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Prelims Marathon

27th March to 1st April, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Reports & Indices

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.

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- 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

Reports & Indices

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

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

Social Sector Reforms

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

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

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 Braheswaram 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 km² 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

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

Social Sector Reforms

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.

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- 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 ²) (per cent)	20.6	↑ 24.0
Men who are overweight or obese (BMI≥25.0 kg/m ²) (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

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

Economic Survey 2023

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

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 km² 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

Revision

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

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

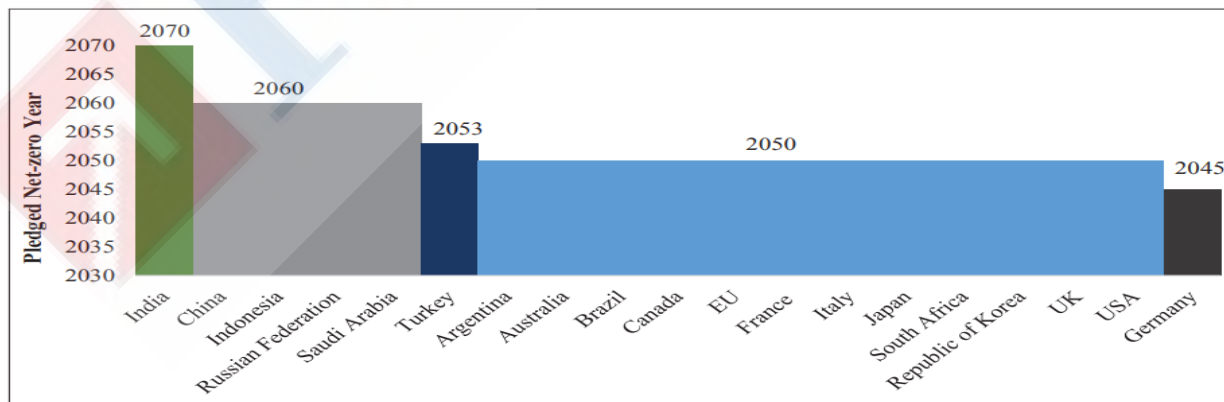
Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- 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

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