

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

20th to 26th March, 2023

HISTORY

ECONOMICS

POLITY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture

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.

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 km², with a buffer zone of 190 km². It is part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in the Kheri and Lakhimpur districts.

Source: FORUMIAS

Industry and Investment Models

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, two-wheelers, 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

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.

- 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/statistics/wtoi.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) 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 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>

Infrastructure and Communication

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.

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 3rd 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 3rd 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 km² 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

IPRs and Indian IPR battles

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

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 26th 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.

- 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/ris/1212>

Infrastructure & Reforms

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.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH. [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- 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.

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

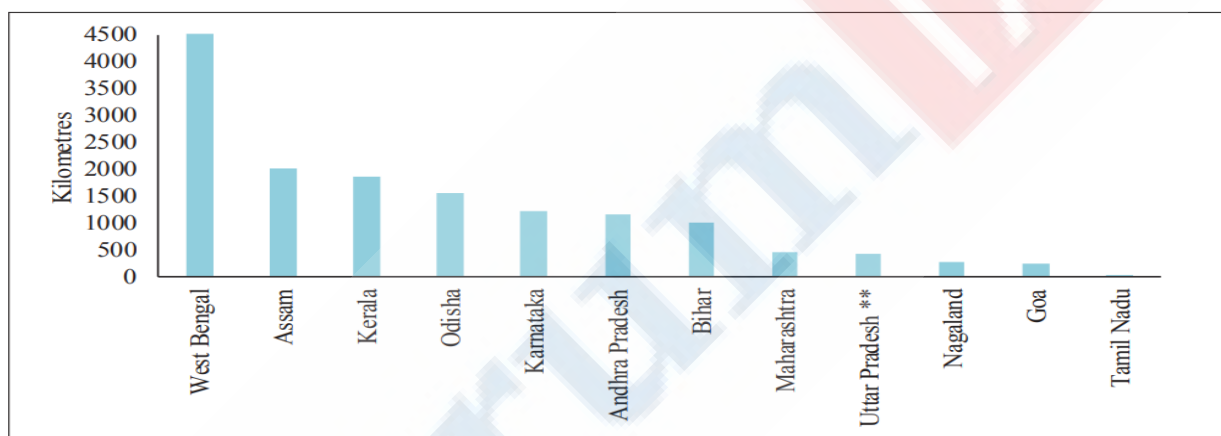
Q.7) Which of the following state has the highest navigable length of waterways in India?

- 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

Revision

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 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

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

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/>