

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Public Finance in India

Q.1) Which of the following article of Indian Constitution has the provisions related to “Annual Financial Statement”?

- a) Article 57
- b) Article 98
- c) Article 110
- d) Article 112

ANS: D

Explanation: The Constitution of India has a provision (Art. 112) for such a document called Annual Financial Statement to be presented in the Parliament before the commencement of every new fiscal year popular as the Union Budget. Same provision is there for the states, too.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following sets of data present in the union budget?

- 1. Actual data of the preceding year
- 2. Provisional data of the current year
- 3. Budgetary estimates for the following year

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Union Budget has three sets of data for every concerned sector or sub sector of the economy:

- Actual data of the preceding year (here preceding year means one year before the year in which the Budget is being presented. Suppose the Budget presented is for the year 2017–18, the Budget will give the final/actual data for the year 2015-16.
- Provisional data of the current year (i.e., 2016–17) since the Budget for 2017–18 is presented at the end of the fiscal 2016–17, it provides Provisional Estimates for this year.
- Budgetary estimates for the following year (here following year means one year after the year in which the Budget is being presented or the year for which the Budget is being presented, i.e., 2017–18).

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.3) Which of the following is/are interim data?

- 1. Quick estimate
- 2. Future estimate
- 3. Advance estimate

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: One comes across certain other kinds of data, too in day-to-day government economic literature. There are three such data—

- (i) Revised Estimate (RE) Revised Estimate is basically a current estimation of either the budgetary estimates (BE) or the provisional estimates (PE). It shows the contemporary situation. It is an interim data.
- (ii) Quick Estimate (QE) Quick Estimate is a kind of revised estimate which shows the latest situation and is useful in the process of going for future projections for some sector or sub-sector. It is an interim data.
- (iii) Advance Estimate (AE) Advance Estimate is a kind of quick estimate but done ahead (is advance) of the final stage when data should have been collected. It is an interim data.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.4) Which of the following is/are non – tax revenue receipts?

- 1. Profits and dividends which the government gets from its public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- 2. Interests received by the government out of all loans forwarded by it.
- 3. Grants which receive from private sector.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Non – tax includes all money earned by the government from sources other than taxes. In India they are:

- (i) Profits and dividends which the government gets from its public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- (ii) Interest's received by the government out of all loans forwarded by it, be it inside the country (i.e., internal lending) or outside the country (i.e., external lending). It means this income might be in both domestic and foreign currencies.
- (iii) Fiscal services also generate incomes for the government, i.e., currency printing, stamp printing, coinage and medals minting, etc.
- (iv) General Services also earn money for the government as the power distribution, irrigation, banking, insurance, community services, etc.
- (v) Fees, Penalties and Fines received by the government.
- (vi) Grants which the governments receive—it is always external in the case of the Central Government and internal in the case of state governments.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.5) Which of the following is NOT part of revenue expenditure?

- a) Construction of highways
- b) Interest payments
- c) Postal deficits of government
- d) Defense expenditures

ANS: A

Explanation: A broad category of things that fall under revenue expenditures in India are:

- (i) Interest payment by the government on the internal and external loans;
- (ii) Salaries, Pension and Provident Fund paid by the government to government employees;
- (iii) Subsidies forwarded to all sectors by the government;
- (iv) Defense expenditures by the government;
- (v) Postal Deficits of the government;
- (vi) Law and order expenditures (i.e., police & paramilitary);
- (vii) Expenditures on social services (includes all social sector expenditures as education, health care, social security, poverty alleviation, etc.) and general services (tax collection, etc.);
- (viii) Grants given by the government to Indian states and foreign countries.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Which of the following is/are comes under capital receipts?

1. Postal deposits
2. Small saving schemes
3. Government bonds sold to the public

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Other Receipts (capital account) by the Government: This includes many long-term capital accruals to the government through the Provident Fund (PF), Postal Deposits, various small saving schemes (SSSs) and the government bonds sold to the public (as Indira Vikas Patra, Kisan Vikas Patra, Market Stabilization Bond, etc.).

Such receipts are nothing but a kind of loan on which the government needs to pay interests on their maturities. But they play a role in capital raising process by the government.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Which of the following is/are comes under capital expenditures?

1. Loan Disbursals by the Government
2. Plan expenditure by the Government
3. Capital Expenditures on Defense by the Government

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: All the areas which get capital from the government are part of the capital expenditure. It includes so many heads in India —

- (i) Loan Disbursals by the Government: The loans forwarded by the government might be internal (i.e., to the states, UTs, PSUs, FIs, etc.) or external (i.e., to foreign countries, foreign banks, purchase of foreign bonds, loans to IMF and WB, etc.).
- (ii) Loan Repayments by the Government: Again loan payments might be internal as well as external. This consists of only the capital part of the loan repayment as the element of interest on loans is shown as a part of the revenue expenditure.
- (iii) Plan Expenditure of the Government: This consists of all the expenditures incurred by the government to finance the planned development of India as well as the central government financial supports to the states for their plan requirements.
- (iv) Capital Expenditures on Defense by the Government: This consists of all kinds of capital expenses to maintain the defense forces, the equipment purchased for them as well as the modernization expenditures. It should be kept in mind that defense is a non-plan expenditure which has capital as well as revenue expenditures in its maintenance. The revenue part of expenditure in the defense is counted in the revenue expenditures by the government.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.8) The fiscal deficit excluding the interest liabilities for a year is?

- a) Revenue deficit
- b) Effective revenue deficit
- c) Capital deficit
- d) Primary deficit

ANS: D

Explanation: The fiscal deficit excluding the interest liabilities for a year is the primary deficit, a term India started using since the fiscal 1997–98.

It shows the fiscal deficit for the year in which the economy had not to fulfill any interest payments on the different loans and liabilities which it is obliged to—shown both in quantitative and percentage of GDP forms.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding government securities (G - Sec):

- 1. They are non-tradable instruments issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
- 2. They are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.

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: G-Secs are tradable instruments issued by the Central Government or the State Governments which acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.

- G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.
- Dated G-Sec's are securities which carry a fixed or floating coupon (interest rate) which is paid on the face value, on half-yearly basis.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding "Goods and Service Tax":

- 1. It is a single domestic direct tax law for the entire country.
- 2. It is a single-stage, destination-based tax that is levied on every value addition.

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: C

Explanation: GST is a single domestic indirect tax law for the entire country. It is a multi-stage, destination-based tax that is levied on every value addition.

- It came into effect on 1st July 2017 (101st Constitutional amendment) replacing indirect taxes in India such as the excise duty, VAT, services tax, etc.
- The idea of a nationwide GST in India was first proposed by the Kelkar Task Force on indirect taxes in 2000.

Source: Ramesh Singh

International Economic Organizations

Q.1) Which of the following is/are Bretton Woods' twins?

1. World Economic Forum
2. World Bank
3. World Trade Organization

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (with its first group-institution IBRD) were set up together—popularly called as the Bretton Woods' twins—both having their headquarters in Washington DC, USA.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.2) Which of the following is/are function/s of "International Monetary Fund"?

1. Facilitate international monetary cooperation
2. Promote exchange rate stability and orderly exchange arrangements
3. Assist in creating green development fund

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The main functions of the IMF are as given below:

- (i) to facilitate international monetary cooperation;
- (ii) to promote exchange rate stability and orderly exchange arrangements;
- (iii) to assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments and the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions; and
- (iv) to assist member countries by temporarily providing financial resources to correct mal-adjustment in their balance of payments (BoPs).

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.3) The "Flexible Credit Line (FCL)" is often seen in news related to?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Flexible Credit Line (FCL) is designed by IMF to meet the demand for crisis prevention and crisis-mitigation lending for countries with very strong policy frameworks and track records in economic performance.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2023/Flexible-Credit-Line-FCL>

Q.4) Which of the following is/are lending instrument/s of International Monetary Fund?

1. Extended Credit Facility
2. Standby Credit Facility
3. Monetary Development Facility

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: All IMF members have access to the General Resources Account on non-concessional loans. The IMF also provides concessional financial support to its low-income members through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), which has three lending facilities:

- Extended Credit Facility
- Standby Credit Facility
- Rapid Credit Facility

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-Support-for-Low-Income-Countries>

Q.5) Which of the following institution is soft window of World Bank?

- a) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- b) International Development Agency (IDA)
- c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- d) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

ANS: B

Explanation: The International Development Agency (IDA) which is also known as the soft window of the WB was set up in 1960 with the basic aim of developing infrastructural support among the member nations, long-term lending for the development of economic services.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "International Finance Corporation (IFC)":

1. It lends money to public sector companies of its member nations.
2. It provides advice for private-public ventures and projects in partnership with private investors.

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 International Finance Corporation (IFC) was set up in 1956 which is also known as the private arm of the WB. It lends money to private sector companies of its member nations.

- The interest rate charged is commercial but comparatively low. There are many attractive features of IFC's lending.
- It finances and provides advice for private-public ventures and projects in partnership with private investors and, through its advisory work, helps governments of the member nations to create conditions that stimulate the flow of both domestic and foreign private savings and investment.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Which of the following organization of World Bank “provides technical assistance to help countries disseminate information on investment opportunities”?

- a) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- b) International Development Agency (IDA)
- c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- d) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

ANS: A

Explanation: The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), set up in 1988 encourages foreign investment in developing economies by offering insurance (guarantees) to foreign private investors against loss caused by non-commercial (i.e., political) risks, such as currency transfer, expropriation, war and civil disturbance.

It also provides technical assistance to help countries disseminate information on investment opportunities.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.8) The “Ordinary Capital Resources” is recently seen in news related to?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: ADB’s OCR operations are diverse, covering agriculture and natural resources, education, energy, finance, health and social protection, industry and trade, public sector management, transport and information and communication technology, multi-sector, and water supply and other municipal infrastructure and services.

- Regular market-based OCR loans are generally made to developing member countries (DMCs) that have attained a higher level of economic development while concessional OCR loans are made to lower-income DMCs.
- Regular OCR also supports ADB’s private sector (non-sovereign) operations in all DMCs.

Source: <https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/funds/ocr>

Q.9) Which of the following organization was established to run the “Marshall Plan”?

- a) World Bank
- b) WEF
- c) OECC
- d) IMF

ANS: C

Explanation: The Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was established in 1947 to run the US-financed Marshall Plan for reconstruction of a continent ravaged by war.

- By making individual governments recognize the interdependence of their economies, it paved the way for a new era of cooperation that was to change the face of Europe.
- Encouraged by its success and the prospect of carrying its work forward on a global stage, Canada and the US joined OEEC members in signing the new OECD Convention on 14 December, 1960.
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was officially born on September 30, 1961, when the Convention entered into force.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Q.10) The famous “Uruguay Round negotiations” related to which of the following?

- a) IMF
- b) WTO
- c) GEF
- d) WEF

ANS: B

Explanation: The World Trade Organization (WTO) came into being as a result of the evolution of the multilateral trading system starting with the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947.

- The protracted Uruguay Round negotiations spanning the period 1986–1994, which resulted in the establishment of the WTO, substantially extended the reach of multilateral rules and disciplines related to trade in goods, and introduced multilateral rules applicable to trade in agriculture (Agreement on Agriculture), trade in services (General Agreement on Trade in Services— GATS) as well as Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- A separate understanding on WTO dispute settlement mechanism (DSU) and trade policy review mechanism (TPRM) was also agreed upon.

Source: Ramesh Singh

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following statement/s is/are correct about GST structure?

1. Central GST is collected by the Central Government on an inter-state sale.
2. State GST is collected by the state government on an intra-state sale.
3. Interstate GST is collected by the Central Government for an intra-state sale.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: GST Structure:

- Central GST (CGST): It is collected by the Central Government on an intra-state sale. Revenue is shared equally between the Centre and the State.
- State GST (SGST): It is collected by the state government on an intra-state sale. Revenue is shared equally between the Centre and the State.
- Interstate GST (IGST): It is collected by the Central Government for an inter-state sale. The Centre shares the IGST revenue with states based on the destination of goods.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. GST Council is a constitutional body established by the President under the Article 279A.
2. GST Appellate Tribunals (GSTAT) is a constitutional body under the Central GST Act, 2017.

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: GSTAT is a statutory body under the Central GST Act, 2017. It is the forum of second appeal in GST laws and the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States.

- It is mandated to hear appeals against orders passed by Appellate Authority or Revisional Authority.
- GST Council is a constitutional body established by the President under the Article 279A. It is a joint forum of the centre and states.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding tax to GDP ratio in India:

1. It is the ratio of the tax revenue of a country compared to the country's GDP.
2. A decrease in tax to GDP ratio of a country may indicate a slowing economic growth rate.

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: Tax to GDP ratio: Tax to GDP ratio is the ratio of the tax revenue (direct & indirect tax) of a country compared to the country's GDP.

- Tax to GDP ratio is about 11.1% in FY23 which includes Direct Taxes at 6% and Indirect taxes at 5.1%.
- It is useful measure of a country's capacity to generate tax revenue with rest to the size of its economy.
- A decrease in tax to GDP ratio of a country may indicate a slowing economic growth rate.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Code on Wages, 2019 provides for universal minimum wage and floor wage across organized sectors only.
2. Code on Social Security 2020 seeks to protect gig workers' rights by giving them social security protections.

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 Code on Wages, 2019: It provides for universal minimum wage and floor wage across organized and unorganized sectors, including gig workers.

- Code on Social Security 2020: It seeks to protect gig workers' rights by giving them social security protections.
- It attempts to define gig, platform, and unorganized workers while spelling out entitlements.
- It also proposed to establish a Social Security Fund and a National Social Security Board to supervise and formulate schemes for the well-being of gig and platform workers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding "Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)":

1. It is the share of a bank's Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) that is mandated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to be maintained with the latter as reserves in the form of liquid cash.
2. As per the nationalization of banks act 1948, all Scheduled Commercial Banks are required to maintain the CRR.

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: Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): It is the share of a bank's Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) that is mandated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to be maintained with the latter as reserves in the form of liquid cash.

- Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) shows the difference between the sum of demand and time liabilities (deposits) of a bank (with the public or the other bank) and the deposits in the form of assets held by the other bank.
- As per the RBI Act 1934, all Scheduled Commercial Banks (that includes public and private sector banks, foreign banks, regional rural banks, and cooperative banks) are required to maintain the CRR.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are liquidity management tool/s of Reserve Bank of India?

1. Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)
2. Altering Repo and Reverse repo rates
3. Open market operations

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Liquidity Management Tools:

- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): SDF allows the RBI to absorb liquidity (deposit) from banks without giving government securities in return to the banks.
- Altering Repo and Reverse repo rates: Altering these rates directly affects the deposit rate in banks as well as their lending rates.
- Open Market Operation (OMO): OMO refers to sale or purchase of government securities (bonds) by the RBI.
- Ways and Means Advances (WMA): It is a temporary loan facility to the central and state governments.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding "Dabba (Box) Trading":

1. It is formal trading that takes place outside the purview of stock exchanges.
2. It is recognized as an offence under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA), 1956.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Dabba (Box) Trading: National Stock Exchange (NSE) issued notices naming entities involved in dabba trading.

- Dabba trading is informal trading that takes place outside the purview of stock exchanges.
- Traders bet on stock price movements without incurring a real transaction to take physical ownership of a particular stock as is done in an exchange.
- Since there are no proper records of income or gain, it helps dabba traders escape taxation.
- It is recognized as an offence under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA), 1956.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Investor Services Fund (ISF)”:

1. It aims to provide different kinds of services to the investing public such as investor education and awareness programs.
2. The stock exchange shall set aside at least 20 percent of the listing fees received for ISF for providing services to the investing public.

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: ISF aims to provide different kinds of services to the investing public such as investor education and awareness programs, dissemination of companies’ information etc.

The stock exchange shall set aside at least 20% of the listing fees received for ISF for providing services to the investing public.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Washington Convention” is associated with which of the following?

- a) WTO
- b) IMF
- c) WB
- d) ICSID

ANS: D

Explanation: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) is an autonomous international institution established under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (the ICSID or the Washington Convention).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Special Drawing Right (SDR)”:

1. The World Bank created the SDR as a supplementary international reserve asset in 1969.
2. The SDR is not a currency, but its value is based on a basket of five currencies.

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 IMF created the SDR as a supplementary international reserve asset in 1969, when currencies were tied to the price of gold and the US dollar was the leading international reserve asset.

- The IMF defined the SDR as equivalent to a fractional amount of gold that was equivalent to one US dollar.

- The SDR is an international reserve asset. The SDR is not a currency, but its value is based on a basket of five currencies—the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2023/special-drawing-rights-sdr>

Environment, Ecology & Biodiversity

Environment & Ecology

Q.1) Which of the following “deals with the ways in which organisms are molded by their environment, how they make use of environmental resources including energy flow and mineral cycling”?

- a) Biostatics
- b) Possibilism
- c) Conservation
- d) Ecology

ANS: D

Explanation: Ecology is defined “as a scientific study of the relationship of the living organisms with each other and with their environment.”

It deals with the ways in which organisms are molded by their environment, how they make use of environmental resources including energy flow and mineral cycling.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following ancient text/s has reference to ecology?

1. The Vedas
2. The Samhitas
3. The Aranyakas

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Our ancient Indian texts have references to ecological principles.

- The classical texts of the Vedic period such as the Vedas, the Samhitas, the Brahmanas and the Aranyakas-Upanishads contain many references to ecological concepts.
- The Indian treatise on medicine, the Charaka-Samhita and the surgical text Sushruta-Samhita, show that people during this period had a good understanding of plant and animal ecology.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are biotic component/s of environment?

1. Non – green plants
2. Radiation
3. Decomposers

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The relationship and interaction between organism and environment are highly complex.

- It comprises both living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) components. The environment is not static.
- Both biotic and abiotic factors are in a flux and keeps changing continuously

Components of Environment	
Abiotic	Biotic
Energy	Green plants
Radiation	Non-green plants
Temperature & heat flow	Decomposers
Water	Parasites
Atmospheric gases and wind	Symbionts
Fire	Animals
Gravity	Man
Topography	
Soil	
Geologic substratum	

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. In terrestrial ecosystem, producers are various species of microscopic algae.
2. In aquatic ecosystem producers are basically herbaceous and woody plants.

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: Primary producers are basically green plants (and certain bacteria and algae).

- They synthesize carbohydrate from simple inorganic raw materials like carbon dioxide and water in the presence of sunlight by the process of photosynthesis for themselves, and supply indirectly to other nonproducers.
- In terrestrial ecosystem, producers are basically herbaceous and woody plants, while in aquatic ecosystem producers are various species of microscopic algae.

Source: Shankar IAS

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

1. Cow
2. Rabbit
3. Wolves

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Consumers are incapable of producing their own food (photosynthesis). Consumers can be divided into two broad groups namely micro and macro consumers.

- They feed on plants or animals or both and are categorized on the basis of their food sources.
- Herbivores are primary consumers which feed mainly on plants e.g. cow, rabbit. Secondary consumers feed on primary consumers e.g. wolves.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The term “Saprotrophs” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Producers
- b) Consumers
- c) Decomposers
- d) Secondary consumers

ANS: C

Explanation: Saprotrophs (decomposers or osmotrophs): They are bacteria and fungi which obtain energy and nutrients by decomposing dead organic substances (detritus) of plant and animal origin.

- The products of decomposition such as inorganic nutrients which are released in the ecosystem are reused by producers and thus recycled.
- Earthworm and certain soil organisms (such as nematodes, and arthropods) are detritus feeders and help in the decomposition of organic matter and are called detritivores.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) “Ecosystems are capable of maintaining their state of equilibrium and regulate their own species structure and functional processes” – related to?

- a) Carrying capacity
- b) Homeostasis
- c) Environmental determinism
- d) Possibilism

ANS: B

Explanation: Ecosystems are capable of maintaining their state of equilibrium. They can regulate their own species structure and functional processes. This capacity of ecosystem of self-regulation is known as homeostasis.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are example/s of ecotone zones?

- 1. Mangroves
- 2. Grasslands
- 3. Oxbow lakes

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: **Ecotone** is a zone of junction between two or more diverse ecosystems. For e.g. the mangrove forests represent an ecotone between marine and terrestrial ecosystem. Other examples are – grassland, estuary and river bank.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) “It is the unique functional role or place of a species in an ecosystem” denotes?

- a) Ecotone
- b) Niche
- c) Homeostasis
- d) Ecology

ANS: B

Explanation: A niche is the unique functional role or place of a species in an ecosystem. It is a description of all the biological, physical and chemical factors that a species needs to survive, stay healthy and reproduce.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Which of the following fauna is/are commonly found in tundra region?

1. Lemming
2. Penguins
3. Ptarmigan

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The typical animals found in tundra region are reindeer, arctic fox, polar bear, snowy owl, lemming, arctic hare, and ptarmigan. Reptiles and amphibians are almost absent.

Source: Shankar IAS

Environment & Ecology

Q.1) With respect to IUCN threatened species, which of the following categories is/are comes under threatened species?

1. Plants
2. Animals
3. Virus

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Recently, IUCN updated its red list of Threatened species. It Provides information about animal, plant, and fungus species which are at risk of extinction into nine categories.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following country hosted the “Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference (SFTLC)”?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference (SFTLC) was hosted by the Bhutan government and supported by the Tiger Conservation Coalition (TCC).

- SFTLC seeks to increase support for tiger protection and its landscape by using new financial strategies and global partnerships as stated in the Paro statement.
- Seeks to mobilize US\$1 billion in additional funding by 2034.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is not part of "Tiger Conservation Coalition"?

- a) UNDP
- b) IUCN
- c) UNEP
- d) WWF

ANS: C

Explanation: The Tiger Conservation Coalition is a group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that have worked for many years with partners to conserve tigers, our vision is for a long-term presence of viable and ecologically functional populations of wild tigers secure in protected habitats, with representation and links across their indigenous range, respected and valued by neighbouring human communities and beyond, a magnificent symbol of nature in all its beauty, complexity and wonder for future generations.

The 10 NGOs in the coalition are Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA); Fauna & Flora International (FFI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Natural State, Panthera, TRAFFIC, United Nations Development Programme (UNPD), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF), and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Source: https://tigers.panda.org/news_and_stories/stories/meet_the_tiger_conservation_coalition/

Q.4) Which of the following is/are tiger landscapes in India?

- 1. Western ghats
- 2. Brahmaputra flood plains
- 3. Eastern ghats

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Tiger Landscape includes large blocks of ecologically connected areas of suitable tiger habitat, currently, they comprise less than 8% of area originally occupied in Asia.

Landscapes in India: Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plain; North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood plains; Sundarbans Landscape; Central India & Easter Ghats Landscape; Western Ghats Landscape.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following country is not part of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?

- a) Nepal
- b) India
- c) Somalia
- d) Nicaragua

ANS: A

Explanation: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of India to become a member country of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) by signing and ratification of the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

- On the occasion of Commemorating 50 years of India's Project Tiger on April 9, 2023 the Prime Minister launched an International Big Cat Alliance aiming at securing the future of big cats and landscapes they thrive.
- Seven big cats include Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and the Cheetah. Out of these five big cats viz. Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Cheetah are found in India.
- The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 29.02.2024 approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance with Headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs. 150 crores for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

- All UN member countries are eligible for becoming the member of IBCA. Twenty-four (24) countries (including India) have consented to be members of IBCA.
- Nine International Organizations have also consented to be partner organization of IBCA. Framework Agreement has been approved by the Cabinet recently and India became a member of IBCA.
- So far 4 countries have become member of IBCA including India, Nicaragua, Eswatini and Somalia.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2057120>

Q.6) Which of the following state has highest elephant population in South India?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Karnataka ranks No 1 in south India with an elephant population of 6,395 in 2023. The state recorded a rise of 346 elephants in 2023 when compared to the census of 2017, according to Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus) Population Size and Structure Estimates For Karnataka - Interim Report, August 2023.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2023/Aug/10/with-an-elephant-population-of-6395-karnataka-no-1-in-south-2603696.html>

Q.7) Which of the following is/are cover/s under Lotic water system?

- 1. Lakes
- 2. Pools
- 3. Bogs

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Fresh water ecosystems are classified as lotic (moving water) or lentic (still or stagnant water).

- Lotic water system includes freshwater streams, springs, rivulets, creeks, brooks, and rivers.
- Lentic water bodies include pools, ponds, some swamps, bogs and lakes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are form/s estuaries?

- 1. Coastal bays
- 2. River mouths
- 3. Oxbow lakes

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Coastal bays, river mouths and tidal marshes form the estuaries.

- In estuaries, fresh water from rivers meets ocean water and the two are mixed by action of tides.
- Estuaries are highly productive as compared to the adjacent river or sea.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Environmental Information System (ENVIS)”:

1. It is a Central Sponsored Scheme.
2. Its purpose is to integrate country-wide efforts in environmental information collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination through ENVIS websites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

3. 1 only
4. 2 only
5. Both 1 and 2
6. Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: Environmental Information System (ENVIS), a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry has been implemented since 1982.

The purpose of the scheme is to integrate country-wide efforts in environmental information collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination through ENVIS websites, which are dedicated to different interesting themes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Tropical rain forest biome”:

1. It covers about 27% of the earth’s surface and 60% of the world’s plant and animal species.
2. Most animals and epiphytic plants are concentrated in the canopy or tree top zones.

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: Tropical rain forest covers about 7% of the earth’s surface & 40% of the world’s plant and animal species.

- Multiple storeys of broad-leafed evergreen tree species are in abundance.
- Most animals and epiphytic plants are concentrated in the canopy or tree top zones.

Source: Shankar IAS

Protected Areas – I

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Wildlife sanctuaries enjoy lesser protection than National Park.
2. Grazing of livestock is allowed in National Park.

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: National Parks enjoy a greater degree of protection than sanctuaries.

- Certain activities which are regulated in sanctuaries, such as grazing of livestock, are prohibited in National Parks.
- Wildlife sanctuary can be created for a particular species (for e.g. grizzled giant squirrel w.l.s in srivalliputhur) whereas the national park is not primarily focused on a particular species.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are can declare certain area/s as Wildlife sanctuaries and National parks?

1. Local bodies
2. State government
3. Central government

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 provided for the declaration of certain areas by the State Government as wildlife sanctuaries if the area was thought to be of adequate ecological, geomorphological and natural significance.

- The Wild Life (Protection) Act (WPA) of 1972 provided for the declaration of National Parks by the State Government in addition to the declaration of wildlife sanctuaries.
- The Central Government may also declare, Wild Life Sanctuary and National Park under certain conditions.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Who among the following is/are permitted to entry into a protected area?

1. Tourists
2. A person who has been permitted by the Chief Wild Life Warden
3. A person passing through the sanctuary/National Park along a public highway

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: No person other than:

1. A public servant on duty
 2. A person who has been permitted by the Chief Wild Life Warden or the authorized officer to reside within the limits of the sanctuary/National Park
 3. A person who has any right over immovable property within the limits of the sanctuary/National Park
 4. A person passing through the sanctuary/National Park along a public highway
 5. The dependents of the person referred to in clause (a), (b) or (c) above,
- Shall enter or reside in the sanctuary/National Park, except under and in accordance with the conditions of a permit granted.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Wild Life Warden shall be the authority who shall control, manage and maintain all Protected Areas.
2. The State Board for Wild Life shall advise the Central Government on the selection and management of areas to be declared as protected areas.

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 Chief Wild Life Warden shall be the authority who shall control, manage and maintain all Protected Areas.

- The National Board for Wild Life may make recommendations on the setting up of and management of National Parks, Sanctuaries and other protected areas and on matters relating to restriction of activities in those areas.
- The State Board for Wild Life shall advise the State Government on the selection and management of areas to be declared as protected areas.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “conservation reserve”:

1. It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries.
2. It came into effect by amending the wildlife protection act, 1972 in 2012.

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 Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the creation of a new type of protected area called a Conservation Reserve.

- It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.
- It is managed through a Conservation Reserve Management Committee.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are covered under the category – I of “marine protected areas”?

1. Sea grass beds
2. Coral reefs
3. Algal beds

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The MPAs in marine environment in India are primarily classified into following three categories:

- Category-I: This covers National Parks and Sanctuaries and having entire areas in intertidal/sub-tidal or mangroves, coral reefs, creeks, sea grass beds, algal beds, estuaries, lagoons.
- Category-II: This includes Islands, which have major parts in marine ecosystem and some part in terrestrial ecosystem.
- Category-III: This includes sandy beaches beyond intertidal line but occasionally interacting with the sea water.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following item/s is/are export prohibited in India?

1. Seashells
2. Fuel wood
3. Red Sanders wood

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The prohibited items are not permitted to be exported. An export license will not be given in the normal course for goods in the prohibited category.

The following are the items prohibited in the flora and fauna category:

- Beef of cows, oxen and calf. Beef in the form of offal of cows, oxen and calf
- Meat of buffalo (both male and female) fresh and chilled and frozen
- Peacock Tail Feathers & its Handicrafts and articles
- Shavings & Manufactured Articles of shavings of Shed Antlers of Chital and Sambhar
- Sea shells
- Wood and wood products
- Fuel wood
- Wood charcoal
- Sandalwood in any form

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. UNESCO introduced the designation of Biosphere Reserve in 1981.
2. UNESCO officially launched the Biosphere Reserve network in 1991.

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 International Coordinating Council (ICC) of UNESCO, November, 1971, introduced the designation 'Biosphere Reserve' for natural areas.

The concept of Biosphere Reserves was refined by a Task Force of UNESCO's MAB Programme in 1974, and BR network was formally launched in 1976.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are function/s of "biosphere reserve"?

1. To ensure the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variations.
2. To understand the patterns and processes of functioning of ecosystems.
3. To monitor the natural and human-caused changes on spatial and temporal scales.

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Functions of Biosphere Reserves Conservation:

- To ensure the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variations.
- To encourage the traditional resource use systems;
- To understand the patterns and processes of functioning of ecosystems;
- To monitor the natural and human-caused changes on spatial and temporal scales.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Which of the following is/are “hottest hot spots”?

1. Madagascar
2. Indo – Sri Lanka
3. Arctic

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The eight hottest hot spots:

1. Madagascar
2. Philippines
3. Sundaland
4. Brazil’s Atlantic Forest
5. Caribbean
6. Indo-Burma
7. Western Ghats/Sri Lanka
8. Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Tanzania/Kenya

Source: Shankar IAS

Protected areas Including parks etc.

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “rhinos”:

1. There are 3 African, and 2 Asian rhino species found in the world.
2. Black and white rhinos belong to Asia.

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: Five species of rhino: 2 African (White Rhino, Black Rhino) and 3 Asian (Indian rhino, Sumatran Rhino, and Javan Rhino).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) In which of the following states the “Lesser Florican” found?

1. Rajasthan
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Kerala

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: About Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indicus*): Smallest bird of the bustard family (Otididae).

Habitat: Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following conservation project completed “50 years” in India in 2025?

- a) Tiger
- b) Elephant
- c) Crocodile
- d) Great Indian Bustard

ANS: C

Explanation: India launched its Crocodile Conservation Project in Odisha’s Bhitarkanika National Park in 1975 with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) The famous “**Bhitarkanika National Park**” is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Bhitarkanika National Park is a Ramsar site, located in Odisha, and is the India’s second largest mangrove ecosystem after the Sunderbans.

Source: FORUMIAS

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

1. They are largest surviving species of the vertebrate class Reptilia.
2. They are poikilothermic and Nocturnal animals.

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: Crocodiles are largest surviving species of the vertebrate class Reptilia.

- **Habitat:** Except for one saltwater species, crocodiles live mainly in freshwater swamps, lakes and rivers.
- **Behaviour:** Nocturnal animals and are poikilothermic (regulate their body temperature only to limited degree).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following country that considers Fungi in its law for conservation?

- a) Chile
- b) Peru
- c) Columbia
- d) Argentina

ANS: A

Explanation: Chile is the only country that considers Fungi in its law for conservation.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are examples of fungi?

- 1. Yeasts
- 2. Mushrooms
- 3. Molds

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Funga/Fungi Refers to the levels of diversity of fungi in any given place. (Fungi is one of five kingdoms in the classification of organisms given by R.H. Whittaker).

Examples: Mushrooms, molds and yeasts.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are mechanism/s established under “Biological Diversity Act of 2002”?

- 1. Botanical gardens
- 2. National Biodiversity Authority
- 3. State Biodiversity Boards

Select the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Biological Diversity Act 2002 enacted to help India to meet the objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992.

Provides for a decentralized three-tiered mechanism for regulation:

- National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level,
- State Biodiversity Boards (SSB) at the state level, and
- Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the local body level.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR)” is often seen in news established through?

- a) Biological Diversity Act
- b) National Green Tribunal Act
- c) Forest rights act
- d) Forest conservation act

ANS: A

Explanation: People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR) document which contains comprehensive information on locally available Bio-resources including landscape and demography of a particular area.

Its provisions are derived from Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve (DKTR)” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: D

Explanation: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given its approval for the establishment of the Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve in the state of Rajasthan.

Source: FORUMIAS