensing of the Industries: The number of industries put under the compulsory provision of licencing (belonging to Schedules B and C as per the IPR, 1956) were cut down to only 18. Reforms regarding the area were further followed and presently there are only five industries which carry the burden of compulsory licensing.
- Abolition of the MRTP Limit: The MRTP limit was Rs. 100 crore so that the mergers, acquisitions and takeovers of the industries could become possible. In 2002, a competition Act was passed which has replaced the MRTP Act.

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “National Investment Fund (NIF)”:**

1. It was established in 1992.
2. The proceeds from disinvestment will be channelized into the NIF, which is to be maintained within the purview of the Consolidated Fund of India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** National Investment Fund: In January 2005, the Government of India decided to constitute a ‘National Investment Fund’ (NIF) 50 which has the following salient features:

- The proceeds from disinvestment will be channelized into the NIF, which is to be maintained outside the Consolidated Fund of India.
- The corpus of the National Investment Fund will be of a permanent nature.
- The Fund will be professionally managed, to provide sustainable returns without depleting the corpus, by selected Public Sector Mutual Funds (they are, UTI Asset Management Company Ltd.; SBI Funds Management Company Pvt. Ltd.; LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Company Ltd.).

**Source: Ramesh Singh**

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**Q.9) “Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Srirangapatna, Karnataka, has been declared as the Ramsar site, signifying its status as a wetland of global importance.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/karnatakas-ranganathittu-bird-sanctuary-declared-a-ramsar-site-8070439/>

**Q.10) “Nameri Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Nameri National Park is a national park in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of Assam, India, about 35 km from Tezpur.

Nameri is about 9 km from Chariduar, the nearest village. Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

## *Services Sector*

**Q.1) Which of the following sector/s is/are hurt by the COVID – 19 pandemic?**

1. Tourism
2. Retail trade
3. Financial

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Covid-19 pandemic hurt most sectors of the economy, with the effect particularly profound for contact-intensive services sectors like tourism, retail trade, hotel, entertainment, and recreation.

On the other hand, non-contact services such as information, communication, financial, professional, and business services remained resilient.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are the reason/s for growth in service sector after COVID – 19 pandemic?**

1. The pent – up demand
2. The ease of mobility restriction
3. The near-universal vaccination coverage

**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:** Even on a sequential basis, the rebound continued in Q2 of FY23, with the services sector recording 8.7 per cent sequential growth.

The contact-intensive services sub-sector completely recovered the pre-pandemic level and registered sequential growth of 16 per cent, driven by the release of pent-up demand, ease of mobility restriction, and near-universal vaccination coverage.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.3) Which of the following institution releases the “Services Trade Barometer Index”?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The WTO launched a new Services Trade Barometer in September 2019 as a companion to the Goods Trade Barometer.

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- Like its counterpart for goods, this barometer highlights turning points and illustrates changing patterns in world services trade. The Services Trade Barometer will be issued twice a year.
- The barometer combines six component indices into an overall composite index. Releases will include a measure of previous services trade activity to serve as a point of comparison to the barometer index.
- The Services Activity Index provides an approximate measure of the volume of world services trade and is calculated by adjusting the value of services trade to account for changes in prices and exchange rates.
- Readings of 100 in the services barometer indicate growth in line with medium-term trends; readings greater than 100 suggest above-trend growth while those below 100 indicate the opposite. The direction of change reflects momentum compared to the previous month.

**Source:** <https://www.wto.org/english/ress e/statist e/wtoi e.htm>

**Q.4) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is in the top 10 services exporter countries in 2021.
2. India increased its share in world commercial services exports from 3 per cent in 2015 to 4 per cent in 2021.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** India is a significant player in services trade, being among the top ten services exporter countries in 2021, having increased its share in world commercial services exports from 3 per cent in 2015 to 4 per cent in 2021.

A further increase in the share is likely, with the services exports registering growth of 27.7 per cent during April-December 2022 as compared to 20.4 per cent in the corresponding period last year.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) Which of the following institution releases/publishes the “The World Investment Report”?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The World Investment Report 2022 of UNCTAD places India as the seventh largest recipient of FDI in the top 20 host countries in 2021.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.6) To facilitate investment, which of the following measure/s is/are taken by the government of India?**

1. The launch of the National Single-Window system.
2. 100 per cent foreign participation in telecommunication services.
3. 49 per cent foreign investment in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) under the automatic route.

**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:** To facilitate investment, various measures have been undertaken by the Government, such as the launch of the National Single-Window system, a one-stop solution for approvals and clearances needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses.

- To ensure the liberalization of investment in various industries, the Government has permitted 100 per cent foreign participation in telecommunication services, including all services and infrastructure providers, through the Automatic Route.
- The FDI ceiling in insurance companies was also raised from 49 to 74 per cent, under Automatic Route.
- Further, Government has allowed 20 per cent foreign investment in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) under the automatic route.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding insurance sector in India:**

1. Indian Insurance Market is the 10th largest in the world.
2. A Single Window NOC Portal was launched to facilitate the incorporation of an insurer by making the NOC available in a hassle-free and timely manner.

**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 Insurance sector is at an inflexion point. India will be one of the main drivers of global insurance industry growth over the next decade. Indian Insurance Market is the 10th largest in the world and is poised to become the 6th largest by 2032, ahead of Germany, Canada, Italy, and South Korea.

- The insurance regulator, IRDAI, has taken up the mission of universal insurance, which is expected to lead to a significant increase in insurance penetration such that, when India celebrates 100 years of its independence in 2047, every Indian has appropriate life, health, and property insurance cover and every enterprise is supported by appropriate insurance solutions.
- Easy entry into the insurance sector: A Single Window NOC Portal ([www.noc.irdai.gov.in](http://www.noc.irdai.gov.in)) was launched to facilitate the incorporation of an insurer by making the NOC available in a hassle-free and timely manner.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) The “NIDHI & SAATHI” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following sector?**

- a) Hospital Services
- b) Tourism Services
- c) Financial Services
- d) Communication Services

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Tourism has undertaken various measures to boost the Tourism sector, which include: -

- NIDHI: The Ministry of Tourism, with the help of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, is making efforts to register accommodation units in the country in the Ministry’s portal National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI). The comprehensive national database will help in creating policies and strategies for the promotion and development of tourism at various destinations.
- SAATHI: System for Assessment, Awareness, and Training for Hospitality Industry (SAATHI) was launched in association with the Quality Council of India to restrict any further transmission of the virus while providing accommodation and other services post-lockdown. The objective of the scheme is to sensitize the industry on the Covid-19 regulations of the government and instil confidence amongst the staff and guests that the hospitality unit has exhibited intent towards ensuring safety and hygiene at the workplace.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Account Aggregator (AA)”:**

1. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
2. It is engaged in the business of providing the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to the customer.

**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:** Account Aggregator (AA) is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) engaged in the business of providing the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to the customer.

- No financial information of the customer is retrieved, shared or transferred by AA without the explicit consent of the customer.
- AA transfers data from one financial institution to another based on an individual's instruction and consent. Registering with an AA is fully voluntary for consumers.
- Entities may enrol themselves on AA framework as Financial Information Provider (FIP) viz. banking company, non-banking financial company, asset management company, depository, depository participant, insurance company, insurance repository, pension

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fund etc. and as Financial Information User (FIU) which is an entity registered with and regulated by any financial sector regulator.

- In this direction, RBI has issued the Master Direction viz Non-Banking Financial Company – Account Aggregator (Reserve Bank) Directions, dated September 02, 2016. At present, RBI has granted a Certificate of Registration to six companies as AA.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.10) The “Loktak Lake” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Nagaland
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Mizoram
- d) Manipur

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Loktak (Ramsar site no.463) is one of the Ramsar sites in India and the surface area covered by these 37 sites is now 1,067,939 hectares.

- Thick, floating mats of biomass covered with soil (locally called ‘phumdi’) are a characteristic feature of Loktak.
- The lake is used extensively by local people as source of water for irrigation and domestic use, and is an important wintering and staging area for migratory water birds, particularly ducks.
- Some of these birds come to Loktak from Europe, Central Asia, Tibet, Siberia and Yunnan province of China - flying 3,200 to 4,800 kilometers over the Himalayas.

**Source:**<https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/202004/world-wetlands-day-observed-loktak-lake-manipur-india>

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## *Infrastructure and Communication*

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**Q.1) Which of the following measure/s is/are taken by government of India to promote infrastructure?**

1. Dedicated budgetary allocation.
2. Cross-subsidizing revenue-generating infrastructure.
3. Focussed programme delivery.

**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:** As a key enabler of socioeconomic enhancement of a region, the government has used 'social overhead capital' to push development in the remotest areas of the country through dedicated budgetary allocation, cross-subsidising revenue-generating infrastructure and focussed programme delivery.

This has helped in expanding physical transportation and connectivity, providing services at point-of-use and deepening digital penetration.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)":**

1. It is implemented for the period of 2020 – 25.
2. Its projected investment is 111 lakh Crore.

**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 Infrastructure Pipeline was born with a projected investment of around ₹111 lakh crore for FY20-25 for developing a comprehensive view of infrastructure development in the country, monitoring its progress at the highest levels in the government for timely completion, and enabling a pipeline view for investors for them to plan infrastructure investments.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**



**Q.3) Which of the following is/are affect/s of Investing in high-quality infrastructure on Indian economy?**

1. It accelerates economic growth and sustains it in the long run.
2. It has a salutary effect on the productivity and efficiency of Indian manufacturing firms.
3. It plays a significant role in poverty reduction.

**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:** Investing in high-quality infrastructure is crucial for accelerating economic growth and sustaining it in the long run.

- As the empirical evidence states, this has a salutary effect on the productivity and efficiency of Indian manufacturing firms.
- It further plays a significant role in poverty reduction and promotes both rural and agricultural development.
- Empirical evidence also points to the positive effect of infrastructure towards bringing overall economic growth in India.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are initiative/s taken by the government to develop infrastructure?**

1. Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
2. National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)
3. National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)

**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 order to increase the private sector participation in creation of new infrastructure and development of existing ones, the government took initiatives like Public-Private Partnership (PPP), National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) and National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) Which of the following is developed/launched the Unified Payment Interface (UPI)?**

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) National Payments Corporation of India International
- c) SIDBI
- d) IBBI

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The National Payments Corporation of India International (NPCIL) led Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is another such innovation which transformed the payment landscape.

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UPI based transactions grew both in value and volume terms, paving the way for its international adoption.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements:**

1. India's fintech adoption is more than global average.
2. India is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in digital payments only after US and China.

**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 the highest FinTech adoption rate of 87 per cent among the public compared to the global average of 64 per cent, India has gained the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in digital payments only after US and China, signifying that India has an untapped market.

- These untapped opportunities, along with the favourable ecosystem, create a large growth potential for FinTechs in India.
- Taking this vision forward, under the government's policy initiative, a world-class FinTech Hub at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) has been developed.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are investment model/s of Public – Private – Partnership?**

1. Build-Operate-Transfer
2. Rehabilitate-Operate-Transfer
3. Toll-Operate-Transfer

**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 India, private participation in infrastructure programmes supports several PPP models, including management contracts like Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT), Rehabilitate-Operate-Transfer (ROT), Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), and Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT) model.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Viability Gap Funding (VGF)” scheme:**

1. It is launched in 2016.
2. Under this scheme, economic sector projects get up to 40 per cent of Capex as VGF grant.

**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 provide financial assistance to financially unviable but socially/ economically desirable PPP projects, DEA launched the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme in 2006. Under this scheme, economic sector projects may get up to 40 per cent of Capex as VGF grant.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)”:**

1. It is based on the principle of asset creation through monetization.
2. The estimated aggregate monetisation potential under NMP is ₹6.0 lakh crore.

**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 Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), was thus announced on 23 August 2021. Based on the principle of ‘asset creation through monetisation’, it taps private sector investment for new infrastructure creation.

- The NMP provides an opportunity for deleveraging balance sheets and providing fiscal space for investment in new infrastructure assets.
- The estimated aggregate monetisation potential under NMP is ₹6.0 lakh crore through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY20-25.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Mathikettan Shola National Park is a 12.82 km<sup>2</sup> national park in Poopara village of Udumbanchola taluk in Idukki district of Kerala state, South India. It notified area national park in 21 November 2003.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *IPRs and Indian IPR battles*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Indian Patent System”:**

1. The first legislation in India relating to patents was the Act VI of 1856.
2. It was not enacted by the British Crown.

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

The Act was subsequently repealed by Act IX of 1857 since it had been enacted without the approval of the British Crown.

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

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are comes under the definition of designs with respect to the designs act, 2000?**

1. Shape
2. Configuration
3. Pattern

**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 registration and protection of industrial designs in India is administered by the Designs Act, 2000 and corresponding Designs Rules, 2001 which came into force on 11th May 2001 repealing the earlier Act of 1911.

- The Design Rules, 2001 was further amended by Designs (Amendment) Rules 2008 and Designs (Amendment) Rules 2014.
- The last amendment in Designs Rules came in to force from 30th December, 2014, which incorporates a new category of applicant as small entity in addition to natural person and other than small entity.
- The industrial design recognizes the creation new and original features of new shape, configuration, surface pattern, ornamentations and composition of lines or colours applied to articles which in the finished state appeal to and is judged solely by the eye.

**Source:** <https://ipindia.gov.in/designs.htm>

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Trademarks”:**

1. They are registered under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.
2. The Head Office of the Trade Marks Registry is at Kolkata.

**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 Trade Marks Registry was established in India in 1940 and presently it administers the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and the rules made there under. It acts as a resource and information Centre and is a facilitator in matters relating to trademarks in the country.

- The objective of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 is to register trademarks applied for in the country and to provide for better protection of trademark for goods and services and also to prevent fraudulent use of the mark.
- The main function of the Registry is to register trademarks which qualify for registration as per provisions of the Trade Marks Act and Rules, and to maintain the Register of trademarks.
- The Head Office of the Trade Marks Registry is at Mumbai and branch offices are at Ahmadabad, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata.

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

**Q.4) “Madrid Protocol” is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) Patents
- b) Trademarks
- c) Industrial Designs
- d) Geographical Indication

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** After accession to the Madrid Protocol, a treaty under the Madrid System for international registration of trademarks, the Trade Marks Registry also functions as an office of origin in respect of applications made by Indian entrepreneurs for international registration of their trademarks and as an office of the designated Contracting party in respect of international registrations in which India has been designated for protection of the relevant trademarks.

For the purposes functions related to international applications and registrations under the Madrid Protocol, an International Registration wing is set up in the Head Office of the Trade Marks Registry at Mumbai.

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

**Q.5) Under which of the following agreement/s/convention/s, the geographical indication/s is/are covered?**

1. Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999.
2. Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
3. Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

**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:** Geographical Indications of Goods are defined as that aspect of industrial property which refers to the geographical indication referring to a country or to a place situated therein as being the country or place of origin of that product.

- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to the fact of its origin in that defined geographical locality, region or country.
- Under Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, geographical indications are covered as an element of IPRs.
- They are also covered under Articles 22 to 24 of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, which was part of the Agreements concluding the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15th September 2003.

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

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management”:**

1. It is established at Mumbai.
2. It act National center of excellence for training, management, research, education in the field of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

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

The main objectives of this institute is to cater to the need of training of Examiners of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications, IP professionals, IP managers, imparting basic education to user communities, government functionaries and stake holders involved in creation, commercialization and management of intellectual property rights, facilitate research

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on IP related issues including preparation of study reports and policy analysis of relevance to Government.

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

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)”:**

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

**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 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation. We are a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 member states.

- Our mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.
- Our mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967.

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

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)”:**

1. April 26<sup>th</sup> of every year is celebrated as IP day.
2. The theme of World Intellectual Property 2023 is “Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity”.

**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:** World IP Day offers a unique opportunity to join with others around the globe to consider how intellectual property (IP) helps the global arts scene to flourish and enables the technological innovation that drives human progress.

- In 2000, WIPO's member states designated April 26 – the day on which the WIPO Convention came into force in 1970 – as World IP Day, with the aim of increasing general awareness and understanding of IP.
- The theme of World Intellectual Property 2023 is “Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity”
- In 2023, we celebrate the “can do” attitude of women inventors, creators and entrepreneurs around the world and their ground-breaking work.

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- Women make up nearly half of the global population (49.58%) and represent a huge pool of talent, which remains largely untapped.

**Source:** <https://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/2023/faq-world-ip-day.html>

**Q.9) Which of the following is/are criteria to become a trade secret?**

1. It is commercially valuable.
2. It known only to limited persons.
3. It is subjected to reasonable steps taken by the rightful holder of the information to keep it secret.

**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 general, to qualify as a trade secret, the information must be:

- commercially valuable because it is secret,
- be known only to a limited group of persons, and
- be subject to reasonable steps taken by the rightful holder of the information to keep it secret, including the use of confidentiality agreements for business partners and employees.

**Source:** <https://www.wipo.int/trademarks/en/>

**Q.10) “Sasthamkotta Lake” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sasthamkotta Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Kerala state in the southwest of the country, spring-fed and the source of drinking water for half a million people in the Kollam district. Some 27 freshwater fish species are present.

The water contains no common salts or other minerals and supports no water plants; a larva called "cavaborus" abounds and eliminates bacteria in the water, thus contributing to its exceptional purity. The ancient Sastha temple is an important pilgrimage centre.

**Source:** <https://rsis.ramsar.org/rsis/1212>



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## *Infrastructure & Reforms*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. Invest India Grid (IIG) acts as a centralized portal to track and review project progress across all economic and social infrastructure sub-sectors.
2. Project Monitoring Group (PMG) is an institutional mechanism put in place by the government for resolution of issues related to large-scale projects.

**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:** NIP is hosted on the Invest India Grid (IIG) platform and provides opportunities for States/UTs and Ministries to collate all major infrastructure projects at a single location.

- IIG thus acts as a centralized portal to track and review project progress across all economic and social infrastructure sub-sectors.
- The portal also enables project-sponsoring authorities to showcase investment opportunities to national and international investors.
- Project Monitoring Group (PMG) is an institutional mechanism put in place by the government for resolution of issues related to large-scale projects.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “National Monetization Plan (NMP)”:**

1. NMP offers a limited period license/ lease of an asset, owned by the government or a public authority, to a private sector entity for upfront or periodic consideration.
2. Roads and railways together contribute around 52 per cent of the total NMP value.

**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 process of monetization entails a limited period license/ lease of an asset, owned by the government or a public authority, to a private sector entity for upfront or periodic consideration.

- Funds so received by the public authority are reinvested in new infrastructure or deployed for other public purposes.
- Such contracts include provisions for the transfer of assets back to the authority at the end of the contract period.
- It includes a selection of de-risked and brown-field assets with a stable revenue generation profile (or long-term revenue rights) that can be clearly ring-fenced. It contains 20+ asset classes across 12+ line ministries/ departments.

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- In addition, the top 5 sectors (by estimated value) capture around 83 per cent of the aggregate pipeline value: roads (27 per cent) followed by railways (25 per cent), power (15 per cent), oil & gas pipelines (8 per cent), and telecom (6 per cent).
- Roads and railways together contribute around 52 per cent of the total NMP value.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.3) Which of the following initiative/s is/are taken by the government to promote infrastructure in India?**

1. Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)
2. Single Window Interface for Trade (SWIFT)
3. Turant Customs

**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:** Many efforts have already been made by the Government of India to improve the logistics ecosystem through 'infrastructure initiatives' such as Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Parvatamala, National Rail Plan, and through 'process reforms' GST, e-Sanchit, Single Window Interface for Trade (SWIFT), Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE), Turant Customs, and others.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.4) "Logistics Performance Index (LPI)" is often seen in news is released/published by which of the following?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Logistics Performance Index (LPI), developed by the World Bank Group, is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index”:**

1. It is based on a stakeholders’ survey and uses the World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index (LPI) methodology.
2. LEADS 2022 has adopted a classification-based grading, and States have been now classified under four categories.

**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 undertook a survey-based assessment of logistics ease in various States and UTs in the form of the LEADS index in 2018 to gauge their logistics ecosystem. It was followed by surveys in 2019, 2021, and 2022.

- Each of these surveys has been aimed at analysing the business environment at the State level relating to the logistics infrastructure, policy framework, and regulatory regime, across States and UTs.
- It is based on a stakeholders’ survey and uses the World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index (LPI) methodology.
- The State LPI is arrived at using a ranking methodology for stakeholder engagement based on a series of meetings and online surveys in the key areas of logistics-infrastructure, services timelines, traceability, competitiveness, security, operating environments, and efficiency of regulation.
- Unlike the previous versions of LEADS which were based on ranking systems for all states, LEADS 2022 has adopted a classification-based grading, and States have been now classified under four categories viz., coastal States, hinterland/ landlocked States, North-Eastern States, and UTs for the assessment of how well a State or UT has performed in comparison to the top State/UT within the specific cluster.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Vande Bharat Trains”:**

1. These are Semi High-Speed Self-Propelled Trains were manufactured by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.
2. Vande Bharat Trains having maximum speed of 200 kmph.

**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:** Semi High-Speed Self-Propelled Vande Bharat Trainsets were manufactured by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, with indigenous efforts.

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These trains have ultra-modern features like quick acceleration, substantial reduction in travel time, having maximum speed of 160 kmph, on-board infotainment and Global Positioning System (GPS) based passenger information system, etc.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

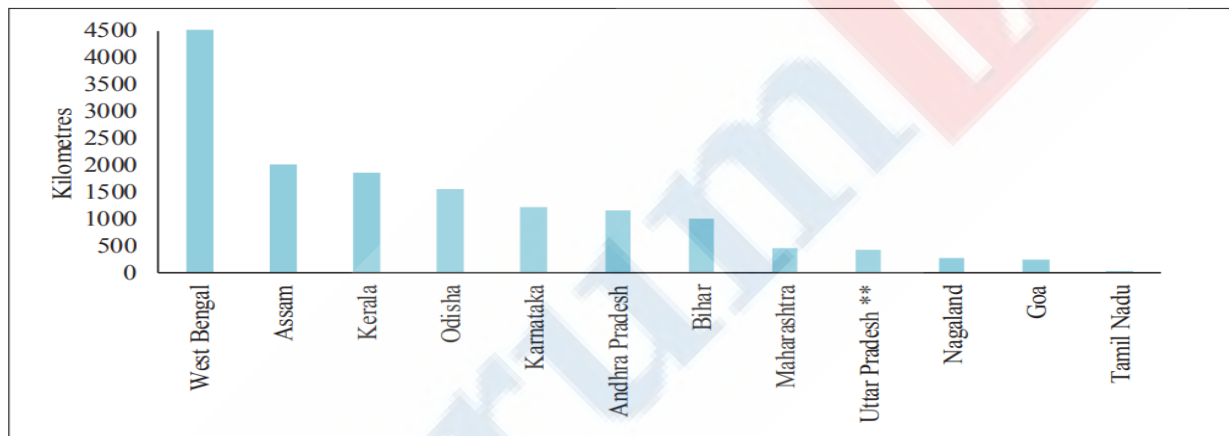
**Q.7) Which of the following state has the highest navigable length of waterways in India?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Inland water transport holds great untapped potential as a means for the transportation of goods and passengers. India has a large endowment of rivers, canals, and other waterways. The total navigable length of waterways in India is around 14,850 kilometres.

**Figure XII.9: Navigable Length of Waterways in Different States**



Source: Statistics of Inland Water Transport 2020-21, Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways

Note: Data pertains to 2020-21. \*\*Data for Uttar Pradesh pertains to 2016-17

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) “PM-KUSUM” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Renewable Energy
- b) Agricultural Marketing
- c) Fuel wood free homes
- d) Cement road villages

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Government of India has been driving a vibrant renewable energy programme aimed at achieving energy security and energy access, and reducing the carbon footprints of the national economy.

In order to reduce the carbon footprint of the farm sector, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) aims to provide energy and water security, de-dieselise the farm sector and generate additional income for farmers by producing solar power.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Madhav National Park is situated in Shivpuri District of Gwalior division in northwest Madhya Pradesh, India.

Two national highways pass through the park, the Agra to Bombay former National Highway 3 and the Jhansi to Shivpuri National Highway 27.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Jharkhand
- b) West Bengal
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Odisha

**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**

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) Which of the following initiative/s is/are helped to increase the internet penetration in rural areas?**

1. BharatNet Project Scheme
2. Aspirational District Scheme
3. Telecom Development Plan

**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:** We have added more internet subscribers in rural areas in the last 3 years (2019-21) than in their urban counterparts (95.76 million vis-a-vis 92.81 million in rural and urban areas respectively).

This has been a result of dedicated digital drives across rural areas through ambitious government schemes, like the flagship BharatNet Project Scheme, Telecom Development Plan, Aspirational District Scheme, initiatives in North-Eastern Region through Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) and initiatives towards areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE)etc.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.2) “UMANG App” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) Urban Naxalism
- b) Digital wallets
- c) E – governance by Government
- d) Agriculture through mobile

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** To reduce the search cost for the commoners, the government launched Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG), which enables citizens to access e-Government services offered by the Central and State Government in various sectors such as agriculture, education, health, housing, employees, pensioners, and students’ welfare, the Public Distribution System, and others.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)”:**

1. In the ONDC framework, consumers can potentially discover any seller, product, or service by using any compatible application or platform.
2. It will increase the freedom of choice for the consumers and will enable them to match demand with the nearest available supply, allowing them to choose their preferred local businesses.

**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:** While the initiatives mentioned above focused on bringing the government to the doorsteps of the citizens, a unique initiative that deserves special mention is the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

- ONDC aims to go beyond the current platform-centric digital commerce model where the buyer and seller can use the same platform or application for transactions.
- ONDC is a network-based open protocol that would connect all the buyers and sellers on the network thus bringing better visibility across the Business-to-Consumer (B2C) & Business-to-Business (B2B) landscape.
- In the ONDC framework, consumers can potentially discover any seller, product, or service by using any compatible application or platform.
- This will increase the freedom of choice for the consumers and will enable them to match demand with the nearest available supply, allowing them to choose their preferred local businesses.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013”:**

1. It is the most extensive legislation-based food security programme in the world.
2. It covers about 80 crore of India's population.

**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:** Food security is not only a question of the ability to produce food but also of the ability to access food.

- The Government is currently running the most extensive legislation-based food security programme in the world, covering about 80 crore of India's population under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
- The food management programme in India comprises procurement of food grains from farmers at remunerative prices, distribution of food grains to consumers, particularly the

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vulnerable sections of society, at affordable prices and maintenance of food buffer stock for food security and price stability.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding food processing sector in India:**

1. It has been growing at an average annual growth rate of around 8.3 per cent from last five years.
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), provide financial assistance for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector.

**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 food processing sector is of enormous significance for India's development because of the strong connections and interactions it promotes between industry and agriculture.

- During the last five years ending FY21, the food processing industries sector has been growing at an average annual growth rate of around 8.3 per cent.
- Recognising the abundant potential of the sector, the Government has been at the forefront with various interventions aimed at the development of food processing in the country.
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, through the component schemes of Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), provides financial assistance for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.6) “Sahakar-see-Samridhi” is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) Cooperatives
- b) Scheduled Commercial Banks
- c) Rural Regional Banks
- d) NABARD

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** To realise the vision of “Sahakar-see-Samridhi”, a renewed impetus was given to the growth of the cooperative sector. Currently, around 19 per cent of agriculture finance is through cooperative societies.

- A full-fledged Ministry of Cooperation was established in July 2021 to provide greater focus to the cooperative sector.
- In addition, the Government has taken various initiatives to promote and strengthen PACS, like the computerisation of 63,000 functional PACS and the preparation of by-laws for enabling PACS to expand their activities.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**



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**Q.7) Which of the following state has the highest Multi-State Cooperative Societies?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (MSCS) was enacted after repealing the Multi-State Cooperative Act 1984, to facilitate the democratic functioning and autonomous working of Multi-State Cooperative Societies in line with the established Cooperative Principles.

- As of date, there are 1528 registered societies under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 2002.
- The MSCSs include 66 Multi-State Cooperative Banks with deposits of approx. ₹2.6 lakh crore.
- Maharashtra leads 661 cooperatives, followed by Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “PM KISAN Scheme”:**

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme to supplement the financial needs of land-holding farmers.
2. The financial benefit of ₹10,000 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: A**

**Explanation:** PM KISAN Scheme: It 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.9) “Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The new Indian wetlands of international importance in Tamil Nadu are — Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex, Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary

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and Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary. Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of Ramsar sites (14), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chennai/tamil-nadu-sites-added-to-ramsar-list-union-environment-ministry-8088836/>

**Q.10) “Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Nagaland

**ANS:** The Ramsar list aims at “developing and maintaining an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits”.

- The other sites include three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha; Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir; Thane Creek in Maharashtra and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chennai/tamil-nadu-sites-added-to-ramsar-list-union-environment-ministry-8088836/>

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## *Reports & Indices*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are parameter/s of Human Development Index?**

1. Life expectancy
2. Education
3. Sustainable 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: B**

**Explanation:** Human Development Report was recently released by UN Development Programme (UNDP). It unveils Human Development Index (HDI) which measures average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development,

- i. Life expectancy,
- ii. Education and
- iii. Per capita income.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.2) “Human Capital Index” is recently in news is released by?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Recently, the World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) report for 2020. It seeks to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. The components of HCI are,

1. Survival - measured by under-5 mortality rates
2. Expected years of Quality-adjusted school - measured by quantity and quality of education
3. Health environment - measured by Adult survival rates and rate of stunting for children under 5.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.3) Which of the following area/s is/are covered under Global Gender Gap Index?**

1. Political Empowerment
2. Economic Participation and Opportunity
3. Health and Survival

**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:** Global Gender Gap Index was released by the World Economic Forum since 2006. It serves as a compass to track the progress on their towards gender parity of the countries in four areas,

1. Political Empowerment,
2. Economic Participation and Opportunity,
3. Educational Attainment and
4. Health and Survival.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.4) “World Migration Report” is often seen in news is released by?**

- a) UN International Organization for Migration
- b) World Bank
- c) UNICEF
- d) UNESCO

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The World Migration Report 2022 prepared every second year, was published by the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM).

- The recent report highlights that more people are being displaced by changing climate related disasters than conflicts and violence.
- In 2020, 144 countries reported new displacement due to disasters, while 42 countries reported displacement due to conflicts.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Corruption Perceptions Index”:**

1. It is an index published annually by Transparency International since 1995.
2. It ranks countries "by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys.

**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 Corruption Perceptions Index is an index published annually by Transparency International since 1995.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

- It ranks countries "by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys.
- Transparency International (TI) has released the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2021.
- The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.6) "Country of Particular Concern (CPC)" is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) International Religious Freedom Report
- b) UNEP climate assessment report
- c) UNDP HDI report
- d) World Bank

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** International Religious Freedom Report, In its 2022 Annual report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recommended that India be designated a 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC) for the third time in a row. The 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC) is the category of governments performing most poorly on religious freedom criteria.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.7) "World Happiness Report" is recently seen in news is released by?**

- a) WEF
- b) World Bank
- c) Transparency International
- d) United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Recently, the latest edition of the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2022 was released.

- This report is issued annually by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- This report is a measurement of subjective wellbeing of 150 countries (146 in 2022).
- It relies on three main well-being indicators (life evaluations, positive emotions, and negative emotions), levels of GDP, life expectancy etc.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.8) "World Press Freedom Index" is often seen in news is released by?**

- a) World Bank
- b) Reporters Without Borders
- c) WEF
- d) UNDP

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** World Press Freedom Index 2022 is published by the global media watchdog, the Reporters without Borders or Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) since 2002.

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- It ranks countries and regions according to the level of media freedom available to journalists.
- It is based on an evaluation of media freedom that measures pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, transparency, and the legal framework and the safety of journalists.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Bannerghatta National Park is a national park in India, located near Bangalore, Karnataka. It was founded in 1970 and declared as a national park in 1974.

In 2002, a small portion of the park became a zoological garden, the Bannerghatta Biological Park.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Thol Lake is an artificial lake near Thol village in Kadi in Mehsana District in the Indian state of Gujarat.

- It was constructed as an irrigation tank in 1912. It is a fresh water lake surrounded by marshes.
- It was declared the Thol Bird Sanctuary in 1988; it is a habitat to 150 species of birds, about 60% are water birds.
- Many migratory birds nest and breed in the lake and its periphery.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Reports & Indices*

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**Q.1) “The Global Liveability Index” is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Economist Intelligence Unit

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Global Liveability Index for 2021 of 140 cities around the world was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

- Handling of the Covid-19 crisis seems to be one of the most important factors that dominated the formulation of the Index for 2021.
- The index takes into account more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors spanning five categories - stability (25%), healthcare (20%), culture and environment (25%), education (10%), infrastructure (20%).

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.2) Which of the following parameter/s is/are consider under “SDG India Index”?**

- 1. Economic growth
- 2. Health
- 3. Education

**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:** SDG India Index is a single measurable Index to map the progress of States & UTs towards 2030 SDGs.

- The SDG India Index was first launched in December 2018 in collaboration with the United Nations in India. It tracks the progress of all states and UTs on 16 Goals and 115 indicators.
- These are aligned with the National Indicator Framework (NIF) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It considers parameters including health, education, gender, economic growth, institutions, climate change and environment.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Cyber security
- b) Arms exports
- c) Space exploration
- d) Sustainable development

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks military expenditure and arms trade globally, has published the latest military expenditure database.

- Military spending as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), reached a global average of 2.4% in 2020, up from 2.2% in 2019.
- Largest Military Spender - The US, China, India, Russia and the UK together accounted for 62% of global military expenditure in 2020. Other top spenders are Saudi Arabia, Germany and France.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.4) Global Cyber-security Index (GCI) is often seen in news is associated with?**

- a) Economic Intelligence Unit
- b) International Telecommunication Union
- c) United Nations
- d) World Economic Forum

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** India has ranked as the 10th best country in the Global Cyber-security Index (GCI) 2020 released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

- The US topped the chart, followed by the UK and Saudi Arabia tied on the second position in the index.
- Calculation - GCI assessment is done on the basis of performance on five parameters of cyber-security.
- The parameters include legal measures, technical measures, organisational measures, capacity development and cooperation.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.5) “World Employment and Social Outlook” is often seen in news is released by?**

- a) International Labour Organization
- b) World Economic Form
- c) International Migration Organization
- d) SDSN

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) published its flagship report ‘World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) 2021.’

- The theme of the report was, ‘The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work.’
- This ILO report explores how the contemporary platform economy is transforming the way work is organized analyzing the impact of digital labour platforms on enterprises, workers and society as a whole.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



**Q.6) “World Investment Report” is often seen in news is released by?**

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Financial Corporation
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) UN Conference on Trade and Development

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The World Investment Report 2021 was released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

- India - The report says that India is the fifth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the world.
- In India, the FDI increased 27% to USD 64 billion (2020) from USD 51 billion (2019), due to the acquisitions in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.7) “Global Innovation Index” is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) World Intellectual Property Organization
- b) Centre for Innovation Development
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Economic Intelligence Unit

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in partnership with the Portulans Institute has released the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021.

- India has climbed 2 spots and has been ranked 46th. India’s rank has been consistently rising in the last few years from 81 (2015) to 46 (2021).
- The GII ranks 131 countries and economies based on their innovation capabilities, including roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.8) “Least Developed Countries Report” is recently seen in news is released by?**

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- d) World Economic Forum

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Least Developed Countries Report was released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

- This annual report provides a comprehensive and authoritative source of socio-economic analysis and data on the world’s most impoverished countries.
- It is intended for a broad readership of governments, policy makers, researchers and all those involved with LDCs’ development policies.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.9) “State of the World’s Children Report” is often seen in news is released by?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The UNICEF released its global flagship report titled, ‘The State of the World’s Children 2021’.

- This UNICEF report is the most comprehensive analysis of global trends affecting children.
- Purpose - The 2021 report details the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children, adolescents and caregivers.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) “Ranipur Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** On October 31, 2022, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav told through a tweet that another tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh, Ranipur Tiger Reserve has become the 53rd tiger reserve in India.

- Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav has told that this reserve in Uttar Pradesh is located in Ranipur of Chitrakoot district, which covers an area of 529.36 sq.km. Spread over the area. 230.32 sq. km. Core area and 299.05 sq.km.
- This tiger reserve with a buffer zone will strengthen the efforts of tiger conservation. Apart from this, about 300 sq.km. area is being added to it.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Social Sector Reforms*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Social Sector Spending of Government”:**

1. Since 2016, the government spending on social sector shows a rising trend.
2. The share of expenditure on social services in the total expenditure of the Government has been around 25 per cent.

**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’s spending on social services has shown a rising trend since FY16 with a focus on many aspects of the social well-being of citizens of the country.

The share of expenditure on social services in the total expenditure of the Government has been around 25 per cent from FY18 to FY20. It increased to 26.6 per cent in FY23 (BE).

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements:**

1. National Health Policy 2017, recommended an increase in the Government’s health expenditure from the existing 1.2 per cent to 5 per cent of GDP by 2025.
2. The share of expenditure on health in the total expenditure on social services has increased from 21 per cent in 2019 to 26 per cent in 2023.

**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 share of expenditure on health in the total expenditure on social services, has increased from 21 per cent in FY19 to 26 per cent in FY23 (BE).

- The National Health Policy, 2017 envisages as its goal “the attainment of the highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages, through a preventive and promotive healthcare orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality healthcare services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence.
- This would be achieved through increasing access, improving quality, and lowering the cost of healthcare delivery.”
- Accordingly, the policy recommended an increase in the Government’s health expenditure from the existing 1.2 per cent to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Human Development”:**

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 2023**

**Q.4) Which of the following parameter/s is/are considered under “Gender Inequality Index (GII)”?**

1. Reproductive health
2. Empowerment
3. Labor market

**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 index measures inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions, viz. reproductive health, empowerment, and the labor market.

- It shows the loss in potential human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in these dimensions.
- The value of GII ranges from 0, where women and men fare equally, to 1, where one gender fares as poorly as possible in all measured dimensions.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) Which of the following indicator/s is/are considered under Aspirational Districts (ADs) project?**

1. Education
2. Agriculture
3. Financial 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:** 117 Aspirational Districts (ADs) across 28 States/UTs have been identified by NITI Aayog based upon composite indicators ranging from health and nutrition, education, agriculture, and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure which have an impact on HDI.

The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level Nodal Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts through monthly delta ranking; all driven by a mass movement.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.6) “eShram portal” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) Sustainable development
- b) Solar Energy
- c) Unorganized workers
- d) Highway tolls

**ANS: C**

**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 realization of their employability and extends the benefits of the social security schemes to them.
- It is the first-ever national database of unorganised workers, including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers, etc. Currently, e-Shram portal has been linked to NCS portal and ASEEM portal for seamless facilitation of services.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.7) “Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)” is recently seen in news is released by?**

- a) Ministry of Labor
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Ministry of Statistics & Programme implementation
- d) Ministry of Industries

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Employment trends can be studied from the supply side of labour through household surveys such as the PLFS conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), and the demand side of labour through enterprise or establishment surveys such as the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) by MoSPI, Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) by Labour Bureau, etc. These enable a complete view of the labour market and the trends therein.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) “Nagarjunsagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Situated in the Nallamalas - an offshoot of Southern Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, the sanctuary is hilly terrain with plateaus, ridges, gorges and deep valleys which support tropical mixed dry deciduous forests with an undergrowth of Bamboo and Grass.

- The Project Tiger Circle, Srisailem is mainly constituted with the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger reserve, Rollapadu wildlife sanctuary and Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It spreads over Kurnool, Prakasam and Guntur Districts and is headed by the Field Director, Project Tiger Circle, Srisailem.

**Source: <http://www.forests.ap.gov.in/tiger-res.php>**

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Namdapha National Park is a 1,985 km<sup>2</sup> large protected area in Arunachal Pradesh of Northeast India.

The park was established in 1983. With more than 1,000 floral and about 1,400 faunal species, it is a biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Himalayas.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.10) Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary is often seen in news is located at?**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary is a hidden jewel, which is rich in flora and fauna and wide variety of birds and mammals call it their home.

- Situated in Raisen and Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh, it spreads over 825.90 sq km.
- Sitting in the lap of Vindyan hills, the sanctuary encompasses a World Heritage Site “Bhimbetka Rock Shelters” and many other historical and religious destinations like Ginnourgarh Fort, POW camp, Keri Mahadeo, Ratapani dam, Jholiyapur dam etc.
- Its close proximity to the capital Bhopal and its relatively untouched forests makes it a promising attraction for tourists.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Social Sector Reforms*

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**Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding “National Career Service”?**

1. It was launched in 2019.
2. It works as a one-stop solution providing an array of employment and career-related services.
3. It works towards bridging the gap between candidates and employers.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The ‘National 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 counselling.
- 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 2023**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “wages in rural India”:**

1. In 2022 – 23, nominal wage rate growth in agriculture for women is lower than men.
2. In 2022 – 23, nominal wage rate growth in non-agriculture for women is lower than men.

**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:** Nominal rural wages have increased at a steady positive rate during FY23 (till November 2022).

- In agriculture, the YoY rate of growth of nominal wage rates in agriculture was 5.1 per cent for men and 7.5 per cent for women, during the period April-November 2022.
- In non- agricultural activities, the growth of nominal wage rates was 4.7 per cent for men and 3.7 per cent for women, during the same period.
- However, growth in real rural wages has been negative due to elevated inflation.
- Going forward, as inflation is expected to soften with the easing of international commodity prices and domestic food prices, it is expected that this will translate into a rise in real wages.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**



**Q.3) United Nations “Sustainable Development Goal 4” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) Education
- b) Urbanization
- c) Health
- d) Poverty

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Education, apart from enhancing the employability of the working-age population, also has an equalising impact in breaking the cycles of poverty and social marginalisation. “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 2023**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Samagra Shiksha”:**

1. It was launched in 2018.
2. It covers from pre – school to IX class.

**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:** As part of the whole-of-ecosystem approach, the Union Government launched Samagra Shiksha in 2018 as an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII with an aim to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) “Project Balvatika” is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) Organic Farming
- b) Solar Energy
- c) Preparatory Class
- d) Primary Health Care

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** With a focus on developing cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities and also early literacy and numeracy for students in the age groups of 3+, 4+ and 5+ years, Project Balvatika, i.e., ‘Preparatory Class’, was launched in October 2022 in 49 Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Source: Economic Survey 2023

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Vidyanjali Portal”:**

1. It enables community and volunteers/organizations to interact and connect directly with the Government and Government aided schools of their choice.
2. It exchanges the knowledge and skills and/or contributes in the form of assets/material/equipment to meet the requirement of the schools by Volunteers/organizations.

**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 the aim of strengthening schools and improving the quality of school education through community, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and private sector involvement across the country, the Government has initiated Vidyanjali (a school volunteer management program).

The Vidyanjali portal (<https://vidyanjali.education.gov.in/en>) enables community and volunteers/organisations to interact and connect directly with the Government and Government aided schools of their choice and share their knowledge and skills and/or contribute in the form of assets/material/equipment to meet the requirement of the schools.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Research & Development Cell (RDC) in Higher Education Institutions (HEI)”:**

1. It was launched by NITI Aayog.
2. It promotes quality research that contributes meaningfully towards the goal of a self-reliant India, aligned with the provisions of NEP 2020.

**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 University Grants Commission (UGC) launched an initiative to establish an RDC in HEIs with the mandate for promoting quality research that contributes meaningfully towards the goal of a self-reliant India, aligned with the provisions of NEP 2020.

The RDC would help create a research ecosystem for reliable, impactful, and sustained research output.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) Which of the following scheme/s is/are implemented by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship?**

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna
2. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
3. Jan Shikshan Sansthan

**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:** 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).

- The advocacy of the programmes is being done through print media, electronic media, and State Governments' campaigns.
- More and more areas are being aligned with the common framework spanning the skills ecosystem so that the outcomes of the Government skilling programmes are uniform across the skilling ecosystem.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.9) Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme was funded by?**

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) World Bank
- c) Asian Infrastructure & Investment Bank
- d) New Development Bank

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) is a World Bank loan-assisted programme launched in 2018 to decentralise skilling initiatives and align skill development programmes with local demand and aspirations of the youth.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.10) "Dampa Tiger Reserve" is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Nagaland
- b) Manipur
- c) Mizoram
- d) Assam

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Dampa Tiger Reserve, the largest wildlife sanctuary of Mizoram. It occupies an area of 500 sq. km.

- The rich rainforests of Dampa harbour several species such as the swamp deer, tiger, leopard, elephant and hoolock gibbon.
- The Dampa Tiger Reserve is probably one of the last few safe havens for the tiger and a host of other animal and bird species.
- Low altitude galliformes are visible and the three species of Chloropsis found in India are endemic to these fabulous forests.

**Source:** <https://mamit.nic.in/tourist-place/dampa-tiger-reserve-en/>

## Economic Survey 2023

**Q.1) According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019 – 21, which of the following health indicator/s is/are performed better than NFHS 2015 – 16?**

1. Infant mortality rate
2. Children under 5 years who are overweight
3. Women who are overweight or obese

**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:**

	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-21)
Households with any usual member covered under a health insurance/ financing scheme (per cent)	28.7	↑ 41.0
Total fertility rate (children per woman)	2.2	↓ 2.0
Current Use of Family Planning Method- Any Method (per cent)	53.5	↑ 66.7
Mothers who had at least 4 antenatal care visits (per cent)	51.2	↑ 58.1
Institutional births (per cent)	78.9	↑ 88.6
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	29.5	↓ 24.9
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	40.7	↓ 35.2
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	49.7	↓ 41.9
Children age 12-23 months fully vaccinated based on information from either vaccination card or mother's recall (per cent)	62.0	↑ 76.4
Children under age 6 months exclusively breastfed (per cent)	54.9	↑ 63.7
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age) (per cent)	38.4	↓ 35.5
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) (per cent)	21.0	↓ 19.3
Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) (per cent)	35.8	↓ 32.1
Children under 5 years who are overweight (weight-for-height) (per cent)	2.1	↑ 3.4
Women who are overweight or obese (BMI≥25.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) (per cent)	20.6	↑ 24.0
Men who are overweight or obese (BMI≥25.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) (per cent)	18.9	↑ 22.9
Women age 15-24 years who use hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period (per cent)	57.6	↑ 77.3

Source: National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) 2015-16 and 2019-21, MoHFW

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements:**

1. Under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), immunization is being provided free of cost against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
2. Mission Indradhanush (MI) was launched in December 2014 to reinforce universal immunization.

**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:** Under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), immunisation is being provided free of cost against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases: Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, a severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Rotavirus diarrhoea, Hepatitis B, etc.

- To reinforce universal immunisation, Mission Indradhanush (MI) was launched in December 2014 with the aim to rapidly increase full immunisation coverage of children to 90 per cent and sustain it thereafter.
- The drive focuses on unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children. Intensified MI was then launched in October 2017 in identified 190 districts/urban areas.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.3) 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.
2. The scheme provides health cover of 5 lakh per family per year for primary and secondary 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.4) Consider the following statements regarding “National Deworming Day (NDD)”:**

1. It was launched in 2015 in 11 states and expanded to the whole country in 2016.
2. It is a fixed-day approach to treating intestinal worm infections in children aged 1-19 years with Albendazole tablets.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** National Deworming Day (NDD), launched in 2015 in 11 states and expanded to the whole country in 2016, is a fixed-day approach to treating intestinal worm infections in children aged 1-19 years with Albendazole tablets.

- The programme is held every year on 10 February and 10 August through schools and Anganwadis, followed by mop-up days to cover those left out due to absenteeism or sickness.
- Besides Government and Government-aided schools and Anganwadis, special efforts are made to reach out-of-school children, and private schools have also enthusiastically joined the programme.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Co-WIN (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network)”:**

1. It has been developed as an extension of the eVIN (electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) platform.
2. The Co-WIN system provided an end-to-end solution with utilities for the entire public health system.

**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:** Co-WIN has been developed as an extension of the eVIN (electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) platform.

- A comprehensive cloud-based IT solution for planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating Covid-19 vaccination in India, the Co-WIN system provided an end-to-end solution with utilities for the entire public health system.
- The dual interface of the open platform made it scalable across citizen and administrator-centric services.
- To ensure accountability and transparency in supply chains for vaccination, the platform provided real-time stock tracking at the national, state, and district levels (Government and Private).
- This further plugged the wastage of Covid-19 vaccines, which otherwise occurred pre-Co-WIN.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)”:**

1. It is offered by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and supported by the Government of India.
2. It provides senior citizens of age 60 years or more an assured minimum pension for a term of 10 years.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** PMVVY is offered by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and supported by the Government of India, to provide senior citizens of age 60 years or more an assured minimum pension for a term of 10 years, linked to the price at which they purchase the pension policy.

A total number of 8,59,708 subscribers are currently benefitting from the scheme through deposits worth ₹87,081.1 crore collectively under 11,97,159 policies as on 31 December 2022.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.7) Which of the following sector/s can avail the loan/credit under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)?**

1. Manufacturing
2. Trading
3. 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:** To provide loans on easier terms for income generating activities, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched in April 2015 to grant loans of up to ₹10 lakh for income-generating manufacturing, trading, and service sectors, including activities allied to agriculture such as poultry, dairy, beekeeping, etc.

Under PMMY, both term loan and working capital requirements can be met. Loans are extended through Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) viz; Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements:**

1. The percentage of the population living in India's rural areas presently 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: C**

**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.
- The emphasis has been on improving the quality of life in rural areas to ensure more equitable and inclusive development.
- The aim of engagement of the government in the rural economy has been "transforming lives and livelihoods through proactive socio-economic inclusion, integration, and empowerment of rural India.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding "Mission Amrit Sarovar":**

1. It was launched on National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2022.
2. It 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: C**

**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.
- 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.
- Out of these commenced works, a total of more than 27,071 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed so far.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**



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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Located 40 km from the town of Peren and about 37 km from Dimapur is the Ntangki National Park also known as the Intanki by many.

- Spread over a distance of 200 sq km, this park was established by the British administrators in the year 1923.
- Considered one of the best National Parks in the North East, it has thick rain forests which creates natural habitat for many birds, reptiles and mammals.
- Mountains, cliffs and dense forests make it a great place for camping and other adventurous activities.
- Here in this National Park you can see wild buffaloes (mithun) and hoolok gibbon which is found only in Nagaland.
- Apart from this the park also boasts of tigers, sloth bear, wild dogs and flying squirrels, making it a must visit spot for any tourist coming to this district. The virgin nature of the park adds a lot to its beauty.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Economic Survey 2023*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “JALDOOT App”:**

1. It was launched to measure the water level in Gram Panchayat and Urban Municipal areas.
2. Gram Rojgar Sahayak is required to measure the water level and document the same at the Central server using the Jaldoot mobile app.

**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:** JALDOOT app was launched on 27 September 2022 for measuring the water level in a Gram Panchayat through 2-3 selected open wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and postmonsoon).

- Gram Rojgar Sahayak is required to measure the water level and document the same at the Central server using the Jaldoot mobile app.
- This will enable groundwater monitoring, water budgeting, and planning for water harvesting and conservation-related works. A total of 3,66,354 wells have been measured as on 7 December 2022.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.2) Which of the following is the first to become Swachh, Sujal Pradesh?**

- a) Indore
- b) Visakhapatnam
- c) Madurai
- d) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM (G)) was launched on 2 October 2014 to ensure cleanliness in India and make it Open Defecation Free (ODF).

- Having achieved the ODF status in all villages in the country as of 2 October 2019, Phase-II of SBM (G) is now being implemented during FY21 to FY25, with the focus to sustain the ODF status of villages and covering all the villages with Solid and Liquid Waste Management, i.e., to convert the villages from ODF to ODF Plus.
- About 1,24,099 villages have been declared ODF plus till 10 November 2022 under this Mission.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands has declared all its villages as ODF plus model, thus becoming the first Swachh, Sujal Pradesh.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.3) “Ujjwala 2.0” is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) LPG gas connection
- b) LED bulb connection
- c) Solar Lamps connection
- d) All of the above

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Under the Union Budget for FY22, provision for the release of an additional one crore LPG connections under the PMUY scheme, i.e., Ujjwala 2.0, has been made.

- This scheme will offer deposit-free LPG connection, first refill and hot plate free of cost to beneficiaries, and a simplified enrolment procedure. In this phase, a special facility has been given to migrant families.
- Under this Ujjwala 2.0 scheme, 1.6 crore connections have been released until 24 November 2022.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)”:**

1. It is to provide single all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations of the designated population size.
2. The programme has been launched in three phases with the latest third phase having been launched on 10 July 2019.

**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 objective of PMGSY is to provide single all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations of the designated population size (500+ in plain areas, 250+ in North-Eastern and Himalayan States) in rural areas of the country.

- The programme also has an upgradation component for those districts, where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size have been provided all-weather road connectivity. However, upgradation is just one of the components of the programme.
- The programme has been launched in three phases with the latest third phase having been launched on 10 July 2019 for consolidation of 1,25,000 km through routes and major rural links connecting habitations, inter-alia, to Gramin Agricultural Markets, higher secondary schools, and hospitals.
- Since its inception, a total of 1,84,984 roads measuring 8,01,838 km and 10,383 Long Span Bridges (LSBs) have been sanctioned under all the interventions/ verticals of PMGSY.
- 1,73,775 number of roads measuring 7,23,893 km and 7,789 LSBs have been completed.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.5) “SAUBHAGYA scheme” is often seen in news is related to?**

- a) Household electrification
- b) Widow shelter homes
- c) Old age shelter homes
- d) Girls hostels

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The government launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – Saubhagya in October 2017 with the objective to achieve universal household electrification by providing electricity connections to all willing un-electrified households in rural areas and all willing poor households in urban areas in the country by March 2019.

- The Scheme involved the organisation of camps in villages/clusters villages for on-spot registration and the release of connections.
- The connections were given free for economically poor households and for others ₹500 was charged after the release of the connection in 10 instalments.
- The Saubhagya scheme has been successfully completed and closed on 31 March 2022.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.6) Under which of the following scheme/s is/are direct cash transfer to beneficiaries?**

- 1. National Social Assistance Programme
- 2. PM-KISAN
- 3. National Health 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:** With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the imposition of lockdown and enforcement of social distancing norms, the DBT ecosystem faced a tough trial and emerged as a means of relief to millions of citizens whose livelihoods were impacted. DBT played a major role in sustaining life, especially for the underprivileged segments of society, helping millions by providing immediate relief.

Cash transfers under central schemes like PM-KISAN, MGNREGS, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), NRLM, National Health Mission (NHM), scholarship schemes of various ministries through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and food subsidy under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana and Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package were a big relief for all the adversely affected masses of India during the Covid-19 period.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.7) “Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan” is recently seen in news is related to?**

- a) Rural governance
- b) Village electrification
- c) Sustainable agriculture
- d) Rural wage employment

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** A CSS of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was approved by the Union Cabinet in April 2018 for implementation from FY19 to FY22 with the primary aim of strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for achieving SDG's with the main thrust on convergence with Mission Antyodaya and emphasis on strengthening PRI's in the 117 Aspirational Districts.

- The scheme extends to all states and UTs including non-Part IX of the Constitution of India areas where Panchayats do not exist.
- The major focus of the scheme of RGSA was Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) to empower PRIs and to prepare convergent Plans at the respective level of Panchayats.
- Under the Scheme, not only around 31 lakh elected representatives (ERs) have been capacitated through various modes of training but also functionaries and other stakeholders of Panchayats including SHG members have been provided training for better SHG-PRIs convergence at the grassroots level to create an ecosystem to prepare inclusive village poverty reduction plan.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)”:**

1. It is a central sector scheme e launched on 24April 2020, the National Panchayati Raj Day.
2. The scheme aims to provide the ‘Record of Rights’ to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas.

**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:** SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) is a Central Sector Scheme launched on 24April 2020, the National Panchayati Raj Day.

- The scheme aims to provide the ‘Record of Rights’ to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas.
- The scheme covers multifarious aspects viz. facilitating monetization of properties and enabling bank loans; reducing property-related disputes; comprehensive village level planning, which would be the stepping-stone towards achieving Gram Swaraj in the true sense and making rural India Atmanirbhar.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

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

- a) West Bengal
- b) Tripura
- c) Assam
- d) Odisha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Jaldapara National Park is a national park situated at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar District of northern West Bengal, India, and on the banks of the Torsa River.

Jaldapara is situated at an altitude of 61 m and is spread across 216.51 km<sup>2</sup> of vast grassland with patches of riverine forests.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Haryana
- d) Punjab

**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**

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) “The Global Health Security (GHS) Index” is recently seen in news is released by?**

- a) World Health Organization
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) Nuclear Threat Initiative

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 was jointly released by non-profits Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

- The GHS Index 2021 is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capacities of 195 countries to prepare for epidemics and pandemics.
- By assessing these capacities every 2-3 years, the GHS Index stimulates political will and action to prioritize addressing these gaps.
- This Index has assessed countries across 6 categories, 37 indicators and 171 questions, using instantly available information.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.2) “The National Multidimensional Poverty Index” is often seen in news is released by?**

- a) Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- b) Labor Bureau
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Ministry of Health

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Government think-tank NITI Aayog has prepared and released the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

- MPI as a measure was first developed by OPHI and UNDP for inclusion in UNDP’s flagship Human Development Report in 2010.
- Index - National MPI of India is a contribution towards measuring progress towards target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.
- National MPI is a baseline report that is based on the reference period of 2015-16 of the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4).
- It captures multiple and simultaneous deprivation faced by households.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding poverty in India:**

1. The World Bank has reported that extreme poverty in India dropped to 10.2% in 2019 from as much as 22.5% in 2011.
2. Extreme poverty has been measured in terms of the number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day.

**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 World Bank has reported that extreme poverty in India dropped to 10.2% in 2019 from as much as 22.5% in 2011 and the pace of reduction in rural India has been more dramatic than in urban areas.

- During the 2011-2019 period, the poverty level in rural and urban areas declined by 14.7 and 7.9% points, respectively.
- While it eased to 11.6% in rural areas in 2019, the urban poverty level stood at 6.3%. Extreme poverty has been measured in terms of the number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day (roughly Rs 145).

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.4) “State of the Education Report for India 2021” is recently seen in news is released by?**

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) UNICEF
- c) UNESCO
- d) Ministry of Health

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The UNESCO released the 2021 State of the Education Report for India: No Teachers, No Class.

- Findings - The gross enrolment ratio (GER) for elementary schools has increased from 81.6 in 2001 to 102.1 in 2019-2020.
- But the overall retention is 74.6% for elementary education and 59.6% for secondary education in 2019-20.
- Number of Teachers - 89% of the total 1.2 lakh single-teacher schools in the country are in rural areas.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023**

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are parameter/s of NIRF's Ranking of Higher Education Institutions?**

1. Teaching, Learning & Resources
2. Research & Professional Practice (RP)
3. Graduation Outcomes

**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 NIRF was approved by the MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and launched in 2015. The framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.

The ranking framework evaluates institutions on five parameters: 1. Teaching, Learning & Resources 2. Research & Professional Practice (RP) 3. Graduation Outcomes 4. Outreach & Inclusivity (OI) 5. Perception (PR)

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.6) Which of the following country/countries is/are pledged to net zero emission/s by 2060?**

1. India
2. China
3. Indonesia

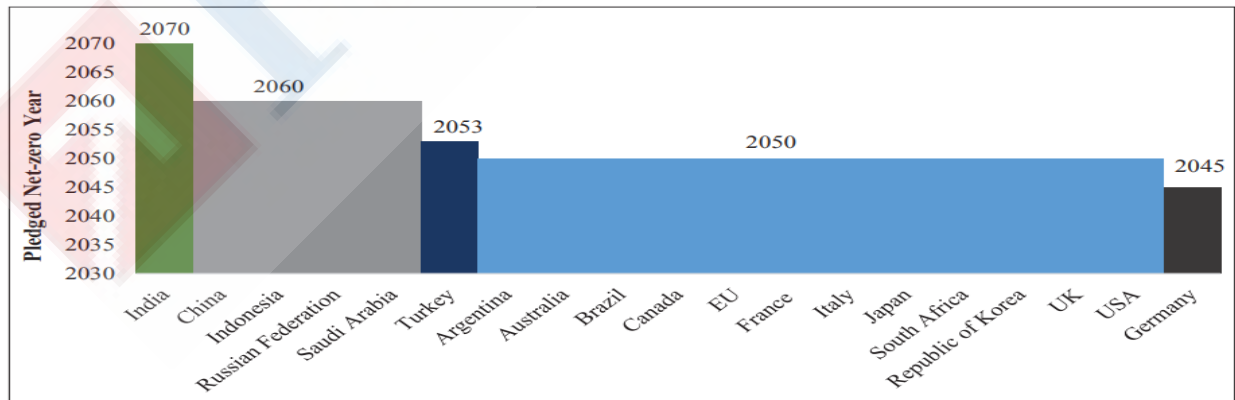
**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

**Figure VII.1: Net Zero Pledges of countries (the Year pledged is on top of the bars)**



Source: Emissions Gap Report 2022, UNEP

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

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**Q.7) According to IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) notes, which of the following is/are high human vulnerability global hotspot/s?**

1. East Africa
2. South Asia
3. Central America

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** 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 2023**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements:**

1. India ranks third globally with respect to the net gain in average annual forest area between 2010 and 2020.
2. NITI Aayog assesses the carbon stock of India's forests.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** One of the three quantifiable targets of India's NDC is to achieve an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion to 3.0 billion tonnes through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

- The forest and tree cover in India has shown a gradual and steady trend of increase in the last one and a half decades.
- The country ranks third globally with respect to the net gain in average annual forest area between 2010 and 2020.
- A robust forest ecosystem is a vital sink of carbon. Forest Survey of India (FSI) assessed the carbon stock (which is the amount of carbon sequestered from the atmosphere and stored in biomass, deadwood, soil, and litter in the forest) in India's forests for the first time in 2004 and then biennially since 2011.

**Source: Economic Survey 2023**

**Q.9) “Ansupal Lake” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Bihar
- c) Odisha
- d) Karnataka

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Ansupa, a small freshwater oxbow lake formed by the Mahanadi River, Odisha is known nationally for its scenic beauty and rich biodiversity.

- Some 194 species of birds, 61 fish species, 244 macrophytes, 88 butterflies and 26 mammals are supported by the wetland.
- The lake provides a safe habitat to three endangered species, the Indian skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), the black-bellied tern (*Sterna acuticauda*) and the wagur (*Clarias magur*), and the vulnerable river tern (*Sterna aurantia*) and helicopter catfish (*Wallago attu*).
- It also sustains the water demands of the surrounding areas and supports the fishing and farming livelihoods of the local communities.
- It is connected with Mahanadi River by a small channel which is not currently functional, making the lake prone to drying during extreme droughts.
- Other threats such as soil erosion, sedimentation, weed infestation, and fisheries also face the lake and its biodiversity.

**Source:** <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2487>

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

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Odisha
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Bihar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Indravati National Park is a national park located in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh state in India.

The park derives its name from the Indravati River, which flows from east to west and forms the northern boundary of the reserve with the Indian state of Maharashtra.

**Source: FORUMIAS**