

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

13th to 18th Nov, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Bilateral Relations

Q.1) “New Southbound Policy (NSP)” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) China
- b) Taiwan
- c) Japan
- d) Russia

ANS: B

Explanation: Recently the annual India-Taiwan deputy economic minister-level meeting was held in India. Giving India priority under its ‘New Southbound Policy (NSP)’.

NSP launched in 2016 aims to leverage Taiwan’s cultural, technological and economic assets to enhance its regional integration and promote broader development of Indo-Pacific region.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) “Khulna Darshana railway link project” is recently signed between India and?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Bhutan
- c) Myanmar
- d) Sri Lanka

ANS: A

Explanation: Khulna Darshana railway line link project - The project is upgradation of existing (doubling of Broad Gauge) infrastructure linking the current cross border rail link at Gede-Darshana to Khulna thereby augmenting the rail connections between the two countries, especially to Dhaka, but also in future to Mongla Port. The project cost is estimated at USD 312.48 million.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is NOT part TAPI gas pipeline project?

- a) Armenia
- b) Turkmenistan
- c) Pakistan
- d) India

ANS: A

Explanation: TAPI Pipeline, also called Peace pipeline, is a 1,814km natural gas pipeline that originates from Turkmenistan and passes through Afghanistan and Pakistan to reach India.

The project is being developed by TAPI Pipeline Company (TPCL), a consortium established by four individual state-owned gas companies Turkmengaz (Turkmenistan), Afghan Gas (Afghanistan), Interstate Gas Service (Pakistan), and Gas Authority of India and Indian Oil (India).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following international institution act as a mediator for Indus Water Treaty?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: India and Pakistan signed the IWT in September, 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory to the pact.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of the water of the Indus River and its five tributaries Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “West Seti and Seti River (SR6) projects” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Pakistan

ANS: A

Explanation: Recently, India and Nepal have signed a MoU to develop the hydropower projects.

- Project is to develop the West Seti and Seti River (SR6) projects. Also, projects like Seti Hydro project, which was to be originally build under the Chinese BRI, is now being built by India.
- Thus, the hydroelectric relationship is seen as a counter to China in Nepal. West Seti River is a tributary of Karnali River located in the far western region of Nepal.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The famous “Mahakali treaty” signed between India and?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Nepal
- d) Bangladesh

ANS: C

Explanation: India is involved in other projects such as the Mahakali Treaty, the Upper Karnali Project and the Arun – III projects in western and eastern Nepal, respectively.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Soft loans to neighboring countries:

1. The Centre launched “The Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme” (IDEAS) to provide concessional financing for projects in developing countries.
2. The volume of India’s soft loans to neighboring countries has increased from \$3 billion to almost \$15 billion in the last eight years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The volume of India’s soft loans to neighbouring countries has increased from \$3 billion to almost \$15 billion in the last eight years.

In 2003, the Centre launched “The Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme” (IDEAS) to provide concessional financing for projects in developing countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “debt trap diplomacy” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Taiwan
- b) Japan
- c) China
- d) Russia

ANS: C

Explanation: Debt-trap diplomacy is a theory that describes a powerful lending country or institution seeking to saddle a borrowing nation with enormous debt so as to increase its leverage over it.

- Debt-trap diplomacy was associated with Indian academic Brahma Chellaney, who promoted the term in early 2017.
- To gain rapid political and economic ascendancy across the globe, China is dispensing billions of dollars in the form of concessional loans to developing countries, mostly for their large-scale infrastructure projects.
- These developing nations, which are primarily low- or middle-income countries, are unable to keep up with the repayments, and Beijing then gets a chance to demand concessions or advantages in exchange for debt relief.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Kushiyara River” treaty is recently seen in news signed between India and?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Myanmar

ANS: C

Explanation: India and Bangladesh have finalised the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on interim water sharing of the Kushiyara River.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following is NOT a member of BIMSTEC?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Bhutan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Nepal

ANS: A

Explanation: BIMSTEC is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.

- BIMSTEC will be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, non-aggression, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and mutual benefit.
- The 7 members of BIMSTEC are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Source: FORUMIAS

Bilateral Relations

Q.1) The “United Nations Security Council’s (UNSC’s) 1267” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Nuclear weapons
- b) International Terrorists
- c) Cyber Security
- d) Biological Weapons

ANS: B

Explanation: India and US have jointly submitted a proposal to list LeT commanders on the United Nations Security Council’s (UNSC’s) 1267 terror list.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. FATF was set up in 1989 by the G7 countries.
2. FATF has all 5 permanent members of UNSC.

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: FATF was set up in 1989 by the G7 countries. It has 39 members that include all 5 permanent members of UNSC and 2 regional organizations – Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is NOT a Central Asian country?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Kyrgyzstan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Azerbaijan

ANS: D

Explanation: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are the 5 Central Asian countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “Chabahar Port” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Iraq
- b) Oman
- c) Pakistan
- d) Iran

ANS: D

Explanation: Chabahar Port is a seaport in Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It serves as Iran’s only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following is/are member/s of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- 1. China
- 2. India
- 3. Turkmenistan

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: SCO is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. Eight Member States – China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “extended finance facility” is often seen in news related to?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved Sri Lanka’s request for a \$2.9 billion bailout and the programme will enable it to access up to \$7 billion in overall funding. Sri Lanka has reached an agreement with IMF to access credit under IMF’s Extended Finance Facility.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. India is a founder member of the IMF.
2. India has not taken any financial assistance from the IMF since 1993.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: India is a founder member of the IMF. India has not taken any financial assistance from the IMF since 1993.

Repayments of all the loans taken from International Monetary Fund have been completed on May 2000.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Special Drawing Rights (SDR)” is often seen in news related to?

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

A.NS: A

Explanation: India’s current quota in the IMF is SDR (Special Drawing Rights) 5,821.5 million making it the 13th largest quota holding country at IMF and giving it shareholdings of 2.44%.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Hanimadhoo Airport” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Mauritius
- b) Maldives
- c) Myanmar
- d) Sri Lanka

ANS: B

Explanation: India is developing an international airport at Hanimadhoo in Haa Dhaalu atoll of the Maldivian archipelago.

The \$ 136.6-million development of the Hanimadhoo airport has been financed by a line of credit to the Maldives from India’s Exim Bank.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the world's second largest inter-governmental organization after the UN.
2. India is not a member of the OIC.

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 OIC is formerly the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. It is the world's second largest inter-governmental organisation after the UN, with a membership of 57 states.

- Its stated objective is "to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world".
- India is not a member of the OIC.

Source: FORUMIAS

International Relations

Q.1) Which of the following is/are member country/countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iraq
3. Iran

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political and economic alliance of 6 countries in the Gulf region - Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. The GCC was established by an agreement concluded in 1981 in Riyadh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “Industrial Security Agreement” was signed between India and?

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) France
- d) Japan

ANS: A

Explanation: India-US defense cooperation is based on “New Framework for India US Defense Cooperation”, which was renewed for a period of ten years in 2015.

In 2016, the defense relationship was designated as a Major Defense Partnership (MDP).

Several defense agreements have been signed:

- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (August 2016)
- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (September 2018)
- Industrial Security Agreement (December 2019)
- Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (October 2020)

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Exercise Pitch Black” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Australia
- b) Italy
- c) Spain
- d) France

ANS: A

Explanation: In 2018, Indian Air Force participated for the first time in the Exercise Pitch Black in Australia.

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

- Exercise Pitch Black 22 was hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force at its Darwin Air Base.
- Spanning over duration of three weeks, the exercise saw the participation of 17 Air Forces and over 2500 military personnel.
- The IAF contingent included four Su-30 MKI & two C-17 aircraft.
- The participating forces took part in various multi-aircraft combat drills by day & night, simulating complex aerial scenarios, involving large formations.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Who among the following is NOT part of G4 countries?

- a) Australia
- b) Germany
- c) Japan
- d) India

ANS: A

Explanation: The G4 is a grouping of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan which are aspiring to become permanent members of the UNSC.

They are supporting each other's bids for permanent membership of the UNSC.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following defense exercise/s is/are taken place between India and France?

1. Varuna
2. Shakti
3. Maitri

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Signed in 1998, the time-tested strategic partnership between India and France has continued to gain momentum over shared values and aspirations of peace, stability and their desire for strategic autonomy.

The relations is further strengthened with the robust network of military dialogues and regularly held joint exercises:

- Varuna (navy)
- Garuda (air force)
- Shakti (army)

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “Milan” – a biennial naval exercise between India and?

- a) Spain
- b) Italy
- c) Maldives
- d) Mongolia

ANS: B

Explanation: Milan – a biennial naval exercise between India and Italy.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following is NOT part of NORDIC countries?

- a) Denmark
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden
- d) Belgium

ANS: D

Explanation: The Nordic Region consists of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland, as well as the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding permanent residency:

1. It is a visa status that allows the bearer of the PR card to legally reside in the host country without being a citizen of that country.
2. Permanent residents are entitled to live, work, go to school and access health care in the host 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: Permanent Residency is a visa status that allows the bearer of the PR card to legally reside in the host country without being a citizen of that country.

Permanent residents are entitled to live, work, go to school and access health care in the host country.

In order to be eligible to apply for permanent residency status in any given country, individuals usually have to meet certain requirements, such as

- Having work experience in the country
- Having studied in the country
- Speaking the language, etc.

PR status can also lead to citizenship by naturalization provided the resident has lived in the country for a certain number of years.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)” is often seen in news, initiative of?

- a) China
- b) Japan
- c) Russia
- d) Germany

ANS: A

Explanation: Beijing’s outreach in South Asia increased manifold in the early 2000s with its economic boom.

It began to further its strategic ends in the region through loans, financial incentives, and mega-infrastructure projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Gorumara National Park” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) West Bengal
- c) Assam
- d) Sikkim

ANS: B

Explanation: Gorumara National Park is a National Park in northern West Bengal, India.

- Located in the Dooars region of the Himalayan foothills, it is a medium-sized park with grasslands and forests.
- Gorumara National Park was established in 1992. It is primarily known for its population of Indian rhinoceros.

Source: FORUMIAS

Government Schemes

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)”:

1. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Rural Development.
2. It is a Central sector scheme.

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: National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE): is a scheme for improving the living standards of sanitation workers in urban areas.

- It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- It is a Central sector scheme.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “SMILE-75 Initiative” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Sustainable farming
- b) Solar energy on roof tops
- c) Rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging
- d) Primary health care

ANS: C

Explanation: An initiative that has identified 75 Municipal Corporations to implement comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging under “SMILE: Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following scheme/s is/are subsumed under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)?

1. Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan
2. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana
3. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: During 2021-22, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) has been merged with two other existing schemes to be known as Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY).

Schemes subsumed are:

- Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)
- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
- Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)”:

1. It was established by executive resolution.
2. Under the NCPCR, the child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: NCPCR was set up in 2007 under the Act of Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

- It is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- Under the NCPCR, the child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Operation Megh Chakra” is recently seen in news done by?

- a) Indian Air Force
- b) Central Vigilance Commission
- c) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- d) Indian Coast Guard

ANS: C

Explanation: Operation Megh Chakra: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches across India, as part of a pan-India drive against the circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “GOAL” programme is often seen in news related to?

- a) Tribal welfare
- b) Widow development
- c) Skill development hubs
- d) Space exploration

ANS: A

Explanation: GOAL (Going Online as Leaders): An initiative for digital empowerment of tribal youth and women through concept of mentor and mentee.

It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Meta (formerly Facebook).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)”:

1. NSTFDC was set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. It works for the socio-economic and educational up-liftment of Scheduled Tribes (STs) through better self-employment avenues.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC): NSTFDC was set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- It works for the socio-economic and educational upliftment of Scheduled Tribes (STs) through better self-employment avenues.
- It devises and implements financial assistance schemes exclusively for the tribal.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “NISHTHA portal” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Teacher training
- b) Rehabilitation of destitute children
- c) Employment portal
- d) Skill training for rural youth

ANS: A

Explanation: NISHTHA portal: Help teachers in training for digital delivery of classes so that the learning outcomes of students could be improved.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Tele-MANAS” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Mental health
- b) Online education
- c) Disaster management
- d) Government to government business

ANS: A

Explanation: Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking across States (Tele-MANAS): An initiative to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country 24x7, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “MISHTI” programme is often seen in news related to?

- a) Mangroves
- b) Wetlands
- c) Coral reefs
- d) Tiger reserves

ANS: A

Explanation: MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes): The Union Budget for 2023-24 announced an initiative for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, under MISHTI.

Source: FORUMIAS

Government Schemes

Q.1) The “Platform of Platforms (POP)” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Agriculture marketing
- b) Stock market
- c) Municipality bonds
- d) Angel Investors

ANS: A

Explanation: The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) on the sidelines of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers’ Conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- With the introduction of POP, farmers will be facilitated to sell the produce outside their state borders.
- This will increase farmers’ digital access to multiple markets, buyers and service providers and bring transparency in business transactions with the aim of improving price search mechanism and quality commensurate price realization.
- 41 service providers from different platforms are covered under POP facilitating various value chain services like trading, quality checks, warehousing, fintech, market information, transportation etc.
- The PoP will create a digital ecosystem, which will benefit from the expertise of different platforms in different segments of the agricultural value chain.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “PRANA portal” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Air pollution
- b) Sustainable agriculture
- c) Primary healthcare
- d) Heavy metals pollution

ANS: A

Explanation: Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities (PRANA). It is a portal for monitoring of implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The term “MIIRA” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Millets
- b) Maize
- c) Paddy
- d) Mangroves

ANS: A

Explanation: Millet International Initiative for Research and Awareness (MIIRA): India is planning to propose the launch of a global initiative to encourage the consumption and production of millets.

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

MIIRA is in line with the UN declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the proposal for which was moved by India and supported by 72 countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are provision/s of “National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013”?

1. The Act entitles 35 kg of food grains per AAY Household per month.
2. Meal and maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women.
3. Meals for children up to 14 years of age.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The NFSA, 2013 aims to provide for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

- The Act entitles 35 kg of food grains per AAY Household per month, whereas 5 Kg of foodgrain per PHH Person per month.
- These 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month will be given at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
- Meal and maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and 6 months after the child birth.
- Meals for children up to 14 years of age.
- Eldest woman of the beneficiary household (18 years or above) is considered as ‘Head of Family’ for issuing ration cards.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Grey water is defined as wastewater that is produced from household processes.
2. Grey water can contain harmful bacteria and even fecal matter that contaminates soil and groundwater.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: A grey water management system has been successfully implemented in Tamil Nadu as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase II campaign.

- Grey water – Grey water is defined as wastewater that is produced from household processes (e.g. washing dishes, laundry and bathing).

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

- Grey water can contain harmful bacteria and even faecal matter that contaminates soil and groundwater.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The term “DHARA” is often seen in news related to?

- Urban rivers
- Ground water pollution
- Ponds near coasts
- Ox bow lakes

ANS: A

Explanation: Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers (DHARA) Conference was organized recently in Pune.

- It is an annual meeting of the members of the River Cities Alliance (RCA).
- A platform to discuss solutions on managing local water resources.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Mission Innovation (MI)”:

1. It is the inter-governmental platform addressing clean energy innovation through action-oriented cooperation.
2. India is a member of Mission Innovation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Mission Innovation (MI): It is the inter-governmental platform addressing clean energy innovation through action-oriented cooperation.

- It is a global initiative catalysing a decade of action and investment in research, development and demonstration to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all.
- This will accelerate progress towards the Paris Agreement goals and pathways to net zero.
- Mission Innovation is a global initiative of 22 countries and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union). India is a member of Mission Innovation.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Lakhpati Didi initiative” is often seen in news related to?

- Ayushman Bharat scheme
- Self Help Groups
- Financial inclusion
- Zero budget farming

ANS: B

Explanation: The Ministry of Rural Development has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Ayush to collaborate in making Lakhpati Didis from the SHGs.

Initiative on creating Lakhpati Didis (women with annual earnings of Rs. 1 lakh and more).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “project – NIPUN” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Skill development
- b) Teacher training
- c) Renewable energy
- d) Organic farming

ANS: A

Explanation: Recently, the National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) – a project for skill training of construction workers – was launched.

- It is an innovative project for skill training of construction workers.
- To train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and up-skilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary, undulating hills of Aravali, supporting the dry deciduous forests of North Gujarat, provide an unimaginable beautiful ambience to Balaram-Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary.

- The sanctuary derives its name from two historical temples- Balaram and Ambaji, situated at the opposite corners of the sanctuary.
- This picturesque area was constituted as a Wildlife Sanctuary by Government of Gujarat on 7th August' 1989 for the purpose of protection, propagation and development of wildlife and its environment.

Source: FORUMIAS

Government Schemes

Q.1) The “Niryat portal” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Foreign trade
- b) Skill development
- c) SME's rationalization
- d) Digital education

ANS: A

Explanation: Prime Minister launched a new portal – NIRYAT which is developed as a one stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT) Portal: portal that is committed to analyze India's imports and exports in a comprehensive manner.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “BIND scheme” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Infrastructure development of Prasar Bharati
- b) Primary health care development
- c) School education
- d) Vocational education with industry connect

ANS: A

Explanation: Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND): A scheme for infrastructure development of Prasar Bharati—All India Radio (AIR) and Door darshan (DD).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements National Pension System (NPS):

1. It was introduced in 2009.
2. It applicable to Armed forces also.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: National Pension System (NPS): The Central Government has introduced the National Pension System in 2004 (except for armed forces).

- NPS was made available to all Citizens of India from 2009. NPS is based on a unique individual pension account viz.
- Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) created for each subscriber.

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

- A citizen of India aged between 18-70 years can join NPS either in their individual capacity or in association with their Employer.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following institution is the pension regulator in India?

- SEBI
- NPS
- IRDA
- PFRDA

ANS: D

Explanation: PFRDA, which is the pension regulator, operates the National Pension System (NPS). National Pension System Trust (NPST) established by PFRDA is the registered owner of all assets under NPS.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)”:

1. It is a pan-India searchable database of crime and criminal-related fingerprints.
2. It is developed by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: India has inaugurated a National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS): A pan-India searchable database of crime and criminal-related fingerprints. NAFIS is developed by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme”:

1. It is a voluntary contributory pension scheme for the workers of the unorganized sector.
2. The age criteria for the scheme are 18 – 40.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme: A 50:50 voluntary contributory pension scheme for the workers of the unorganized sector for their old age protection and social security.

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

- The un-organized workers mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, etc whose monthly income is up to Rs 15,000/ per month.
- These workers must also belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Udyami Bharat Programme” is recently seen in news related to?

- MSME
- Bullet trains
- Hydrogen fuel vehicles
- Hybrid vehicles

ANS: A

Explanation: The Prime Minister participated in the ‘Udyami Bharat’ programme at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

It is a reflective of the continuous commitment of the government, right from day one, to work towards empowerment of MSMEs.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Self-Reliant India Fund” is recently seen in news related to?

- MSME sector
- Telecom sector
- Education sector
- Agriculture sector

ANS: A

Explanation: The Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund is an MSME fund that would be able to channelize diverse variety of funds into underserved MSMEs and address the growth needs of viable and high growth MSMEs.

Structure - The SRI Fund is a SEBI-registered Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)” scheme is often seen in news, sponsored by?

- IMF
- ADB
- AIIB
- World Bank

ANS: D

Explanation: Government has launched a World Bank supported Central Sector Scheme called Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP).

Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP): A new scheme for addressing the generic and COVID related challenges in the MSME sector.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Nameri tiger reserve” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: A

Explanation: The Nameri Tiger Reserve (NTR) is situated in the northern part of the Sonitpur district of Assam, along the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh.

- The habitat is biologically rich and is famous for the white winged wood duck. The Nameri National Park constitutes the core of NTR, which is bound by rivers, viz. Jia-Bhoreli in the west and Bor-Dikorai in the east.
- The Pakke Tiger Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh is on the North and the habitat is contiguous.
- The reserve is one of the important conservation areas on the north bank landscape of the River Brahmaputra.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) The “Windsor Framework” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Japan
- b) France
- c) Russia
- d) Ireland

ANS: D

Explanation: Windsor framework will replace the Northern Ireland Protocol, which had proved to be among the thorniest of Brexit fall-outs, creating problems both economic and political.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The term “Uyghurs” is often seen in news related to?

- a) China
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Armenia
- d) Japan

ANS: A

Explanation: China has vehemently rejected the United Nations Human Rights Office report on human rights violations in the northwestern Xinjiang region.

- Xinjiang- Located in the northwest China, Xinjiang covers one-sixth of China’s territory. It is officially known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).
- Uyghurs- the Uyghurs are mostly Muslims and they speak their own language which is similar to Turkish.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following was earlier known as “formosa”?

- a) China
- b) Taiwan
- c) Korea peninsula
- d) Japan

ANS: B

Explanation: The Taiwan is located in the East China Sea to the northeast of Hong Kong, north of the Philippines and south of South Korea, and southwest of Japan.

- Taiwan earlier known as Formosa is a tiny island off the east coast of China.
- Taiwan observes October 10 “double 10” as its national day and the Republic of China was declared on December 29 1911.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “Muhasasa system” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Iran
- b) Israel
- c) Iraq
- d) Bangladesh

ANS: C

Explanation: The Muhasasa (apportionment) system is the heart of the political system in Iraq.

- This system was transferred to the country during the occupation by the US in 2003.
- According to the Muhasasa system, post the elections, Iraq’s political order will function on a “spoils” basis, with offices being shared among Shia, Sunni and Kurdish political groups.
- This system has played a key role in making sure that the effective power has remained with the tight coalition of Shia parties and the remaining influence being shared with Sunni and Kurd communities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Fergana region” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) European Union
- b) Northern Africa
- c) Central Asia
- d) Central America

ANS: C

Explanation: The heavy clashes on the Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border have turned the world’s eyes to the border issues in the Central Asia that could not be completely solved for the last 31 years.

The region, Fergana, is divided between Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan without taking into account the ethnic structure and culture of the inhabitants.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The term “Gilts” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Bonds
- b) Spices
- c) Sea gulls
- d) Pristine species

ANS: A

Explanation: Gilts are bonds that are issued by the British government and generally considered low-risk equivalent to U.S. Treasury securities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Nord Stream pipeline” linking Russia and Europe located in?

- a) English Channel
- b) Baltic Sea
- c) North Sea
- d) Black Sea

ANS: B

Explanation: Nord Stream Pipeline owned by the Russian energy giant, Gazprom, Nord Stream Pipeline is the longest subsea pipeline.

- It is an export gas pipeline that runs under the Baltic Sea carrying gas from Russia to Europe.
- The gas for Nord Stream comes mainly from the Bovanenkovo oil and gas condensate deposit in Western Siberia.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Cambridge Analytica lawsuit” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Apple
- d) Volkswagen

ANS: B

Explanation: Cambridge Analytica lawsuit is primarily about the Facebook’s role in the 2016 U.S. election.

- A probe revealed that a London-based data analytics firm, Cambridge Analytica, misused data from as many as 50 million Facebook users.
- The firm collected the personal data of many users without their consent to build psychographic profiles of voters.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Mandhan Yojana”:

1. It is a central sector and pension scheme.
2. It is eligible for only small and marginal farmers who own less than 2 hectares of land.

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: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Mandhan Yojana is a new central sector and pension scheme.

- It is eligible for only small and marginal farmers who own less than 2 hectares of land (While PM-KISAN is for all farmers).
- Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed monthly pension of Rs.3,000 is provided on attaining the age of 60 years.

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

- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of 18 to 40 years.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: D

Explanation: The Mukundra Tiger Reserve (TR) is located near Kota, Rajasthan.

- The park is situated in a valley formed by two parallel mountains viz. Mukundra and Gargola.
- The 4 rivers (Ramzan, Ahu, Kali and Chambal) form the boundary of the valley.
- It is located on the eastern bank of the Chambal River and is drained by its tributaries.

Source: FORUMIAS