

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

May, 2024

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS



Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

INDEX

Awareness in the field of Nano-technology, Biotechnology and related issues of IPR policies – 2024	2
Other Technological developments in Science	7
Other Technological developments in Science	13
Other technological developments in Science	17
Revision.....	21
Bilateral Relations	25
Bilateral Relations – II.....	28
International Organizations.....	32
International Organizations – II	35
Bilateral and Regional Groupings	39
Regional Groupings and International Organizations	43
International Relations.....	47
International relations	50
Government Schemes.....	56
Government Schemes – II	62
Government Schemes – III.....	65
Government Schemes – IV	69
Government Schemes.....	73
Revision.....	76
Government Schemes – Miscellaneous.....	80
Miscellaneous.....	84
Social Issues.....	88
Social Issues – II	92
Social Issues – III.....	96
Social Issues – IV	99
Revision.....	102
History – Ancient India – Pre – History Phase	106
Harappan Civilization	109
The Vedic Age	112
The Mahajanapadas of the Indo – Gangetic Plain.....	116
The Mahajanapadas of the Indo – Gangetic Plain - II.....	119

Awareness in the field of Nano-technology, Biotechnology and related issues of IPR policies – 2024

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Active Immunity is when Readymade or pre formed antibodies are directly injected into body to obtain temporary immunity
2. Passive Immunity is the one developed by person's own body either in form of antibodies or activated lymphocytes in response to exposure to living or dead microbes or other antigens.

Which of the above given statement is/are not correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Passive Immunity is when readymade or pre formed antibodies are directly injected into body to obtain temporary immunity.

Active Immunity is the one developed by person's own body either in form of antibodies or activated lymphocytes in response to exposure to living or dead microbes or other antigens.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem):

1. Research at inStem addresses the genetic mechanisms of potency, differentiation and proliferation in human pluripotent cells
2. inStem located at Hyderabad

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: Research at inStem addresses the genetic mechanisms of potency, differentiation and proliferation in human pluripotent cells, examines clinical manifestations of diseases that can potentially be treated by stem cells, models human diseases using stem cells, uses model organisms such as Planaria and Hydra to address fundamental questions in regenerative biology, develops platforms to interrogate signaling pathways with new chemical entities, and finally, develops tools that will help to better understand the biology driving stem cells and eventually treat disease states. At inStem, research is primarily carried out by groups who work on tightly-knit themes, crossing boundaries and developing new approaches to address questions larger than the expertise of individual researchers. inStem located at Bangalore.

Source: ForumIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Nano Mission:

1. It was launched in 12th five year plan
2. The Department of Science and Technology is the nodal agency for implementing the Nano Mission.

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: B

Explanation: Nano Technology is a knowledge-intensive and “enabling technology” which is expected to influence a wide range of products and processes with far-reaching implications for national economy and development. The Government of India, in May 2007, has approved the launch of a Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission) with an allocation of Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years. The Department of Science and Technology is the nodal agency for implementing the Nano Mission. Capacity-building in this upcoming area of research will be of utmost importance for the Nano Mission so that India emerges as a global knowledge-hub in this field. For this, research on fundamental aspects of Nano Science and training of large number of manpower will receive prime attention. Equally importantly, the Nano Mission will strive for development of products and processes for national development, especially in areas of national relevance like safe drinking water, materials development, sensors development, drug delivery, etc. For this, it will forge linkages between educational and research institutions and industry and promote Public Private Partnerships. The Nano Mission has been structured in a fashion so as to achieve synergy between the national research efforts of various agencies in Nano Science and Technology and launch new programmes in a concerted fashion. International collaborative research efforts will also be made wherever required.

Source: FomIAS

Q.4) Nice, Locarno and Vienna Agreement are related to which of the following field?

- a) Intellectual property rights
- b) World shipping rights
- c) Cross-border agreements
- d) International refugee agreements

ANS: A

Explanation: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)-Administered Treaties for Classifications:

- The Nice Agreement (1957) establishes a classification of goods and services for the purposes of registering trademarks and service marks (the Nice Classification).
- The Locarno Agreement (1968) establishes a classification for industrial designs (the Locarno Classification).
- The Vienna Agreement (1973) establishes a classification (the Vienna Classification) for marks that consist of, or contain, figurative elements.
- The International Patent Classification (1971) is used to classify patents and utility models according to the different areas of technology to which they pertain. It was established by the Strasbourg Agreement.

Source: ForumIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to CRISPR-Cas9:

1. It is a new type of Gene Editing
2. It was adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system in bacteria and virus

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: A recent approach to genome editing is known as CRISPR-Cas9, which is short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats and CRISPR associated protein 9.

- It was adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system in bacteria.
- It is faster, cheaper, more accurate, and more efficient than other existing genome editing methods
- CRISPR is the DNA-targeting part of the system which consists of an RNA molecule, or 'guide', designed to bind to specific DNA bases through complementary base-pairing.
- Cas9 is the nuclease part that cuts the DNA.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements with respect to benefits of Gene Editing:

1. Treat many human diseases & genetic disorders like HIV/AIDS, hemophilia
2. It could form the basis of highly efficient & cost effective next generation antibiotics
3. Gene editing can be used to bring to life extinct species

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: It is a type of genetic engineering in which DNA is inserted, deleted or replaced in the genome of an organism using artificially engineered nucleases, or "molecular scissors". Human genome editing can be used to treat many human diseases & genetic disorders like HIV/AIDS, hemophilia etc.

- It could substantially bolster disease resistance in humans & increase life span.
- It could form the basis of highly efficient & cost effective next generation antibiotics (based on bacteriophage viruses).
- Gene editing can be used to protect endangered species or bring to life extinct species.
- It can be used to grow healthier food (via fortification) and increasing harvest.
- It has the potential to slow down the spread of diseases by eliminating its means of transmission.
E.g. Gene editing can be used to introduce sterile mosquitoes into the environment.

Source: ForumIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to Industrial Design (IPR):

1. "Industrial design" title granted by any official authority protects only the non-functional features of an industrial product
2. The period of protection granted to Industrial Design is from 10 to 25 years

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: An industrial design renders an object attractive or appealing, thus increasing its marketability and adding to its commercial value. The design may be three-dimensional based on the shape or surface of the object, or two-dimensional based on the object's patterns, lines or colours. Novelty, originality and visual appeal are essential if an industrial design is to be patented, although these criteria can differ from one country to another. Its aesthetic features should not be imposed by the technical functions of the product. Legally, "industrial design" is the title granted by an official authority, generally the Patent Office, to protect the aesthetic or ornamental aspect of an object. This protects solely the non-functional features of an industrial product and does not protect any technical features of the object to which it is applied. Industrial design rights are granted to the creator of designs to reward them for their effort and investment in manufacturing the product. These rights enable the owner to make articles to which the design is applied or in which the design is embodied. The holder of this legal title has the exclusive right to make, import or sell any objects to which the design is applied. They can authorise others to exploit the design and bring a legal action against anyone using the design without authorisation. In general the period of protection granted is from 10 to 25 years. This is often divided into terms and an extension of the term requires renewal of the registration.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are functions of Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)?

1. To appraise activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
2. To appraise proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
3. It has no powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act.

Which of the following codes below given is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). As per Rules, 1989, it is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle. The committee is also responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials. The committee or any persons authorized by it has powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act.

Source: ForumIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) Which of the following statements are true regarding challenges related to Nanoparticles?

1. Nanoparticles being small in size have tendency to clump up which make them inactive with prolonged use.
2. Due to their ability to long persistence, they may raise concerns such as bio-magnification.
3. In free form nanoparticles can accumulate in the soil, water or plant life.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Nanoparticles:

- Nanoparticles being small in size have tendency to clump up which make them inactive with prolonged use.
- Due to their ability to long persistence, they may raise concerns such as bio-magnification.
- Synthesising useful Nanoparticles is also challenging as production of a consistent size is tough.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Gold Nano particles helps in:

1. Defecting Alzheimer's disease at an early stage.
2. Delivery drugs to specific site in the body, without harming healthy organs.

Which of the above given applications is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Application of Gold nano-particles:

- Electronics - Gold nanoparticles are designed for use as conductors from printable inks to electronic chips. As the world of electronics become smaller, nanoparticles are important components in chip design. Nanoscale gold nanoparticles are being used to connect resistors, conductors, and other elements of an electronic chip.
- Photodynamic Therapy - Near-IR absorbing gold nanoparticles (including gold nanoshells and nanorods) produce heat when excited by light at wavelengths from 700 to 800 nm. This enables these nanoparticles to eradicate targeted tumors. When light is applied to a tumor containing gold nanoparticles, the particles rapidly heat up, killing tumor cells in a treatment also known as hyperthermia therapy.
- Therapeutic Agent Delivery - Therapeutic agents can also be coated onto the surface of gold nanoparticles. The large surface area-to-volume ratio of gold nanoparticles enables their surface to be coated with hundreds of molecules (including therapeutics, targeting agents, and anti-fouling polymers).
- Sensors - Gold nanoparticles are used in a variety of sensors. For example, a colorimetric sensor based on gold nanoparticles can identify if foods are suitable for consumption. Other methods, such as surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy, exploit gold nanoparticles as substrates to enable the measurement of

vibrational energies of chemical bonds. This strategy could also be used for the detection of proteins, pollutants, and other molecules label-free.

- Probes - Gold nanoparticles also scatter light and can produce an array of interesting colors under dark-field microscopy. The scattered colors of gold nanoparticles are currently used for biological imaging applications. Also, gold nanoparticles are relatively dense, making them useful as probes for transmission electron microscopy.
- Diagnostics - Gold nanoparticles are also used to detect biomarkers in the diagnosis of heart diseases, cancers, and infectious agents. They are also common in lateral flow immunoassays, a common household example being the home pregnancy test.
- Catalysis - Gold nanoparticles are used as catalysts in a number of chemical reactions. The surface of a gold nanoparticle can be used for selective oxidation or in certain cases the surface can reduce a reaction (nitrogen oxides). Gold nanoparticles are being developed for fuel cell applications. These technologies would be useful in the automotive and display industry.

Source: ForumIAS

Other Technological developments in Science

Q.1) Which of the following are the advantages of bio-mining over traditional methods of mining?

1. It generates minimal amount of pollutants and reduces infrastructure cost.
2. It can be used for treating of Ores of lower metal concentration economically.
3. Bio-mining takes place at atmospheric pressure and lower temperatures than smelting thus the energy consumption at the mining site is less.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Bio-mining is the process of extracting valuable metals from ores and mine tailings with the assistance of microorganisms. It is a very low capital, low operational cost, and a low energy input process. This technology is also environmentally friendly as it generates minimal amount of pollutants. It has the added benefit of mining low grade ore and/or mine tailings.

The overall advantages of integrating bio-leaching into mining strategies, in addition to sustainability and maintenance are listed below.

- Ores of lower metal concentration can be treated economically; this is not feasible using traditional methods. Difficult refractory concentrates can also be processed. This method is emerging as an increasingly important way to extract valuable minerals when conventional methods such as smelting are too expensive.
- Concentrates with contaminants like arsenic, bismuth and magnesia are often expensive to treat in conventional metal-production. Mining companies often have to pay penalties for these hard to treat contaminants when they sell the concentrate to smelters. Using bioleaching microbes can help avoid these large penalties by removing arsenic and other hazardous materials from the concentrates in an environmentally stable form.
- Economic exploitation of smaller deposits, in remote locations, becomes viable because of reduced infrastructural costs.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Bio-mining allows for the rapid start-up of the mining site, is easy and reliable with regard to maintenance and infrastructural cost and is not labor intensive making it more profitable.
- The process takes place at atmospheric pressure and lower temperatures than smelting. Thus, the energy consumption at the mining site is less.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Which of the following are the characteristic features of virus?

1. They are not affected by antibiotics.
2. They depend upon specific hosts for their reproduction and development.
3. Viruses are without protoplasm.
4. They contain only DNA and not RNA.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: Characteristics of virus:

- They are not affected by antibiotics.
- They depend upon specific hosts for their reproduction and development.
- Viruses are without protoplasm.
- They contain DNA or RNA.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are the correct with respect to the bio-prospecting?

1. It is the organization and analysis of biological data by computational techniques.
2. Bio-prospecting activities must comply with the definition of utilization of genetic resources of the Nagoya Protocol.
3. It promotes technology and knowledge transfer among countries along with foreign direct investment.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Biodiversity prospecting or bio-prospecting is the systematic search for biochemical and genetic information in nature in order to develop commercially-valuable products for pharmaceutical, agricultural, cosmetic and other applications. Bio-prospecting activities must comply with the definition of utilization of genetic resources of the Nagoya Protocol or as stated in the national law or policy. The Nagoya Protocol applies to the utilization of genetic resources and their derivatives.

Advantages of Bio-prospecting

- It creates an incentive to monitor and preserve biodiversity in order to avoid the risk of losing economic opportunities from competitors or extinction;
- It promotes technology and knowledge transfer among countries (North-South and South-South) along with foreign direct investment;

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Local populations will become increasingly aware of the potential economic value of natural habitats, providing incentives to the domestic population for biodiversity conservation;
- It promotes innovation, helping countries to develop new pharmaceutical products. It also favors employment opportunities related to natural products;
- It helps to preserve traditional culture and habits by rediscovering ancient native practices.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Which of the following programmes initiated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences is/are correct?

1. National Monsoon Mission - to improve prediction of temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events on short to medium range time scale.
2. ORV Sagar Nidhi - to carry out monsoon experiments and know ocean processes in deep sea basins of Andamans.
3. SARAT - to carry out search and rescue to minimise loss of life, injury and property damage.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The vessel is capable of carrying out geo-scientific, meteorological and oceanographic research, and is designed with blue-water capability with ranges of up to 10,000 nautical miles (19,000 km) for voyages lasting up to 45 days. She is expected to support research in the Indian and Antarctic Oceans.

Sagar Nidhi will be utilized for deep sea mining, launching of ROV's, AUV's, manned/unmanned submersibles and exploration of gas hydrates.

RV Sindhu Sadhana will carry out monsoon experiments and know ocean processes in deep sea basins of Andamans.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to different types of nuclear reactors?

1. Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor: In this Sodium coolant is reactive with air and water thus, leaks in the pipes may result in sodium fires.
2. Pressurized Water Reactor: It uses regular old water as a coolant in which cooling water is kept at very high pressure so it does not boil.
3. Boiling Water Reactor: It can be refueled while operating, keeping capacity factors high.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The CANDU, for Canada Deuterium Uranium, is a Canadian pressurized heavy water reactor design used to generate electric power. Pros:

- Require very little uranium enrichment.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Can be refueled while operating, keeping capacity factors high (as long as the fuel handling machines don't break).
- Are very flexible, and can use any type of fuel.

Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor is cooled by liquid sodium metal. Sodium is heavier than hydrogen, a fact that leads to the neutrons moving around at higher speeds (hence fast). These can use metal or oxide fuel, and burn a wide variety of fuels.

Sodium coolant is reactive with air and water. Thus, leaks in the pipes results in sodium fires. These can be engineered around but are a major setback for these reactors.

The PWR uses regular old water as a coolant. The primary cooling water is kept at very high pressure so it does not boil. It goes through a heat exchanger, transferring heat to a secondary coolant loop, which then spins the turbine. These use oxide fuel pellets stacked in zirconium tubes. They could possibly burn thorium or plutonium fuel as well.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) LCA Tejas is built from Carbon-Fiber Composite (CFC) materials. Which of the following is/are the characteristic feature of CFC materials?

1. High strength to weight ratio
2. Low thermal conductivity
3. Ablation resistance
4. Little sensitivity to thermal shock and mechanical shock

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Carbon Fiber Properties:

- High Strength to weight ratio
- Rigidity
- Corrosion resistance
- Electrical Conductivity
- Fatigue Resistance
- Good tensile strength but Brittle
- Fire Resistance/Not flammable
- High Thermal Conductivity in some forms
- Low coefficient of thermal expansion
- Non poisonous
- Biologically inert
- X-Ray Permeable
- Relatively Expensive
- Requires specialized experience and equipment to use

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Which of the statements given above is/are true regarding awards related to Science and Technology?

1. India Science Award is the highest and the most prestigious national recognition by the Government of India for outstanding contribution to science.
2. Contribution to Science and Technology field is honored by the Kalinga awards given by UNESCO.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: India Science Award is the highest and the most prestigious national recognition by the Government of India for outstanding contribution to science. The primary and essential criterion for the award is demonstrated and widely accepted excellence in science. The award covers all areas of research in science including engineering, medicine and agriculture.

The Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science is an award given by UNESCO for exceptional skill in presenting scientific ideas to lay people.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Which of the following Radioisotopes and their Applications is incorrectly matched?

- a) Lead-210: Used to date layers of sand and soil.
- b) Chlorine-36: Used to measure sources of chloride and the age of water.
- c) Cobalt-60: Used to measure 'young' groundwater.
- d) Gold-198: Used to trace sand movement in river beds and ocean floors.

ANS: C

Explanation: Radioisotopes and Their Applications:

- Chlorine-36: Used to measure sources of chloride and the age of water (up to 2 million years).
- Carbon-14: Used to measure the age of water (up to 50,000 years).
- Tritium (H-3): Used to measure 'young' groundwater (up to 30 years).
- Lead-210: Used to date layers of sand and soil up to 80 years.
- Americium-241: Used in backscatter gauges, smoke detectors, fill height detectors and in measuring ash content of coal.
- Caesium-137: Used for radiotracer technique for identification of sources of soil erosion and deposition, in density and fill height level switches.
- Cobalt-60: Used for gamma sterilization, industrial radiography, density and fill height switches.
- Gold-198 and Technetium-99m: Used to study sewage and liquid waste movements, as well as tracing factory waste causing ocean pollution, and to trace sand movement in river beds and ocean floors.
- Strontium-90, Krypton-85, Thallium-204: Used for industrial gauging.
- Zinc-65 and Manganese-54: Used to predict the behavior of heavy metal components in effluents from mining waste water.
- Iridium-192, Gold-198 and Chromium-57: Used to label sand to study coastal erosion.
- Ytterbium-169, Iridium-192 and Selenium-75: Used in gamma radiography and non-destructive testing.

Source: ForumIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) "Rapidly rotating stars would emit polarized light" this theory is given by:

- a) Satyendranath Bose
- b) Jayant Narlikar
- c) Sir C.V. Raman
- d) Subrahmanyam Chandrashekhar

ANS: D

Explanation: Over 70 years after Indian astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar predicted that rapidly rotating stars would emit polarized light, scientists in Australia have observed the phenomenon for the first time. Researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia and University College London in the UK used a highly sensitive piece of equipment to detect the polarized light from Regulus, one of the brightest stars in the night sky. The equipment provided unprecedented insights into the star, which is in the constellation Leo, allowing the scientists to determine its rate of spinning and the orientation in space of the star's spin axis.

In 1946, Chandrasekhar predicted the emission of polarized light from the edges of stars, prompting the development of sensitive instruments called stellar polar meters to try to detect this effect. In 1968, other researchers built on Chandrasekhar's work to predict that the distorted, or squashed, shape of a rapidly rotating star would lead to the emission of polarized light, but its detection has eluded astronomers until now

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Which of the following is not the fissile material?

- a) Plutonium-238
- b) Neptunium-237
- c) Curium-244
- d) Uranium - 238

ANS: D

Explanation: The known fissile materials are:

- Uranium-233
- Uranium-235
- Plutonium-238
- Plutonium-239
- Plutonium-241
- Neptunium-237
- Curium-244

Source: ForumIAS

Other Technological developments in Science

Q.1) Which of the followings are advantages of genetically modified crops over traditional selective breeding?

1. It allows a much wider selection of traits for improvement.
2. It reduces risk of random occurrence of undesirable traits.
3. It allows greater precision in selecting characteristics.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: For the development of improved food materials, GM has the following advantages over traditional selective breeding:

- Allows a much wider selection of traits for improvement: e.g., not only pest, disease and herbicide resistance (as achieved to date in plants) but also potentially drought resistance, improved nutritional content and improved sensory properties.
- Desired change can be achieved in very few generations.
- Allows greater precision in selecting characteristics.
- Reduces risk of random occurrence of undesirable traits.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Which of the following statements are true regarding Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED)?

1. An OLED display works without backlight thus consumption of energy is less than LCD.
2. In low ambient light conditions an OLED screen has lower contrast ratio than LCD.
3. It produces brighter light and has wider viewing angle.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Organic Light Emitting Diode:

- An OLED is a light-emitting diode (LED) in which the emissive electroluminescent layer is a film of organic compound that emits light in response to an electric current.
- This layer of organic semiconductor is situated between two electrodes; typically, at least one of these electrodes is transparent.
- OLEDs are used to create digital displays in devices such as television screens, computer monitors, and portable systems such as mobile phones, handheld game consoles and PDAs.
- An OLED display works without a backlight; thus, it can display deep black levels and can be thinner and lighter than a liquid crystal display (LCD) and consume less energy.
- In low ambient light conditions (such as a dark room), an OLED screen can achieve a higher contrast ratio than an LCD, regardless of whether the LCD uses cold cathode fluorescent lamps or an LED backlight.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- It produces brighter light using less energy as compared to LEDs.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are true regarding PARAM-ISHAN?

1. It is the fastest and most powerful supercomputer in India.
2. It has been jointly developed by IIT Bombay and C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advance Computing).
3. It is solely for the weather and climate research.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) Only 2
- d) All

ANS: C

Explanation: Pratyush, an array of computers is the fastest supercomputer in India that can deliver a peak power of 6.8 petaflops. One petaflop is a million billion floating point operations per second and is a reflection of the computing capacity of a system.

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Praksh Javadekar launched PARAM-ISHAN supercomputing facility at IIT, Guwahati in 2016. It has a peak computing power of 250 Teraflops and three hundred tera bites capacity. It has been jointly developed by IIT Bombay and C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advance Computing). It will help to augment the research initiatives and also in creating an ecosystem for attracting right talents to the field of research.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Which of the following is the application of Nano artificial nose?

- a) Provide easier delivery of drugs.
- b) Indicate pollution level in atmosphere air.
- c) Detect lung cancer.
- d) Provide cure against flu.

ANS: C

Explanation: NA-NOSE for short, as a means of detecting head, neck and lung cancers, which are incidentally some of the most common kinds. The method this device implements, with the help of its nanowire sensors, algorithms to differentiate healthy vs. unhealthy cells, and software, relates to its unique feature of sniffing out particles released by tumors, foreign bodies or antigens into the blood and then the breath of humans, also perceiving certain changes in biological chemicals, blood and metabolism.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) North-East India's largest IT hub has been opened in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Tripura
- d) Nagaland

ANS: C

Explanation: Tripura has got Northeast India's Largest It Hub. Its aim is to boost employment and e-governance and to increase the export of software technology. This is a great initiative and will help state to attract famous and reputed IT companies to set the business and services in this high facility set-up.

Source: ForumIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.6) Which of the following is/are the application of radio-nuclides in environmental management?

1. To trace and analyze pollutants.
2. To study the movement of surface water.
3. To measure water runoffs from rain and snow.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) Only 1
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 2
- d) All

ANS: D

Explanation: Radio-nuclides are used in two major ways: either for their radiation alone (irradiation, nuclear batteries) or for the combination of chemical properties and their radiation (tracers, biopharmaceuticals). In ecology, radionuclides are used to trace and analyze pollutants, to study the movement of surface water, and to measure water runoffs from rain and snow, as well as the flow rates of streams and rivers.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements related to the missiles developed under Integrated guided Missile Development Programme:

1. Prithvi - Surface to Surface short range cruise missile
2. Dhanush - Naval variant of Prithvi Missile
3. Akash - Short range Surface to Air Missile
4. Shaurya - Short range Surface to Surface ballistic missile.

Which of the above pair is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 2 and 4
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Prithvi - Surface to surface short range ballistic missile,
- Trishul - Short range surface to air missile.
- Akash - medium range mobile surface to air defence system.
- Dhanush - Naval variant of Prithvi Missile.
- Shaurya - Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Which of the following are the advantages of Fiber optics?

1. Fiber optic cables are thinner and have a much greater bandwidth.
2. Fiber optic cables do not radiate electromagnetic energy thus data cannot be intercepted.
3. Data can be transmitted digitally rather than analogically.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 3
- b) Only 2
- c) Only 1
- d) All

ANS: D

Explanation: Fibre optics is a technology that uses glass (or plastic) threads (fibers) to transmit data. A fiber optic cable consists of a bundle of glass threads, each of which is capable of transmitting messages modulated onto light waves.

Fiber optics has several advantages over traditional metal communications lines:

- Fiber optic cables have a much greater bandwidth than metal cables. This means that they can carry more data.
- Fiber optic cables are less susceptible than metal cables to interference.
- Fiber optic cables are much thinner and lighter than metal wires.
- Data can be transmitted digitally (the natural form for computer data) rather than analogically.
- There are no radiated magnetic fields around optical fibers; the electromagnetic fields are confined within the fiber. That makes it impossible to tap the signal being transmitted through a fiber without cutting into the fiber. Since fiber optics do not radiate electromagnetic energy, emissions cannot be intercepted and physically tapping the fiber takes great skill to do undetected. Thus, the fiber is the most secure medium available for carrying sensitive data. It works under DRDO.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Which of the following statement is incorrect related to Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing?

- a) It is a method of encoding digital data on multiple carrier frequencies.
- b) It is resilient to inter-symbol and inter-frame interference.
- c) It is used in Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) and Digital Video Broadcasting over the terrestrial network.
- d) It is immune to Sensitive to Doppler shift also.

ANS: D

Explanation: Orthogonal frequency-division multi-plexing (OFDM) is a method of encoding digital data on multiple carrier frequencies. OFDM has developed into a popular scheme for wideband digital communication, used in applications such as digital television and audio broadcasting, DSL internet access, wireless networks, power line networks, and 4G mobile communications.

Advantages:

- High spectral efficiency as compared to other double sideband modulation schemes, spread spectrum, etc.
- Can easily adapt to severe channel conditions without complex time-domain equalization.
- Robust against narrow-band co-channel interference
- Robust against intersymbol interference (ISI) and fading caused by multipath propagation
- Efficient implementation using fast Fourier transform
- Low sensitivity to time synchronization errors

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Tuned sub-channel receiver filters are not required (unlike conventional FDM)
- Facilitates single frequency networks (SFNs) (i.e. transmitter macrodiversity)

Disadvantages

- Sensitive to Doppler shift
- Sensitive to frequency synchronization problems
- High peak-to-average-power ratio (PAPR), requiring linear transmitter circuitry, which suffers from poor power efficiency
- Loss of efficiency caused by cyclic prefix/guard interval.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Which of the following semiconductors are used for LED manufacture?

1. Gallium Arsenide
2. Gallium Phosphide
3. Gallium Arsenide Phosphide
4. Indium Gallium Nitride

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Materials commonly used to make LEDs are gallium arsenide (GaAs) and gallium phosphide (GaP). The main semiconductor materials used to manufacture LEDs are:

- Indium gallium nitride (InGaN): blue, green and ultraviolet high-brightness LEDs
- Aluminum gallium indium phosphide (AlGaInP): yellow, orange and red high-brightness LEDs
- Aluminum gallium arsenide (AlGaAs): red and infrared LEDs
- Gallium phosphide (GaP): yellow and green LEDs

Source: ForumIAS

Other technological developments in Science

Q.1) The “One Future Alliance (OFA)” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Solar energy
- b) Natural farming
- c) Nuclear energy
- d) Digital public infrastructure

ANS: D

Explanation: One Future Alliance (OFA), a voluntary initiative aimed to build capacity, and provide technical assistance and funding support for implementing DPI in low and middle income countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “UPI LITE X”:

1. It was launched by National Payments Corporation of India for offline payments.
2. It will be accessible to anyone with a compatible device that supports Near Field Communication (NFC).

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: UPI LITE X was launched for offline payments. It was build based on the UPI Lite feature, which was launched in 2022.

UPI LITE X will be accessible to anyone with a compatible device that supports Near Field Communication (NFC), offering payments faster than other payment methods.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Food grains distribution
- b) Primary health care
- c) Mobile and digital services
- d) Vaccine distribution

ANS: C

Explanation: Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) aims to provide for quality and affordable mobile and digital services across the rural and remote areas of the country.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are advantage/s of multimodal AI?

1. Versatility
2. Natural interaction
3. Improved accuracy

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Multimodal AI - It is artificial intelligence that combines multiple types or modes of data to create more accurate determinations, draw insightful conclusions or make more precise predictions about real-world problems.

Multiple modalities include video, audio, speech, images, text and a range of traditional numerical data sets.

Advantages of multimodal AI over the current AI:

- Versatility- It can handle multiple types of data, making it more adaptable to different situations and use cases.
- Natural interaction- By integrating multiple modalities, multimodal AI can interact with users in a more natural and intuitive way, similar to how humans communicate.
- Improved accuracy- Multimodal AI can also improve the accuracy of its predictions and classifications.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Enhanced user experience- It can enhance the user experience by providing multiple ways for users to interact with the system.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Global Partnership on AI Summit (GPAI)” took place in which of the following place?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Paris
- c) London
- d) Washington

ANS: A

Explanation: The 2023 summit of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) held on 12–14 December 2023, in New Delhi, India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Graphene”:

1. China and Brazil are global leaders in the commercial production of grapheme.
2. Graphene oxide membranes are used for water purification and desalination.

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: China & Brazil - Global leaders in the commercial production of grapheme.

- Graphene-based sensors are used for environmental monitoring, healthcare and wearable devices.
- Graphene oxide membranes are used for water purification and desalination.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The term “Krutrim” is often seen n news related to?

- a) Artificial intelligence
- b) Humanoid robot
- c) 3D printing
- d) Space robot

ANS: A

Explanation: Krutrim - India’s own AI model.

- According to Ola, Krutrim AI is an assistant “envisioned to be your own personalized assistant, who can simplify your personal and professional life by getting a variety of tasks done for you, while keeping the aesthetic sense and sensibilities of the Indian ethos.”
- The company aims to develop a unique form of AI designed to cater to the diverse needs and nuances of the Indian consumer.
- Ola claims Krutrim is built on its own foundation model and that it is “Indian at heart.”
- The company said the AI assistant is its first step towards its product journey and building the nation’s own AI.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-sci-tech/ola-krutrim-ai-9230622/>

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.8) The term “TAPAS” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Frigate
- b) Unmanned aerial vehicle
- c) Surface to air missile
- d) Submarine

ANS: B

Explanation: TAPAS-BH is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV with an operating altitude of 30000 ft, and an endurance of 24 hours.

- TAPAS-BH also projects a range of 250 km which can carry a variety of payloads up to a maximum of 350 kg with a wing span of 20.6 meters.
- It is based on the Rustom-2 platform which has been originally conceptualized and designed to perform Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance missions for the Indian armed forces.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is not part of project 17A?

- a) INS Nilgiri
- b) INS Himgiri
- c) INS Vela
- d) INS Dunagiri

ANS: C

Explanation: Under Project 17A, a total of 7 ships were constructed, 4 at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai and 3 at Garden Reach Ship Builders Limited (GRSE), Kolkata.

7 Ships - INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri, INS Udaygiri, INS Dunagiri, INS Taragiri, INS Vindhyagiri and INS Mahendragiri. The ships are named after hill ranges in India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The term “Varunastra” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Torpedo
- b) Anti tank missile
- c) Surface to air missile
- d) Hypersonic missile

ANS: A

Explanation: Indigenously made Varunastra was successfully test-fired with a live warhead by the Indian Navy.

Varunastra is a ship launched, heavy weight, electrically-propelled anti-submarine torpedo.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following country has the highest space debris?

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) Canada
- d) India

ANS: B

Explanation: Space Debris is any piece of machinery or debris left by humans in space.

- It can be dead satellites, bits of debris or paint flecks that have fallen off a rocket.
- Russia has the most space debris with over 7000 rocket bodies floating in space.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)” is recently seen in news launched by?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Japan’s space Agency JAXA has recently launched the SLIM moon lander.

- SLIM – A small-scale exploration lander designed for pinpoint landings on the Moon’s surface and investigates into the Moon’s origins. The mission was dubbed as the Moon Sniper.
- It will also test technology fundamental to exploration in low-gravity environments, an important requirement for future scientific investigation of the solar system.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Hitomi” was a high energy astrophysics space observatory, developed by?

- a) JAXA
- b) NASA
- c) ISRO
- d) ROSCOSMOS

ANS: A

Explanation: Hitomi was a highenergy astrophysics space observatory, developed by JAXA.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. FDI in space sector is allowed up to 100 percent in the area of Satellites establishment and operations through government route.
2. Indian Space Association was launched in 2021, to help private players carry out independent space activities.

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: Indian Space Association- It was launched in 2021 to help private players carry out independent space activities facilitate services and technology developed by ISRO to be utilized in the private sector.

- Revised FDI guidelines- This would open up huge investment opportunities for the foreign companies.
- FDI in space sector is allowed up to 100% in the area of Satellites Establishment and Operations through Government route.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following treaty/treaties is/are ratified by India?

1. The Outer Space Treaty
2. The Liability Convention
3. The Moon Agreement

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: 5 United Nations treaties are generally thought to form the bedrock of international space law.

- The Outer Space Treaty
- The Rescue Agreement
- The Liability Convention
- The Registration Convention
- The Moon Agreement

Of the 5 UN Treaties on Space Venture, India has ratified 1st four and signed Moon Agreement without ratifying it.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Outer Space Treaty –1967”?

1. It governs the exploration and use of Outer Space only for peaceful purpose.
2. Liability on countries for damage caused by any objects launched into space from their territory.
3. Binding on its signatories.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Outer Space Treaty –1967:

- It is often called the magna carta of space law. It governs the exploration and use of Outer Space only for peaceful purpose.
- It prohibits the weaponisation of space. No claim of sovereignty over any bodies in space.
- Liability on countries for damage caused by any objects launched into space from their territory.
- Countries must help astronauts who are in distress. Space installations and vehicles of one nation are to be open to other nations on a reciprocal basis.
- It binding on its signatories.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the “Karman line”:

1. It is the boundary between the Earth’s atmosphere and outer space.
2. It is an internationally recognized boundary of space.

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: Karman line - The Karman line is the boundary between the Earth’s atmosphere and outer space at an altitude of 100km (62 miles) above sea level.

It is an internationally recognized boundary of space. The Karman line is near the transition between the upper mesosphere and lower thermosphere.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

1. The Starship spacecraft and Super Heavy rocket is collectively referred to as Starship.
2. It represents a fully reusable transportation system designed to carry both crew and cargo to Earth orbit, the Moon, Mars and beyond.

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: Starship spacecraft and Super Heavy rocket is collectively referred to as Starship.

- It represents a fully reusable transportation system designed to carry both crew and cargo to Earth orbit, the Moon, Mars and beyond.
- Starship will be the world’s most powerful launch vehicle ever developed, capable of carrying up to 150 metric tonnes fully reusable and 250 metric tonnes expendable.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are fermions?

1. Leptons
2. Quarks
3. Neutrons

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Fermions - Any member of a group of subatomic particles having odd half-integral angular momentum (spin $1/2, 3/2$).

Fermions mainly include quarks and leptons along with electrons, protons, and neutrons.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The term “Scary Barbie” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Ancient bacteria
- b) Black hole
- c) Deep sea organisms
- d) Invasive species

ANS: B

Explanation: Scientists discovered a super massive black hole and have named it ‘Scary Barbie,’ after a beloved children’s character.

- Scary Barbie is a super massive black hole that is devouring a star with a thousand times the brightness of a supernova.
- It is one of the most luminous, energetic, long-lasting transient objects in the sky.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- The researchers discovered it using an AI engine called REFITT (Recommender Engine For Intelligent Transient Tracking).

Source: FORUMIAS

Bilateral Relations

Q.1) The “Ratle Hydroelectric Project” is often seen in news on which of the following river?

- a) Ganga
- b) Chenab
- c) Jhelum
- d) Ravi

ANS: B

Explanation: The Permanent Court of Arbitration rejected India’s objections and determined it is competent to consider matters under Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects.

- Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric project diverts water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in the Jhelum River basin.
- Ratle Hydroelectric Project (Chenab River) is a hydroelectric power plant being built by India with a capacity of 850 MW.
- India has opposed it and contends that it is in contravention of the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following institution is funding the “Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Project”?

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- d) New Development Bank

ANS: B

Explanation: TAPI project aims to export natural gas annually through pipeline from Turkmenistan (Galkynysh gas field) to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (Fazilka).

The funding of the project is done by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The boundary dispute over “Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh” between India and?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Recently, Nepal has released a new political map that claims Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of Nepal’s territory.

- The area of Susta (West Champaran district, Bihar) can also be noted in the new map.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- India rejected the new map of Nepal saying that Nepal's new map involves artificial enlargement of territories, which is not based on historical facts and evidence.
- Nepal's act is a unilateral act and is contrary to the bilateral understanding to resolve the outstanding boundary issues through diplomatic dialogue.
- Currently, India and Nepal have border disputes over Kalapani - Limpiyadhura - Lipulekh trijunction between India-Nepal and China and Susta area (West Champaran district, Bihar).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The "Pacheshwar multipurpose project" is often seen in news related to?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: More than a month after India and Nepal signed the agreement on long-term power sharing; the two sides have not managed to make any forward movement on the stalled negotiations over the landmark Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP).

The Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is aimed at generating around 6,480 MW energy (to be divided equally between two sides), along with water for irrigation of 130,000 hectares of land in Nepal and 240,000 hectares of Indian territory, respectively.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the sixth "Indian Ocean Conference":

1. It was jointly organized by the Sri Lanka and India.
2. Peace Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future was the theme of conference.

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: Indian Ocean Conference (IOC): 6th IOC was jointly organized by the Bangladesh and India.

- Theme: Peace Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future. IOC is a forum to discuss how the countries of the Indian Ocean region (IOR) can promote economic development while maintaining peace and stability.
- First IOC was held in 2016 (Singapore). It provides a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.6) Which of the following country's political party made the pre poll promise of "India Out campaign"?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Maldives' President has pitched to end the presence of Indian troops in the islands in accordance with his pre-poll promise made under "India Out" campaign.

- The "India Out" campaign was led by the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM).
- The campaign strongly opposed the Indian military's presence in the Maldives, on the grounds of sovereignty of the Maldives.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The "Ekuverin" military exercise between India and which of the following country?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The 12th edition of joint military exercise "Ex Ekuverin" between the Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following country is divided into three island groups Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao?

- a) Thailand
- b) Singapore
- c) Philippines
- d) New Zealand

ANS: C

Explanation: Philippines is an archipelago (of over 7,000 islands) in south-eastern Asia between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

- It is divided into three island groups: Luzon (largest island of country), Visayas, and Mindanao.
- It is bounded by Philippine Sea, Celebes Sea, Sulu Sea and South China Sea.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council”:

1. It was set up in 2019.
2. India is the fourth country with which Riyadh formed such a partnership, after the UK, France, and China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council was set up in 2019.

- India is the fourth country with which Riyadh formed such a partnership, after the UK, France, and China.
- Its aim is to establish a high-level council to steer the Indo-Saudi relationship.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Recently India has signed the memorandum of understanding for “Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS)” with which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Iraq
- d) UAE

ANS: D

Explanation: Recently, a MoU has been signed between India and UAE on Local Currency Settlement System.

- Local Currency Settlement (LCS) means settlement of a bilateral transaction between two countries is conducted in the respective currency of each country where the settlement is conducted within their jurisdiction.
- The pact signed between UAE and India is to promote the use of the rupee and UAE Dirham (AED) for cross-border transactions.

Source: FORUMIAS

Bilateral Relations - II

Q.1) The “Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)” signed by India with which of the following country/countries?

1. Japan
2. South Korea
3. Australia

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: While a traditional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) focuses mainly on goods; a CEPA is more comprehensive and ambitious in terms of a holistic coverage of many areas like services, investment, IPR, government procurement, disputes etc.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) completed one year. India has also signed CEPA with Japan and South Korea.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following provision/s is/are covered under the “Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)”?

1. Services
2. Investments
3. Intellectual Property Rights

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: While a traditional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) focuses mainly on goods; a CEPA is more comprehensive and ambitious in terms of a holistic coverage of many areas like services, investment, IPR, government procurement, disputes etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “bilateral relations with UAE by India”:

1. UAE is India’s third-largest trading partner.
2. India has a trade surplus with UAE.

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: B

Explanation: UAE is India’s third-largest trading partner and India's second-largest export destination. India has a trade deficit with UAE.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “Innovation Handshake” initiative is launched by India and which of the following country?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Enhancing Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake” under the framework of India – U.S. Commercial Dialogue was signed between the two countries on the 14th of November 2023 in San Francisco.

The leaders’ Joint Statement during the historic official State Visit of Prime Minister in June 2023 announced the establishment of the “Innovation Handshake”.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) The “INDUS-X” defense cooperation between India and which of the following country?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The U.S.-India Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) was launched to expand the strategic technology partnership and to advance cutting-edge technology cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are cover/s under the “Artemis Accord”?

- 1. Mars
- 2. Moon
- 3. Comets

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Artemis Accord was established by the U.S. State Department and NASA In 2020.

It sets common principles to govern civil exploration and use of outer space, the moon, Mars, comets, and asteroids, for peaceful purposes.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following country is NOT part of “Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance (FVEY)”?

- a) USA
- b) Canada
- c) Australia
- d) Japan

ANS: D

Explanation: Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance comprising the US, UK, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

- It originated from the 1946 UK-USA Agreement for sharing signals intelligence (SIGINT).
- Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council include the non-political intelligence oversight, review, and security entities of member.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “IBSA forum”:

1. It does not have a headquarters.
2. Brazil assumed presidency in 2023.

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: IBSA forum: The grouping was formalized and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum 2003 and Brasilia Declaration was issued.

- It is a trilateral forum which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges.
- IBSA does not have a headquarters or a permanent executive secretariat. Brazil assumed presidency in 2023.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “SAFE framework” is often seen in news related to?

- a) World Customs Organization
- b) World Trade Organization
- c) World Bank
- d) UNCTAD

ANS: A

Explanation: In June 2005 the WCO Council adopted the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework) that would act as a deterrent to international terrorism, to secure revenue collections and to promote trade facilitation worldwide.

- In 2007, the WCO’s flagship Customs-Business partnership programme - the Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Programme - was introduced.
- The SAFE Framework has emerged as the global Customs community’s concerted response to threats to supply chain security, equally supporting facilitation of legitimate and secure businesses.
- It prescribes baseline standards that have been tested and are working well around the globe.
- This unique international instrument endeavors to usher in a safer world trade regime and also heralds a new approach to working methods and partnership for both Customs and business towards a common goal based on trust.

Source: https://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/frameworks-of-standards/safe_package.aspx

Q.10) The “Exercise Pitch Black” is often seen in news conducted/hosted by?

- a) USA
- b) Japan
- c) Australia
- d) Canada

ANS: C

Explanation: Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial warfare exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

- Exercise Pitch Black 22 was hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force at its Darwin Air Base.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- 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

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

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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.
- 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”.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- 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

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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- 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 paid-in capital and have the right to vote on its matters.
- 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 Bureau 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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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 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 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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- 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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- 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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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 Khelo India . 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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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 North East Region . 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

Government Schemes – II

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

1. It aims at providing alternative livelihoods support and entitlements to sanitation workers.
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: C

Explanation: National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme aims at providing alternative livelihoods support and entitlements to sanitation workers.

- NAMASTE’s earlier name is “Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers” (SRMS) which is being implemented since 2007.
- Joint initiative of - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- Funding - It is a central sector scheme for improving the living standards of sanitation workers in urban areas.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)”:

1. It provides physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line.
2. It is implemented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO).

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: Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) provides physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line. It is a Central Sector Scheme.

- The expenditure for this scheme is being met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".
- It is being implemented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.3) Which of the following implements the “Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana”?

- a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- c) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- d) NITI Aayog

ANS: C

Explanation: PM-DAKSH Yojana empowers millions from India's marginalized community's aims to enhance competency level of the target groups to make them employable both in self-employment and wage-employment for their socio-economic development.

- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- It is implemented by - Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “SHREYAS” scheme is often seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Higher education
- b) Primary health
- c) Solar energy
- d) Traditional farming

ANS: A

Explanation: Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS): The main objective of the schemes is Educational Empowerment of OBC & EBC students by providing fellowship (financial assistance) to obtain quality higher education.

The time period of the scheme is from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Nari Adalat”:

1. It is women only court that address individual cases and also raise awareness about social schemes.
2. It holds legal status.

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: Nari Adalat is women only court that address individual cases and also raise awareness about social schemes.

- Though it does not hold any legal status, has its primary focus on reconciliation, grievance redressal and creating awareness of rights and entitlements.
- It is an initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Sambal sub scheme of Mission Shakti.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.6) The “PM JANMAN Scheme” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Tribal Affairs
- b) Primary health
- c) Solar energy
- d) Traditional farming

ANS: A

Explanation: PM JANMAN Scheme is launched on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (Birth anniversary of Birsa Munda) in Jharkhand.

- Objective- To provide essential amenities (road connectivity, electricity, secure housing, clean drinking water, sanitation) and improved access to education, health, nutrition, sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The government will showcase and spread awareness of various government schemes made for the tribal's.
- The scheme will be implemented by 9 ministries with Ministry of Tribal Affairs playing the key role.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Study in India Portal”:

1. It is a dedicated website that will provide comprehensive information about the Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
2. It will provide an integrated one-stop solution for student registration and visa application process.

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: Study in India Portal is a dedicated website that will provide comprehensive information about the Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

- It will present information about the academic facilities, research support, and related information.
- It will illustrate academic programs covering undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), Doctoral level programs, Yoga, Ayurveda, classical arts etc.
- The new website will have the provision for students to apply in more than one institute/course of their choice.
- It will provide an integrated one-stop solution for student registration and visa application process.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Program” is an initiative of?

- a) World Bank
- b) Facebook
- c) Google
- d) Asian Development Bank

ANS: A

Explanation: Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Program is an education reform initiative in India which is financially aided by the World Bank.

- It aims to improve the assessment system in schools to ensure equal education for all.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- The program comes under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams)”:

1. It is an open learning platform to help students prepare for competitive exams at no cost.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Education and IIT-Madras.

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: SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) is an open learning platform to help students prepare for competitive exams at no cost.

- It has been launched by the Ministry of Education and IIT-Kanpur.
- The preparation material will be available in English, Hindi and other regional languages.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Malaviya Mission” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Training for faculty
- b) Poverty eradication
- c) Primary health care
- d) Land reforms

ANS: A

Explanation: Malaviya Mission - It envisages capacity-building training for the faculty and staff across higher educational institutions, in the light of NEP 2020, within 2 years through multiple training centers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Government Schemes - III

Q.1) Which of the following is/are covered under “Yuva Sangam” of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign?

1. Tourism
2. Tradition
3. Technology

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Ministry of Education has launched the 3rd phase of Yuva Sangam under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- The students within the age group of 18 to 30 will get multi-dimensional exposure in 5 broad areas.
- Paryatan (tourism), Parampara (traditions), Pragati (development), Prodyogik (technology) and Paraspar sampark (people-to-people connect) in the host States.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform”:

1. It provides e-content for schools via an online portal and a mobile application.
2. It has embedded assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing impairments.

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: DIKSHA - It comes under the Ministry of Education, provides e-content for schools via an online portal and a mobile application.

It also has embedded assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing impairments.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Academics
- b) Traditional knowledge
- c) Bee cultivation
- d) Assistive technologies

ANS: A

Explanation: APAAR – Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry is a special ID system for all students in India, starting from childhood. Each student would get a lifelong APAAR ID.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “PM-ABHIM” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Health infrastructure
- b) Gig networks
- c) Digital library
- d) Agriculture data

ANS: A

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission’ (PM-ABHIM) is a centrally sponsored scheme aims to address critical gaps in health infrastructure, surveillance, and health research.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Microsites by National Health Authority (NHA)”:

1. These are clusters of small and medium-sized healthcare facilities.
2. Microsites digitize the entire patient journey with the establishment of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) adopted small ecosystem within a particular geographic area.

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 Health Authority (NHA) has launched 100 microsites project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to promote digital health and improve healthcare accessibility for all citizens.

- Microsites - These are clusters of small and medium-sized healthcare facilities that are fully enabled with ABDM capabilities to offer digital health services to patients.
- Microsites will digitize the entire patient journey with the establishment of ABDM adopted small ecosystem within a particular geographic area.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The term “YANTRA” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) E – vehicles
- b) E – computers
- c) Integrative Medicine
- d) Space research

ANS: C

Explanation: Yoga and Ayurveda in Neurosciences, Therapeutics and Research Approaches (YANTRA) is an international conference on Integrative Medicine with a theme on models of integration in healthcare.

It was held at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in association with Jignasa, which provides a common platform to address all aspects related to AYUSH systems.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following type/s of certification covered under Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme?

1. Forest management certification
2. Tree outside forest management certification
3. Chain of custody certification

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: India has launched its 1st Indian Food and Wood certification scheme is launched by – MoEFCC.

- It aims to offer voluntary 3rd party certification to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- To incentivize entities like State forest departments, individual farmers, or Farmer Producer Organizations, farm forestry and other wood-based industries in the value chain.

Certification Types:

- Forest management (FM) certification
- Tree outside forest management certification
- Chain of custody (CoC) certification

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Green Credit Program (GCP)”:

1. It is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions.
2. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is the GCP Administrator.

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: To take ahead the 'LiFE' - 'Lifestyle for Environment' movement announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced two pioneering initiatives that indicate the country's pro-active approach to climate change, sustainability and promotion eco-conscious practices.

- These initiatives, the Green Credit Program (GCP) and the Ecomark Scheme, seek to encourage environmentally friendly practices rooted in tradition and conservation; reflecting the ideas of LiFE concept.
- Green Credit Program (GCP) notified on 13th October, 2023 is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.
- The GCP's governance framework is supported by an inter-ministerial Steering Committee and The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) serves as the GCP Administrator, responsible for program implementation, management, monitoring, and operation.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1967476>

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Project Cheetah”:

1. It is India's cheetah relocation programme and the first intercontinental reintroduction of a wild, large carnivore species.
2. Under the project African cheetahs are trans-located from the forests of South Africa and Namibia to the Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

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: Project Cheetah is India's cheetah relocation programme and the 1st intercontinental reintroduction of a wild, large carnivore species.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Under the project African cheetahs are trans-located from the forests of South Africa and Namibia to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is implemented by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and And Climate Change.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Acinonyx jubatus” is a scientific name of?

- a) Bee
- b) Elephant
- c) Cheetah
- d) Horse

ANS: C

Explanation: The Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is the fastest land mammal and can move at a speed of up to 103 km per hour over a distance of hundreds of meters.

Cheetahs mostly hunt during the day and their main prey comprises small- to mid-size ungulates, especially gazelles.

Source: <https://www.cms.int/en/species/acinonyx-jubatus>

Government Schemes - IV

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “PM – KISAN”:

1. It is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
2. The farmer can get a loan facility in the form of short-term loans by using Kisan Credit Card (KCC).

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: PM – KISAN is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.

- Under this scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in 3 equal installments will be provided to all land holding farmer families (subject to exclusion criteria).
- The farmer can also get a loan facility in the form of short-term loans by using Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- Definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
- Identification of Beneficiaries - State Government and UT administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)”:

1. It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector.
2. It has two components comprised Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

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: PMMSY - It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector.

- Its aim is to double the income of fish farmers and fishers in the country and to bring about Blue Revolution.
- The PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with 2 separate Components - Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Under the “Report Fish Disease App”, which of the following species can be report by farmer?

1. Finfish
2. Shrimps
3. Molluscs

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: To further strengthen the farmer-based reporting of diseases, Report Fish Disease App has been developed under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD).

- The farmers can report disease cases in finfish, shrimps and molluscs on their farms.
- The app will be a central platform for connecting fish farmers, field-level officers and fish health experts.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “Operation Greens” is often seen in news implemented by?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED)
- d) Department of Consumer Affairs

ANS: C

Explanation: Operation Greens (OG) is a Central Sector Scheme established under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

- Launched by - Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- Implemented by - National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED).

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY)”:

1. It is launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
2. It is implemented by a society is Pharma & Medical Bureau of India (PMBI).

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 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' was revamped as 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana' (PMJAY).

- It is launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.
- Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Janaushadhi Kendras are opened to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.
- The Scheme is implemented by a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, which is Pharma & Medical Bureau of India (PMBI).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are covered under the “unique package of innovative schemes for farmers”?

1. Natural farming
2. Farmers income
3. Soil productivity

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today approved a unique package of innovative schemes for farmers with a total outlay of Rs.3,70,128.7 crore.

- The bouquet of schemes is focused at overall wellbeing and economic betterment of farmers by promoting sustainable agriculture.
- The initiatives will boost farmers' income, strengthen natural / organic farming, rejuvenate soil productivity, and ensure food security.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Under the initiative of “Urea Gold” which of the following mineral coated to urea?

- a) Zinc
- b) Sulfur
- c) Boron
- d) Lead

ANS: B

Explanation: Urea Gold – It is a new variety of urea that is coated with sulphur which is expected to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.8) The project "TAMARA" is often seen in news related to?

- a) Water management
- b) Natural farming
- c) Health care management
- d) Solar energy

ANS: A

Explanation: Technology Development Board (TDB) of Ministry of Science & Technology supports the Waterbody Management Project "TAMARA" with 89 Lakhs out of 150 lakhs.

- Project Title - Development and Commercialization of Intelligent Water Body Management System (IWMS)-TAMARA.
- It is a smart aeration system enhanced with sensors and IoT-based technology to manage water quality.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following country/countries achieved deep sea missions successfully?

- 1. France
- 2. China
- 3. Russia

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: As part of Deep Ocean Mission, India will for the 1st time, embark on a journey to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean using an indigenously developed submersible.

- It is one of 9 missions under Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC).
- U.S.A., Russia, China, France, and Japan have already achieved successful deep-ocean crewed missions.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The term "Varaha" is often seen in news related to?

- a) Ocean mining vehicle
- b) Submarine
- c) Frigate
- d) Cruiser

ANS: A

Explanation: Varaha is ocean mining vehicle, part of Deep Ocean Mission (or) Samudrayaan Mission.

Source: FORUMIAS

Government Schemes

Q.1) Which of the following is/are sub-scheme/s of “Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modeling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) Scheme”?

1. Atmospheric Observations Network
2. Monsoon Convection Clouds & Climate Change
3. Moon Observation Mission

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modeling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) Scheme is an umbrella central sector scheme that pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Sub schemes under ACROSS:

- Upgradation of Forecast System
- Weather & Climate Services
- Atmospheric Observations Network
- Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate
- Monsoon Mission III
- Monsoon Convection Clouds & Climate Change (MC4)
- High Performance Computing System (HPCS)

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Gram Manchitra”:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
2. It uses the National Informatics Centre's (NIC) Geographic Information System (GIS) platform of Bharat Maps for spatial planning of panchayats.

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: Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched Geographic Information System application “Gram Manchitra” to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat.

It uses the National Informatics Centre's (NIC) Geographic Information System (GIS) platform of Bharat Maps.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

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

- a) Handicrafts
- b) Solar energy
- c) Sustainable farming
- d) Agriculture marketing

ANS: A

Explanation: eSARAS is an initiative of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

- It aims to collect and organize the authentic handcrafted products from across the country.
- It is an online platform for buying handicrafts and handloom items made by rural women registered with Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- This online platform showcases the products made by self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following scheme is also called as “Aajeevika”?

- a) PMMSY
- b) NRLM
- c) PM – KISAN
- d) PMGSY

ANS: B

Explanation: National Rural Livelihood Mission is also known as Aajeevika. It is a flagship poverty alleviation program implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

It aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor household to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in sustainable and diversified livelihood options for the poor.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Nayi Chetna – 2.0” campaign was launched by?

- a) Ministry of Rural Development
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- d) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

ANS: A

Explanation: Nayi Chetna – 2.0 is a gender campaign that aims to eradicate violence against women and advance the rights of women and gender-diverse individuals.

- The campaign was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- The campaign is led by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and launched in all states under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, supported by 9 ministries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.6) The concept “Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)” was launched by?

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) China
- d) USA

ANS: A

Explanation: The Indian Prime Minister with the UN Secretary-General jointly launched the events related to the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

- The concept of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was introduced by Indian PM during UNFCCC - COP26 at Glasgow in 2021.
- LiFE is an international mass movement to protect and preserve the environment.
- LiFE envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy (governed by mindless and destructive consumption) with a circular economy (defined by mindful and deliberate utilization).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)”:

1. It promotes circular economy.
2. It is conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

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: City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) is a program conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

- The program will run for a period of 4 years, i.e., from 2023 till 2027.
- It envisages supporting competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Amplifi 2.0” initiative is often seen in news related to?

- a) Urban areas
- b) Rural areas
- c) Weather prediction
- d) Space mission

ANS: A

Explanation: Amplifi – Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India: Its aim is to facilitate the process of achieving sustainable development by making data available on the crucial issues pertaining to development.

It is a platform to provide raw data across 14 sectors for 440+ parameters for 250+ cities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) The “Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign” is under the flagship scheme of?

- a) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- b) Smart Cities Mission
- c) Jal Shakti Mission
- d) PM – KUSAM Scheme

ANS: A

Explanation: Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign’s aim is to provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance.

- Women will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in their respective cities.
- The campaign is under the flagship scheme Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), in partnership with National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Recently, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the ‘Graphene-Aurora program’ at?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Bangalore

ANS: A

Explanation: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the ‘Graphene-Aurora program’ at Kerala recently.

- It aims to fill the gap between R&D and commercialization by providing a complete facility to startup and industry.
- Implemented by - Digital University Kerala with joint funding from Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Government of Kerala and Industry partners.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following is/are initiated the “INDIAai portal”?

1. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
2. National Association of Software and Service Companies
3. National e-Governance Division

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: INDIAai portal is an initiative of MeitY, National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.2) Who among the following launched the “Global DPI Repository (GDPIR)”?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: India has launched 2 new initiatives - Global DPI Repository and Social Impact Fund to advance Digital Public Infrastructure in Global South.

- Global DPI Repository (GDPIR) – A virtual repository of DPI, voluntarily shared by G20 members and beyond
- Its aim is to bridge the knowledge gap in the choices and methodologies required for the design, construction, deployment, and governance of DPIs.
- To showcase the information in a standardized format by incorporating elements such as maturity scales, source codes and governance frameworks and currently, the GDPIR features 54 DPIs from 16 countries.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Social Impact Fund”:

1. It is an initiative of World Bank.
2. The SIF India has pledged an initial commitment of 25 billion USD.

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: Social Impact Fund (SIF) is envisioned as a government led multi-stakeholder initiative to fast-track DPI implementation in the global south.

- Its aim is to offer a platform for all stakeholders to contribute to this fund and help accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) through DPIs.
- To provide upstream technical and non-technical assistance to countries in developing DPI systems.
- The SIF India has pledged an initial commitment of 25 million USD.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Who among the following recently has launched an e-cabinet system to promote digitisation of government services and information?

- a) Tripura
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Telangana
- d) Goa

ANS: A

Explanation: Tripura has launched an e-cabinet system to promote digitisation of government services and information.

- It is a software portal for state governments to conduct Cabinet meetings electronically.
- It is developed by - National Information Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Tripura has become the 4th state - and 2nd in the Northeast - after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, to have introduced an e-cabinet system.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The famous “Sanchar Saathi” is an initiative of?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Department of Telecommunications
- c) Department of Consumer Affairs
- d) Department of Cultural Affairs

ANS: B

Explanation: Sanchar Saathi is a citizen-centric initiative of Department of Telecommunications that was launched in 2023.

- Its aim is to empower mobile subscribers, strengthen their security and increase awareness about citizen centric initiatives of the Government.
- It is an integral part of Digital India vision.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “PM - Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)”:

1. It was launched by the Department of Telecommunication in 2022.
2. Its aim is to enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: PM – Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) was launched by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in 2020.

Its aim is to enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country, especially in rural areas.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Centralized Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Mobile devices
- b) Cyclone tracking
- c) Radar detecting device
- d) Traditional medicine repository

ANS: A

Explanation: Centralized Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) was launched by Department of Telecom for blocking stolen/lost mobiles.

- The system is integrated with the Telecom Service Providers and Law enforcement Agencies.
- Working - The user submits the IMEI number along with the copy of police complaint of lost/stolen phone on the portal.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- The information is verified and then the system blocks the stolen mobile phones from being used in Indian networks.
- The system allows Law Enforcement Agencies to trace the stolen device if still in use.
- On recovery of stole devices, the user can unlock the device on the portal.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme”:

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. It provides relief to poor prisoners, who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints.

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: Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme is a Central sector scheme

Its aim is to provide relief to poor prisoners, who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The famous “Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana” related to?

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Industry
- c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- d) Ministry of Agriculture

ANS: C

Explanation: Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana scheme of ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “MAHIR” scheme is often seen in news related to?

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Industry
- c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- d) Ministry of Power

ANS: D

Explanation: The Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched MAHIR. Its aim is to facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.

Source: FORUMIAS

Government Schemes – Miscellaneous

Q.1) The “4E Wave movement” is recently seen in news related to?

- Jammu & Kashmir
- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu
- Madhya Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: 4E Wave movement is a Student-Led National Movement for Energy Conservation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Its aim is to promote sustainable practices and instill a sense of responsibility in individuals and communities to save energy.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are covered under “Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)”?

- Rice
- Wheat
- Maize

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

ANS: B

Explanation: The Centre has discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to State governments.

- It is a government initiative to sell surplus stocks of wheat and rice under at pre-determined prices through e-auction in the open market.
- Conducted by – Food Corporation of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- In addition to maintaining buffer stocks and making a provision for meeting the requirement of the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and other welfare schemes, FCI sells wheat and rice in the open market from time to time.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Gajraj Suraksha”:

- It is an indigenous technology to reduce the elephant–train collision in the forest areas.
- It relies on Optical Fibre cables (OFCs) for quick transmission of signals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian Railways has chosen the Northeast Frontier Railways to implement the Gajraj Suraksha, an indigenous technology on pilot basis to reduce the elephant–train collision in the forest areas.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- It primarily relies on Optical Fibre cables (OFCs) for quick transmission of signals. It is a kind of Intrusion Detection System that is based on an AI algorithm.
- It uses pressure-wave based technology that detects the movement of elephants along the tracks.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Sagar Samriddhi”:

1. It is an Online Dredging Monitoring System to bring transparency & efficiency.
2. It is developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC).

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: Sagar Samriddhi is an Online Dredging Monitoring System to bring transparency & efficiency.

- Dredging is the removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbours, and other water bodies.
- It is developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) the technological arm of MoPSW.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Paat-Mitro” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Jute
- b) Rice
- c) Wheat
- d) Maize

ANS: A

Explanation: The Ministry of Textiles launched “Paat-Mitro”, a mobile application, developed by Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) during ‘Jute Symposium’.

- The app is to support jute farmers and provides information about agronomy and Minimum Support Prices, as well as the latest agricultural practices.
- It also includes information about jute category standards and Jute-ICARE (Jute- Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The famous “Shakti Scheme” is recently seen in news launched by?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Karnataka government has recently launched the Shakti scheme.

- Sakthi Scheme offers free travel to women and transgender people in governmentrun buses in the state of Karnataka.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- The government has also reserved 50% of the seats for men in all RTCs, except BMTTC services.
- The scheme follows the footsteps of Delhi, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, which have introduced similar initiatives.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “SPARK Project” is recently seen in news implemented by?

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- d) International Monetary Fund

ANS: C

Explanation: Sparking Disability Inclusive Rural Transformation (SPARK) Project aim is to help people with disabilities, especially women and youth with disabilities, become active participants.

- Implemented by - The ILO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in collaboration with the Women’s Development Corporation in Maharashtra.
- Through this project, persons with disabilities were trained as Disability Inclusion Facilitators (DIFs).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Kisan Credit Card Scheme”:

1. It was introduced in 2008.
2. It provides adequate and timely credit to the farmers for their agricultural operations.

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: Kisan Credit Card Scheme was introduced in 1998 with the objective of providing adequate and timely credit to the farmers for their agricultural operations and other needs such as

1. To meet the short-term credit requirements for cultivation of crops;
2. Post-harvest expenses;
3. Produce marketing loan;
4. Consumption requirements of farmer household;
5. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture;
6. Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) Which of the following sub-schemes is/are part of National Livestock Mission (NLM)?

1. Sub-mission on Breed Development of Livestock and Poultry
2. Sub-mission on Feed and Fodder Development
3. Sub Mission on Innovation and Extension

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: NLM was launched to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders in 2014-15.

- The NLM scheme has been revised and realigned from F/Y 2021-22.
- The revised NLM scheme aims towards employment generation, entrepreneurship development, increase in per animal productivity and thus targeting increased production of meat, goat milk, egg and wool.

The realigned National Livestock Mission will have following 3 Sub-Missions:

- Sub-mission on Breed Development of Livestock and Poultry
- Sub-mission on Feed and Fodder Development
- Sub Mission on Innovation and Extension

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following service/s is/are provided in “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra (PMKSK)”?

1. Agriculture loans
2. Advice on good farming practices
3. Fertilizers

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: PMKSK will serve as a one-stop shop for Indian farmers buying quality agri-inputs (fertilisers, seeds, pesticides). PMKSK is also known as the Model Fertilizer Retail Shop.

- Under the scheme, the retail fertiliser shops in the country will be converted into PMKSK in a phased manner.
- Services - It will provide agri-inputs including testing facilities for soil, seeds and fertilisers.
- Apart from this, they will also create awareness among the farmers and provide information regarding various government schemes.
- The extended services like crop advisories or good farming practices, will be provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) or agriculture universities.

Source: FORUMIAS

Miscellaneous

Q.1) The term “Shaphari” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Sugar cane
- b) Aquaculture
- c) Sericulture
- d) Horticulture

ANS: B

Explanation: Shaphari is a certification scheme for aquaculture products developed by the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA).

Shaphari is a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “Five Star Villages scheme” is often seen in news launched by?

- a) Department of Posts
- b) Department of Consumer Affairs
- c) Department of Cooperation
- d) Department of Agriculture

ANS: A

Explanation: The Department of Posts has launched ‘Five Star Villages’ scheme to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.

- All postal products and services will be made available and marketed and publicized at village level.
- Branch offices will function as one-stop shop to cater all post office – related needs of villagers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “DARPAN scheme” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Digital library
- b) Financial inclusion
- c) Primary health care
- d) Sustainable farming

ANS: B

Explanation: Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India (DARPAN) is aimed at realizing financial inclusion of un-banked rural population.

- The Project shall increase the rural reach of the Department of Posts and enable Branch Post Offices to increase traffic of all financial remittances, savings accounts, Rural Postal Life Insurance, and Cash Certificates etc.
- It intends to provide a low power technology solution to each branch postmaster to improve service delivery in MNREGS, old age pension, DBT, etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)”:

1. It is a non lapsable fund that comes under Department of Telecommunications.
2. It was given statutory status by Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.

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: Created in 2002, the USOF is a non lapsable fund that comes under Department of Telecommunications. It was given statutory status by Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following activity/activities is/are funded by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under Dairy Sahakar Scheme?

1. Bovine development
2. Milk procurement
3. Exports of dairy products

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Under Dairy Sahakar, financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for activities such as

1. Bovine development,
2. Milk procurement,
3. Processing, quality assurance, value addition, branding, packaging, marketing of milk & milk products
4. Transportation and storage of milk and milk products,
5. Exports of dairy products

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Seva Bhoj Yojana”:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. The objective of the scheme is to lessen the financial burden on Charitable Religious Institutions who provide food at free of cost without any discrimination.

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: Seva Bhoj Yojana is a Central Sector Scheme under which the CGST and Central Government’s share of IGST paid by Charitable Religious Institutions on purchase of specific raw food items shall be reimbursed to them.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- The charitable religious institutions include Temples, Gurudwara, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Matth, Monastries etc.
- The objective of the scheme is to lessen the financial burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions who provide food at free of cost without any discrimination.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti”:

1. It was launched to provide a boost to the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) culture in indigenous defense industry.
2. The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.

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: Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti (Power of Defense Knowledge) was launched to provide a boost to the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) culture in indigenous defense industry.

- It aims at educating scientists and technologists in defense public sector undertakings and ordnance factories to create more patents.
- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.
- The organization provides Quality Assurance (QA) cover for the entire range of Arms, Ammunitions, Equipment and Stores supplied to Armed Forces.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Swajal Yojana”:

1. It is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained piped drinking water supply powered by solar energy.
2. It was launched in 2018 under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

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: Swajal Yojana is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained piped drinking water supply powered by solar energy.

- It was launched in 2018 under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme.
- It was extended to 115 aspirational districts in the country.
- The scheme will train hundreds of rural technicians for operation and maintenance of Swajal units which generates employment in the rural areas.
- Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) Which of the following state/s is/are covered under Atal Bhujal Yojana?

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Haryana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Atal Bhujal Yojana is a Central Sector Scheme, which aims for sustainable ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in 7 States.

- It will be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
- The states are Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- It will promote panchayat led ground water management and behavioral changes with primary focus on demand side management.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Common Services Centre (CSC)” program is an initiative of?

- a) Ministry of Electronics & IT
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Agriculture

ANS: A

Explanation: The Common Services Centre (CSC) program is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).

- CSC's are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) access points created under the National eGovernance Project.
- These access points deliver various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.
- They enable community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with key focus on the rural citizen.

Source: FORUMIAS

Social Issues

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024”:

1. It prohibits the use donor gametes under any condition.
2. Single women undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperms to avail surrogacy procedure.

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: In the exercise of powers conferred under Surrogacy (Regulation) Act 2021, the Government makes the following rules to amend the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022.

- In case when District Medical Board certifies that the intending couple suffers from a medical condition necessitating the use of a donor gamete, then surrogacy using a donor gamete is allowed provided that the child to be born through surrogacy must have at least one gamete from the intending couple.
- Previously, Rule 7 of Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 prohibited the use of donor gametes.
- Single women (widow or divorcee) undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperms to avail surrogacy procedure.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021”:

1. It allows both altruistic and commercial surrogacy.
2. Abortion of surrogate child requires written consent of surrogate mother and authorization of appropriate authority.

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: Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 (Surrogacy Act 2021): Only altruistic surrogacy is allowed and penalizes commercial surrogacy.

- Establish National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board (NARTSB) to review and monitor implementation of Act, supervise functioning of State ARTSB (SARTSB), etc.
- Abortion of surrogate child requires written consent of surrogate mother and authorization of appropriate authority. This authorization must be compliant with MTP Act, 1971.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.3) Which of the following country/countries rolled back the abortion law?

1. USA
2. Poland
3. France

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: According to Centre for Reproductive Rights, more than 60 countries have liberalized their abortion laws over past 30 years.

Only 4 countries –US, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Poland - have rolled back legality of abortion.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The “Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Act 2021 allows termination of pregnancy in which of the following cases?

1. Up to 20 weeks
2. For 20 to 24 weeks
3. Beyond 24 weeks

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: MTP (Amendment) Act 2021 allows termination of pregnancy in following cases:

- Up to 20 weeks: Available to all on the advice of one doctor.
- For 20 to 24 weeks: Available only in specific categories of women cases subject to advice of two doctors.
- Beyond 24 weeks: Available only on grounds of foetal abnormalities on advice of a medical board.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) was enacted in?

- a) 1999
- b) 2001
- c) 2005
- d) 2010

ANS: C

Explanation: Article 15 (3) gives power to the legislature to make special provision for women and children. In exercise of this power, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) 2005 enacted.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Dowry is defined by Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961.
2. Dowry death was added as a new offence in IPC in 1986.

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: Dowry, also known as Dahej (North India) or Sthreedhanam (South India), is defined by Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 as "Any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly by one party/ parents to other party in connection with marriage".

- Dowry death was added as a new offence in IPC only in 1986.
- Section 304B (relates to Dowry Death) of IPC is read in conjunction with Section 113B (on Presumption of Dowry death) of Indian Evidence Act, 1872 in case of a dowry death.
- Section 80 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 contains provisions related to 'Dowry Death'.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Boeing Sukanya Program to support girl's entry into the aviation sector.
2. 15 percent of India's pilots are women which is 3 times more than global average.

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: Recently, the Prime Minister launched the Boeing Sukanya Program to support girl's entry into the aviation sector.

- It aims to support entry of girl children from across India into country's aviation sector.
- It will provide opportunities for girls and women to learn critical skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields and train for jobs in aviation sector.
- For young girls, program will create STEM Labs at 150 planned locations to spark interest in STEM careers and provide scholarships to women who are training to be pilots.
- Fact: 15 percent of India's pilots are women which is 3 times more than global average.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.8) Which of the following initiative/s is/are taken by government to promote women in “Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields”?

1. WEST
2. KIRAN
3. GATI

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Initiatives taken to promote women in STEM:

- I-STEM (Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map): By the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor provides a platform to provide Research infrastructure and Labs that can be availed by users across India.
- Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST): A new I-STEM initiative to empower women to contribute to the science, technology, and innovation ecosystem.
- Vigyan Jyoti: By the Department of Science & Technology to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue STEM.
- Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN): Scheme of Department of Science & Technology encourages women scientists in the field of S&T.
- Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI): It seeks to bring institutional reforms to facilitate women in STEM and medicine disciplines at all levels.
- Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence (CURIE): It provides support to women universities in improving their R&D facilities.
- Biotechnology Career Advancement and Reorientation Programme (BioCARE): By Department of Biotechnology for Career Development of employed/ unemployed women Scientists for whom it will be the first extramural research grant.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. ILO Convention 190 is first international treaty to recognize right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender based violence and harassment.
2. India has ratified this convention.

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: ILO Convention 190 is first international treaty to recognize right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including genderbased violence and harassment.

- India has not ratified this convention.
- UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by UN General Assembly in 1979 and has been ratified by India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “PMGDISHA scheme” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Women security
- b) Primary health care
- c) Digital literacy
- d) Financial inclusion

ANS: C

Explanation: Launched in 2017, the PMGDISHA scheme is the Government’s flagship Digital Literacy scheme for rural areas.

- It envisages to make 6 crore persons in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate.
- This will reach to around 40% of rural households by covering one member from every household where there is no digitally literate person.

Source: FORUMIAS

Social Issues – II

Q.1) The “PENCiL initiative” is often seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Child labor
- b) Preventive detention
- c) Habitual offenders
- d) Tribal welfare

ANS: A

Explanation: PENCiL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labor) Portal: It has become a pivotal tool in rescuing and rehabilitating victims of child labor.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016”:

1. It prohibits employment of Children below 14 years in all employment.
2. It prohibits employment of adolescents (14-18 Years) in the scheduled hazardous occupations and processes.

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: Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016: Prohibit employment of Children below 14 years in all employment and also with provisions for prohibition on employment of adolescents (14-18 Years) in the scheduled hazardous occupations and processes.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.3) Which of the following legislation/s is/are govern the adoption in India?

1. Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) 1956
2. Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
3. Adoption Regulations, 2022

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Process through which adopted child is permanently separated from his biological parents and becomes lawful child of his adoptive parents with all rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to a biological child.

Legislation governing Adoption:

- Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) 1956: It amends and codifies the law relating to adoptions and maintenance among Hindus.
- It is applicable to any person, who is a Hindu by religion in any of its forms including Virashaiva, Lingayat or follower of Brahmo, Prarthana or Arya Samaj; Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh by religion.
- JJ Act, 2015 and Adoption Regulations, 2022: Governs inter- and intra- country adoption of orphaned, abandoned, or surrendered children and children of relatives.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are law/s governing the Anti-Trafficking Crimes?

1. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
2. Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act, 1976
3. Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Laws governing Anti-Trafficking Crimes:

- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 prohibits immoral trafficking and sex work.
- Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act, 1976 abolishes bonded labor system to prevent economic and physical exploitation of weaker sections of people.
- Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 makes commercial dealing in human organs a punishable offence.
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 protects children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) Which of the following country was the first country to legalize same-sex marriages?

- a) Switzerland
- b) Netherlands
- c) Australia
- d) Norway

ANS: B

Explanation: The Netherlands was the first country to legalize same-sex marriages in 2001.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The "Prayatna" project is often seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Child welfare
- b) Transgender
- c) Destitute women
- d) Ethnic communities

ANS: B

Explanation: NITI Aayog report "Best Practices in Social Sector" mentioned "Prayatna" project, a livelihood and enterprise training program for Transgender people in Delhi-NCR.

- It aims to help beneficiaries to attain a basic quality of life and impart entrepreneurship skills to some of them.
- It was approved by Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) Executive Committee.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The "PM - JANMAN" is often seen in news related to?

- a) Child labor
- b) Preventive detention
- c) Insurance protection
- d) Tribal welfare

ANS: D

Explanation: Recently, Union government launched PM JANMAN (PM- Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day).

- In Union Budget 2023-24, Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission was announced; following which PM JANMAN was launched.
- It comprises of 11 critical interventions through 9 ministries with an estimated outlay of ₹ 24104 crore for 3 years.
- It aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities like safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health, and nutrition, etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.8) The “Article 342” of Indian constitution is often seen in news related to?

- a) Scheduled tribes
- b) Inter – state commerce
- c) Water disputes
- d) Land transfer

ANS: A

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

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)”:

1. There are 75 PVTGs spread over 18 states and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. Madhya Pradesh houses highest number (13) of PVTGs in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):

- These are centrally recognized special categories from among STs.
- First recognized in 1973 as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) based on recommendations of the U N Dhebar Commission (1961).
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. Currently, there are 75 PVTGs spread over 18 states and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Odisha houses highest number (13) of PVTGs in India.
- Recently, Bharia PVTG in Madhya Pradesh and Kamar and Baiga tribe in Chhattisgarh were granted Habitat Rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Idate Commission” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) De-notified tribes
- b) Primary health care
- c) Teachers training
- d) Urban development

ANS: A

Explanation: Recently, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stressed the need to implement the Idate Commission report which recommended setting up a permanent commission for De-Notified, Nomadic, and Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) in India.

Source: FORUMIAS

Social Issues – III

Q.1) The “Hakki Pikki Tribe” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Nagaland

ANS: A

Explanation: On August 2023, 114 tribal people from the Hakki Pikki tribal community in Karnataka got title deeds to the land they had been cultivating for about a century.

- The colony for the nomadic tribe is located on the edge of the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), about 36 km from Bengaluru.
- The Hakki Pikkis are traditionally a semi-nomadic tribe of bird catchers and hunters, who settled down in several parts of Karnataka.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/videos/watch-why-is-the-hakki-pikki-tribal-community-unhappy-with-the-land-given-to-them/article67371633.ece>

Q.2) Which of the following tribe/s is/are pastoral communities?

- 1. Bhils
- 2. Kurabas
- 3. Chenchus

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Three types of nomadic communities:

- Hunter/trappers of birds and animals, gamer, etc., such as Konda Reddis, Chenchus etc.
- Pastoral communities such as Pardis, Guzzars, Banjaras, Bhils, Kurabas, Madhuras, etc.
- Peripatetic groups of peddlers, fortune tellers, storytellers, acrobats, dancers, dramatists, etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Renke Commission” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Tribal welfare
- b) Child care
- c) Adoption guidelines
- d) Naxalites welfare

ANS: A

Explanation: As per Renke Commission (2008), there are nearly 1,500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes and 198 De-notified tribes, comprising 15crore Indians.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.4) The “IMPRINT India” initiative is often seen in news related to?

- a) Research development
- b) Bilateral investment
- c) Export promotion
- d) Vaccine distribution

ANS: A

Explanation: Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India: First-of-its-kind Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to bring forth public-private collaborative funding for research projects.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Who among the following is president (ex – officio) of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) governing board?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Home Minister
- c) Union Minister of Science & Technology
- d) Finance Minister

ANS: A

Explanation: The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF which will be governed by a Governing Board consisting of eminent researchers and professionals across disciplines.

Since the scope of the NRF is wide-ranging – impacting all ministries - the Prime Minister will be the ex-officio President of the Board and the Union Minister of Science & Technology & Union Minister of Education will be its ex-officio Vice-Presidents.

NRF’s functioning will be governed by an Executive Council chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1967353#:~:text=NRF's>

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “World University Rankings 2024”:

1. Less number of Indian Universities has found a place on the list compared with 2023.
2. University of Oxford is listed as the best University in the world.

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: World University Rankings 2024: The recent ranking by Times Higher Education included 1,904 universities across 108 countries.

- Around 91 Indian Universities have found a place on the list (In 2023, it was 75).
- University of Oxford (UK) is listed as the best University in the world.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore placed in 201-250 brackets, topped the list of Indian Universities.
- 4 Indian universities are placed in 501-600 brackets (Anna University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Mahatma Gandhi University and Shoolini University).
- India is the 4th most well-represented nation in the 2024 rankings (6th in 2023).

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023”:

1. Less than 20 years old institutions can now apply for Deemed to be Universities status.
2. Cluster of institutions managed by more than one sponsoring body can apply for Deemed to be University status.

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: Ministry of Education released UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023.

- Less than 20 years old institutions can now apply for DtbU status.
- Previously, under 2019 Regulations, higher educational institutions having ‘existence for not less than 20 years’ were eligible for applying for the status.
- Cluster of institutions managed by more than one sponsoring body can apply for Deemed to be University (DtbU) status.
- Institutions DtbU may start new courses or programs in any field, with prior approval of its Executive Council and, also wherever applicable, with approval of relevant statutory council.
- Institutions DtbU shall compulsorily create Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) identities of their students and upload their credit scores in digital lockers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following institution released the “National Credit Framework (NCrF) Report”?

- a) UGC
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Centre for Science & Environment
- d) RBI

ANS: A

Explanation: University Grants Commission (UGC) released the National Credit Framework (NCrF) Report. It is an inclusive single Meta Framework to seamlessly integrate credits earned through school education, higher education, and vocational & skill education.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs)”:

1. It monitors real-time status of various projects/ activities under ambit of Samagra Shiksha.
2. It keeps track of enrolled students including learning outcomes from National Achievement Survey.

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: Objective of Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs):

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Monitor real-time status of various projects/ activities under ambit of Samagra Shiksha.
- Keep track of enrolled students including learning outcomes from National Achievement Survey, dropouts' data, etc.
- Setup centralized helpdesk for grievance redressal mechanism for stakeholders of School ecosystem.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following initiative/s taken by government to achieve Universal Health Coverage?

1. Ayushman Bharat Yojana
2. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)
3. Intensified Mission Indradhanush

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Initiatives taken to achieve Universal Health Coverage:

- Ayushman Bharat Yojana aims to undertake interventions to holistically address health at primary, secondary and tertiary level.
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to improve equitable access to quality healthcare by encouraging use of technologies such as telemedicine and enabling national portability of health services.
- National Health Policy 2017 aims at achieving UHC and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush focusses on reaching zero-dose children aged between 0 and 5 years and pregnant women who might have missed any vaccine doses in the national immunisation schedule.

Source: FORUMIAS

Social Issues – IV

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Anganwadi Services Scheme”:

1. It is an integral part of Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under ministry of social justice and empowerment.

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: Anganwadi system, launched under Anganwadi Services Scheme (now renamed as Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0), is an integral part of Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme. Anganwadi Services Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under MoWCD.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “National Nutrition Mission (NNM) or POSHAN Abhiyan”:

1. It was launched in 2017.
2. Its objective is to reduce stunting in identified Districts of India with the highest malnutrition burden.

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 Nutrition Mission (NNM) or POSHAN Abhiyan:

It was launched in 2017 to monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide nutrition-related interventions across the Ministries.

- The objective of POSHAN Abhiyaan is to reduce stunting in identified Districts of India with the highest malnutrition burden by improving utilization of key Anganwadi Services.
- It aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “WASH scheme” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Water and sanitation
- b) Wage improvement
- c) Maternity benefits
- d) Cropping system

ANS: A

Explanation: WASH is a collective term for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene relating to Access to safe drinking water, Improved sanitation facilities and maintaining basic level of hygiene.

- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Report stated that in 2019, use of safe WASH services could have prevented 2.5% of all deaths and 2.9% of all Disability-Adjusted Life years (DALYs) globally.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following institution releases the “Global Hunger Index (GHI)”?

- a) World Bank
- b) WEF
- c) UNDP
- d) Concern Worldwide and WeltHungerHilfe

ANS: D

Explanation: Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 is released by Concern Worldwide and WeltHungerHilfe, Non-Government Organizations from Ireland and Germany respectively.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) Which of the following institution released the “India Ageing Report 2023”?

- a) United Nations Population Fund
- b) World Bank
- c) WEF
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: UNFPA released India Ageing Report 2023, in collaboration with International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)”:

1. Its genesis is rooted in UN Charter.
2. It works closely with governments and stakeholders to help countries meet their economic, social, and environmental goals.

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: UNDESA genesis is rooted in UN Charter.

- It is guided by transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It works closely with governments and stakeholders to help countries meet their economic, social, and environmental goals.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “UN Commission on Population and Development” was established by?

- a) UNDP
- b) World Bank
- c) WEF
- d) UNECOSOC

ANS: D

Explanation: Population Commission was established by the UN Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) in 1946. It was renamed as UNCPD in 1994.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following institution releases the “Global Food Policy Report 2023”?

- a) UNDP
- b) FAO
- c) IFPRI
- d) World Bank

ANS: C

Explanation: IFPRI released the Global Food Policy Report 2023: Rethinking food crisis responses.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) Which of the following institution releases the “Global Gender Gap Index”?

- a) UNDP
- b) FAO
- c) WEF
- d) World Bank

ANS: C

Explanation: Global Gender Gap Index released annually by World Economic Forum.

- 4 Parameters: Economic Participation and Opportunity; Educational Attainment; Health and Survival; Political Empowerment.
- India was ranked at 127 out of 146 countries in 2023.
- India has achieved 44.4% representation of women in local governance.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Madhav National Park is situated in Shivpuri District of Gwalior division in northwest Madhya Pradesh, India.

Two national highways pass through the park, the Agra to Bombay former National Highway 3 and the Jhansi to Shivpuri National Highway 27.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following country/countries is/are member/s of “Arab league”?

1. Somalia
2. Ethiopia
3. Western Sahara

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Arab League, formally known as the League of Arab States, was established in 1945 with initially 6 nations: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

Currently it gathers 22 Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, who have pledged to cooperate on economic and military affairs, among other issues.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.2) Which of the following organization publishes annually “World Oil Outlook”?

- a) Gulf Cooperation Council
- b) Arab League
- c) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
- d) G – 20

ANS: C

Explanation: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries: It is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations to coordinate and unify their petroleum policies and ensure the stabilization of oil markets, in order to have regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.

Since 2007, OPEC has published the "World Oil Outlook" annually, in which it presents a comprehensive analysis of the global oil industry including medium- and long-term projections for supply and demand.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Treaty of Chaguaramas” is recently seen in news associated with?

- a) CARICOM Countries
- b) OPEC
- c) OPEC plus
- d) Arab League

ANS: A

Explanation: The Caribbean community, also known as CARICOM, was formed in 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

- It is an economic and political community that works jointly to shape policies for the region and encourages economic growth and trade.
- It is a grouping of 15 member states and 5 associate members (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Commonwealth of Nations”:

1. It is an organization of 56 member states that are mostly former territories of the British Empire.
2. Member states have legal obligation to one another.

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: Commonwealth of Nations: It is an organization of 56 member states that are mostly former territories of the British Empire.

- It operates by intergovernmental consensus of the member states, organized through the Commonwealth Secretariat and non-governmental organizations, organized through the Commonwealth Foundation.
- Member states have no legal obligation to one another.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) The famous “Ottawa Declaration” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) CARICOM Countries
- b) OPEC
- c) Arctic Council
- d) G – 20

ANS: C

Explanation: Arctic Council: It is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

- The Ottawa Declaration lists the following countries as Members of the Arctic Council - Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.
- In addition, 6 organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have status as Permanent Participants.
- The Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to Non-Arctic States. Observers primarily contribute through their engagement in the Council at the level of Working Groups.
- Observers - China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland and UK.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is NOT a member of MERCOSUR group?

- a) Mexico
- b) Chile
- c) Peru
- d) Colombia

ANS: A

Explanation: MERCOSUR: It is a full customs union and a trading bloc with members Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

- Venezuela was suspended from membership in 2016. Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname are its associate members. Observer countries are New Zealand and Mexico.
- Its purpose is to promote free trade and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The famous “Ten Principles of Bandung” is associated with which of the following?

- a) ASEAN
- b) G – 20
- c) NAM
- d) East Asia Summit

ANS: C

Explanation: NAM was established in 1961 with 29 members. India is one of the founding members. It has since grown to 120 members to become one of the largest groupings of nation-states.

- While some meetings with a third-world perspective were held before 1955, historians consider that the Bandung Asian-African Conference is the most immediate antecedent to the creation of NAM.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- This Conference was held in Bandung in 1955 with the aim of identifying and assessing world issues at the time and pursuing out joint policies in international relations.
- The principles that would govern relations among large and small nations, known as the "Ten Principles of Bandung" were proclaimed at that Conference.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are member/s of "Eurasia Economic Union"?

1. Armenia
2. Poland
3. Serbia

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU) is a political and economic union of 5 states located in central and northern Eurasia i.e., Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.

- It facilitates the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people among its member countries.
- India is holding negotiations to finalize free trade agreement with EAEU.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is NOT a member of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) – regional grouping?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: CSC is a regional security grouping initially known as the Trilateral for Maritime Security Cooperation.

- India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives were part of trilateral maritime security collaboration, while Mauritius joined at 5th meeting of grouping in Male in 2022.
- Observer status – Bangladesh and Seychelles, now they have received invitations to become active participants in the group.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Which of the following city has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)?

- a) Chennai
- b) Pune
- c) Ahmadabad
- d) Bangalore

ANS: D

Explanation: Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).

- World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) was founded in 2012 by Justine Simons OBE, London's Deputy Mayor for Culture & the Creative Industries.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- It is a global network of cities that share research and intelligence and explore the role of culture in future prosperity.
- The network currently has 40 cities spanning six continents. Bengaluru is set to join the league of cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Dubai among others.

Source: FORUMIAS

History – Ancient India – Pre – History Phase

Q.1) Robert Bruce Foote, who discovered what was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India — the hand axe at which of the following place?

- Tamil Nadu
- Kerala
- Andhra Pradesh
- West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: The history and identity of human settlements in India go back to prehistoric times. The credit for doing an early extensive study of Indian pre-history go to Robert Bruce Foote, who discovered what was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India — the Pallavaram hand axe (Tamil Nadu).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Paleolithic Age”:

1. It was developed in the Ice Age.
2. The Paleolithic man of India are said to have belonged to the Negrito race and lived in caves and rock shelters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Paleolithic Age is the earliest period of the Stone Age, which developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age.

- It was spread in practically all parts of India except the alluvial plains of the Indus and Ganga.
- The Paleolithic man of India are said to have belonged to the Negrito race and lived in caves and rock shelters.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following period (age) used the stone tools made of flakes predominantly?

- Lower Paleolithic
- Middle Paleolithic
- Upper Paleolithic
- Neolithic

ANS: B

Explanation: Use of stone tools made of flakes, mainly scrapers, borers, points, and bladelike tools – in middle Paleolithic age.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Homo sapiens first appeared at the end of lower Paleolithic period.
2. Use of hand axes, choppers, and cleavers in upper Paleolithic period.

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: Use of hand axes, choppers, and cleavers, mainly for chopping, digging, and skinning - in lower Paleolithic period.

Upper Paleolithic period: Homo sapiens first appeared at the end of this phase. Coincided with the last phase of the Ice Age, when the climate became comparatively warm and less humid.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following was first discovered the rock painting in Indian sub – continent?

- a) Archibold Carlleyle
- b) Altamira
- c) Cockburn
- d) Anderson

ANS: A

Explanation: In India the earliest paintings have been reported from the Upper Palaeolithic times.

It is interesting to know that the first discovery of rock paintings was made in India in 1867–68 by an archaeologist, Archibold Carlleyle, twelve years before the discovery of Altamira in Spain.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) The famous “Lakhudiyar caves” is located at?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Assam

ANS: C

Explanation: The Lakhudiyar Caves are located in the Barechhina village at the banks of the Suyal River in the Almora district of Uttarakhand.

- On the walls of the caves are paintings depicting animals, humans and also tectiforms, created with fingers in black, red and white.
- There are also a few animal motifs, one of them closely resembling a fox. Wavy lines, rectangle-filled geometric designs and groups of dots are seen here.
- These paintings provide one of the richest experiences of Prehistoric art in the country. The caves have become a historically significant site.
- Culture Board depicting details on painted rock shelters of Lakhudiyar was discovered by Dr. M. P. Joshi in 1968.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The Mesolithic and Neolithic Cultures belong to the Holocene era.
2. Kupgallu, Piklihal and Tekkalkota painting sites are located at Uttarakhand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Mesolithic Age represents the intermediate stage in Stone Age Culture. Both Mesolithic and Neolithic Cultures belong to the Holocene era (which succeeded the Pleistocene era around 10,000 years ago). Some of the examples of sites early rock paintings are Lakhudiyar in Uttarakhand, Kupgallu in Telangana, Piklihal and Tekkalkota in Karnataka, Bhimbetka and Jogimara in Madhya Pradesh etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Who among the following termed the Neolithic phase as Neolithic Revolution?

- a) V. Gordon Childe
- b) P V Joshi
- c) Robert Bruce Foote
- d) Mortimer Wheeler

ANS: A

Explanation: In northern India, the Neolithic age emerged around c.8000–6000 BCE.

- At some places in south and eastern India, it is as late as 1000 BCE.
- Its significance in pre-history can be gauged by the fact that V. Gordon Childe termed the Neolithic phase as Neolithic Revolution.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) In which of the following site found the “community food preparation and feasting”?

- a) Maski
- b) Piklihal
- c) Budihal
- d) Lakhudiyar

ANS: C

Explanation: Some of the important excavated Neolithic Sites along with their unique aspects are as follows: Burzahom (unique rectangular chopper, domestic dogs buried with their masters in graves) and Gufkral in Jammu and Kashmir (famous for pit dwelling, stone tools, and graveyards located within households) Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal (proof of cattle herding), Budihal (community food preparation and feasting).

Source: NCERT

Q.10) The famous “Koldihwa site” is located at which of the following state?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Koldihwa is an archaeological site in Uttar Pradesh, India. It is situated in the valleys of Belan River near village Devghat.

Along with Mahagara, it is one of the few Neolithic sites in Uttar Pradesh. Both are in district Prayagraj.

Source: NCERT

Harappan Civilization

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Harappan civilization geographical area is lesser than the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.
- 2. The Harappan civilization was belongs to Iron Age.

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: The Harappan civilization was the first urban civilization in South Asia, contemporaneous with the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

- Of the three aforementioned civilizations, the Harappan civilization occupied most area (about 8,00,000 sq km).
- Earlier historians had called this civilization the Indus Valley Civilizations, but since then, major settlements have been excavated in the Ghaggar-Hakra belt that spread far beyond the Indus region.
- Harappa, as the first archaeological site to be discovered, therefore gives its name to the entire civilization. It forms a part of the proto-history of India, and belongs to the Bronze Age.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Which of the following specialized craft/s making during the Harappan Civilization?

- 1. Stone-working
- 2. Bead-making
- 3. Wheeled transport

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Early Harappan phase, known as the Regionalisation Era, was the formative, proto-urban phase of the Harappan civilization.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

It is related to the Hakra phase of settlements, and the settlements in this period are marked by their fortification, a fairly high level of expertise in specialised crafts such as stone-working, bead-making, and metalcrafting, the use of wheeled transport, and the existence of trade networks.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Which of the following archeological site/s is/are found in Haryana?

1. Kalibangan
2. Balakot
3. Amri

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Some of the early Harappan archaeological sites are Padri in Gujarat, Kalibangan in Rajasthan, Dholavira in Kutch, Harappa in West Punjab, Balakot, Amri, and Bhirrana in Haryana, Kot Diji and Gumla.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following material trait/s is/are found in the “Harappan Civilization”?

1. Red and black pottery
2. Terracotta figurines
3. Standardized brick size

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Mature Harappan phase, or the Integration Era, was the urban phase of the Harappan civilisation, which shows the characteristics of a full-fledged civilisation.

- It is pertinent to note that the unqualified term, ‘Harappan Culture’ or ‘Harappan Civilisation’, primarily refers to this mature urban phase.
- It is equally important to understand the fact that the use of term ‘Harappan Culture’ or ‘Harappan Civilisation’ for all the excavated sites does not mean that all the other sites are identical to Harappa.
- It only pertains to the fact that the other sites have the same basic set of Harappan material traits, such as the typical red and black pottery, terracotta figurines, standardised brick size in 1:2:4 ratio, and so on.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following “Harappan Site” is divided into three parts?

- a) Kalibangan
- b) Dholavira
- c) Kot Diji
- d) Bhirrana

ANS: B

Explanation: The Dholavira is the largest Indus Valley Site in independent India. It is located on Khadir Beyt, an island in the Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

- It has been excavated by R S Bisht team of ASI. It had three citadels.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

- Each of these three citadels of Dholavira was improved than Harappa and Mohen-jo-Daro and had an inner closure as well.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Which of the following is/are town planning feature/s of Harappan Civilization?

1. Two storey's houses
2. Windows faces the streets
3. Tiled bathrooms

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Harappan civilisation is known for its urban outlook and sophisticated sense of civic planning and organisation.

- Houses were often of two or more storeys, though varied in size but quite monotonous.
- No window faced the streets and the houses had tiled bathrooms. Some houses had their own wells.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding "Harappan Society":

1. It was an urban society.
2. It has at least three distinct social groups consists of ruled, rich merchants and poor laborers.

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 Harappan society was an urban society, comprising mostly of the middle classes. The houses excavated suggest at least three distinct social groups: Ruled rich merchants and poor laborers who lived in the lower part of the city.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) The terms "Dilmun and Makan" are related to which of the following?

- a) Trading stations
- b) Ports
- c) Pre – historic sites
- d) Hoarding sites

ANS: A

Explanation: The Mesopotamian texts speak of three intermediate trading stations called Dilmun (probably Bahrain on Persian Gulf), Makan (probably the Makran coast, Oman) and, Meluhha.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “trade in Harappan Civilization”:

1. There was no external trade in Harappan Civilization.
2. Inland transport primarily employed on bullock carts.

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 inferences about Harappan Economy have been derived from its flourishing trade relations with its contemporary Mesopotamian and Persian civilizations. The Mesopotamians called the Indus Region ‘Meluhha’.

- The key aspects of Harappan trade networks and economy are as follows: They carried out internal and external trade.
- There was no metallic money in circulation and trade was conducted by means of barter. Inland transport primarily employed bullock carts.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) In which of the following site a dockyard has been excavated?

- a) Lothal
- b) Kalibangan
- c) Rakhigarhi
- d) Dirrahan

ANS: A

Explanation: A dockyard has been excavated in Lothal.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

The Vedic Age

Q.1) Which of the following subject/s is/are used by Philologists to study language?

1. History
2. Etymology
3. Linguistics

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Philologists study language in oral and written forms of languages based on historical evidence. They use etymology, comparative linguistics, literary criticism, history, and linguistics in their studies.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. No words of the Munda and Dravidian languages have been identified in Rig Veda.
2. The Aryans used domesticated horses and chariots.

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: Though the Rig Veda is in Sanskrit, about 300 words of the Munda and Dravidian languages have been identified in it, suggesting cultural mix with earlier inhabitants.

From the Vedas it is evident that Aryans used domesticated horses and chariots.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the Vedic age society:

1. They practiced the hunting and food gathering.
2. The dead was buried and cremated.

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: From the Vedas it is evident that Aryans used domesticated horses and chariots. Their chariots had spoked wheels and they used bows and arrows.

- They practiced agriculture and pastoralism. They buried and also cremated the dead.
- The cult of fire and the use of soma drink were prevalent among the speakers of the IndoAryan languages.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following animal is not mentioned in the "Rig Veda"?

1. Horse
2. Tiger
3. Rhinoceros

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The term asva and several other terms in Rig Veda have common roots in various Indo-Aryan languages.

- In the Rig Veda, the term asva (horse) occurs 215 times and vrishabha (bull) 170 times.
- Tiger and rhinoceros, which are tropical animals, are not mentioned in the Rig Veda.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.5) Which of the following region is not part of early Vedic age geographical spread?

- a) Western Uttar Pradesh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Punjab
- d) Afghanistan

ANS: B

Explanation: In the Indian subcontinent, the early Aryans lived in the area of eastern Afghanistan, Pakistan, Punjab and fringes of Western Uttar Pradesh.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the society of Rig Vedic period:

- 1. Varna was the term used by Aryans to refer to color and category.
- 2. Social classes were classified as warriors, priests and common people.

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 Vedic people distinguished themselves from the non-Aryan people. Varna was the term used by Aryans to refer to colour and category.

- The Rig Veda refers to Arya varna and Dasa varna. The Dasas and Dasyus were conquered and treated as slaves.
- They came to be considered sudras in the later period. Social classes were classified as warriors, priests and common people.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the society of Rig Vedic age:

- 1. Slavery and wage labor were prevailed.
- 2. Horse-drawn chariots and bronze objects were possessed by only a few.

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: Slavery was common and slaves were given as gifts to the priests, but there is no reference to wage labor.

- Horse-drawn chariots and bronze objects were possessed by a few, suggesting social distinction.
- Vedic society was largely egalitarian initially, and social distinctions emerged later.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.8) With reference to the Rig Vedic age, the term “Panis” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Traders
- b) Slaves
- c) Wage laborers
- d) Priests

ANS: A

Explanation: Panis were itinerary traders or perhaps caravan traders. Panis are also seen as enemies in some verses.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Kinship was the basis of the social structure of Rig Vedic society.
2. The term janapada occurs in the Rig Veda 21 times.

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: B

Explanation: Kinship was the basis of the social structure of Rig Vedic society. People were identified with specific clans and the clans formed the tribe or jana.

The term jana occurs in the Rig Veda 21 times but janapada does not occur even once.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) With reference to ancient Rig Vedic age, the term “sapatni” was related to?

- a) Wife of grihapati
- b) Dancers
- c) Female priests
- d) Tribal heads

ANS: A

Explanation: The family (griha) was the main social unit within the tribe. It was headed by the grihapati and his wife was known as sapatni.

Source: NCERT

The Mahajanapadas of the Indo - Gangetic Plain

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about second urbanization?

1. The centre of economic and political activity shifted from the Indus Basin to Ganga Basin.
2. The centre was closer to the iron production centres.
3. The region has better rainfall and river systems.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The sixth century BCE is known as an era of 'Second Urbanisation' in the Indian Subcontinent.

- After the decline of the Harappan towns and nearly after a gap of more than a thousand years, urban centres emerged again but not in the Indus plain.
- The centre of economic and political activity shifted from the North-West, Punjab, Haryana, and Western UP, to Eastern UP and Bihar (Ganga Basin).
- This region was not only fertile on account of better rainfall and river systems, but was also closer to the iron production centres.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Which of the following was/were the reasons for development of mahajanapadas?

1. Better iron tools
2. Warrior class and weapons
3. People allegiance to territory

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Later Vedic period, people had started agriculture, which made them settle down at a particular place.

- The new iron agricultural tools and implements (such as the ploughshare) enabled the people to clear thick forest cover and cultivate the hard soil of this area.
- Also, iron weapons made the warrior class more important, and slowly, people gained a strong allegiance to the territory they belonged to rather than the Jana or tribe.
- These permanent settlements led to the foundation of the Janapadas or territorial states, under the control of the king.
- The use of better iron tools and weapons enabled some territorial states to become very large, and they came to be called Mahajanapadas (large territorial states) in North India (cities and states became visible in South India a few centuries later).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.3) The “Anguttara Nikaya” is related to which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Sikhism
- d) Hinduism

ANS: A

Explanation: According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya (the land between Himalayas and Narmada) was divided into 16 independent states (Mahajanapadas).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Which of the following mahajanapada is divided in to two parts by the “Sarayu River”?

- a) Anga
- b) Kosala
- c) Avanti
- d) Kashi

ANS: B

Explanation: Sarayu river divided the Kosala state into two parts: Northern part’s capital: Shravasti and Southern part’s capital: Kushavati.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) “Champa” was a capital city and important commercial centre on the trade routes and merchants sailed from here to Suvarnabhumi – related to?

- a) Anga
- b) Mallas
- c) Vajji
- d) Chedi

ANS: A

Explanation: Champa was a capital city of Anga and important commercial centre on the trade routes and merchants sailed from here to Suvarnabhumi (South-East Asia).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) “Kusinara and Pava” are very important in the history of Buddhism – related to?

- a) Anga
- b) Mallas
- c) Vajji
- d) Chedi

ANS: B

Explanation: Kushinara and Pava were capital cities of Mallas. Kusinara and Pava are very important in the history of Buddhism, since Buddha took his last meal and was taken ill at Pava, and went to his Mahaparinirvana at Kusinara.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.7) The famous city of Kannauj was situated in the kingdom of?

- a) Kuru
- b) Vatsa
- c) Panchala
- d) Shurarena

ANS: C

Explanation: The famous city of Kannauj was situated in the kingdom of Panchala.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Which of the following is/are not Gana-Sanghas?

- 1. Vajji
- 2. Malla
- 3. Vatsa

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: It should be noted that the most powerful states in the 6th century were Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti and two of the Mahajanapads, the Vajji and Malla were Gana-Sanghas.

The Gana-Sanghas (literally meaning an assembly of Gana, those who claim to be of equal status) were an alternative polity to the kingdoms.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) With reference to mahajanapadas, the term "Santhagara" was associated with?

- a) Assembly of people
- b) Slaves
- c) Priests
- d) Spies

ANS: A

Explanation: The corporate aspect of government was a major attribute of Gana-Sanghas.

- They were based in smaller geographical areas and had more representative government.
- The discussion matters were placed before the assembly who met in a hall, called Santhagara.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The "Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary" is often seen in news related to?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A South African delegation, including wildlife experts, was arrived in February to assess the conditions at Madhya Pradesh's Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary which is slated to become the second home of cheetahs in India.

Source: FORUMIAS

The Mahajanapadas of the Indo – Gangetic Plain - II

Q.1) Which of the following was/were the reason/s for the growth of towns in the Gangetic plains?

1. Agricultural surplus
2. Growth of crafts and trade
3. Population growth

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Agricultural surplus, the growth of crafts and trade, and the growing population led to the emergence of towns in the Gangetic plains.

This is called the second urbanization in Indian history after the first urbanization evident in the Harappan Civilization.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following mahajanapada was the westernmost?

- a) Gandhara
- b) Kamboja
- c) Anga
- d) Shurasena

ANS: B

Explanation: According to Puranic, Buddhist and Jaina traditions, there were sixteen mahajanapadas.



Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.3) Which of the following was/were comprised of proto-states of the Gangetic region?

1. Chiefdoms
2. Republics
3. Small kingdoms

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The proto-states of the Gangetic region were known as janapadas and comprised chiefdoms, republics and small kingdoms. Sixteen mahajanapadas find mention in the early texts.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following was/were the political feature/s of the "mahajanapadas"?

1. The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was centralized.
2. The brahman priests provided legitimacy to the king through various rituals.
3. The kingship was hereditary and the succession was in most cases based on the law of primogeniture.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies. Vedic orthodoxy was an established practice in these kingdoms.

- The priestly class enjoyed a preeminent status in the mahajanapadas unlike in the gana-sanghas.
- The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was centralised.
- The brahman priests provided legitimacy to the king through various rituals.
- The kingship was hereditary and the succession was in most cases based on the law of primogeniture.
- The king was assisted by councils called parishad and sabha. The councils were advisory in nature.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Grihapatis – Small land owners
2. Kassakas – large land owners
3. Karmakaras – laborers

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The richer landowners were called grihapatis. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras. The smaller landowners were known as kassakas or krishakas.

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following was the contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Ajatashatru
- c) Udayabhadra
- d) Asoka

ANS: A

Explanation: The political conflict among the Mahajanapadas ultimately led to the emergence of Magadha as the most powerful state and the centre of a vast empire.

- Magadha's rise to political supremacy began with Bimbisara, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty, and ruled for 52 years, from 544 to 492 BCE.
- In the Mahavamsa, it is stated that he was anointed as the king by his father at the age of 15, which suggests that he was not the founder of his dynasty.
- He was a contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira, and paid equal respect to them.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following policy/policies were followed by Bimbisara to expand his empire?

1. Matrimonial alliances
2. Hostile relations with strong rulers
3. Conquest of weak neighbors

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Through his conquests and diplomacy, Bimbisara made Magadha the paramount power. He pursued a three-pronged policy, namely, matrimonial alliances, friendship with strong rulers, and conquest of weak neighbours to expand the empire.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) The capital "Girivraja" was related to which of the following?

- a) Avanti
- b) Magadha
- c) Gandhara
- d) Kamboja

ANS: B

Explanation: Magadha: Capital at Rajgriha (Girivraja), which was an impressive city and almost impregnable as surrounded by five hills, the openings in which were closed by stone walls on all sides.

Source: NCERT

Prelims Marathon Compilation May 2024

Q.9) With reference to mahajanapadas, the term “Mahashilakantaka” related to?

- a) War machine
- b) Stupa
- c) Rock cut cave
- d) Monolithic pillar

ANS: A

Explanation: Ajathashatru used two innovative military weapons:

- War engine, which was used to those stones like catapults (Mahashilakantaka).
- Chariot with mace for mass-killing (Rathamusala).

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Bagor is one of the largest and best documented Mesolithic sites in India, located at?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Bagor, Rajasthan on River Kothari is one of the largest and best documented Mesolithic sites in India.

Source: NCERT