

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

6th to 11th Nov, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

Society

Q.1) “Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2023 Global Monitoring report” is recently seen in news released by?

- a) World Bank
- b) WHO
- c) WEF
- d) Both A & B

ANS: D

Explanation: Recently, the Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2023 Global Monitoring report was jointly released by the World Health Organization and World Bank.

The report analyses progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) using two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators i.e.

- UHC Service Coverage Index (SCI) that covers essential health services (SDG 3.8.1).
- Out-of-Pocket Health Expenditure (OOPE) measuring catastrophic health spending (SDG 3.8.2).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “universal health coverage (UHC)”:

1. It means that all people have access to a full range of quality health services without financial hardship.
2. It covers the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.

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: UHC means that all people have access to a full range of quality health services without financial hardship.

It covers the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Malaviya Mission” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Solar energy
- b) Rural development
- c) Teacher training programme
- d) Skill development

ANS: C

Explanation: Organised by the University Grants Commission, in association with the Ministry of Education, the Malaviya Mission - Teacher Training Programme aims to provide tailored training programmes for teachers.

This programme will work for the capacity building of faculty members in higher educational institutions.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)” platform is an initiative of?

- a) NCERT
- b) UGC
- c) NCIET
- d) NEET

ANS: A

Explanation: DIKSHA is an initiative of National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT), Ministry of Education.

National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under MeitY is set to integrate Personalized Adaptive Learning (PAL) into its existing DIKSHA platform.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding NCERT:

1. It has granted the status of deemed to be university.
2. It is declared by Central Government under section 3 of University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956.

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: NCERT has been granted the status of deemed to be university. Deemed university status will now allow NCERT to

- offer its own graduate, post-graduate and doctoral degrees and
- Have autonomy in terms of introduction of programmes, course structure, conducting examinations and management, among others.

Declared by Central Government under section 3 of University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “Ayushman Bhav Campaign” is recently seen in news spearheaded by?

- a) Central government
- b) State government
- c) District administration
- d) Gram panchayat

ANS: D

Explanation: Ayushman Bhav Campaign is a collaborative effort spearheaded by Gram Panchayats to extend comprehensive healthcare coverage to every village and town.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are the aim/s of national education policy, 2020?

- 1. It aims to increase the public investment to reach 6% of GDP.
- 2. It aims to increase the GER to 100% in preschool to secondary level by 2030.
- 3. It aims to increase GER in Higher Education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Education Policy 2020 Aims:

- At increasing the public investment to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.
- Increase the GER to 100% in preschool to secondary level by 2030, whereas GER in Higher Education, including vocational education, from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following article of Indian Constitution states “directs the State to provide public assistance to certain categories of citizens”?

- a) Article 40
- b) Article 41
- c) Article 44
- d) Article 47

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 41 directs the State to provide public assistance to certain categories of citizens.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Article 342” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Scheduled tribes
- b) Mother tongue
- c) Higher education
- d) Scheduled languages

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 342 defines scheduled tribes (ST) as the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribal communities which the President may specify by public notification.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Mhadei wildlife sanctuary” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Karnataka
- c) Goa
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: C

Explanation: The Mhadei wildlife sanctuary in Goa will be officially designated as a tiger reserve, becoming the 55th tiger reserve in India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Society

Q.1) Who among the following headed the “National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks”?

- a) Vijay Kelkar
- b) Prof. Virginius Xaxa
- c) Prof. K Kasturirangan
- d) Prof. K Nambidurai

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Steering Committee for the development of National Curriculum Frameworks, under the chairmanship of Prof. K Kasturirangan, was formed to create a curriculum aligned with the NEP 2020.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are feature/s of “New Education Policy 2020”?

- 1. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4).
- 2. Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12.
- 3. Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: New Education Policy 2020 Features:

- New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4)
- Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12.
- Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development).
- A separate Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)”:

1. It was launched in 1995.
2. It includes 3 pension and 2 non – pension schemes.

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 Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was launched in 1995 and includes five sub-schemes (3 related to pension and two non-pensions).

Pension Assistance:

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS): BPL persons aged 60–79 years are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 200 and Rs.500 thereafter (after the age of 80 years).
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): BPL widows aged 40–59 years are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 200.
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): BPL persons aged 18–59 years with severe and multiple disabilities are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 200.

Non-pensions assistance:

- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): BPL household is entitled to a one-time assistance amounting to Rs. 10,000 on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 64 years.
- Annapurna scheme: 10 kg of food grains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under IGNOAPS.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Article 151 of Indian Constitution deal with?

- a) Audit report
- b) Advice of Supreme Court to President
- c) Inter State relations
- d) Water management

ANS: A

Explanation: Recently, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) presented a report on Performance AB-PMJAY.

The report was submitted to the President of India under Article 151 of the Constitution.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Madhya Pradesh has the highest population of STs.
2. Lakshadweep has the highest percentage of ST 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: ST population in India: 8.6% (as per Census of India 2011).

- Lakshadweep (94.8%), followed by Mizoram (94.4%), has the highest percentage of ST population.
- In absolute numbers, Madhya Pradesh has the highest population of STs.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following problem/s is/are faces by health care system of tribal people?

1. Language and cultural barriers
2. Failing to acknowledge and integrate their indigenous healing methods
3. Inadequate availability of skilled healthcare

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Challenges faced by the healthcare system for the tribal health:

- Language and cultural barriers impede effective communication between healthcare providers and tribal patients, leading to misunderstandings.
- Failing to acknowledge and integrate their indigenous healing methods has created distrust among tribal populations to seek healthcare from modern facilities.
- Geographical remoteness: Tribal communities are often located in remote and inaccessible areas, such as mountainous with inadequate transportation infrastructure.
- Inadequate availability of skilled healthcare leads to delayed diagnoses, inappropriate treatment, and limited access to specialized medical care.
- Tribal healthcare is subsumed in rural healthcare under the assumption that tribal people have the same health problems and similar needs.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following convention/s is/are signed by India?

1. Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
2. Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
3. Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Steps taken in India to prevent drug abuse: Signatory to UN conventions: Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) In which of the following year, Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was enacted?

- a) 1985
- b) 1988
- c) 1992
- d) 1997

ANS: A

Explanation: Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985: Provides for identification, treatment, rehabilitation, social re-integration of the addict among others and instituted Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

NCB under the Ministry of Home Affairs control the supply, production and distribution of drugs.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “COTPA 2003” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Cyber information
- b) Tobacco Products
- c) Chemical fertilizers
- d) Chemical weapons

ANS: B

Explanation: Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003:

- The act regulates the advertisement, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products.
- It prohibits smoking in public places.
- Makes it mandatory to use pictorial health warnings on tobacco products, the size of the graphic depiction of health warnings was increased to 85% of the box since April 2016.
- It also sets rules for the sale of tobacco products to minors.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Tankai method” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Farming
- b) Ship building
- c) Waxing technique
- d) Land measurement

ANS: B

Explanation: Ministry of Culture and Indian Navy to launch a project to revive the 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding known as the Tankai method.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Ol Chiki Script” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Santhali Language
- b) Lambadi Language
- c) Ahom Language
- d) Koya Language

ANS: A

Explanation: Prime Minister wished the people of the Santhal tribe on the occasion of Hul diwas using the Ol Chiki Script of the Santhali language.

Source: FORUMIAS

Society

Q.1) Which of the following state, recently introduced the Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Recently, the Rajasthan government introduced 'The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023'.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Article 41 of Indian constitution is often seen in news related to?

- a) Uniform civil code
- b) Right to work
- c) Free legal aid
- d) Writs

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 41 of the Indian Constitution directs the state to secure the right to work, education and public assistance in certain cases such as unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding "World Food Programme":

1. It is a joint initiative of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WHO.
2. It is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

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 World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.

- It was founded in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with its headquarters in Rome, Italy.

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- It is also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), a coalition of UN agencies and organizations aimed at fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The report “Advancing social justice” is recently released by?

- a) WHO
- b) FAO
- c) WEF
- d) ILO

ANS: D

Explanation: Recently, the International Labour Organization (ILO) released a report titled ‘Advancing social justice’ that calls for advancing social justice through promoting decent work.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following ministry releases the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2023?

- a) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- b) The Ministry of Finance
- c) The Ministry of Home
- d) The Ministry of Social Justice

ANS: A

Explanation: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2023. For monitoring SDG Goals and targets, a Global Indicator Framework (GIF) was framed by the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEGSDGs).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following organization releases the “Gender Gap Report”?

- a) WEF
- b) UNDP
- c) World Bank
- d) UN Women

ANS: A

Explanation: World Economic Forum’s (WEF) released Gender Gap Report- 2023.

- As per the latest report, India has ranked at 127 out of 146 countries in terms of gender equality.
- India has improved 1.4% points and 8 places from its earlier rank of 135 from 2022 index.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Gender Social Norms Index” is recently seen in news released by?

- a) UNDP
- b) WEF
- c) UN Women
- d) World Bank

ANS: A

Explanation: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report.

- Report is titled as ‘Breaking down Gender Biases: Shifting social norms towards gender equality’.
- GSNI captures beliefs, biases and prejudices regarding gender equality in capabilities and rights, which provides an account of the root causes of gender inequality.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following parameter/s is/are taken into consideration for National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?

1. Teaching
2. Learning and Resources
3. Graduation Outcome

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Ministry of Education has released 8th edition of India Rankings of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in country.

Ranking is based on National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Five broad categories of parameters identified in NIRF includes: Teaching; Learning and Resources; Research and Professional Practice; Graduation Outcome; Inclusivity and Outreach; and Perception.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The dashboard “ANTARDRIHSTI” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Free legal aid
- b) Investigative agencies
- c) Financial inclusion
- d) Child education

ANS: A

Explanation: RBI governor launched a Financial Inclusion Dashboard, named, ANTARDRIHSTI.

- It will provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters.

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- It will also enable to gauge the extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country so that such areas can be addressed.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Global Competitiveness Index” is recently seen in news published by?

- a) US Chamber of Commerce
- b) UN WIPO
- c) WEF
- d) International Institute for Management Development

ANS: D

Explanation: Recently Global Competitiveness Index was published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD). Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland have been named the top three among 64 economies measured for their global competitiveness.

- India dropped 3 spots to finish 40th but is still in a better position than it was in 2019-2021.
- The three main measures that helped India in its score are exchange rate stability, compensation levels, and improvements in pollution control.

Source: FORUMIAS

Society

Q.1) The “Global Slavery Index 2023” is recently seen in news released by?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF
- c) UNDP
- d) Walk Free

ANS: D

Explanation: G20 countries including India are fuelling modern slavery, says new report.

- Walk Free (international human rights group) released the Global Slavery Index 2023, an assessment of modern slavery conditions in 160 countries.
- Index uses the data released by International Labor Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “University Grants Commission (UGC)” is often seen in news enacted in?

- a) 1948
- b) 1956
- c) 1965
- d) 1972

ANS: B

Explanation: University Grants Commission, abbreviated as UGC, was launched as a statutory association under the UGC Act (1956).

- It makes sure to synchronize, define, and sustain higher education norms in the country.
- UGC identifies universities in India and spends funds on well-known institutes and universities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. World Drug Report 2023 released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. The UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime headquartered in Vienna.

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 Drug Report 2023 released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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- The UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime headquartered in Vienna.
- It provides technical assistance, research and normative support to Member States.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “Radhakrishnan Committee” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Space programme
- b) Higher education
- c) Health reforms
- d) Police reforms

ANS: B

Explanation: The Radhakrishnan Committee’s report on reforms in accreditation system of India’s Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) has been put in public domain.

This overarching Committee headed by former ISRO chief Dr K Radhakrishnan was set up by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2022.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment is often seen in news enacted in?

- a) 2001
- b) 2009
- c) 2013
- d) 2018

ANS: C

Explanation: To make workplaces safer for women by preventing, prohibiting, and redressing acts of sexual harassment against them in the workplace ‘Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act or POSH, 2013’ was enacted.

The Act broadened and gave legislative backing to what are known as the Vishaka Guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in a judgment passed in 1997.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) Scheme.
2. PBPB will focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at anganwadis across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched PBPB Scheme.

PBPB will focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (first six years of children) at anganwadis across the country.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) “Saksham Learning Management Information System (LMIS)” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Medical education
- b) Sustainable agriculture
- c) Cyber security awareness
- d) Witness protection scheme

ANS: A

Explanation: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management) LMIS.

- It has been developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi.
- SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country.
- It will ensure inclusive capacity building of health professionals from primary health centres located in rural and remote areas all the way up to tertiary care and corporate hospitals in metropolitan cities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) “75/25 initiative” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Non – Communicable diseases
- b) Ethanol blending
- c) Gas distribution
- d) Education

ANS: A

Explanation: 75/25 initiative: 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes to be put on Standard Care by 2025, through the PHCs.

It is the largest cover of NCDs in the world for primary healthcare.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The term “AIRAWAT” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Super computer
- b) Hydrogen bus
- c) Aircraft
- d) Submarine

ANS: A

Explanation: India’s AI supercomputer AIRAWAT has been ranked 75th in the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List, announced at the International Supercomputing Conference held in Germany.

AIRAWAT supercomputer is India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system, with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Mpox is a viral disease most commonly found in Africa.
2. The virus is a member of the Poxviridae family.

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 Health Organization (WHO) has ended the global health emergency for Mpox.

- Mpox is a viral disease most commonly found in Africa and has infected around 87,000 people in 2022.
- The virus is a member of the Poxviridae family which is genetically similar to other poxviruses.
- It spreads through close contact with an infected individual and can be transmitted from animals too.

Source: FORUMIAS

Society

Q.1) The “Samarth Portal” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Education
- b) Skill Development
- c) Primary health care
- d) Zero budget farming

ANS: A

Explanation: Samarth Portal: Sponsored by Ministry of Education, Project Samarth under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, NMEICT-II (now NMEICT-III) scheme in 2019.

It integrates technology and allows HEIs to deploy a digital framework for planning, management, delivery, and monitoring of education services in a seamless manner.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)”:

1. AISHE has been conducted since 2015.
2. It is conducted by NITI Aayog.

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: Ministry of Education (MoE) released All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021.

- AISHE has been conducted since 2011 by MoE covering all higher educational institutions located in country.
- It collects detailed information on different educational parameters.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Common Cause v Union of India” case is often seen in news related to?

- a) Euthanasia
- b) Gender justice
- c) Global commons
- d) Universal basic income

ANS: A

Explanation: In a 2018 judgment (Common Cause v Union of India), SC had recognized the right to die with dignity as an inextricable facet of the right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “World Social Report 2023” is recently seen in news released by?

- a) United Nations Secretariat
- b) IMF
- c) World Bank
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: World Social Report 2023 is a flagship publication of Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations Secretariat.

- Report builds on framework of Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and explores social and economic opportunities and challenges that population ageing presents.
- MIPAA was adopted at second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “NIPUN Bharat Mission” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Medical education
- b) Vocational education
- c) Skill development
- d) Numeracy

ANS: D

Explanation: Ministry of Education has launched a National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat), for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements “Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)”:

1. PVTGs reside in 17 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
2. The highest numbers of PVTGs are found in Odisha (13).

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: PVTG (earlier known as Primitive Tribal Groups) is the category with in Scheduled Tribes created on the recommendation of Dhebar commission (1973).

In 1975, Government of India declared 52 tribal group as PVTG's. While in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.

PVTGs reside in 17 States and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The highest number of PVTGs are found in Odisha (13) followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following is the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its commissioned manholes?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Kerala became the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its commissioned manholes.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The Attukal Pongala - the largest congregation of women for a festival in the world held in?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Attukal Pongala held in Attukal Temple, Thiruvananthapuram is the largest congregation of women for a festival in the world.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following state first Indian State to enact a Right to Health Act?

- a) Kerala
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: C

Explanation: Rajasthan became the first Indian State to enact a Right to Health Act.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Betla National Park falls in Latehar district of Jharkhand. It is the only National Park of the State. It spreads in 226.33 sq.km. And was notified in 1986.

Betla National Park is part of core area of Palamau Tiger Reserve.

Source: FORUMIAS

Society

Q.1) The famous “vaikom satyagraha” is related to which of the following?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The people of the oppressed classes especially the Ezhavas, were prohibited from walking on the four roads surrounding the Vaikom Mahadeva temple.

As the year 2024 marks the centenary of the Vaikom Satyagraha, Kerala and Tamil Nadu jointly inaugurated the centenary celebrations.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The famous “Kakinada session of INC” took place in?

- a) 1921
- b) 1923
- c) 1929
- d) 1935

ANS: B

Explanation: In 1923, at the behest of T.K. Madhavan, at the Kakinada session of Indian National Congress (INC), KPCC adopted a resolution to take up anti untouchability as a key issue.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Antiquities and Art Treasures Act enacted in which of the following year?

- a) 1947
- b) 1961
- c) 1972
- d) 1979

ANS: C

Explanation: Antiquities are defined under Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 (AATA) and include items such as any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The famous “Matua Maha Mela” is related to which of the following?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Kerala
- c) Assam
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: A

Explanation: PM has urged people to visit Matua Maha Mela in West Bengal. Mela is organised on birth anniversary of Shri Harichand Thakur (1812-1878), who was the founder of the sect of Vaishnavite Hinduism called Matua.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Kattunayakan tribe” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Assam
- b) Kerala
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Odisha

ANS: B

Explanation: Oscar award to documentary Elephant Whisperers is a tribute to conservation legacy of the Kattunayakan tribe. They are one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India. Found in parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala (Nilgiris and surrounding region).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) “Aruvipuram movement” is related to which of the following?

- a) Kerala
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Gujarat

ANS: A

Explanation: Aruvipuram movement was Temple Entry movement launched by Sri Narayan Guru in Aruvipuram village of Kerala. It was one of the first movements for equal rights to temple entry.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) In which of the following year “Archaeological Survey of India” established?

- a) 1861
- b) 1871
- c) 1881
- d) 1891

ANS: A

Explanation: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) established in 1861, it is an attached office of the Ministry of Culture.

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It is the premier organization of India for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Charaideo Maidams” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Assam

ANS: D

Explanation: The Government of India has decided to nominate Assam’s Charaideo Maidams or Moidams (Ahom Burial Mounds) for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the year 2023.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Parasnath hill” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: A

Explanation: In Jharkhand, Parasnath hill being declared a tourist spot and an eco-sensitive zone.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10. The Ottanthullal (or Thullal) is a recite-and-dance art-form of?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Ottanthullal (or Thullal) is a recite-and-dance art-form of Kerala that is famous for its humour and social satire.

Source: FORUMIAS

Society – Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) grouped the country into four seismic zones.
2. BIS is the official agency for publishing the seismic hazard maps and codes.

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: There are four seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V) in India based on scientific inputs relating to seismicity, earthquakes occurred in the past and tectonic setup of the region.

- Previously, earthquake zones were divided into five zones with respect to the severity of the earthquakes but the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) grouped the country into four seismic zones by unifying the first two zones.
- BIS is the official agency for publishing the seismic hazard maps and codes.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are cause/s of “Tsunamis”?

1. Earthquake
2. Landslide
3. Volcanic activity

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Tsunamis (Japanese for “harbour wave”), also known as a seismic sea wave, are a series of very large waves with extremely long wavelength, in the deep ocean, the length from crest to crest may be 100 km and more.

It is usually generated by sudden displacements in the sea floor caused by earthquake, landslides, or volcanic activity.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. About 10 per cent of the World's tropical cyclones affect the Indian coast.
2. More cyclones occur in the Bay of Bengal than in the Arabian Sea.

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's long coastline of nearly 7,500 km consists of 5,400 km along the mainland, 132 km in Lakshadweep and 1,900 km in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- About 10 per cent of the World's tropical cyclones affect the Indian coast.
- More cyclones occur in the Bay of Bengal than in the Arabian Sea.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) According to World Meteorological Organization for how many day/s the daily maximum temperature exceeds the average maximum temperature by five degrees Celsius for a Heat Wave?

- a) 1 day
- b) 2 days
- c) 3 days
- d) 5 days

ANS: D

Explanation: The World Meteorological Organization defines a heat wave as five or more consecutive days during which the daily maximum temperature exceeds the average maximum temperature by five degrees Celsius.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following is/are cause/s of flood/s?

1. Storm surge
2. High intensity rainfall
3. Melting of ice

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Floods occur commonly when water in the form of surface runoff exceeds the carrying capacity of the river channels and streams and flows into the neighboring low-lying flood plains.

Floods can also be caused due to a storm surge, high intensity rainfall for a considerably longer time period, melting of ice and snow, reduction in the infiltration rate and presence of eroded materials in the water due to higher rate of soil erosion.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are landslide prone area/s in India?

1. The Himalayas
2. North East India
3. The Nilgiris

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Landslides occur in the hilly regions of India such as the Himalaya, North-East India, the Nilgiris, Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats.

It is estimated that 30 per cent of the World's landslides occur in the Himalayan ranges.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements "red sanders":

1. It is a flora-species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Eastern Ghats.
2. TRAFFIC factsheet highlighted Red Sanders is India's most exploited tree species.

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: TRAFFIC factsheet highlighted Red Sanders is India's most exploited tree species.

- TRAFFIC was established in 1976 by WWF and IUCN as a wildlife trade monitoring network to undertake data collection, recommendations on wildlife trade.
- Red Sanders is a flora-species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Eastern Ghats.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Point Calimere”:

1. It is situated in Kerala.
2. It is designated as a Ramsar site.

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: Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary was established in the year of 1967 and is situated in the state of Tamil Nadu.

- It houses the famous bird sanctuary of Vedaranyam and the Talaignayar forests.
- It is designated as a Ramsar site.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The famous “Satpura Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news located at?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Satpura Tiger Reserve also known as Satpura National Park is located in the Narmadapuram District of Madhya Pradesh in India. Its name is derived from the Satpura range. It covers an area of 524 km².

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Keeladi Excavations” is recently seen in news located at?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Keeladi is a tiny hamlet in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu.

- It is located, near temple city of Madurai, along the Vaigai River.
- 2015 excavations at Keeladi prove that an urban civilisation existed in Tamil Nadu in Sangam age.

Source: FORUMIAS