Forum AS

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

4th to 8th July, 2023

PRELIMS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Primary forests are forests that have regrown or regenerated after significant human disturbance or land-use changes.
- 2. Compared to primary forests, secondary forests generally have a younger age structure.
- 3. Primary forests are important for carbon sequestration and climate regulation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C Explanation –

Statement 1 is incorrect. Primary forests, also known as old-growth forests, are forests that have reached a mature stage of ecological development without significant human interference or disturbance. Whereas, secondary forests are forests that have regrown or regenerated after significant human disturbance or land-use changes.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Compared to primary forests, secondary forests generally have a younger age structure. Primary forests are important for carbon sequestration and climate regulation.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) With reference to the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) consider the following statements:

- 1. Under the Scheme, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buys surplus food grains from traders, bulk consumers, and retail chains at predetermined prices.
- 2. The objective of the scheme is to improve and regulate domestic supply and availability of the two grains (wheat and rice) and bring down their prices in the open market essentially making the scheme a measure to curb food grain inflation.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the Open Market Sale Scheme, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from time to time sells surplus food grains from the central pool, especially wheat and rice in the open market to traders, bulk consumers, retail chains and so on at predetermined prices. **Statement 2** is correct. The objective of the scheme is to improve and regulate domestic supply

and availability of the two grains (wheat and rice) and bring down their prices in the open market essentially making the scheme a measure to curb food grain inflation.



Q.3) With reference to World Drug Report 2023, consider the following statements:

- 1. As per the report, the number of people who suffer from drug use disorders has increased over the past years.
- 2. Drug trafficking is accelerating environmental devastation, particularly in the Amazon Basin.
- 3. Youth populations are the most vulnerable to using drugs and are also more severely affected by substance use disorder in several regions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation -

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. As per the report, the number of people who suffer from drug use disorders has increased over the past year. Drug trafficking is accelerating environmental devastation, particularly in the Amazon Basin. Youth populations are the most vulnerable to using drugs and are also more severely affected by substance use disorder in several regions.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) With reference to the World Competitiveness Ranking 2023, consider the following statements:

- 1. The ranking of India has been decreased from the previous years.
- 2. Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland have been named the top three in the ranking.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

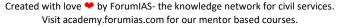
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. India has been ranked 40th which is slight improvement in its ranking compared to 43rd rank in 2019-2021.

Statement 2 is correct. Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland have been named the top three among 64 economies.





Q.5) With reference to Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) consider the following statements:

- 1. The GMRT is designed to detect and capture visible light.
- 2. The GMRT employs a technique called radio interferometry, which combines signals received by multiple antennas to create a virtual telescope with a size equivalent to the maximum separation between the antennas.
- 3. The GMRT is operated by National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. Unlike optical telescopes that detect visible light, the GMRT is designed to capture and study radio frequencies ranging from 150 MHz to 1.5 GHz.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The GMRT employs a technique called radio interferometry, which combines signals received by multiple antennas to create a virtual telescope with a size equivalent to the maximum separation between the antennas. The GMRT is operated by National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) With reference to Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate can be done only in the name of a girl child or woman.
- 2. The maturity period of the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate account is two years.
- 3. Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) is deducted from the interest received under this scheme.
- 4. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme does not have any credit risk.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate can be done only in the name of a girl child or woman. The maturity period of the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate account is two years. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme is a small savings scheme backed by the government. Hence, it does not have any credit risk.

Statement 3 is incorrect. TDS is not deducted from the interest received under the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate Scheme.





Q.7) With reference to National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) consider the following statements:

- 1. The complex is being developed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- 2. The complex will be designed to accommodate larger cargo ships and will feature a separate storage area for containers.
- 3. This project will also provide tremendous job opportunities to the local people.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. NMHC is being developed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways under the Sagarmala programme. It is being developed at Lothal, Gujarat. This project will also provide tremendous job opportunities to the local people and will transform the socio-economic condition of the entire region.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The complex will include the world's highest lighthouse museum and world's largest open aquatic gallery. It will be a one of its kind projects to not only display India's rich and diverse maritime heritage and also help Lothal to emerge as a world-class international tourist destination.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Dark Patterns are ethical design techniques that are intentionally created to enhance user experience by providing authentic information of the products and improve user engagement.
- 2. Dark patterns can be found in various digital interfaces, including websites, mobile apps, and online services.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. Dark patterns refer to deceptive design techniques and user interface elements that are intentionally created to manipulate or trick users into performing actions they may not have intended or desired. For example, in Forced Continuity, users are automatically enrolled in subscription services or recurring payments without their explicit consent or clear disclosure.

Statement 2 is correct. Dark patterns can be found in various digital interfaces, including websites, mobile apps, and online services. Engaging in such deceptive and manipulative conduct by using dark patterns in online platforms constitutes 'unfair trade practice' under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.



Q.9) With reference to Sea Lions, consider the following statements:

- 1. Sea lions are freshwater animals commonly found in lakes and rivers across the world.
- 2. Despite their freshwater habitat, sea lions are not strong swimmers and prefer to remain on dry land most of the time.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: D Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Sea lions are marine mammals that belong to the family Otariidae. They are closely related to seals and walruses. They are known for their semi-aquatic lifestyle, spending a significant amount of time both on land and in the water. Sea lions are excellent swimmers.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Under Article 164 of the Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor without any advice from anyone.
- 2. The pleasure of the Governor under the Constitution of India is not the same as that of the colonial Governor.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Under Article 164 of the Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor without any advice from anyone. The pleasure doctrine has been brought into the Constitution of India from the Government of India Act, 1935. The pleasure of the Governor under the Constitution of India is not the same as that of the colonial Governor. The Governor during the colonial rule had absolute discretion to choose a Minister and dismiss him. However, it is not same as with the current role of Governor.



PRELIMS

Q.1) With reference to the Gravitational Waves, consider the following statements:

- 1. These are ripples or disturbances in the fabric of spacetime caused by the acceleration or movement of massive objects.
- 2. They require a physical medium for transmission.
- 3. Gravitational waves have a much lower frequency range compared to electromagnetic waves.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Gravitational Waves are ripples or disturbances in the fabric of spacetime caused by the acceleration or movement of massive objects. They have a much lower frequency range compared to electromagnetic waves.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Gravitational waves are different from other types of waves, such as electromagnetic waves, because gravitational waves do not require a medium to propagate. They can travel through empty space without being significantly affected or diminished.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Disaster risk financing involves managing the financial risks associated with financing development projects in regions that are prone to natural disasters and adverse climate events.
- 2. Economic Enhancement is one the strategic priorities of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: D

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Disaster risk financing is about reducing the risk of disasters by investing ahead of time so that when hazards occur, the impact of the disaster is minimal, and recovery can be made easily. The following are CDRI's strategic priorities: Technical Support and Capacity-building, Research and Knowledge Management, Advocacy and Partnerships.



Q.3) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Lothal, one of the sites of the Indus Valley civilization, is located in Fatehabad district of Harvana.
- 2. It was discovered by the archaeologists N G Majumdar.
- 3. Rice husk has been discovered at Lothal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Lothal, one of the sites of the Indus Valley civilization, is located in the Bhāl region of the state of Gujarat. It was one of the southernmost sites of the Indus Valley civilization. It was a port town of IVC. It was discovered by the archaeologists S R Rao

Statement 3 is correct. Rice husk has been discovered at Lothal.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) With reference to the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) consider the following statements:

- 1. It rates the country's industrial parks and special economic zones.
- 2. It is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) platform.
- 3. It rates industrial parks across four pillars.

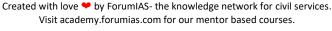
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation -

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. IPRS rates the country's industrial parks and special economic zones. It is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) platform. It rates industrial parks across four pillars: internal infrastructure and utilities, external infrastructure and facilities, business support services, and environmental and safety management.





Q.5) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Crop residue can be converted into renewable energy sources, such as biofuels, or used directly for heat and electricity generation.
- 2. Incorporating crop residues into the soil elevates soil temperature, causing death of beneficial soil organisms.
- 3. Crops like cotton, sugarcane, tobacco do not generate crop residues.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. Crop residue can be converted into renewable energy sources, such as biofuels, biogas, or used directly for heat and electricity generation.

Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Incorporating crop residues into the soil can provide several benefits for soil health. Residues help improve soil organic matter content, enhance soil structure and water-holding capacity, and promote nutrient cycling. However, burning crop residue generates heat which can elevates soil temperature, causing death of beneficial soil organisms. Crops like cotton, sugarcane, tobacco also generate crop residues.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) With reference to the different dating methods used in archaeology, consider the following statements:

- 1. Luminescence dating is a technique that examines sediments under a microscope to establish the integrity of the layers that buried the fossils.
- 2. Electron spin resonance dating relies on measuring the number of electrons in tooth enamel.
- 3. Micromorphology is a technique that measures the last time crystalline materials, such as stones, were exposed to sunlight or heat.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Luminescence dating is a technique that measures the last time crystalline materials, such as stones, were exposed to sunlight or heat. This technique mainly uses two minerals: quartz and feldspar. Micromorphology is a technique that examines sediments under a microscope to establish the integrity of the layers that buried the fossils.

Statement 2 is correct. Electron spin resonance dating relies on measuring the number of electrons in tooth enamel.





Q.7) With reference to Rules of origin criteria, consider the following statements:

- 1. Rules of origin are the rules to attribute a country of origin to a product in order to determine its "economic nationality".
- 2. Rules of origin used for the application of labeling and marking requirements.
- 3. Preferential rules of origin are those primarily designated in order to sustain the most-favored-nation (MFN) treatment within the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Rules of origin are the rules to attribute a country of origin to a product in order to determine its "economic nationality". Rules of origin used for the application of labeling and marking requirements.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Preferential rules of origin are those associated with contractual or autonomous trade regimes leading to the granting of tariff preferences going beyond the MFN application. These are designed to determine the origin of goods for the purpose of granting preferential trade benefits under specific preferential trade agreements or preference programs.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Pangong Tso Lake is an exorheic lake.
- 2. Pangong Tso Lake is a freshwater lake.
- 3. The Karakoram Mountain range which crosses China and India ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Pangong Tso Lake is an endorheic lake (landlocked) located in eastern Ladakh. It is a saltwater lake.

Statement 3 is correct. The Karakoram Mountain range which crosses China and India ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso.



Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India is the world's third-largest fish producer and fourth-largest exporter.
- 2. Fish production has a significantly lower climate impact than meat production.
- 3. Fish, being a rich sustainable source of protein, can be a solution to the country's nutritional needs.

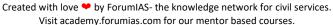
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation -

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India is the world's third-largest fish producer and fourth-largest exporter. Fish production has a significantly lower climate impact than meat production. Fish, being a rich sustainable source of protein, can be a solution to the country's nutritional needs.





PRELIMS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is a cooperative platform that brings together nations from the Global South to facilitate the effective advancement of the 6G network.
- 2. The objective of B6GA is to understand the business and societal needs of 6G beyond technical requirements.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations. It will work towards setting up the 6G network in India.

Statement 2 is correct. The objective of B6GA is to understand the business and societal needs of 6G beyond technical requirements.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) With reference to Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to create a fund dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness and reliability of public-owned telecommunication networks, leading to improved services for consumers.
- 2. The scheme also aims to promote technology ownership and indigenous manufacturing, create a culture of technology co-innovation, reduce imports, boost export opportunities and creation of Intellectual Property.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. TTDF aims to fund R&D in rural-specific communication technology applications and form synergies among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry to build and develop the telecom ecosystem.

Statement 2 is correct. The scheme also aims to promote technology ownership and indigenous manufacturing, create a culture of technology co-innovation, reduce imports, boost export opportunities and creation of Intellectual Property.



Q.3) Which of the following is the aim of 'eSARAS mobile App'?

- a) The application offers a platform for women residing in rural regions to enroll in courses aimed at enhancing their skill sets.
- b) Its objective is to enhance the e-governance system by fostering collaboration between Municipalities, private enterprises, and district authorities to seamlessly address the inquiries and concerns of the public.
- c) It serves as a productive platform for promoting and marketing the products crafted by women belonging to self-help groups.
- d) The app informs coastal residents of the onset of cyclones in real time.

Answer: C

Explanation – eSARAS mobile App is an initiative of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), a flagship program of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). It is an e-commerce mobile app. It will be used as a more effective platform for marketing the products made by women of self-help groups.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The ozone layer is a crucial component of the Earth's atmosphere located in stratosphere.
- 2. The ozone hole implies a complete absence of ozone in a specific region of the Earth's atmosphere.
- 3. Rotterdam Convention is an international treaty focused on protecting the ozone layer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. The ozone layer is a crucial component of the Earth's atmosphere located in stratosphere.

Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The term ozone hole does not imply a complete absence of ozone but rather a substantial reduction in its concentration. Montreal Protocol aims to protect the Ozone layer by reducing the production of substances that are supposed to be responsible for Ozone layer depletion.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Which of the following statement is incorrect about Santhal Rebellion?

- a) It was led by Sidhu and Kanhu.
- b) The rebellion emerged as a response to the oppressive policies and practices of the British East India Company.
- c) The rebellion saw participation from both tribals and non-tribals.
- d) The rebellion did not achieve any victories against the forces of the East India Company throughout its duration.

Answer: D

Explanation – The East India Company's army was defeated twice during the rebellion, debunking the belief that they were invincible.

Source: ForumIAS

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Q.6) With reference to the Diversity for Restoration (D4R) Tool, consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been developed by Biodiversity International.
- 2. The tool aims to support ecosystem restoration programs in India by improving decision-making and promoting sustainable development.
- 3. The tool is already being used in countries such as Malaysia and Ethiopia.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation -

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. D4R tool has been developed by Biodiversity International. The tool aims to support ecosystem restoration programs in India by improving decision-making and promoting sustainable development. The tool is already being used in countries such as Malaysia, Ethiopia, Columbia, Peru, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, etc.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) With reference to the Digital Communication Innovation Square (DCIS) Initiative, consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to foster an ecosystem of indigenously developed telecom equipment, in a bid to reduce reliance on imported equipment and technologies.
- 2. Under this scheme, the government aims to set up telecommunication park in the specialized economic zones for the development of indigenous telecom technologies.

Select the correct statement using the codes given below:

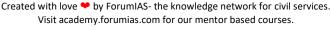
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. DCIS Initiative aims to foster an ecosystem of indigenously developed telecom equipment, in a bid to reduce reliance on imported equipment and technologies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme is aimed at supporting eligible Startups /MSMEs /Consortium and Individual professional. Under the initiative, startups will get a grant of Rs 50 lakhs, while MSMEs will get a grant of Rs 2 crore, and a consortium will get a grant of Rs 10 crore. Financial support will be provided to those projects and ideas that have reached at least the proof-of-concept level.





Q.8) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The data for research and development (R&D) in the field of bioeconomy can be stored in Biobanks.
- 2. Globally, most biobanks are housed in the Global South.
- 3. Population-centric biobanks gathers information based on a specific disease or genetic condition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statements 1 is correct. The data for research and development (R&D) in the field of bioeconomy can be stored in three types of data centres: Biological Resource Centres (BRCs), Biorepositories, or Biobanks.

Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Globally, most biobanks are housed in North America and Europe, covering about 95 percent of the biobanks in the world. Population-centric biobanks collect information from general population samples, while disease-centric biobanks gather information based on a specific disease or genetic condition.

Source: ORF

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Highway hypnosis refers to a phenomenon in which the driver perceives the road to be perpendicular to the alignment of the vehicle.
- 2. Highway hypnosis is also called white line fever.
- 3. Highway hypnosis is often caused by lack of sleep or physical exhaustion.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. Highway hypnosis is a phenomenon when the driver zones out and entered an altered mental state during driving on a long straight road at an extended speed. Highway hypnosis can cause the driver to lose the sense of their surroundings and have no recollection of the events.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Highway hypnosis is also called white line fever when the driver gets into a somewhat zoned-out and hypnotic state while driving for a great distance. This highway hypnosis is also often caused by lack of sleep or physical exhaustion, which can lead to the person often going into a trance while driving.

Source: **DNA**



Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The primary goal of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is to simplify the existing laws governing marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, succession, and guardianship.
- 2. The Khasis, the Garo hill tribes of North Eastern India, and the Nairs of Kerala are patriarchal tribes.
- 3. In the Indian Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy are covered in Part IV, which cannot be enforced by courts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

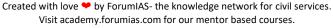
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The primary goal of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is to simplify the existing laws governing marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, succession, and guardianship. In the Indian Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy are covered in Part 4, which cannot be enforced by courts.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Khasis, the Garo hill tribes of North Eastern India, and the Nairs of Kerala are matrilineal tribes and communities, and they have expressed fear that the UCC may force patriarchal uniformity on them.

Source: **DNA**





PRELIMS

Q.1) With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) consider the following statements:

- 1. Its main objective is to promote military alliances and counterbalance the influence of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 2. It is the successor to the Shanghai Five.
- 3. Japan is one of the member states of the SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The SCO aims to promote regional cooperation and address various challenges faced by its member countries, including security threats, economic development, and cultural exchange. Japan is not a member of the SCO.

Statement 2 is correct. SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India is a source as well as destination country for trafficking of persons.
- 2. The Mission Vatsalya Scheme aims to safeguard the dwelling areas of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) from encroachment by contractors.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. India is a source as well as destination country for trafficking of persons. **Statement 2** is incorrect. Mission Vatsalya Scheme is a roadmap to achieve development and child protection priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to 'leave no child behind'.



Q.3) With reference to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) consider the following statements:

- 1. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a voluntary practice where companies prioritize their profits above all things.
- 2. The specific CSR initiatives undertaken by companies can vary widely based on their industry, size, and values.
- 3. CSR is legally mandatory in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to a business approach where companies take responsibility for their impact on society and the environment. It involves integrating ethical, social, and environmental concerns into their business operations and interactions with stakeholders.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. The specific CSR initiatives undertaken by companies can vary widely based on their industry, size, and values. The Corporate Social Responsibility concept in India is governed by Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 and Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014. In case a company fails to comply with the provisions relating to CSR spending, the company will be punishable with a fine.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Deep sea mining is the extraction of mineral resources from the ocean floor in deep ocean waters.
- 2. Currently, exclusive economic zones are governed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS).
- 3. The deep-sea floor is devoid of any significant marine life due to the harsh environment and lack of nutrients.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. Deep-sea mining is the process of retrieving mineral deposits from the ocean below 200 metres—the deep seabed, which covers around two-thirds of the total seafloor. **Statement 2 and 3** are incorrect. Currently, Countries manage their own maritime territory and exclusive economic zones, while the high seas and the international ocean floor are governed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS). Despite the extreme conditions,



the deep-sea floor supports a surprisingly diverse array of marine life. It is home to unique organisms adapted to high pressures, cold temperatures, and a lack of sunlight.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) With reference to the 'Zo people' consider the following statements:

- 1. The Zo people are an ethnic group which inhabit areas of India, Myanmar and the Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh.
- 2. Zo group includes many sub-tribes and clans.
- 3. They speak a group of Tibeto-Burman languages.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Zo people are an ethnic group which inhabit areas of India, Myanmar and the Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh. Zo group includes many subtribes and clans such as the Chin, Kuki, Mizo, Lushei, Zomi, Paitei, Hmar, Ralte, Pawi, Lai, Mara, Gangte, Thadou, etc. They speak a group of Tibeto-Burman languages.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Which of the following states is/are covered under National Waterways 2?

- a) Assam
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra
- d) Odisha and West Bengal

Answer: A

Explanation – National Waterway 2 is a section of the Brahmaputra River having a length of 891 km between the Bangladesh border near Dhubri and Sadiya in Assam.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Which of the following task force is NOT a part of the Startup20 Engagement Group?

- a) The Foundations and Alliances Taskforce
- b) The Finance Taskforce
- c) Inclusion and Sustainability Taskforce
- d) The Innovative Taskforce

Answer: D

Explanation - Startup20 Engagement Group will operate through three Task Forces: The Foundations and Alliances Taskforce, The Finance Taskforce, and Inclusion and Sustainability Taskforce.



Q.8) With reference to the Energy Transition Index 2023, consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- 2. As per the index, India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions.
- 3. India lies amongst the top five countries in the index.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Energy Transition Index is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). India has been ranked 67th out of 120 countries.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the index, India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Data scraping involves deleting specific data from a website as a precautionary measure against potential theft or unauthorized access.
- 2. Data scraping is commonly used to find sales leads or conduct market research via public data sources.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

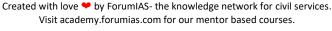
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. Data scraping, also known as web scraping, is the automated process of extracting large amounts of data from websites or online sources.

Statement 2 is correct. Data scraping is commonly used to Find sales leads or conduct market research via public data sources.





Q.10) With reference to India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) consider the following statements:

- 1. India's CCTS is a program designed to allow companies to trade carbon credits.
- 2. The carbon credit market's regulation in CCTS falls under the regulation of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

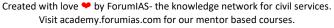
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. India's CCTS is a program designed to allow companies to trade carbon credits.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The carbon credit market's regulation in CCTS falls under the regulation of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).





PRELIMS

Q.1) With reference to the Internationalization of the currency, consider the following statements:

- 1. Internationalization of the currency can lower seigniorage benefits.
- 2. Currency internationalization has an impact on the effectiveness of various monetary policy instruments.
- 3. Internationalization of rupee may result in increased volatility in the rupee's exchange rate in the initial stages.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation -

Statements 1 is incorrect. Internationalization of the currency can lead higher seigniorage benefits because there will be a greater number of currencies printed. Seigniorage is the difference between the value of currency/money and the cost of producing it. It is essentially the profit earned by the government by printing currency.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Currency internationalization has an impact on the effectiveness of various monetary policy instruments. For example, the effectiveness of open market operations as an instrument for influencing interest rate and money supply is likely to reduce in an environment where residents and non-residents are free to buy and sell domestic currency. The RBI group has cautioned that internationalization of rupee may result in increased volatility in the rupee's exchange rate in the initial stages.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Which of the following will be the significance of Iran joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for India?

- 1. Iran's induction into SCO will help India build its connectivity strategy through Iran's Chabahar port.
- 2. Iran's induction enables India to engage with the Central Asian region without getting entangled in China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- 3. Iran's induction will help India to conduct land-based trade with the Central Asian region through Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation -



Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Iran's induction into SCO will help India build its connectivity strategy through Iran's Chabahar port. Iran's induction enables India to engage with the Central Asian region without getting entangled in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The inclusion of Iran will also provide India with an opportunity to bypass land-based trade routes that pass-through Pakistan.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) With reference to Indian gazelle (Chinkara) consider the following statements:

- 1. They reside in dense mountainous forests that maintain their greenery throughout the year.
- 2. They are categorized as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List.
- 3. It is the state animal of Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. The chinkara occupies dry regions, such as sandy deserts, flat plains, hilly areas, arid scrublands, and light forests.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Chinkara are categorized as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List. It is the state animal of Rajasthan. They can go for a long time without water.

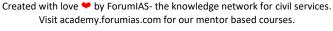
Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Which river bank is the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant situated on?

- a) Styr River
- b) Seret River
- c) Luhan River
- d) Dnieper River

Answer: D

Explanation – Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and among the 10 largest in the world. The plant is located in south-east Ukraine in Enerhodar on the banks of the Kakhovka reservoir on the Dnieper River.





Q.5) With reference to Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, consider the following statements:

- 1. The flight duty time limitations (FDTL) are laid down by the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- 2. It ensures adequate rest timings for pilots and flight attendants and prevent fatigue-related safety issues.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The flight duty time limitations (FDTL) are laid down by the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). It ensures adequate rest timings for pilots and flight attendants and prevent fatigue-related safety issues.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Ambergris is allowed for the purpose of trade in India.
- 2. Sperm whales in India are a protected species under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: D

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Ambergris is a waxy substance that originates from the digestive system of protected sperm whales. It is a rare substance, which contributes to its high demand and high price in the international market. There is a ban on the possession and trade of ambergris in countries like the USA, Australia and India. Sperm whales in India are a protected species under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act.





Q.7) With reference to the volatility in Tomato, Onion, and Potato (TOP) prices, consider the following statements:

- 1. High volatility in prices leads to uncertainty in income for farmers.
- 2. High inflation in TOP prices can impact other commodity prices.
- 3. The price fluctuations of TOP may not exert any influence on the global markets.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. High volatility in prices leads to uncertainty in income for farmers. High inflation in TOP prices can impact other commodity prices. For example, high potato prices might impact the prices of snacks or processed foods that use potatoes as a primary ingredient.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Fluctuations in the prices of TOP can have an impact on global markets as well. India is one of the largest producers and consumers of these commodities. So, when prices rise domestically, it can create supply gaps internationally.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India's investment in research and development (R&D), as a percentage of GDP, has steadily dropped.
- 2. In India, the private sector contributes the most to research and development (R&D).
- 3. The National Research Foundation (NRF) intends to foster research in social sciences, arts, and humanities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. India's investment in research and development (R&D), as a percentage of GDP, has steadily dropped–from 0.84% in 2008 to about 0.69% in 2018. The NRF intends to foster research not just in the natural sciences and engineering, but also in social sciences, arts, and humanities.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In India, about 56% of R&D spend comes from the government and 35% from the private sector.





Q.9) With reference to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an autonomous and a self-governing entity established with the objective of effectively overseeing and regulating deep sea mining activities globally.
- 2. India is one of the members of IMO.
- 3. It is governed by an assembly of members which meets every two years.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. The International Maritime Organization is a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India is one of the members of IMO. IMO is governed by an assembly of members which meets every two years.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The distribution of sunlight due to Earth's distance from the sun primarily determines the temperature variations on the Earth.
- 2. Earth's distance from the Sun is not constant throughout the year.
- 3. Earth travels around the Sun in an elliptical path.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. The distribution of sunlight due to Earth's axial tilt primarily determines the temperature variations, not the distance from the Sun. The primary driver of Earth's seasons is not the distance from the Sun but rather the tilt of Earth's axis.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Earth's distance from the Sun is not constant throughout the year. During aphelion, Earth is farthest from the Sun and during perihelion, Earth is closest to the Sun. Earth travels around the Sun in an elliptical path.

Source: India Today



PRELIMS

Q.1) With reference to the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme, consider the following statements:

- 1. The program has been initiated by the G20 with the primary objective of promoting and facilitating the widespread implementation of green hydrogen as a viable and sustainable alternative to traditional fuels.
- 2. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is the implementing agency of the programme in India.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. SIGHT is a major financial measure under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Its objectives are – 1) to maximize production of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives in India 2) Enhance cost-competitiveness of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives vis a-vis fossil-based alternatives and 3) Encourage large scale utilization of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

Statement 2 is correct. SECI is the implementing agency of the programme.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) With reference to the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) consider the following statements:

- 1. Its objective is to measure the depth and effectiveness of existing e-Governance service delivery mechanisms from the citizen's perspective.
- 2. The framework is based on the Online Service Index (OSI) of UNDESA eGovernment Survey.
- 3. It was launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. NeSDA's objective is to measure the depth and effectiveness of existing e-Governance service delivery mechanisms from the citizen's perspective. The framework is based on the Online Service Index (OSI) of UNDESA eGovernment Survey. It was launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG) in 2018.





Q.3) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India currently imports over 90% of its primary energy requirements.
- 2. Currently, around 42% of power generation capacity of India is based on non-fossil-fuels.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statement 1 is incorrect. India currently imports over 40% of its primary energy requirements, worth over USD 90 billion every year.

Statement 2 is correct. Currently, around 42% of power generation capacity of India is based on non-fossil-fuels.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) With reference to National Green Tribunal (NGT) consider the following statements:

- 1. The tribunal is guided by principles of natural justice and is not bound by the mainstream code of civil procedure.
- 2. The members of the tribunal hold office for a term of five years and are not eligible for reappointment.
- 3. The chairperson is appointed by the President of India.
- 4. It acts as an important institution for promoting economic justice.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: B

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. NGT is guided by principles of natural justice and is not bound by the mainstream code of civil procedure. The members of the tribunal hold office for a term of five years and are not eligible for reappointment.

Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. The chairperson is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. It acts as an important institution for safeguarding the environment and promoting environmental justice.



Q.5) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Manual scavenging refers to the practice of manually cleaning, handling, and disposing of human excreta and solid waste from sewers, septic tanks, and public toilets.
- 2. Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) aims to rehabilitate manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations, in a time bound manner.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Manual scavenging refers to the practice of manually cleaning, handling, and disposing of human excreta and solid waste from sewers, septic tanks, and public toilets. Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) aims to rehabilitate manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations, in a time bound manner.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) The United Nations has adopted the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) or the High Seas Treaty. With reference to the High Seas Treaty, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Treaty will provide funding for capacity building and implementation to help developing countries implement the Treaty, encourage cooperation, develop marine science and technical capability, as well as promote access to technology on fair terms.
- 2. The treaty has established a specialized research institution that holds the responsibility for conducting comprehensive and in-depth research related to ship accidents taking place in the High Seas.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

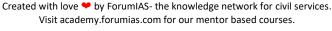
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. The High Seas Treaty will provide funding for capacity building and implementation to help developing countries implement the Treaty, encourage cooperation, develop marine science and technical capability, as well as promote access to technology on fair terms.

Statement 2 is incorrect. There is no such provision under the treaty. The objectives of the treaty are - to implement international regulations to protect life in oceans beyond national jurisdiction through international cooperation and to address critical issues such as the increasing sea surface temperatures, overexploitation of marine biodiversity, overfishing, coastal pollution and unsustainable practices beyond national jurisdiction.





Q.7) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The One Health approach is a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of human health, animal health, and the environment.
- 2. One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance focuses on the environment, plant, animal, and human sectors where AMR transmission, circulation and spread occur.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The One Health approach is a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of human health, animal health, and the environment. One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance focuses on the environment, plant, animal, and human sectors where AMR transmission, circulation and spread occur.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Which of the following is the objective of the NAMASTE scheme?

- a) The objective of this initiative is to effectively diminish the prevalence of under-nutrition and elevate the nutritional well-being of children throughout the nation.
- b) The objective of the scheme is to extend crucial financial support to nascent startups during the initial phase of their projects.
- c) The primary focus of this scheme is to offer high insurance coverage for exporters while reducing the premiums on small-scale exporters.
- d) The objective of the scheme is to provide sanitation employees with a sustainable living while also improving their workplace safety via capacity building and greater access to safety equipment and machinery.

Answer: D

Explanation – National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme seeks to provide sanitation employees with a sustainable living while also improving their workplace safety via capacity building and greater access to safety equipment and machinery.



Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Germanium is rare earth metal that is used in fiber optic cables, night vision devices, and solar cells.
- 2. The US is a major producer of germanium.
- 3. India is 100% dependent on import to meet its germanium requirements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation -

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Germanium is rare earth metal that is used in fiber optic cables, night vision devices, and solar cells. India is 100% dependent on import to meet its germanium requirements.

Statement 2 is incorrect. China is the major producer of germanium.

Source: The Times of India

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Forever chemicals are highly persistent synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of industrial and consumer products.
- 2. Forever Chemicals occur naturally in nature.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation -

Statement 1 is correct. Forever chemicals are highly persistent synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of industrial and consumer products.

Statement 2 is incorrect. PFAS (Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances), also known as the Forever Chemicals, are a large chemical family of over 4,700 highly persistent chemicals that don't occur in nature.

Source: DNA

