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## *Schemes/ Programmes/ Institutions*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about MSME Innovative Scheme:**

1. The government has announced equity support of up to INR 100 crore for commercialisation of ideas, designs and patents.
2. A separate corpus will be created and managed by SIDBI as the fund manager.

**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: MSME Innovative Scheme**

The Union Ministry of MSME has launched the MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR). It is combination of existing sub-schemes around incubation, design, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for MSMEs. The government has announced equity support of up to INR 1 crore for commercialisation of ideas, designs and patents across all three sub-schemes. A separate corpus will be created and managed by SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) as the fund manager. The new scheme will ensure support through guidance, financial support, technical support, and more to MSMEs to scale up.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about e-Bill system:**

1. The aim of the e-Bill system is to make the entire process of submission and backend processing of bills completely paperless and transparent.
2. It has been developed by NIC.

**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: e-Bill system for Union Ministries**

The Union Minister for Finance has launched the e-Bill system for Central Government Ministries on the 46th Civil Accounts Day (March 02, 2022). The aim of the e-Bill system is to make the entire process of submission and backend processing of bills completely paperless and transparent for Central Government Ministries. It has been developed by the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) Division in the office of the Controller General of Accounts in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.3) “Digisaathi” has been set up by which of the following?**

- a) Public Financial Management System (PFMS)
- b) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- c) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- d) NITI Aayog

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Digisaathi**

Digisaathi has been set up by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It is a 24 x 7 helpline for providing information on digital payment products and services. It will use AI technology to answer any questions related to all types of digital transactions. Currently, it is available in English and Hindi language.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about SAMARTH Scheme:**

1. It is a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for differently-abled to provide them with an opportunity to be self-reliant.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: SAMARTH**

It has been launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises on the occasion of International Women’s Day. It is a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women to provide them with an opportunity to be self-reliant and independent by undertaking self-employment opportunities. Under this scheme several benefits will be available to aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs like 20% Seats in free Skill Development Programs will be allocated for Women.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme:**

1. World Bank will provide financial aid to the state of Karnataka and Odisha.
2. India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2025.

**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: REWARD Project**

The Government of India, State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million REWARD Project. REWARD stands for Rejuvenating Watersheds for

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Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme. Its aim is to help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes. The Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about Bhasha Sangam App:**

1. The mobile application has been developed by NITI Aayog.
2. Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.

**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: Bhasha Sangam App**

It is a mobile application developed by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with MyGov India. Its aim is to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat by enabling people across India to learn different languages of India and come closer to their culture. Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about Sustainable Cities India Program:**

1. It has been jointly designed by World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
2. Its aim is to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way.

**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: Sustainable Cities India Program**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed an MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'. The aim is to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems. The NIUA will adapt the WEF's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.8) Rashtriya Raksha University, is located in which of the following states/UTs?**

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) New Delhi
- c) West Bengal
- d) Gujarat

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Rashtriya Raksha University**

Rashtriya Raksha University is a Central University located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It has a specialization in National and Internal Security. It was established by the Government of Gujarat in 2009. The university has been upgraded as an Institute of National Importance through RRU Act 2020.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.9) Consider the following statements about Council of Europe:**

- 1. It was founded in 1949 by the Treaty of London.
- 2. It aims to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

**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: Council of Europe**

The Council of Europe was founded in 1949 by the Treaty of London. It is an international organization founded in the wake of World War II to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The council is distinct from the European Union (EU). It includes 47 member states (27 of which are EU members). The Council cannot make binding laws, but it does have the power to enforce select international agreements reached by European states. The Council is also an official United Nations Observer. The Council of Europe has suspended Russia from its rights of representation in the Council.

Source: EPIC March 2022

**Q.10) Consider the following statements about BBIN MVA:**

- 1. Nepal has decided to continue to stay out of the BBIN MVA.
- 2. BBIN MVA initiative is being assisted by the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program of World Bank.

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: About the BBIN MVA**

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) had signed the Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) in 2015 at Thimphu, Bhutan. Its aims is to provide seamless people-to-people contact and enhance

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economic interaction by facilitating cross border movement of people and goods. As per the agreement, member countries would allow vehicles registered in the other countries to enter their territory under certain terms and conditions. Customs and tariffs will be decided by the respective countries and these would be finalized at bilateral and trilateral forums. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been providing support to the BBIN MVA initiative as part of its assistance to the South Asia Sub-bregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program. Bhutan has decided to continue to stay out of the BBIN MVA.

Source: EPIC March 2022

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## *Science and Technology*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements about Nano Mission in India:**

1. It involves funding of basic research by individual scientists.
2. It involves facility development for technologies like Optical Tweezers, Atomic Force Microscope (AFM).

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Nano India Mission**

1. The Government of India launched the Nano Mission in May 2007 as an “umbrella capacity-building program”.
2. It envisages the overall development of Nanotechnology in the country and taps some of its applied potential for a nation’s development.
3. The objectives of the Nano-Mission include:
  1. Basic Research Promotion: Funding of basic research by individual scientists and/or groups of scientists and the creation of centers of excellence for pursuing studies related to the Nanoscale.
  2. Infrastructure Development for Nano Science & Technology Research: It focuses on facility development for technologies like Optical Tweezers, Nano Indenter, Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM), Atomic Force Microscope (AFM), Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM), Microarray Spotter & Scanner, etc.
  3. Nano Applications and Technology Development Programmes: The Mission proposes to promote application-oriented R&D Projects, establish Nano Applications and Technology Development Centers, Nano-Technology Business Incubators.
  4. Human Resource Development: The Mission focuses on providing effective education and training to researchers and professionals in diversified fields so that a genuine interdisciplinary culture for nanoscale science, engineering and technology can emerge.
  5. International Collaborations: Apart from exploratory visits of scientists, organization of joint workshops and conferences and joint research projects, it focuses to facilitate access to sophisticated research facilities abroad, establish joint centers of excellence and forge academia-industry partnerships at the international level wherever required and desirable.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.2) Which of the following statement about nano-fabric is/are correct?**

1. Zinc oxide embedded nano fabrics has antimicrobial properties.
2. Nano-silver coating can be used for UV rays protection.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Nano fabrics**

1. Nano fabrics are textiles embedded with small nanoparticles to give ordinary materials advantageous properties such as the Lotus effect, odor and moisture elimination and even bacterial resistance.
2. The lotus effect refers to self-cleaning properties that are a result of water repellent properties as exhibited by the leaves of a lotus flower.
3. It is done by a technique known as Nano finishing which includes coating the surface of textiles and clothing with nanoparticles.
4. Zinc oxide nanoparticles embedded in polymer matrices like soluble starch are a good example of functional nanostructures with potential for applications such as UV-protection ability in textiles and sunscreens.
5. Nano-silver coating provides antimicrobial properties to the fabric.
6. Nano fabrics can also be used for the delivery of drugs such as antibiotics, anticancer drugs etc in precise quantities. It can be done by Electrospinning that creates porous nano fabrics that can be loaded with the desired drug and the drug passes through the skin tissue by the diffusion process.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about carbon nanotubes:**

1. These are cylindrical molecules consisting of rolled-up sheets of single-layer carbon atoms .
2. They have very high tensile strength.

**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: Carbon Nanotubes**

1. Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are cylindrical molecules that consist of rolled-up sheets of single-layer carbon atoms (graphene).
2. Carbon nanotubes are composed of carbon atoms linked in hexagonal shapes, with each carbon atom covalently bonded to three other carbon atoms.
3. They can be single-walled with a diameter of less than 1 nanometre (nm) or multi-walled, consisting of several concentrically interlinked nanotubes, with diameters reaching more than 100 nm.
4. Carbon Nanotubes are stronger than steel wires and have high thermal and electrical conductivity.

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5. They are very elastic and have very high tensile strength.
6. Carbon nanotubes have the highest strength-to-weight ratio of any known material.
7. Carbon nanotubes have the potential to be used as semiconductors, for example, potentially replacing silicon in a wide variety of computing devices.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about the classification of nano-materials:**

1. Zero Dimensional Nano-materials are those that have all their dimensions less than 100nm.
2. The nano-film is an example of one-dimensional nano-material.

**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: Classification of Nanomaterials**

Nanomaterials can be classified on the basis of their dimensions into the following categories:

1. **Zero Dimensional Nanomaterials (0D):** These nanomaterials have all the dimensions within the nanoscale. no dimensions are larger than 100 nm. Most commonly, 0D nanomaterials are nanoparticles.
2. **One Dimensional Nanomaterials (1D):** These have one dimension outside the nanoscale. This class includes nanotubes, nanorods, and nanowires.
3. **Two Dimensional Nanomaterials (2D):** These have two dimensions outside the nanoscale. This class exhibits plate-like shapes and includes graphene, nanofilms, nanolayers, and nanocoatings.
4. **Three Dimensional Nanomaterials (3D):** These are materials that are not confined to the nanoscale in any dimension. This class can contain bulk powders, dispersions of nanoparticles, bundles of nanowires, and multi-nanolayers.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with reference to Nanotechnology:**

1. It involves science and engineering of objects in the range of only 1 to 10 nano-meter.
2. An atomic force microscope is used to generate images of nano-scale details on a physical surface.

**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: Nanotechnology**

1. The idea of nanotechnology was born in 1959 when physicist Richard Feynman gave a lecture exploring the idea of building things at the atomic and molecular scale.
2. The term 'Nanotechnology' was coined in 1974 by Norio Taniguchi of Tokyo Science University to describe semiconductor processes such as thin-film deposition that deal with control on the order of nanometers.

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3. Nanotechnology is science, engineering, and technology conducted at the nanoscale, which is about 1 to 100 nanometers.
4. Nanoscience and nanotechnology are the study and application of extremely small things and can be used across all the other science fields, such as chemistry, biology, physics, materials science, and engineering.
5. An Atomic force microscope is a scientific instrument that can generate images of nanoscale details on a physical surface by scanning small nanoscale probes.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) Which of the following given statement is incorrect?**

- a) Antibody-drug conjugates are a class of biopharmaceutical drugs designed as a targeted therapy.
- b) Biologics is a product that is produced from living organisms or contains components of living organisms.
- c) Like chemotherapy, ADCs kill tumour cells as well as healthy cells.
- d) Both (a) and (b)

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: What are biological drugs (biologics)?**

1. A biologic drug (biologics) is a product that is produced from living organisms or contains components of living organisms. The composition may include sugars, proteins, or nucleic acids or complex combinations of these substances.
2. The biological drug works by targeting a defective protein in the system by delivering proteins to it.
3. For example in case of insulin treatment. If a person is short of insulin, (which is a protein), then s/he will get an insulin shot to balance the system.

**What are Antibody Drug Conjugates?**

1. Antibody-drug conjugates or ADCs are a class of biopharmaceutical drugs designed as a targeted therapy for treating diseases like cancer.
2. Unlike chemotherapy, ADCs are intended to target and kill tumour cells while sparing healthy cells.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are application of Nanophotonics?**

1. Nanophotonics will build up integrated-circuits driven entirely by photons (light).
2. Nanophotonics is useful for all-optical-based technologies such as pliable, wearable devices.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Applications of Nanophotonics:**

**Solar cells:**

Solar Cells often work best when the light is absorbed very close to the surface. It is because electrons near the surface have a better chance of being collected. Moreover, the device can be

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made thinner, which reduces cost. Researchers have investigated a variety of nanophotonic techniques to intensify light in the optimal locations within a solar cell.

### **Optical Technology**

Nano-Photonics can help achieve an unprecedented level of miniaturization. It is useful for all-optical-based technologies such as pliable, wearable devices. These are operated by light entirely.

### **Integrated Circuits(IC)**

Nanophotonics would make it possible to go beyond current electronics. It will build up integrated-circuits driven entirely by photons(light).

### **Spectroscopy**

If a given amount of light energy is squeezed into a smaller and smaller volume ("hot-spot"), the intensity in the hot-spot gets larger and larger. This is especially helpful in nonlinear optics, an example is surface-enhanced Raman scattering.

Source: ForumIAS

### **Q.8) Consider the following statements about NanoSniffer:**

1. NanoSniffer accurately detects all classes of military, conventional, and homemade explosives.
2. The core technology of NanoSniffer is protected by patents in China.

### **Which of 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: About Nano Sniffer:**

Nanosniffer has been developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup.

Purpose: It is the world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD). It can detect explosives in less than 10 seconds. Not only that, but it can also identify and categorize explosives into different classes.

#### **Key Features:**

1. NanoSniffer accurately detects all classes of military, conventional, and homemade explosives.
2. The device gives visible and audible alerts with a colour display.
3. The device is a 100% Made in India product in terms of research, development and manufacturing. The core technology of NanoSniffer is protected by patents in the US and Europe.

Source: ForumIAS

### **Q.9) Nano Urea Liquid, recently seen in news is launched by which of the following?**

- a) Ministry of Science and technology
- b) IFFCO
- c) Ministry of chemical and fertiliser
- d) APEDA

### **ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has launched the world's first Nano Urea Liquid

#### **What is Nano Liquid Urea?**

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1. Nano Urea Liquid is a nutrient to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea.
2. Developed by: Nano Urea Liquid has been developed indigenously through proprietary technology at IFFCO's Nano Biotechnology Research Centre(NBRC) in Gujarat.
3. Efficacy Trials: IFFCO had conducted around 11,000 farmer field trials (FFT's) on more than 94 crops across India to test the efficacy of nano urea. The trials had shown an average 8% increase in yield.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.10) Which of the following are the applications of Nanotechnology in food processing sector?**

1. Enhanced Nutrient Delivery
2. Antimicrobial Packaging
3. Green Packaging

**Select the correct answer using the code 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: Nanotechnology in Food Processing**

Nanotechnology offers some exciting potential benefits for the quality and safety of our foods such as:

1. Contamination Sensor: Flashlight to reveal the presence of E. coli bacteria.
2. Antimicrobial Packaging: Edible food films made with cinnamon or oregano oil, or nanoparticles of zinc, calcium other materials that kill bacteria.
3. Improved Food Storage: Nano-enhanced barrier keeps oxygen-sensitive foods fresher.
4. Enhanced Nutrient Delivery: Nano-encapsulating improves the solubility of vitamins, antioxidants, healthy omega oils and other 'nutraceuticals'.
5. Green Packaging: Nano-fibers made from lobster shells or organic corn are both antimicrobial and biodegradable.
6. Pesticide Reduction: A cloth saturated with nanofibers slowly releases pesticides, eliminating the need for additional spraying and reducing chemical leakage into the water supply.
7. Tracking, Tracing Brand Protection: Nanobarcodes can be created to tag individual products and trace outbreaks.
8. Texture: Food spreadability and stability improve with nano-sized crystals and lipids for better low-fat foods.
9. Flavor: Trick the tongue with bitter blockers or sweet and salty enhancers.
10. Bacteria Identification and Elimination: Nano carbohydrate particles bind with bacteria so they can be detected and eliminated.

Source: ForumIAS

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## *Economy*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are the main objectives of Fiscal Policy in India?**

1. To maintain and achieve full employment
2. To maintain equilibrium in the Balance of Payments
3. To regulate magnitude of interest rates

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Objectives of Fiscal Policy**

1. To maintain and achieve full employment
2. To stabilize the price level
3. To stabilize the growth rate of the economy
4. To maintain equilibrium in the Balance of Payments
5. To promote the economic development of underdeveloped countries

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.2) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Policy Statement</b>	<b>Aim</b>
1. Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement	It sets the priorities of the government in the fiscal area
2. Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement	It assesses the prospects of the economy with respect to the fiscal balance of the central government
3. Macroeconomic Framework Statement	It sets a three-year rolling target for specific fiscal indicators

**Which of the above given pairs is/are correctly matched?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Policies of Government**

1. The budget is not merely a statement of receipts and expenditures. Since Independence, with the launching of the Five-Year Plans, it has also become a significant national policy statement.
2. The budget reflects and shapes, and is, in turn, shaped by the country's economic life. Along with the budget, three policy statements are mandated by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 (FRBMA).

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3. The Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement sets a three-year rolling target for specific fiscal indicators and examines whether revenue expenditure can be financed through revenue receipts on a sustainable basis and how productively capital receipts including market borrowings are being utilized
4. The Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement sets the priorities of the government in the fiscal area, examining current policies and justifying any deviation in important fiscal measures
5. The Macroeconomic Framework Statement assesses the prospects of the economy with respect to the GDP growth rate, fiscal balance of the central government and external balance

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.3) Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBMA) was passed to keep a check on which of the following?**

1. Fiscal deficit
2. Revenue deficit

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBMA)**

The FRBM Act 2003 in its amended form was passed by the government to bring fiscal discipline and to implement a prudent fiscal policy. High fiscal deficit was the one major macroeconomic problem faced by the Indian economy around 2000. It was argued that high deficits lead to inflation, reduce consumption, result in a crowding out of the private sector investment, rising unemployment and falling living standards of the people. Thus arose a need to institutionalize a new fiscal discipline framework.

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.4) Which one of the following is a capital receipt in the government budget?**

- a) Income tax receipts
- b) Dividends and profits from public sector undertakings
- c) Borrowing of the government from public
- d) Interest receipts on loans given by the government to other parties

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Capital Receipt**

Capital receipts refer to those receipts which either create liability or cause a reduction in the assets of the government. They are non-recurring and non-routine in nature.

A receipt is a capital receipt if it satisfies any one of the two conditions:

1. The receipts must create a liability for the government. For example, Borrowings are capital receipts as they lead to an increase in the liability of the government. However, tax received is not a capital receipt as it does not result in the creation of any liability.
2. The receipts must cause a decrease in the assets. For example, receipts from the sale of shares of public enterprise is a capital receipt as it leads to a reduction in assets of the government.

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are the effects of a budget deficit?**

1. Rise in the National Debt
2. Rise in value of the currency
3. Increase in currency circulation

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Budget deficit**

A budget deficit is an annual shortfall between government spending and tax revenue. The deficit is the annual amount the government needs to borrow.

Effects of a budget deficit:

1. Rise in national debt
2. Higher debt interest payments
3. Fall in value of the currency
4. Increase in currency circulation
5. Increase in Aggregate Demand (AD)
6. Possible increase in public sector investment
7. May cause crowding out and higher bond yields

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.6) On which of the following factors does economic growth is directly dependent?**

- a) Fiscal Policy
- b) Trade policy
- c) Monetary Policy
- d) All of the above

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Fiscal policy**

1. Fiscal policy through tax policy and direct expenditure can influence investments and demand in the economy, and directly affect the growth
2. Monetary policy affects growth indirectly through an increase or decrease in the money supply. On the other hand, it has a direct impact on inflation

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.7) Which of the following statement related to Effective Revenue Deficit is correct?**

- a) It is the difference between the revenue deficit and the grants for creation of capital assets
- b) It is the difference between revenue expenditure and revenue receipts without an increase in the assets of the Government
- c) It refers to the grants-in-aid given by the Central Government to the State Governments for the creation of capital assets that are owned by the said entities
- d) None of the above

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Effective Revenue Deficit**

- 1. Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for the creation of capital assets. In other words, the Effective Revenue Deficit excludes those revenue expenditures which were done in the form of grants for the creation of capital assets
- 2. Effective Revenue Deficit signifies the amount of capital receipts that are being used for actual consumption expenditure of the Government

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.8) Which of the following is/are the typical consequences of the Revenue Deficit?**

- 1. The government borrows to finance its investment and consumption requirements.
- 2. A higher revenue deficit creates a higher repayment burden on the government.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Revenue Deficit**

- 1. The revenue deficit refers to the excess of the government's revenue expenditure over revenue receipts Revenue deficit = Revenue expenditure – Revenue receipts
- 2. The revenue deficit includes only such transactions that affect the current income and expenditure of the government
- 3. When the government incurs a revenue deficit, it implies that the government is dissaving and is using up the savings of the other sectors of the economy to finance a part of its consumption expenditure.
- 4. This will lead to a build-up of stock of debt and interest liabilities and force the government, eventually, to cut expenditure Since a major part of revenue, expenditure is committed to expenditure, it cannot be reduced.
- 5. The revenue deficit is to be met from the capital receipt, which is through the borrowing and sale of assets Given the same level of fiscal deficit, a higher revenue deficit is worse than the lower one because it implies a higher repayment burden in the future not matched by the benefits via investment.

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Monetized Deficit?**

1. It leads to an increment in the net holdings of treasury bills by the Central Bank.
2. It leads to an increment in the money supply in the economy.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Monetised Deficit**

Deficit financing is when a govt spends more than what it earns Monetized deficit refers (quantum of deficit financing) where the government (here RBI) prints more money in order to pay its deficits This is not in proportion to wealth or capital formation in the economy Since the enactment of the FRBM Act 2003, deficit financing is not practiced in India In other words, a monetized deficit means the increase in the net RBI credit to the central government, such that the monetary needs of the government could be met easily

The monetized deficit results in the increase in the net holdings of treasury bills by the RBI (which is raised through Open Market Operations) and also the RBI contribution towards the government's market borrowings increases

With the issue of more money to the government (not being backed by assets), the money supply in the economy increases, as a result of which the inflationary pressure prevails

Source: Ramesh Singh

**Q.10) Which of the following statements is/are correct related to Fiscal Deficit?**

1. High Fiscal Deficit crowds out the private investment in normal times
2. It is financed through borrowing from the Central Bank.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Fiscal Deficit**

1. The fiscal deficit is defined as the excess of total budget expenditure over total budget receipts excluding borrowings during a fiscal year In simple words, it is the amount of borrowing the government has to resort to meet its expenses A large deficit means a large amount of borrowing The fiscal deficit is a measure of how much the government needs to borrow from the market to meet its expenditure when its resources are inadequate
2. Fiscal deficit = Total expenditure – Total receipts excluding borrowings
3. If we add borrowing in total receipts, the fiscal deficit is zero Clearly, fiscal deficit gives the borrowing requirements of the government
4. High fiscal deficit results in high government borrowing which leads to lowering the amount of available money to be borrowed by private investors, increasing the interest rates and lowering the private investments
5. The central bank no longer finances the deficits of Government It is a facilitator of borrowings from the market.

Source: Ramesh Singh

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## *Indian Polity*

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**Q.1) Which of the following majority is required to approve a resolution for the proclamation of financial emergency?**

- a) Simple majority
- b) Special majority
- c) Effective Majority
- d) Absolute Majority

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

A resolution approving the proclamation of financial emergency can be passed by either House of Parliament only by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of that house present and voting.

A proclamation of Financial Emergency may be revoked by the president at anytime by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require the parliamentary approval.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.2) With respect to president's rule, consider the following statement:**

1. The Parliament can delegate the power to make laws for the state
2. a law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority continues to be operative even after the President's Rule.

**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: C**

**Explanation:**

**When the state legislature is thus suspended or dissolved:**

1. The Parliament can delegate the power to make laws for the state to the President or to any other authority specified by him in this regard,
2. The Parliament or in case of delegation, the President or any other specified authority can make laws conferring powers and imposing duties on the Centre or its officers and authorities,
3. The President can authorise, when the Lok Sabha is not in session, expenditure from the state consolidated fund pending its sanction by the Parliament, and
4. The President can promulgate, when the Parliament is not in session, ordinances for the governance of the state.

A law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority continues to be operative even after the President's Rule. This means that the period for which such a law remains in force is not co-terminous with the duration of the proclamation. But it can be repealed or altered or re-enacted by the state legislature.

It should be noted here that the President cannot assume to himself the powers vested in the concerned state high court or suspend the provisions of the Constitution relating to it. In other

words, the constitutional position, status, powers and functions of the concerned state high court remain same even during the President's Rule.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

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

1. The constitution does not have the expression 'proclamation of emergency'
2. Article 360 deals with President's rule

**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: D**

**Explanation:**

The Constitution stipulates three types of emergencies:

1. An emergency due to war, external aggression or armed rebellion (Article 352). This is popularly known as 'National Emergency'.

However, the Constitution employs the expression 'proclamation of emergency' to denote an emergency of this type.

2. An Emergency due to the failure of the constitutional machinery in the states (Article 356). This is popularly known as 'President's Rule'. It is also known by two other names — 'State Emergency' or 'constitutional Emergency'. However, the Constitution does not use the word 'emergency' for this situation.

3. Financial Emergency due to a threat to the financial stability or credit of India (Article 360).

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.4) Which of the following statement about zonal council is/are not correct?**

1. Zonal Council are constitution bodies
2. There is Five Zonal Council in India
3. The Prime Minister of India is Chairman of The Five Council

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

**ZONAL COUNCILS**

The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956. The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.

The home minister of Central government is the common chairman of the five zonal councils. Each chief minister acts as a vice-chairman of the council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.5) Which of the following statement about Inter-State Council is /are correct?**

1. Inter-State Council is permanent constitution body.
2. Prime Minister can establish such a Council at his will.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.6) Which of the following is related to Centre-State Relations?**

- a) Rajmanner committee
- b) Madan Mohan Punchhi commission
- c) Sarkaria commission
- d) All of the above

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

**Rajamannar Committee**

In 1969, the Tamil Nadu Government (DMK) appointed a three-member committee under the chairmanship of Dr P V Rajamannar to examine the entire question of Centre–state relations and to suggest amendments to the Constitution so as to secure utmost autonomy to the states.<sup>25</sup> The committee submitted its report to the Tamil Nadu Government in 1971.

**Sarkaria Commission**

In 1983, the Central government appointed a three-member Commission on Centre–state relations under the chairmanship of R S Sarkaria, a retired judge of the Supreme Court.<sup>26</sup> The commission was asked to examine and review the working of existing arrangements between the Centre and states in all spheres and recommend appropriate changes and measures. It was initially given one year to complete its work, but its term was extended four times.

The final report was submitted in October 1987, and the summary was later officially released in January 1988.

**Punchhi Commission**

The Second commission on Centre-State Relations was set-up by the Government of India in April 2007 under the Chairmanship of Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of India.<sup>28</sup> It was required to look into the issues of Centre-State relations keeping in view the sea-changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.7) Consider the following statement:**

1. Indian forest services (IFS) was created as the fourth All India Services in 1966.
2. Article 312 of the Constitution authorises the Parliament to create new All-India Services on the basis of a Rajya Sabha resolution to that effect.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

In 1947, Indian Civil Service (ICS) was replaced by IAS and the Indian Police (IP) was replaced by IPS and were recognised by the Constitution as All-India Services. In 1966, the Indian Forest Service (IFS) was created as the third All-India Service. Article 312 of the Constitution authorises the Parliament to create new All-India Services on the basis of a Rajya Sabha resolution to that effect.

Each of these three all-India services, irrespective of their division among different states, form a single service with common rights and status and uniform scales of pay throughout the country.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.8) “India has practically functioned as a unitary state though the Union and the states have tried to function formally and legally as a federation.”**

Who among the following remarked the above statements regarding federal system?

- a) Paul Appleby
- b) Morris Jones
- c) KC Wheare
- d) Granville Austin

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

The Constitution of India has deviated from the traditional federal systems like US, Switzerland and Australia and incorporated a large number of unitary or non-federal features, tilting the balance of power in favour of the Centre. This has prompted the Constitutional experts to challenge the federal character of the Indian Constitution. Thus, KC Wheare described the Constitution of India as ‘quasifederal’.

He remarked that ‘Indian Union is a unitary state with subsidiary federal features rather than a federal state with subsidiary unitary features’.

According to K Santhanam, the two factors have been responsible for increasing the unitary bias (tendency of centralisation) of the Constitution.

These are:

- (i) The dominance of the Centre in the financial sphere and the dependence of the states upon the Central grants; and
- (ii) The emergence of a powerful planning commission which controls the developmental process in the states. He observed: “India has practically functioned as a unitary state though the Union and the states have tried to function formally and legally as a federation.”

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.9) Which of the following Prime Minister of India was not a member of the Rajya Sabha, when he took the position?**

- a) Indira Gandhi
- b) Rajiv Gandhi
- c) Deve Gowda
- d) Manmohan Singh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

In Britain, the prime minister should be a member of the Lower House (House of Commons) of the Parliament. In India, the prime minister may be a member of any of the two Houses of Parliament.

For example, three prime ministers, Indira Gandhi (1966), Deve Gowda (1996), and Manmohan Singh (2004), were members of the Rajya Sabha.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. American President is both the head of the state and Head of the Government.
2. The American President and his secretaries are responsible to the Congress for their Acts.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Features of Presidential Government**

Unlike the Indian Constitution, the American Constitution provides for the presidential form of government. The features of the American presidential system of government are as follows:

1. The American President is both the head of the State and the head of government. As the head of State, he occupies a ceremonial position. As the head of government, he leads the executive organ of government.
2. The President is elected by an electoral college for a fixed tenure of four years. He cannot be removed by the Congress except by impeachment for a grave unconstitutional act.
3. The President governs with the help of a cabinet or a smaller body called 'Kitchen Cabinet'. It is only an advisory body and consists of non-elected departmental secretaries. They are selected and appointed by him, are responsible only to him, and can be removed by him any time.
4. The President and his secretaries are not responsible to the Congress for their acts. They neither possess membership in the Congress nor attend its sessions.
5. The President cannot dissolve the House of Representatives—the lower house of the Congress.
6. The doctrine of separation of powers is the basis of the American presidential system. The legislative, executive and judicial powers of the government are separated and vested in the three independent organs of the government.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

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## Geography

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**Q.1) Which of the following seas is/are a part of Arctic Ocean?**

1. Sulu Sea
2. Kara Sea
3. Laptev Sea

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Kara and Laptev Sea are a part of Arctic Ocean.

**Q.2) Consider the following mountain ranges:**

1. KunlunMountains
2. Zagros Mountains
3. KarakoramMountains
4. KirtharMountains
5. Hindu KushMountains

**Which of the following is/are not among the mountain ranges that form Pamir knot?**

- a) 2 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 5 only
- d) 4 and 5 only

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Pamir Knot is the junction of five mountain ranges they are the Tien Shan, the Hindu Kush, theKunlun, the Karakoram, and the Himalayan ranges.

Source: School Atlas

**Q.3) Consider the following Mountain Passes in India,**

<b>Mountain Passes</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Shipki La	Uttarakhand
2. Zoji La	Kashmir
3. Diphu La	Arunachal Pradesh

**Which of the above given pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- a) One Pair Only
- b) Two Pair Only
- c) All Three pairs
- d) None of the above pairs

**ANS: B**

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**Explanation: Shipki La Pass:** It is located through Sutlej Gorge. It connects Himachal Pradesh with Tibet. It is India's third border post for trade with China after Lipulekh and Nathula Pass.

**Diphu Pass:** Arunachal Pradesh – Mandalay Diphu Pass is a mountain pass around the area of the disputed tripoint borders of India, China, and Myanmar. Diphu Pass is also a strategic approach to eastern Arunachal Pradesh. It lies on the McMahon Line.

**Zoji La:** Srinagar- Kargil & Leh. It connects Srinagar with Kargil and Leh. Border Road Organization is responsible for clearing and maintaining the road, especially during the winter.  
Source: School Atlas

**Q.4) Which of the following strait separate North America from Asia?**

- a) Bering Strait
- b) Cabot Strait
- c) Strait of Canso
- d) Cebu Strait

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Bering Strait**

1. Located between Alaska (USA) and Russia, the Bering Strait is the marine gateway between the Arctic and the Pacific Ocean. At its narrowest point, the strait is only 55 miles wide.
2. The Bering Strait may be narrow, but it's full with wildlife—beluga whales, bowhead whales, gray whales, walrus, polar bears, ringed and ribbon seals.

Source: School Atlas

**Q.5) Consider the following Tiger Reserves:**

1. Bor Tiger Reserve
2. Panna Tiger Reserve
3. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
4. Manas Tiger Reserve

**Arrange the above given tiger reserves in a north to south direction.**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

Source: School Atlas

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**Q.6) Arrange the following Islands of Pacific Ocean from north to south:**

1. Volcano Islands
2. Bonin Islands
3. Kuril Islands
4. Kamchatka Peninsula

**Select the correct option from the codes given below:**

- a) 3-4-2-1
- b) 3-1-4-2
- c) 4-3-2-1
- d) 2-1-3-4

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

Source: School Atlas

**Q.7) The Formosa Strait also known as Taiwan Strait connects which of the following seas?**

- a) East China Sea with South China Sea
- b) Yellow Sea with Sea of Japan
- c) Sea of Okhotsk with Sea of Japan
- d) South China Sea with Pacific Ocean

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Formosa Strait connects East China Sea with South China Sea.

Source: School Atlas

**Q.8) Golan Heights touches the boundary of which of the following countries?**

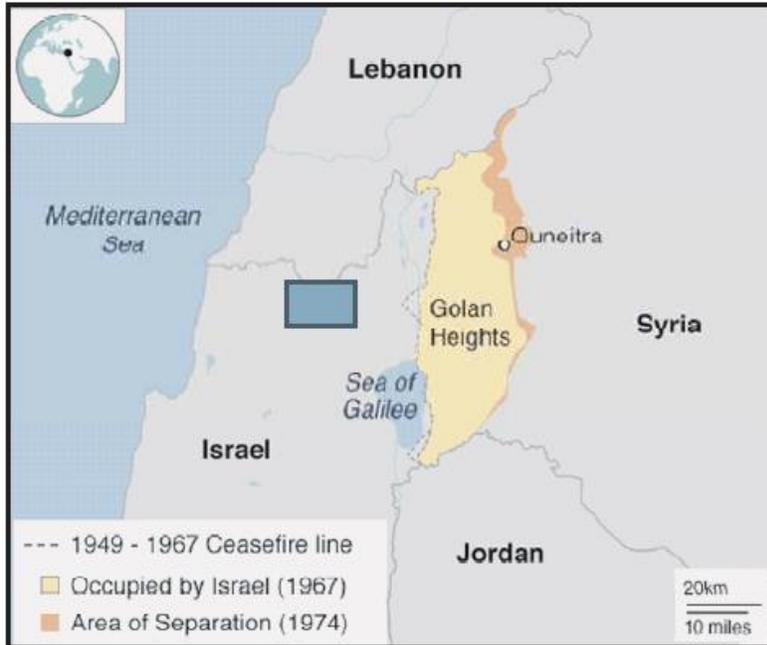
1. Syria
2. Jordan
3. Turkey
4. Israel

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** It touches the boundary of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.



Source: School Atlas

**Q.9) Which of the following rivers drains their water in Atlantic Ocean?**

- a) Gila river
- b) Colorado river
- c) Fraser river
- d) Mississippi River

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

Mississippi River drains its water in Gulf of Mexico. Gila river is a tributary of Colorado river and their water drains into Pacific Ocean.

Colorado River, major river of North America, rising in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, U.S., and flowing generally west and south for 1,450 miles (2,330 kilometres) into the Gulf of California in north-western Mexico.

The Fraser River is a river within British Columbia, Canada, rising at Fraser Pass near Blackrock Mountain in the Rocky Mountains and flowing for 1,375 kilometres (854 mi), into the Strait of Georgia.



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## *Environment*

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**Q.1) Kabartal Wetland, recently declared Ramsar sites in India, is located in which of the following state/UT?**

- a) Bihar
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Chattisgarh
- d) Odisha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Kabartal Wetland has been designated as Ramsar sites. With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India is 39, the highest in South Asia.

Facts:

1. **Kabartal Wetland:** It is also known as Kanwar Jheel. It covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the Begusarai district of Bihar.
2. **Significance:** It acts as a vital flood buffer for the region besides providing livelihood opportunities to local communities.
3. **Biodiversity:** Significant biodiversity is present in the wetland. It is also an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway for migratory waterbirds.
4. **Species:** It is home to species such as white rumped vulture (Critically Endangered), red-headed vulture (Critically Endangered) and two waterbirds, the sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*).

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.2) "Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef program", has been recently launched by which of the following?**

- a) UNEP
- b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- c) G20
- d) World Bank

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation: It aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally taking into account possible implications on the achievement of other SDGs.

Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform: It is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at creating a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, innovation and capacity building in all facets of coral reef conservation.

**Additional Facts:**

1. Land Degradation: It is any reduction or loss in the biological or economic productive capacity of the land resource base.
2. Corals: They are small (0.25-12 inches), soft-bodied marine organisms. They live in colonies called reefs that they build using a limestone skeleton (calicle) lying at their base.

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3. G20: It is an international group initially founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors of 19 countries and the European Union.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.3) Which of the following has been declared as the largest Marine Protection Zone of the Atlantic Ocean?**

- a) St. Helena
- b) Tristan da Cunha
- c) Ross Sea
- d) Ascension Island

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Tristan da Cunha has been declared as the largest Marine Protection Zone of the Atlantic Ocean.

Facts:

Tristan da Cunha: It is an isolated UK Overseas Territory located 6,000 miles from London in the South Atlantic Ocean.

The island is inhabited by less than 300 humans and the water around the islands is considered to be the richest in the world. It is also home to the World Heritage Site of Gough and Inaccessible Islands, which is one of the most important seabird islands in the world.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)?**

- 1. The Centre has been established at Kolkata, West Bengal.
- 2. This centre comes under the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

**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:** The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This announcement came on the occasion of World Wetland Day.

About Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM):

- 1. The Centre has been established as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM). This centre comes under the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- 2. Aim: To address specific research needs and knowledge gaps in the conservation and management of wetlands.

Key Functions of the centre:

- 1. It will help in building partnerships and networks with relevant national and international agencies.
- 2. Center will serve as a knowledge hub. It enables exchange between State/ UT Wetland Authorities, wetland users, managers, researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners.

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3. Moreover, it will assist the national and State/ UT Governments in the design and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks for conservation.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5) Which of the following statement about Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary is not correct?**

- a) The sanctuary is famous for the lush green dry deciduous forest.
- b) It is situated Garo Hills.
- c) There are several small and big waterfalls inside the sanctuary like Phurlijharan, Ghusrigudi, Dumnijhola, Kamalajharan etc
- d) None

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary

- 1. It is a wildlife sanctuary located in the Kalahandi district in Odisha. The sanctuary is famous for the lush green dry deciduous forest.
- 2. Fauna: The sanctuary is home to a plethora of wildlife animals such as leopard, gaur, sambar, nilgai, barking deer, mouse deer, soft claws ottawa and a wide variety of birds.
- 3. Flora: The sanctuary consists of flora like Sal, Bija, Asan, Harida, Amala, Bahada, and Bamboo and varieties of medicinal plants.
- 4. Waterfalls: There are several small and big waterfalls inside the sanctuary like Phurlijharan, Ghusrigudi, Dumnijhola, Kamalajharan, Koyirupa, Kuang, and Raja Rani.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6) Consider the following statements about National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):**

- 1. It was established in 1972 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2. It got established following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

**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:** About National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

- 1. NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. It was constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2. It got established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

Objectives of National Tiger Conservation Authority:

- 1. Firstly, providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance with its directives becomes legal.
- 2. Secondly, fostering accountability of Center-State in the management of Tiger Reserves by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
- 3. Thirdly, providing for oversight by Parliament.
- 4. Lastly, addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tigers Reserves.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7) Consider the following Tiger Reserves:**

1. Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve
2. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
3. Anamalai Tiger Reserve
4. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
5. Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

**Which of the above given Tiger Reserve is/are not located in Tamil Nadu?**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 5 only
- c) 1, 4 and 5 only
- d) All are located in Tamil Nadu

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu**

1. Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve will be the 5th tiger reserve of Tamil Nadu. The other four are:
2. Mudumalai (MTR)
3. Anamalai (ATR)
4. Sathyamangalam (STR)
5. Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)

**About Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve:**

1. Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve is the fifth Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu and the 51st tiger reserve of India.
2. It was jointly declared as a Tiger Reserve by the Centre and Tamil Nadu governments in February 2021
3. For this, the Megamalai WLS and the adjoining Srivilliputhur WLS were clubbed together.
4. Vegetation: It has a mix of tropical evergreen forests and semi-evergreen forests, dry deciduous forests and moist mixed deciduous forests, grassland.
5. Fauna: Meghamalai has a large population of ungulates (hoofed mammals), spotted deer, Indian gaurs, wild boars and other carnivores.
6. The adjoining Srivilliputhur hosts grizzled giant squirrels, flying squirrels, leopards, Nilgiri tars, jungle cats, Sambars, elephants, lion-tailed macaques and many species of birds.

**Source:** ForumIAS

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP):**

1. It is the first zoo in the World to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger.
2. It is an institutional member of World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA).

**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: C**

**Explanation:** Nandankanan Zoological Park(NZP):

It is located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Unlike other zoos in the country, Nandankanan is built right inside the forest and set in a completely natural environment.

**Uniqueness:**

1. It is the first zoo in the World to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger and it is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian Pangolins in the world.
2. First captive breeding centre for endangered Gharials in the year 1980.
3. Kanjia Lake – A wetland of National importance (2006).

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4. It is the only zoological park in India to become an institutional member of World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA).
5. It is the only zoo in India after which an express train Puri-New Delhi express has been named as “Nandankanan Express”.
6. It is the first zoo in India where endangered Ratel was born in captivity.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.9) Which of the following is not under UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program?**

- a) Panna Biosphere Reserve
- b) Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
- c) Pench Biosphere Reserve
- d) Similipal Biosphere Reserve

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

There are 12 biosphere reserves of India which have been recognized internationally under the Man and Biosphere(MAB) Reserve program. These are: 1) Nilgiri (First one to be included) 2) Gulf of Mannar 3) Sunderban 4) Nanda Devi 5) Nokrek 6) Pachmarhi 7) Similipal 8) Achanakmar – Amarkantak 9) Great Nicobar 10) Agasthyamala 11) Khangchendzonga (2018) and 12) Panna(2020).

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. Asan Conservation Reserve (ACR) is Uttarakhand state’s first entry into the list of Ramsar sites.
2. It is located on the banks of Ganga River.

**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:** The Asan Conservation Reserve (ACR) was declared as a site of international importance under the Ramsar Convention becoming Uttarakhand state’s first entry into the coveted list and 38th Ramsar Wetland Site of India.

Facts:

1. Asan Conservation Reserve: It is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.
2. Species: It is home to species such as white rumped vulture(Critically Endangered), ruddy shelduck(Least Concern), red-headed vulture (Critically Endangered), Asian woolly neck(Vulnerable) among others.
3. Significance: The wetland also acts as host to several migratory birds from October till March.

Source: ForumIAS

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## *History*

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**Q.1) Treaty of Yandaboo, was conclusion of which of the following war?**

- a) Burmese War
- b) Anglo- Mysore war
- c) Anglo- Maratha War
- d) Anglo-Nepalese War

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The principality of Cachar lying in the North East Frontier came under the protection of the British in accordance with the Treaty of Yandaboo concluded at the end of the first Burmese War. The Raja of this small state was assassinated in 1832 but there was no heir to succeed him. Bentinck annexed this state at the wish of the people.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.2) Who among the following signed 'Treaty of Lahore', after first anglo-Sikh war?**

- a) Lord Auckland
- b) Lord Hardinge
- c) Lord Dalhousie
- d) Lord Ellenborough

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** After William Bentinck, Lord Auckland (1836-42) became Governor-General. The First Afghan War (1836-42) was fought during his administration. Due to his failure in Afghanistan he was recalled in 1842. Lord Ellenborough succeeded him and ended the Afghan War. He also annexed the Sindh. His successor, Lord Hardinge (1844-48) fought the first Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46) and concluded the Treaty of Lahore.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about Railways in India:**

1. Lord Dalhousie started the "guarantee system" by which the railway companies were guaranteed a minimum interest of five percent on their investment.
2. Railway lines connecting from Calcutta to the Raniganj coal-fields was opened in 1854.

**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:** Railways

The introduction railways in India inaugurated a new economic era. There were three major reasons for the British to take interest in its quick development. The first reason was commercial. The second main reason was administrative. The third reason was defense. At the time of revolt and disturbance, movement of the forces was much easier through railways. Lord Dalhousie's

contribution in the development of railways is worth commending. In 1853, he penned his Railway Minute formulating the future policy of railways in India. He started the “guarantee system” by which the railway companies were guaranteed a minimum interest of five percent on their investment. The government retained the right of buying the railway at the end of the period of contract. The first railway line connecting Bombay with Thane was opened in 1853. Railway lines connecting from Calcutta to the Raniganj coal-fields was opened in 1854 and from Madras to Arakkonam in 1856.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about British Agrarian Policy:**

1. The Mahalwari Settlement was introduced in about 30 per cent of the total area under British rule.
2. The Ryotwari System covered about 51 per cent of the area under British rule.

**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: C**

**Explanation:** After their advent, the British principally adopted three types of land tenures. Roughly 19 per cent of the total area under the British rule, i.e., Bengal, Bihar, Banaras, division of the Northern Western Provinces and northern Karnatak, were brought under the Zamindari System or the Permanent Settlement. The second revenue system, called the Mahalwari Settlement, was introduced in about 30 per cent of the total area under British rule i.e., in major parts of the North Western Provinces, Central Provinces and the Punjab with some variations. The Ryotwari System covered about 51 per cent of the area under British rule comprising part of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, Assam and certain other parts of British India.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are features of the Permanent Settlement?**

1. The zamindars of Bengal were recognised as the owners of land as long as they paid the revenue to the East India Company regularly.
2. This settlement gave the administrative and judicial functions to the zamindars.

**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:** The main features of the Permanent Settlement were as follows:

1. The zamindars of Bengal were recognised as the owners of land as long as they paid the revenue to the East India Company regularly.
2. The amount of revenue that the zamindars had to pay to the Company was firmly fixed and would not be raised under any circumstances. In other words the Government of the East India Company got 89% leaving the rest to the zamindars.
3. The ryots became tenants since they were considered the tillers of the soil.

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4. This settlement took away the administrative and judicial functions of the zamindars.  
Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.6) Jonathan Duncan established a Sanskrit college at which of the following places?**

- a) Madras
- b) Bombay
- c) Calcutta
- d) Banaras

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** A decade later in 1791 due to the sincere efforts of the British resident, Jonathan Duncan, a Sanskrit College was established to promote the study of Hindu laws and philosophy in Banaras. Therefore, it must be contended that during the first three decades of the 19th century, the development of education took place only through the traditional institutions.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are causes of Vellore mutiny?**

- 1. Wearing ear rings and caste marks were not prohibited.
- 2. Sir John Cradock, the commander-in-chief introduced a new form of turban, resembling a European hat.

**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:** Several causes are attributed to the Vellore Mutiny. Indian sepoy had to experience numerous difficulties when they went to serve in the Company's army. The sepoy were forced to serve under the Company since their earlier patrons (the native chieftains) were all disappearing from the scene. The strict discipline, practice, new weapons, new methods and uniforms were all new to the sepoy. Anything new appears to be difficult and wrong for a man who is well-settled in the old way of life for a long-time. Sir John Cradock, the commander-in-chief, with the -approval of Lord-William Bentinck, the Governor of Madras, introduced a new form of turban, resembling a European hat. Wearing ear rings and caste marks were also prohibited.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about Revolt of 1857:**

1. At Kanpur the revolt was led by Nana Saheb.
2. Sir Hugh Rose defeated Tantia Tope and stormed Jhansi.

**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: C**

**Explanation:** At Kanpur the revolt was led by Nana Saheb, the adopted son of Baji Rao II, the last Peshwa. Nana Saheb expelled the English from Kanpur with the help of the sepoys and proclaimed himself the Peshwa. Nana Saheb in his efforts against the British was ably supported by two of his lieutenants. One was Tantia Tope, the other was Azimullah. Sir Hugh Wheeler the commander of the British garrison at Kanpur surrendered on the 27 June 1857. But, soon Kanpur was recaptured by the British commander Sir Colin Campbell.

Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, the widowed queen of Gangadhar Rao played a heroic role in this revolt. Rani Lakshmi Bai was affected by Dalhousie's Doctrine of Lapse, was joined by Tantia Tope. The combined efforts of Rani and Tantia Tope saw the capture of Gwalior. Meanwhile, Sir Hugh Rose defeated Tantia Tope and stormed Jhansi on 3 April 1858. He then captured Gwalior. The Rani of Jhansi died a soldier's death on 17 June 1858. Tantia Tope was captured and hanged on charges of rebellion and murder in the massacre of Kanpur

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

**Q.9) Famine Commission (1878-80) was set up under which of the following?**

- a) Sir William Hunter
- b) Sir Mark Cubbon
- c) Sir Richard Strachey
- d) Sir Andrew Frazer.

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Famine Policy**

The famine of 1876-78 had resulted from the failure of two monsoons. It covered an area of two lakh fifty thousand square miles and affected fifty eight million people. The worst affected areas were Madras, Mysore, Hyderabad, Bombay, Central India and the Punjab. It took a toll of five million lives in a single year. The outbreak of cholera and fever added to the misery of the suffering population. Lytton's Government failed miserably to tackle the situation. The government's relief measures seemed to be inadequate. The first Famine Commission (1878-80) under Sir Richard Strachey was appointed and it made many commendable recommendations. They include provision of funds for famine relief and construction work in the annual budget. The Famine Code came into existence in 1883.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12

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**Q.10) Who among the following passed a law called Ancient Monuments Act, 1904?**

- a) Lord Ripon
- b) Lord Curzon
- c) Lord Lytton
- d) Lord Mayo

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Preservation of Archaeological objects Curzon had a passion for preserving the ancient monuments of historical importance in India. No Viceroy in India before or after him took such a keen interest in archaeological objects. He passed a law called the Ancient Monuments Act, 1904 which made it obligatory on the part of the government and local authorities to preserve the monuments of archaeological importance and their destruction an offence.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board Class 12