

ForumIAS

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# Prelims Marathon

2<sup>nd</sup> week May, 2024

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*HISTORY*  
*ECONOMICS*  
*POLITY*  
*SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*  
*GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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## Prelims Marathon Compilation May [Second Week] 2024

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## International Organizations

**Q.1) Which of the following is/are appointed by “United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)”?**

1. Secretary General of UN
2. Non-Permanent members in Security Council
3. Judges to International Court of Justice

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** UNGA is the main deliberative organ and composed of all member states, each of which has one vote.

- UNGA appoints Secretary General of UN based on the recommendations of UNSC.
- It elects non-Permanent members in Security Council and Members for Social and Economic Council.
- Along with Security Council, it elects Judges to International Court of Justice (ICJ).

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.2) The “Uniting for Peace” initiative is related to which of the following?**

- a) UNGA
- b) ICJ
- c) UN ECOSOC
- d) UNSC

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In 1950, UNGA initiated “Uniting for Peace” resolution which states that if UNSC fails to exercise its primary responsibility” for maintaining international peace and security, UNGA should take up the matter itself and urge collective action.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. UN General Assembly decisions are binding on its members.
2. UNGA has the power to censure states for violating UN Charter principles.

**Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** UNGA has the power to censure states for violating UN Charter principles.

Unlike resolutions of the UN Security Council (UNSC), resolutions of the UNGA are not legally binding.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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**Q.4) The “General Comment No. 26” is often seen in news related to?**

- a) Child rights
- b) Terrorism
- c) Cyber threats
- d) Climate justice

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** General Comment No. 26 specifies that States are responsible not only for protecting children’s rights from immediate harm, but also for foreseeable violations of their rights in the future due to States’ acts — or failure to act — today.

- Furthermore, it underlines that States can be held accountable not only for environmental harm occurring within their borders, but also for the harmful impacts of environmental damage and climate change beyond their borders.
- Particular attention is to be paid to disproportionate harm faced by children in disadvantaged situations.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.5) The “Article 99 of the UN Charter” is often seen in news related to which of the following?**

- a) International peace and security
- b) Weapons of Mass Destruction
- c) Nuclear non proliferation
- d) Sustainable development goals

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Gaza war- Amid Israel’s ongoing military attacks on the Gaza Strip, UN has invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter in a bid to establish a ceasefire.

- It is seen as a discretionary power of the Secretary General.
- Article 99 - The Secretary General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.6) The famous “Razali Reform Plan” is associated with which of the following?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Razali Reform Plan: The plan was proposed by the then UNGA president Ismail Razali in 1997 to enlarge the UNSC from its present 15 members to 24 members.

Under the plan, the UNSC would have 5 new permanent members without veto powers, and 4 more non-permanent members.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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**Q.7) Which of the following is/are member/s of “Coffee Club”?**

1. Italy
2. India
3. Spain

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Uniting for Consensus (Coffee Club): These are group of countries who are opposing the expansion of permanent seats in the UNSC under the leadership of Italy.

Members - Italy, Spain, Malta, San Marino, Pakistan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia & Turkey.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.8) Which of the following country/countries co – chair the “Group of Friends” initiative of India?**

1. Bangladesh
2. Nepal
3. Egypt

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Group of Friends will act as a platform to promote accountability for all acts of violence against the United Nations peacekeepers by facilitating support to the host state, creating awareness, exchanging information, sharing best practices, supporting initiatives, and mobilizing resources.

Bangladesh, Egypt, France, India, Morocco and Nepal have joined the group as co-chairs to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “UN Economic and Social Council”:**

1. It coordinates the activities of UN and intergovernmental level work of UN Specialized Agencies.
2. It has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for a 3-year term.

**Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** UN Economic and Social Council is the UN’s central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

- It coordinates the activities of UN and intergovernmental level work of UN Specialized Agencies.

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- It has 54 members, which are elected by the General Assembly for a 3-year term.
- Seats in the council are allocated based on geographical representation.

Source: FORUMIAS

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “UN Statistical Commission”:**

1. India recently elected to UN Statistical Commission for a 4-year period beginning January 1, 2024.
2. The Commission consists of 24 member countries of the United Nations elected by ECOSOC on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution.

**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:** UN Statistical Commission - India was recently elected to UN Statistical Commission for a 4-year period beginning January 1, 2024.

- UN Statistical Commission is the highest body of the global statistical system established in 1947, as ECOSOC’s Functional Commission.
- The Statistical Commission oversees the work of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
- The Commission consists of 24 member countries of the United Nations elected by ECOSOC on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution for 4 years term.

Source: FORUMIAS

## International Organizations – II

**Q.1) Which of the following international organization is seated at the Peace Palace?**

- a) WTO
- b) ICJ
- c) IMF
- d) UNEP

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is also called as the “World Court”.

- It is seated at the Peace Palace, Hague, Netherlands. It is the only principal organ of UN to be not located in New York.
- It settles legal disputes between states and gives advisory opinions to the UN and its specialized agencies.
- It hears cases related to war crimes, illegal state interference, ethnic cleansing, and other issues.

Source: FORUMIAS

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### Q.2) Which of the following is/are aim/s of World Bank?

1. End extreme poverty by reducing share of global population that lives in extreme poverty to 3% by 2030.
2. Promote shared prosperity by increasing the incomes of the poorest 40% of people in every country.
3. Provide sustainable development.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The aim of World Bank is to

- End extreme poverty by reducing share of global population that lives in extreme poverty to 3% by 2030.
- Promote shared prosperity by increasing the incomes of the poorest 40% of people in every country.
- Provide sustainable development.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

### Q.3) The “Clean Air Initiative (CAI)” is often seen in news implemented by?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNDP
- c) World Bank
- d) WMO

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Clean Air Initiative (CAI) - It is a World Bank initiative to advance innovative ways to improve air quality in cities through partnerships in selected regions of the world by sharing knowledge and experiences.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

### Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “International Bank for Reconstruction & Development”:

1. It is the largest development bank in the world.
2. It acquires most of its capital by borrowing on international capital markets through bond issues.

### 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:** IBRD is a global development cooperative owned by 189-member countries and it is the largest development bank in the world.

- It is headquartered in Washington, D.C. It was established in 1944 to finance the reconstruction of European nations devastated by World War II.
- The Bank's members governments are shareholders which contribute paidin capital and have the right to vote on its matters.

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- In addition to these contributions, the IBRD acquires most of its capital by borrowing on international capital markets through bond issues.

Source: FORUMIAS

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “World Health Organization”:**

1. World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of World Health Organization.
2. The members of the WHA generally meet every year in Geneva.

**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:** WHO is the first global health organization with the authority of directing and coordinating matters related to international health.

- It has 194-member countries, and its secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland. World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of WHO, attended by delegations from all member states.
- It is the world’s highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states.
- The Executive Board of WHO implements the decisions and policies of the World Health Assembly. The members of the WHA generally meet every year in Geneva.

Source: FORUMIAS

**Q.6) Which of the following convention/s is/are came into place before the formation of “World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)”?**

1. Marrakesh Treaty
2. Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
3. Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** WIPO’s predecessor was the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIPRI) that administered 2 conventions - Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. BIRPI is thus transformed to become WIPO.

- WIPO administers 26 treaties including the WIPO Convention.
- Marrakesh Treaty (2013) of WIPO - Facilitates access to published works for blind, visually impaired and print disabled. India was the first country to sign this treaty.

Source: FORUMIAS



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**Q.7) Which of the following is/are monitor by the “World Meteorological Organization”?**

1. Transport of chemicals
2. Nuclear isotopes
3. Forest fires

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** WMO was created in 1950 as an intergovernmental organization. It became a specialized agency of the United Nations, in 1951, for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

- It has fostered collaboration between the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of its Members and furthered the application of meteorology in many areas.
- Through its members, WMO provides forecasts and early warnings to nations, which help prevent and mitigate disasters.
- WMO monitors and forecast the transport of chemical and oil spills, forest fires, volcanic ash, haze and nuclear isotopes.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)”:**

1. It is one of the specialized agencies of United Nations.
2. It prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports on climate change.

**Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988.

- IPCC, a body of climate experts, is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- The IPCC does not undertake scientific assessments but only evaluates the state of scientific evidence on various aspects of climate change.
- It prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports on climate change and Special Reports.
- IPCC’s 6th assessment cycle (AR6) began in 2015 and culminated with the release of Synthesis Report (SR) in 2023.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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**Q.9) Which of the following creative field/s is/are covered under the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN)?**

1. Gastronomy
2. Films
3. Design

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) was launched in 2004 to foster mutual international cooperation with and between member cities committed to investing in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy.

- The Network recognizes 7 creative fields - Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.
- UNESCO has published the new list of 55 creative cities on World Cities Day (Oct 31st), in which 2 Indian cities Kozhikode and Gwalior were included.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) The famous “Lima Declaration” is associated with which of the following?**

- a) Industrial development
- b) Vaccine development
- c) Primary health
- d) Renewable energy

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** According to Lima Declaration (2013), UNIDO’s mission is to promote Inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in member states.

## Bilateral and Regional Groupings

**Q.1) The G - 20 international forum (group) was established after which of the following crisis?**

- a) Great Depression
- b) Oil crisis
- c) Asian financial crisis
- d) Subprime lending crisis

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** G20 is an international forum that brings together the world's leading industrialized and emerging economies.

Launch- Established in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a regular forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “G – 20 Group”:**

1. It does not have permanent secretariat.
2. Every year, the host country chooses other guests.

**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 G – 20 group does not have permanent secretariat.

- Presidency - The President is chosen by a rotation system amongst the member countries.
- Troika- It comprises of past, present, and future presidents. Troika 2023 includes Indonesia, India, and Brazil.
- Guest- Every year, the host country chooses other guests. Spain always participates in the G20 summits.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)”:**

1. It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) in 2010.
2. SAARC Development Fund was created by SAARC member states in 2010 to promote welfare of the people of SAARC region.

**Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia.

- Members - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) in 2006.
- SAARC Development Fund - It was created by SAARC member states in 2010 to promote welfare of the people of SAARC region, improve their quality of life, and accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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**Q.4) Which of the following is/are not member country/countries of “Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?**

1. Bhutan
2. Nepal
3. Singapore

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** BIMSTEC – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. It is a regional organization group of littoral countries encircling the Bay of Bengal with own flag and emblem. Members – 7 members (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand).

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “BRICS”:**

1. South Africa was joined the group in 2006.
2. In Fortaleza declaration, New Development Bank was created in 2015.

**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:** BRICS originally conceived as BRIC by Jim O'Neill, the grouping consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

- It was launched by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2006.
- BRIC turned into BRICS in 2010, with the entry of South Africa.
- In Fortaleza declaration, New Development Bank was created in 2015 worth 100bn dollars.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are member countries of the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)”?**

1. Kazakhstan
2. Iran
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:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organization which was founded by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

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Current member states (9) - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran (latest addition).

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.7) The “Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)” is often seen in news related to?**

- a) UNSC
- b) East European Economic Forum
- c) SCO
- d) NATO

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.8) Which of the following is not a member of “BASIC group”?**

- a) Brazil
- b) India
- c) Spain
- d) China

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The BASIC group was formed as the result of an agreement signed by the 4 countries (Brazil, South Africa, India, & China) in 2009.

- The signatories committed to act together at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as the Copenhagen Summit.
- BASIC is one of several groups of nations working together to fight climate change and carry out negotiations within the UNFCCC.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.9) Which of the following country is not part of “West Asian Quad”?**

- a) India
- b) Israel
- c) Iran
- d) USA

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** I2U2 is also called as the “West Asian Quad” & comprises of India, Israel, the U.S., and the UAE.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “QUAD grouping”:**

1. It was formed in 2017.
2. The Quad leaders held their first formal summit in 2021.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Quadrilateral Group consisting of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. was formed in 2017.

- It aims to strengthen the defense and security cooperation amongst the four countries.
- The idea was originally conceived in 2007 by the former Japan’s Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe.
- It has a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- The Quad leaders held their first formal summit in 2021.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

## Regional Groupings and International Organizations

**Q.1) Which of the following is NOT a member of “AUKUS group”?**

- a) Austria
- b) United Kingdom
- c) United States
- d) Australia

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In September 2021, leaders of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced the creation of an enhanced trilateral security partnership called "AUKUS."

- It is intended to strengthen the ability of each government to support security and defense interests, building on longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties.
- It will promote deeper information sharing and technology sharing; and foster deeper integration of security.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.2) The term “SIGINT” is often seen in news associated with which of the following?**

- a) SCO
- b) Five Eyes Alliance
- c) NATO
- d) INTERPOL

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Five Eyes members use communications methods, including signals intelligence (SIGINT), to monitor the citizens of other member countries.

SIGINT is intelligence derived from electronic signals and systems used by foreign targets, such as communications systems, radars, and weapons systems that provide a vital window for our nation into foreign adversaries' capabilities, actions, and intentions.

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Source: FORUMIAS

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are member countries of “Tashkent Treaty”?**

1. Turkmenistan
2. Tajikistan
3. Uzbekistan

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** When the Cold War drew to a close in 1991, the Warsaw Pact, an alliance of 8 socialist states dissolved.

- Less than a year later, Russia and five of its allies in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was a loose club of post-Soviet countries, signed a new Collective Security Treaty, which came into force in 1994.
- In 2002, as Central Asia loomed larger in geopolitics, it declared itself the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a fullblown intergovernmental military alliance. Also known as the “Tashkent Pact” or “Tashkent Treaty”.
- It has 6 members - Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. Uzbekistan had quit the alliance in 2012.

Source: FORUMIAS

**Q.4) The term “Membership Action Plan (MAP)” is often seen in news associated with?**

- a) SCO
- b) Five Eyes Alliance
- c) NATO
- d) INTERPOL

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Process to secure NATO Membership: Article 10 of the treaty provides for entry of a new member to accede to the treaty by unanimous agreement of the existing members.

- Once the member countries of the NATO have established consensus about a country’s potential membership, it is called upon to initiate accession talks with the alliance.
- MAP - Following this, they may be invited to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP). Reaching this stage does not secure membership.
- It is a preparatory mechanism providing advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the specific needs of applicant countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

## Prelims Marathon Compilation May [Second Week] 2024

**Q.5) Which of the following is NOT part of “NATO Plus” countries?**

- a) Philippines
- b) Australia
- c) Israel
- d) Japan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** NATO Plus: It is a security arrangement that brings together the grouping of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and 5 countries - Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and Israel.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Bucharest Nine”:**

1. It is a group of 9 NATO countries in Eastern Europe.
2. All members of Bucharest Nine are part of European Union.

**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 “Bucharest Nine” or “Bucharest Format” or “B9” was founded in 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

- It is a group of 9 NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the NATO after the end of the Cold War.
- It is also regarded as the “Voice of the Eastern Flank” in the NATO alliance.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.7) The “Gender Equality Advisory Council” is recently seen in news associated with?**

- a) G - 20
- b) G - 7
- c) G - 4
- d) G - 69

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** G7 Grouping is an intergovernmental economic group consisting of 7 largest IMF advanced economies such as Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US.

- EU is also represented within the G7 as an invitee. Formerly called G8 with Russia in it, but due to Crimean crisis, Russia was ejected from the group.
- For the first time in the last 44 years, Gender Equality Advisory Council was set up to convince private sector companies to set up such council and eradicate the problem of gender inequality from the root.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



## Prelims Marathon Compilation May [Second Week] 2024

**Q.8) Which of the following is/are member countries of G - 11 group?**

1. India
2. Israel
3. South Korea

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** G11 will be the expansion of the G7 grouping which will include G7 countries, India, Australia, South Korea, and Russia.

G7 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.9) The “treaty of Lisbon” is often seen in news related to?**

- a) EU
- b) NATO
- c) SCO
- d) ASEAN

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The latest major amendment to the constitutional basis of the EU, the Treaty of Lisbon, came into force in 2009. The Lisbon Treaty contains a clause under Article 50, providing for a member to leave the EU.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) Which of the following organization established through “Lagos Treaty”?**

- a) EU
- b) NATO
- c) ASEAN
- d) ECOWAS

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional group of 15 founded in 1975.

It was established through the Lagos Treaty.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

## International Relations

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI):**

1. Initiative started by UN Security Council.
2. Its aim is to strengthen global security by reducing the risk of use and preventing the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

**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 Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a mission to strengthen global security by reducing the risk of use and preventing the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and to work to build trust, transparency, and security.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.2) In 2001, 'Shanghai-5' was renamed as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Which among the following country was/were not part of Shanghai-5?**

1. Uzbekistan
2. India
3. Tajikistan
4. Kazakhstan

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1 and 4 only

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Shanghai-5 consists of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, and emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China. Since 1996, when the group held its first presidential summit meeting in Shanghai, the five-country group has held annual summits ever since.

In 2001, Uzbekistan joined the grouping and it was renamed as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). In July 2015 in Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members.

Observer states of SCO are Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.3) Which of the following country is NOT part of Gulf Cooperation Council?**

- a) Iran
- b) Bahrain
- c) Oman
- d) Qatar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional political and economic alliance of 6 Gulf States i.e., Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

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Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Which of the following are members of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?**

- a) Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- b) Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Singapore
- c) Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives
- d) Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Myanmar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand. Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Following the inclusion of Myanmar on 22 December 1997 during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Group was renamed 'BIMST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan at the 6th Ministerial Meeting (February 2004, Thailand), the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) Global Social Mobility Index is released by which of the following International Institution?**

- a) UNO
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) WTO
- d) UNESCO

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a new Social Mobility Index compiled by the World Economic Forum, while Denmark has topped the charts. The report, released ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF, also lists India among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score that seeks to measure parameters necessary for creating societies where every person has the same opportunity to fulfil his potential in life irrespective of socioeconomic background. Increasing social mobility, a key driver of income inequality, by 10% would benefit social cohesion and boost the world's economies by nearly 5% by 2030, the WEF said.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) "Oslo Peace Accord" often seen in news is between which of the following countries?**

- a) USA and Russia
- b) Ukraine and Russia
- c) North Korea and South Korea
- d) Israel and the Palestine

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Oslo Accords are a series of agreements signed between the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the 1990s. The accord meant to effectively bring the Israeli-

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Palestinian conflict to its end by means of territorial concessions and facilitating the creation of the Palestinian Authority.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to Arctic Council:**

1. Russia, Canada and United Kingdom and USA are the members of Arctic Council
2. It is a formalized treaty-based international legal entity and does allocate resources for its functioning.
3. It was established by the Ottawa Declaration.

**How many of the above given statement is/are correct?**

- a) Only One statement
- b) Only two statements
- c) All Three Statements
- d) Neither of three statements

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Arctic council was established by the eight Arctic States through the Ottawa Declaration of 1996. These are— Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. It is not a formalized treaty-based international legal entity and does not allocate resources. Six organizations representing the indigenous people of the Arctic region have also been granted the status of permanent participants in the Council. It is one of the leading intergovernmental forums, for discussing issues concerning the Arctic region, including scientific research, and peaceful and sustainable use of resources in the region.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC):**

1. It is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations
2. The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world

**Which of the following below given codes are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations, established in 1969 with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. Its administrative headquarter is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union. It endeavors 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.

**Source: ForumIAS**

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**Q.9) "Bishkek Declaration" is related to which of the following Organization?**

- a) WTO
- b) UNCTAD
- c) SCO
- d) APEC

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** India and other members of the SCO condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and called on the international community to promote cooperation in combating the menace. According to the Bishkek Declaration of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Heads of State Council, the member states stressed that acts of terrorism and extremism cannot be justified.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.10) "Marrakesh Treaty" is related to which of the following Organization?**

- a) IMF
- b) World Bank
- c) WTO
- d) UNCTAD

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** WTO i.e. World Trade Organization was set up under Marrakesh Treaty (1994) as a result of Uruguay Round (1986-1994). WTO as an organization was expected to play larger role for improved living standards, employment generation, trade expansion with increasing share for developing countries and overall sustainable development. Trade liberalization was seen as means for achieving the above-mentioned objectives.

**Source: ForumIAS**

## International relations

**Q.1) Which of the following country plans to gift orangutans to trade partners who purchase its palm oil?**

- a) China
- b) Malaysia
- c) Thailand
- d) Indonesia

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Animals symbolize values and enhance diplomatic relationships, as seen in historical and modern examples.

- China used giant pandas effectively in "panda diplomacy" to improve international relations and showcase goodwill.
- Malaysia intends to use orangutans as gifts to trade partners who purchase palm oil, aiming to counteract negative perceptions about environmental sustainability.
- Malaysia's use of orangutans could be seen as ironic since orangutans are endangered due to habitat loss from palm oil plantation expansion, the very industry Malaysia seeks to promote.

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- Similar strategies, like China's panda diplomacy, have faced challenges. For instance, the poor health of pandas in American zoos led to a campaign in China calling for their return, showing that using animals in diplomacy can lead to unintended diplomatic strains.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.2) With Respect to OECD's [Base Erosion and Profit Shifting \(BEPS\) programme](#), consider the following statements:**

1. The OECD's [Base Erosion and Profit Shifting \(BEPS\) programme](#) aimed to curb the use of low-tax jurisdictions for tax avoidance.
2. Principal Purpose Test (PPT) allows Indian tax authorities to deny treaty benefits if the principal purpose of a transaction or arrangement is to obtain those benefits.

**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 OECD's [Base Erosion and Profit Shifting \(BEPS\) programme](#) aimed to curb the use of low-tax jurisdictions for tax avoidance.

- One of the key BEPS reforms was the Multilateral Instrument (MLI). It allowed countries to amend tax treaties to include provisions like the Principal Purpose Test (PPT) to prevent treaty abuse and treaty shopping.
- Introduction of Principal Purpose Test (PPT), designed to deny treaty benefits. The amendment allows Indian tax authorities to deny treaty benefits if the principal purpose of a transaction or arrangement is to obtain those benefits.
- Assessment beyond Residency Certificates: Amendments empower tax authorities to scrutinize the actual purpose behind transactions, moving beyond mere formal documentation like tax residency certificates.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.3) "B-READY Index", recently seen in news is designed by which of the following organisation?**

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) WTO
- d) UNCTAD

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The B-READY Index is a new metric designed by the World Bank to assess business environments, set to launch in September 2025.

- It aims to replace the now-defunct Ease of Doing Business Index and plans to cover 180 economies.
- This index focuses on broader qualitative assessments, including regulatory quality and environmental considerations.

**Source: ForumIAS**

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**Q.4) The term “Two-state solution”, often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Afghanistan-Taliban
- b) Israel–Palestine
- c) Ukraine-Russia
- d) Iran-Israel

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict proposes to resolve the conflict by establishing two nation states in former Mandatory Palestine. The implementation of a two-state solution would involve the establishment of an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel.

- a) The origin of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is rooted in disputes over land and national identity.
- b) Historical debates challenge myths about Israel’s founding, including that Palestine was an empty land and Zionism equates to Judaism.
- c) Key events shaping the conflict include the wars of 1948, 1956, and 1967, and UN resolutions 242 and 338.
- d) The 1967 war particularly altered the landscape, benefiting Israel and leading to ongoing territorial disputes.
- e) The conflict has been compounded by international diplomatic efforts, shifts in public opinion, and varying narratives from both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about EU’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD):**

- 1. It focuses on corporate responsibility for environmental and human rights issues within supply chains.
- 2. It mandates companies to implement “appropriate measures” for due diligence, which might be insufficient for actual impact mitigation.

**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 CSDDD is a new European Union directive focusing on corporate responsibility for environmental and human rights issues within supply chains.

- The CSDDD demands adherence to international human rights laws and stringent environmental standards, including measures against pollution and deforestation.
- While the CSDDD aims to promote sustainability, the current version is considered watered down, offering potential loopholes and lacking support for developing countries like India in meeting these high standards.

**What are the issues with EU’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)?**

- **Watered-Down Version:** The adopted version of the CSDDD is criticized for being less stringent than the original proposal.
- **Higher Thresholds for Applicability:** It raises the thresholds for industry applicability, potentially excluding smaller businesses from its scope.
- **“Obligation of Means” Clause:** The directive mandates companies to implement “appropriate measures” for due diligence, which might be insufficient for actual impact mitigation.

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- Lack of Support for Developing Countries: It does not adequately address support for firms in developing countries, like those in India, that are expected to meet high sustainability standards.
- Unaddressed External Constraints: The CSDDD overlooks external factual or legal constraints in third countries, which can hinder compliance.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.6) How many of the following statements about Gelephu Mindfulness City project is/are correct?**

1. Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) is a planned carbon-neutral city in Nepal, spanning 1,000 square kilometers.
2. Gelephu's location on a broad plain in a mountainous area leads to high rainfall and flooding during monsoons.
3. It aims to diversify its economy beyond hydropower and tourism, addressing challenges like youth outmigration.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) Only one statement
- b) Only two Statements
- c) All three Statements
- d) Neither of three statements

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** What is the Gelephu Mindfulness City project?

- Nature of the Project: Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) is a planned carbon-neutral city in Bhutan, spanning 1,000 square kilometers.
- Focus Areas: It will concentrate on eco-friendly industries such as IT, education, hotels, and hospitals.
- Economic Necessity: Bhutan aims to diversify its economy beyond hydropower and tourism, addressing challenges like youth outmigration.

What are the challenges faced by the Gelephu Mindfulness City project?

- Geographical Challenges: Gelephu's location on a broad plain in a mountainous area leads to high rainfall and flooding during monsoons.
- Environmental Concerns: The city is situated near wildlife corridors, which requires careful planning to prevent disturbing natural habitats.
- Regional Security: Past insurgencies in nearby Assam and Myanmar, and a history of militant activities in the area, highlight security challenges.
- Infrastructure Dependencies: As a landlocked area, Gelephu is dependent on neighboring countries, mainly India, for essential infrastructure like trade and transport.
- Economic Constraints: The project requires significant investment for infrastructure development, including upgrading the local airport to international standards.
- Political Dynamics: The initiative is influenced by Bhutan's economic needs and geopolitical factors, including relationships with India and China.

**Source: ForumIAS**



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**Q.7) Consider the following statements about The International Energy Agency (IEA):**

1. IEA works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 30 member countries and beyond.
2. India is a Full Member to IEA.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** India requested to join the International Energy Agency (IEA) as a full member. This discussion started during IEA's 50th anniversary.

India would be the first non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) country to join, reflecting the changing global energy landscape.

**About IEA:**

The International Energy Agency (IEA) works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 30 member countries and beyond. Founded in 1974, the IEA's role was to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions to oil supply primarily through the release of emergency oil stocks onto the markets. While this continues to be a key aspect of its work, the IEA has evolved and expanded.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.8) India has recently inaugurated an airstrip and the St James Jetty on North Agaléga Island in the Indian Ocean. Agaléga Island is situated in which of the following country?**

- a) Maldives
- b) Madagascar
- c) Srilanka
- d) Mauritius

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Agaléga are two outer islands of Mauritius located in the Indian Ocean, about 1,000 kilometers (about 621.37 mi) north of Mauritius island.

Surrounded by the Seychelles to the north, the Maldives, the US base Diego Garcia and Chagos Island to the east, and Madagascar, the Mozambique Channel, and the entire eastern coast of Africa to the west, its strategic location makes it vulnerable to terrorism, piracy and the illegal narcotics trade.



**Source: ForumIAS**

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**Q.9) Consider the following statement about Xiaokang border defence villages:**

1. China has built 628 Xiaokang villages along the India-China border.
2. These villages are designed for dual-use, serving both civilian and potential military functions.

**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:** What are Xiaokang border defence villages?

- Construction and Location: China has built 628 Xiaokang villages along the India-China border, including sensitive areas like Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Dual Purpose: These villages are designed for dual-use, serving both civilian and potential military functions.
- Infrastructure: The villages feature substantial buildings, mostly double-storey and spacious, indicating a significant investment.
- Strategic Intent: The placement of these villages along the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC) is seen as a method for China to assert territorial claims.
- Legal Framework: China introduced a law in 2021, effective from January 1, 2022, focusing on the protection and exploitation of its land border areas, which encompasses these border defence villages.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM):**

1. WTO's DSM comprises a binding two-tiered process with a panel and an appellate body (AB).
2. Appellate Body is a permanent judicial body of 7 independent members with compulsory jurisdiction over all WTO members.

**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:** What is WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM)?

- WTO's DSM comprises a binding two-tiered process with a panel and an appellate body (AB).
- The AB hears appeals from the decisions rendered by WTO panels and is a permanent judicial body of 7 independent members with compulsory jurisdiction over all WTO members.

What are The Issues with WTO's DSM?

- Since the end of 2019, this mechanism stands non-functional because the US, which lost several critical disputes before it, has blocked the appointment of new members.
- This has made the WTO toothless. Countries are avoiding complying with the WTO panel rulings.
- At the 12th WTO ministerial meeting, countries resolved to create a fully functioning DSM by 2024. India and several developing countries have rightly demanded the body's restoration.

**Source: ForumIAS**

## Government Schemes

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme:**

1. It is a Central Sector Schemes.
2. It is under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
3. It aims to promote affordable housing for the weaker sections through Credit Linked Subsidy Schemes (CLSS).

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only one statement
- b) Only two statements
- c) All three statements
- d) Neither of the three statements

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: About the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme**

Aspects	Description
About	It was initiated in the 2015 by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
Scheme type	PMAY is a centrally sponsored scheme (Both the Union and the State governments financially contribute to it)
Objective	a) Rehabilitation of slum dwellers with private developers' participation b) Promotion of affordable housing for the weaker sections through Credit Linked Subsidy Schemes (CLSS) c) Providing subsidy for Beneficiary-led Construction (BLC).
Components	1. The scheme has two components: PMAY-Urban and PMAY-Rural, which cater to the urban and rural areas respectively 2. The scheme is being implemented through four verticals a) Beneficiary Linked Construction (BLC): Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement. b) Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS): Promotion of affordable housing for weaker sections through credit subsidy. c) Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP): Creation of houses by both public and private sectors. d) In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR): Rehabilitation of slum dwellers with the participation of private developers using land as a resource.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.2) Which of the following statements about Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme is/are correct?**

- a) The threshold of monthly income for obtaining benefit for rural areas is higher than urban areas.
- b) It is Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- c) It offers up to 25 lakhs in financial aid for treating critical illnesses related to the heart, kidney, liver etc, at government hospitals or institutions with super specialty services.
- d) It is provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Recently, the Delhi High Court has held that the new threshold income to claim benefit under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme is prima facie "extremely low".

Under the new umbrella scheme of RAN, the threshold of monthly income for obtaining benefit is ₹1,571 for rural areas and Rs 1,605 for urban areas. The court is of prima facie view that the threshold limit is extremely low.

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### About Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme

Aspects	Description
About	1. It is provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. 2. It provides one-time financial assistance to poor patients living below State/UT wise threshold poverty line and suffering from life threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, cancer, etc. for treatment at any of Super Specialty Government hospitals/institutes.
Scheme type	Central sector scheme
Components	The Umbrella Scheme of RAN includes three key components as follows: 1. Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN): It offers up to 15 lakhs in financial aid for treating critical illnesses related to the heart, kidney, liver etc, at government hospitals or institutions with super specialty services. 2. Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF): It provides financial assistance up to 15 lakhs for cancer treatment at Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs), Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs), and State Cancer Institutes (SCIs). 3. Financial Assistance for Patients with Rare Diseases: It allocates up to 20 lakhs for treatment of specified rare diseases at government hospitals or institutes equipped with super specialty facilities.

Source: ForumIAS

### Q.3) Prerana Program is related to which of the following sector?

- a) Education
- b) Technology
- c) Transport
- d) Health

ANS: A

**Explanation:** About Prerana Program

- About: Prerana is an experiential and inspirational learning program for students with the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation.
- Launched by: Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India
- Aim: To offer a meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience to all participants and empowering them with leadership qualities.
- Salient Features of the programme:
  - It is a week-long residential program for selected students of class IX to XII.
  - PRERANA started in the pilot phase from January to February 2024 in the Vernacular school at Vadnagar, Mehsana, Gujarat. The 6th batch will start from 15th April 2024.
  - In this phase, the Prerana program has been held for five batches of 20 participants each from five states and one Union Territory.
  - Prerana combines experiential learning with cutting-edge technology, bridging traditional heritage with modern innovation.
  - The curriculum is built around nine core values: Dignity and Humility, Valor and Courage, Hard Work and Dedication, Compassion and Service, Diversity and Unity, Integrity and Purity, Innovation and Curiosity, Faith and Trust, and Freedom and Responsibility.
  - These themes aim to instill a deep respect for India's diverse culture and promote the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family).
  - The day-wise program includes yoga, mindfulness, and meditation, alongside thematic experiential learning and engaging hands-on activities.

Source: ForumIAS

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### Q.4) Consider the following statements about Vibrant Villages Program (VVP):

1. Vibrant Villages Program (VVP) aims to promote traditional craft in Tribal areas.
2. The nodal ministry for the program is Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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:** Vibrant Village Programme

- This is a centrally sponsored scheme introduced in the Union Budget 2022-23, to be continued until 2025-26.
- It aims to enhance the living standards of residents in identified border villages by focusing on their development, improving their quality of life, and addressing outmigration along the northern border.
- Nodal Ministry– Ministry of Home Affairs
- States covered– The scheme will cover the border regions of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Ladakh. A total of 2,962 border villages in five states will be developed under this scheme.
- Vibrant Village Action Plans– The district administration, in collaboration with Gram Panchayats, will formulate Vibrant Village Action Plans. These plans will guarantee full coverage of both Central and state schemes, avoiding any overlap with the [Border Area Development Programme](#).
- Growth centres– The scheme will also develop growth centres on the “hub-and-spoke model”. It will be done through the promotion of social entrepreneurship, empowerment of youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship.
- Significance:
  - a. It will create livelihood opportunities through agriculture, horticulture, tourism, cultural heritage, skill development, and entrepreneurship.
  - b. The program also seeks to enhance road connectivity, housing, rural infrastructure, energy, television, and telecom connectivity in remote areas.

Source: ForumIAS

### Q.5) BhashaNet portal is launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- b) National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)
- c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- d) Both (a) and (b)

ANS: D

**Explanation:** About BhashaNet portal

Aspect	Details
Launched by	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)
Objective	To advance digital inclusion and promoting Universal Acceptance across India.

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Key features	1) Multilingual Support-The portal will provide resources and information in multiple Indian languages, making it accessible to a wider audience. 2) UA Readiness Tools-Developers and businesses can access tools and guidelines to help them assess and improve the UA readiness of their applications and systems. 3) Best Practices and Case Studies-The portal will showcase best practices and case studies from organizations that have successfully implemented UA, serving as a source of inspiration and guidance for others
Significance	1) It will support the cause of Universal Acceptance by providing resources, tools, and information to help developers, businesses, and organizations make their applications and systems Universal Acceptance-compliant. 2) It will bridge the digital divide and ensure that everyone, irrespective of their language or script, can access and benefit from digital services

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) KIRTI Programme is related to which of the following field?**

- a) Defence
- b) Sports
- c) Education
- d) Transport

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** About KIRTI programme

Aspect	Details
Description	i) KIRTI is part of the flagship Central Sector Scheme called <a href="#">Khelo India</a> . ii) It is scouting and training programme to build a culture of sports and also create a cradle of talent that can win India medals at global competitions.
Aim	Scout talent among school-goers between the age of 9 and 18 years
Objective	i) To hunt talent from every nook and corner of the country ii) To use sports as a tool to curb addiction towards drugs and other gadgetry distractions
Concerned Ministry	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Features	i) KIRTI aims to conduct 20 lakh assessments across the country throughout the year to identify talent through notified Talent Assessment Centres. ii) KIRTI is launched across 50 centres in India. Fifty thousand applicants are being assessed in the first phase across 10 sports, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, football and wrestling. iii) KIRTI's athlete-centric programme is conspicuous by its transparent selection methodology based on Information Technology. iv) Data analytics based on Artificial Intelligence is being used to predict the sporting acumen in an aspiring athlete.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7) Which of the following is nodal ministry for PM-SURAJ portal?**

- a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- b) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- c) Ministry of Power
- d) Ministry of Science and Technology

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** About the PM-SURAJ portal

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Nodal ministry– Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1. This portal will provide credit support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections of society.
2. The portal will serve as a one stop point for individuals from marginalized communities to easily apply for and track the status of various loan and credit programs they are eligible for.
3. Credit support will be offered nationwide to eligible individuals through banks, [Non Banking Financial Company](#)-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs), and other organizations.
4. Through this initiative, the Prime Minister approved credit support for one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE):**

1. It aims to reduce snakebite deaths by half by 2030.
2. A Snakebite Helpline number (15400) will be tested in all states.

**Which of the above given statement is/are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: About NAPSE**

- Vision– To reduce snakebite deaths by half by 2030.
  - Mission– To gradually decrease the sickness, death, and related issues in humans caused by snakebites.
  - Key Features of NAPSE
    1. Guide for States:
      - a. It is a guidance document for states to formulate their individual action plans for managing, preventing, and controlling snakebites using the ‘One Health’ approach.
      - b. It aims to systematically reduce the risk of snakebite poisoning by ensuring continuous access to anti-snake venom, building capacity, establishing referral systems, and educating the public.
    2. Role of stakeholders: The NAPSE has selected key stakeholders, supporting stakeholders, and other institutes based on their roles and responsibilities.
      - a. key stakeholders- They will oversee the implementation of activities outlined in the National and State Action Plans for Snakebite Prevention and Control, offering technical and logistical support at all levels. Additionally, they will assist in formalizing State Action Plans.
      - b. Supporting stakeholders will help key stakeholders coordinate and implement various parts of the NAPSE. They will offer technical support for activities aimed at preventing and controlling snakebite poisoning in India across different areas.
      - c. Other stakeholders or institutes will include NGOs in health, wildlife, and veterinary sectors, along with professional associations and international development organizations. They will assist in NAPSE implementation, providing resources and expertise to support stakeholders at the grassroots level.
- Snakebite Helpline number:
- a. A Snakebite Helpline number (15400) will be tested in five states (Puducherry, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Delhi).
  - b. This service will offer quick help, advice, and support to people and communities affected by snakebites, aiming to ensure swift access to medical care and information for the public.

**Source: ForumIAS**

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**Q.9) UNNATI – 2024 is for the development of Industries and generation of employment in which of the following regions?**

- a) North-eastern states
- b) Himalayan States
- c) Tribal States
- d) Island states

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

Aspect	Details
Description	i) Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024) is for the development of Industries and generation of employment in the states of <a href="#">North East Region</a> . ii) It is a central sector scheme.
Objective	To generate gainful employment, leading to the overall socio-economic development.
Concerned Ministry	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Funding	Rs.10,037 crore
Duration	10 years from the date of notification along with 8 years for committed liabilities
Features	i) Commencement of Production or operation: All eligible Industrial Units to commence their production or operation within 4 years from the grant of registration. ii) Districts are categorized in two zones: Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) & Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts) iii) Earmarking of funds: 60% of the outlay of Part A has been earmarked to 8 NE states and 40% on First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis. iv) All new Industrial units and Expanding units would be eligible for the respective incentives.
Benefits	i) It will create productive economic activity in the manufacturing and service sectors. ii) It is anticipated that direct employment opportunities for about 83,000 individuals will be generated during the scheme period, with additional indirect employment.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.10) Which of the statements given below about IndiaAI Mission is/are correct?**

1. The mission aims to create a comprehensive ecosystem, drive AI innovation, and encourage AI use across sectors.
2. The nodal ministry is Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
3. The implementing agency is Digital India Corporation (DIC).

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** During the [Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence \(GPAI\) Summit](#) in 2023 held in New Delhi, the Prime Minister of India declared India's intention to initiate an artificial intelligence (AI) mission.

**Aim-** The mission aims to create a comprehensive ecosystem, drive AI innovation, and encourage AI use across sectors. It prioritizes skill development and socio-economic change, in line with the vision of 'Making AI in India' and 'Making AI Work for India'.

**Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**Implementing Agency:** 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC).

**Source: ForumIAS**