

#### Reflection of Veranda IAS Mock Test Questions in UPSC CSE Prelims 2023

S.NO	GS PRELIMS 2023 QUESTION NO (Set B)	VERANDA IAS MOCK TEST- 1
1.	3. With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were well known as a)Capital cities b)Ports c)Centres of iron-and-steel making d)Shrines of Jain Tirthankaras	58. With reference to ancient Indian port cities, which of the following port is located in the present-day Kerela?  (a) Arikamedu (b) Muziri (c) Kaveripattinam (d) Bharuch  Explanation: Muziris Port  • Muziris, an ancient port city in what is now the Indian state of Kerala, was one of the world's most important commercial ports about 2,000 years ago.  • The Muziris port, which existed in the first century BC, had an important role in connecting the region with the Persians, Phoenicians, Assyrians, Greeks, Egyptians and the Roman Empire. While spices, particularly black pepper, were the most popular items exported from Muziris, other items included semi-precious stones, diamonds, ivory and pearls.  Poompuhar Port  • Poompuhar, also known as Puhar, is thought to be the Chozha Empire's port town. The ancient port city of



Kaveripoompattinam (or Kaveripattinam) was reputedly located in the mouth of the Kaveri River in 500 AD. It was located in the modern Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu.

#### Arikamedu Port

- In ancient texts, Arikamedu, which is now part of India's union territory of Puducherry, is referred to as the port of Podouke.
- Arikamedu is thought to have been an active commercial port of the region with the Roman Empire as early as the second century BC, as evidenced by allusions in the Periplus Maris Erythema and Tamil songs of the Sangam period. Many people believe Arikamedu was a Chola port focussed on bead production and the only port city in the region with Roman relations.

#### **Bharuch Port**

Bharuch was a famous port in the Indian subcontinent and one of the most important cosmopolitan cities in the world around 2,000 years ago.
 Bharuch, which is now part of Gujarat and is located at the mouth of the Narmada River, was also known to merchants from all over the world as Bharukaccha and Barygaza. Arabs, Greeks and Romans, as well as Africans, Chinese and Egyptians, had established trading links with Bharuch.

#### **Tamralipta** Tamralipta was located in Midnapur, West Bengal, in the present-day town of Tamluk. It gets its name from tamra, or copper, which was mined nearby at Ghatsila in Bihar's Singhbhum region and exported through this port. Ships sailed down the shores of Bengal and Myanmar to the Malaya Peninsula, Indo-China, and beyond from here, which is located on the banks of the Rupnarayan river. The port of Tamralipti served as a crossroads for sailors, traders and missionaries from old east coast nations. The harbour town of Tamralipti flourished from the third century BC until the eighth century AD, according to literary and archaeological evidence. 2. 16. Consider the following 14. With reference to the President election, consider the following statements: statemetnts: 1. The electoral college of the President 1) If the election of the election consists of the elected President of India is declared members of the legislative assemblies void by the Supreme Court of of the states and the elected members of India, all acts done by him/her both the Houses of Parliament only in the performance of duties 2. The nomination of a candidate for of his/her office of President election to the office of President must before the date of decision be subscribed by at least 100 electors as become invalid. proposers and 50 electors as seconders 2)Election for the post of the 3. Every candidate has to make a security President of India can be deposit of ₹ 25,000 in the Reserve Bank postponed on the ground that of India. some Legislative Assembles

have been dissolved and elections are yet to take place.

3) When a Bill is presented to the President of India, the Constitution prescribes time limits within which he/she has to declare his/her assent.

## How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

#### **Explanation:**

The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of electoral college consisting of:

- 1. the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament:
- 2. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
- 3. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry
- 4. He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority. A sitting President or VicePresident of the Union, the Governor of any state and a minister of the Union or any state is not deemed to hold any office of profit and hence qualified as a presidential candidate.

The nomination of a candidate for election to the office of President must be subscribed by at least 50 electors as proposers and 50 electors as seconders. Every candidate has to make a security deposit of ₹15,000 in the Reserve Bank of India.

#### 3. 33.Consider the following trees:

deciduous trees?

- 1) Jackfruit (Artocarpus heterophyllus)
  - 2)Mahua (Madhuca indica)3)Teak (Tectona grandis)
- How many of the above are

## 29. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Nilambur teaks?

- 1. Nilambur teak has found its place in the Geographical Indications (GI) Registry.
- 2. It is native to the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- 3. The Nilambur forests are also known for their tribal settlements, vast rain forests,



	a)Only one b)Only two c)All three d)None	waterfalls and the world's first Teak Museum.  Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 only  Explanation:
		<ul> <li>Kerala's Nilambur teak aka Malabar teak has found its place in the Geographical Indications (GI) Registry. Statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>The golden brown teak is known for its log dimensions, desired wood figure and wide reputation in the world of trade.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Its durability is attributed to the synergistic effect of total extensive components and the resistance to fungal decay to naphthoquinone and derivatives it contains.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>The hydrophobicity, anti-oxidant properties and oily nature are due to a caoutchouc compound.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>The Nilambur forests are also known for their tribal settlements, vast rain forests, waterfalls and the world's first Teak Museum. Statement 3 is correct.</li> </ul>
		<b>Relevance:</b> This topic was in news as the Nilambur teaks got Geographical indication tag.
4.	42.Consider the following statements: Statement-I:	10.Consider the following statements about Negative interest rates:



In the post-pandemic recent past, many Central Banks worldwide had carried out interest rate hikes

#### **Statement-II:**

Central Banks generally assume that they have the ability to counteract the rising consumer prices via monetary policy means.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a)Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

b)Both Statement-I and
Statement-II are correct and
Statement-II are correct and
Statement-II is not the correct
explanation for Statement-I
c)Statement-I is correct but
Statement-II is incorrect
d)Statement-I is incorrect but

Statement-II is correct

1.Rather than earning interest on deposits, depositors must make regular payments to the bank to keep their money.

2.Often, this type of situation is addressed through a tight monetary policy.

## Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

#### **Explanation:**

- Negative interest rates refer to a situation in which cash deposits are subject to a storage charge at the bank rather than earning interest. Rather than earning interest on deposits, depositors must make regular payments to the bank to keep their money. Negative interest rates can happen during deflationary periods, when people and businesses save money instead of spending it. This could lead to a dramatic drop in demand, dropping prices even further.
- Often, this type of situation is addressed through the use of a loose monetary policy. However, with persistent deflationary pressures, simply cutting the central bank's interest rate to zero may not be enough to stimulate credit and lending growth. Note: Central banks in Europe, Scandinavia and Japan have recently implemented a negative interest rate policy (NIRP) on excess bank reserves in the financial system.



## 5. 44. Which one of the following activities of the Reserve Bank of India is considered to be part of 'sterilization'?

## a)Conducting 'Open Market Operations'

b)Oversight of settlement and payment systems c)Debt and cash management for the Central and State Governments d)Regulating the functions of Non-banking Financial Institutions

## 9. Consider the following statements about the Market Stabilisation scheme:

- 1.It was launched in April 2004 in accordance with the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the private sector and the Reserve Bank.
- 2. The cash is held in a separate government account with the Reserve Bank of India.
- 3.Government paper issuances under the Market Stabilisation Scheme are undertaken to absorb rupee liquidity created by persistent capital flows.

## Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

(a)1 only

(b)2 and 3 only

(c)1 and 3 only

(d)1, 2 and 3

#### **Explanation:**

- The Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) was launched in April 2004 in accordance with the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Reserve Bank, under which the Government issues securities specifically for the purpose of stabilisation operations.
- This monetary management tool was introduced in 2004. Sufficient longerterm liquidity generated by large capital inflows is absorbed through the sale of short-dated government securities and treasury bills.

		<ul> <li>The cash is held in a separate government account with the Reserve Bank of India. Thus, the instrument possesses both SLR and CRR characteristics.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Government paper issuances under the Market Stabilisation Scheme are undertaken to absorb rupee liquidity created by persistent capital flows.</li> </ul>
		• To offset the monetary and fiscal impact of this instrument, the proceeds from the MSS were parked in a separate deposit account with the Reserve Bank that was used exclusively for the redemption and/or buyback of paper issued under the MSS.
		<b>Relevance:</b> Studying methods which stabilises the liquidity of currencies.
6.	63.Consider the following statements: Statement-I: 7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day. Statement-II: It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above	56.What is the purpose of the "VIRAASAT" project?  (a) Promoting traditional handwoven saris (b) Preserving Indian cultural heritage (c) Supporting the handloom industry (d) All of the above  Explanation:
	statements?  a) Both Statement-I  and Statement-II	The purpose of the "VIRAASAT" project encompasses multiple objectives related to traditional handwoven saris in India.



correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-I is incorrect d) Statement-I is incorrect  d) Statement-I is incorrect  The project seeks to highlight the rich cultural heritage associated with handloom textiles and emphasizes the importance of preserving and continuing traditional weaving techniques, motifs, and designs. By showcasing these saris, the project aims to create awareness about the cultural legacy they represent.  The project aims to create awareness about the handloom industry and the skilled artisans involved in creating handwoven saris. By providing a platform for weavers to showcase their skills and connect with a wider audience, the project supports the handloom industry and helps sustain the livelihoods of artisans.	7.	64.Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002: Statement-I:	20.With reference to the Flag Code of India (FCI), 2002 , consider the following statements:
and Statement-II are correct and Statement II are  handwoven saris from different regions of India. By exhibiting these		explanation for Statement-I b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is incorrect but Statement-II is incorrect but Statement-II is	saris" is correct because the project aims to showcase and celebrate the beauty, craftsmanship, and diversity of handwoven saris from different regions of India. By exhibiting these saris, the project promotes their aesthetic value and cultural significance.  • The project seeks to highlight the rich cultural heritage associated with handloom textiles and emphasizes the importance of preserving and continuing traditional weaving techniques, motifs, and designs. By showcasing these saris, the project aims to create awareness about the cultural legacy they represent.  • The project aims to create awareness about the handloom industry and the skilled artisans involved in creating handwoven saris. By providing a platform for weavers to showcase their skills and connect with a wider audience, the project supports the handloom industry and helps sustain the livelihoods of artisans.  Relevance: This topic was related to the

One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm\* 400 mm.

#### **Statement-II:**

The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2

## Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I
  and Statement-II
  are correct and
  Statement-II are
  correct and
  Statement-II is not
  the correct
  explanation for
  Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

1.It allows national flag to be flown at day and night if it has been hoisted in the open or on house of a member of public.

2.Changes allow machine-made polyester to be used in production of national flag. Earlier, only flags made of handspun and handwoven khadi were permitted

## 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

#### **Explanation:**

- Code allows the national flag to be flown at day and night and hoisted in the open or on house of a member of public.
- Earlier, tricolor was allowed to be flown from sunrise to sunset, irrespective of weather conditions.
- It governs the display of National Flag by private, public, and government institutions.
- Changes allow machine-made polyester to be used in production of national flag.instead of handspun and handwoven khadi

Relevance: Current affairs - Flag code

## 8. 73.Consider the following statements:

#### **Statement-I:**

The soil in tropical rain forests is rich in nutrients.

#### **Statement-II:**

## 25. Consider the following statements about Red Soil:

1. On the uplands, the red soils are gravelly and porous but in the lower areas they are deep, dark and fertile.



The high temperature and moisture of tropical rain forests cause dead organic matter in the soil to decompose quickly.

## Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a)Both Statement-I and
Statement-II are correct and
Statement-II is the correct
explanation for Statement-I
b)Both Statement-I and
Statement-II are correct and
Statement-II are correct and
Statement-II is not the correct
explanation for Statement-I
c)Statement-I is correct but
Statement-II is incorrect
d)Statement-I is incorrect
but Statement-II is correct

- 2. They are fairly rich in potash and potassium.
- 3. The colour is red due to the high percentage of iron oxide content.

## Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

#### **Explanation:**

#### **Red Soils:**

- Red soils along with its minor groups form the largest soil group of India.
- The main parent rocks are crystalline and metamorphic rocks like acid granites, gneisses and quartzites.

#### **Characteristics of Red Soils:**

- The texture of these soils can vary from sand to clay, the majority being loams.
- On the uplands, the red soils are poor, gravelly and porous. But in the lower areas they are rich, deep, dark and fertile. **Statement 1 is correct.**

#### **Chemical Composition of Red Soils:**

- They are acidic mainly due to the nature of the parent rocks. The alkali content is fair.
- They are poor in lime, magnesia, phosphates, nitrogen and humus.
- They are fairly rich in potash and potassium. Statement 2 is correct.

#### **Colour of Red Soils:**

		<ul> <li>The red colour is due to the presence of iron oxide.</li> <li>When limestone, granites, gneisses and quartzites are eroded the clay enclosed within the rocks remains intact with other forms of insoluble materials.</li> <li>In oxidising conditions, rust or iron</li> </ul>
		oxide develops in the clay, when the soil is present above the water table giving the soil a characteristic red colour.
		<ul> <li>The colour is more due to the wide diffusion rather than high percentage of iron oxide content. Statement 3 is not correct.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>The red soils are mostly loamy and hence cannot retain water like the black soils.</li> </ul>
		• The red soils, with the proper use of fertilisers and irrigation techniques, give good yield of cotton, wheat, rice, pulses, millets, tobacco, oil seeds, potatoes and fruits.
		Relevance: 68,000 hectares in Nilgiris prone to soil erosion in the coming years, says ICAR studies (Current Affairs in Sep 2022). Soil conservation was repeatedly covered in Current affairs last year.
9.	77. 'Wolbachia method' is sometimes talked about with reference to which one of the following?  a) Controlling the viral diseases spread by mosquitoes	<ul> <li>36.Which of the following statements is/are correct in relation to West Nile fever?</li> <li>1. It's a neurological condition spread by infected mosquito bites.</li> <li>2. 90% of those who are impacted experience neurologic problems that lead to death.</li> </ul>



b)Converting crop residues into packing material c)Producing biodegradable plastics

d)Producing biochar from thermo-chemical conversions of biomass 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

## **Explanation:** West Nile fever

- West Nile fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the West Nile virus, a flavivirus.
- It's a neurological condition spread by infected mosquito bites (of all types).
- Fever, headaches, nausea, and other symptoms are common.
- 10% of those who are impacted experience neurologic problems that lead to death. In 80 percent of instances, symptoms do not occur.
- The West Nile virus is related to the viruses that cause yellow fever and Japanese encephalitis.

#### Nipah virus

- Is a zoonotic virus (one that spreads from animals to humans) that can also be spread between people through contaminated food.
- It causes a wide spectrum of symptoms in infected humans, ranging from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory sickness and deadly encephalitis.
- The virus can also cause severe sickness in animals like pigs, causing producers to lose a lot of money.



- Although there have been a few outbreaks in Asia, the Nipah virus infects a wide range of animals and causes severe sickness and death in humans, making it a public health concern.
- Illness with the Nipah virus in humans can manifest in a variety of ways, from asymptomatic infection (subclinical) to acute respiratory infection and deadly encephalitis.
- The case mortality rate is estimated to be between 40% and 75%. This rate varies per outbreak, depending on local epidemiological surveillance and clinical management skills.
- Nipah virus can be spread to humans through animals (such as bats or pigs), contaminated foods, or direct humanto-human transmission.
- Nipah virus is spread by fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family.
- Neither humans nor animals have access to a medication or vaccine. Humans' primary treatment is supportive care.
- According to the 2018 annual assessment of the WHO R&D Blueprint list of priority diseases, the Nipah virus has an urgent need for more research and development.

**Relevance:** Understanding about the preventive measures to counter infection spread through Mosquito such as yellow fever.

## 10. 88.Consider the following statements:

1)Ballistic missiles are jetpropelled at subsonic speeds throughout their flights, whil cruise missiles are rocketpowered only in the initial phase of flight. 2)Agni-V is a medium-range

2)Agni-V is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile, while BrahMos is a solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile.

## 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

## 40.Consider the following regarding BrahMos

- 1. The BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile system with a long range that can be launched from land, sea, and air to target both surface and sea-based objectives.
- 2. The missile has three stages, with the first stage being a solid propellant booster engine and the second stage being a liquid ramjet.

#### Which of the following is/are incorrect?

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

#### **Explanation:**

- BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile system that can be launched from land, sea, and air to target both surface and sea-based objectives.
- It is the result of a collaboration between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and NPO Mashinostoyenia of Russia, and is named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.
- The missile operates on a two-stage system, with a solid propellant booster engine serving as the first stage and a liquid ramjet as the second stage. It operates on the principle of fire and forget.
- Initially, the range of the missile was limited to 290 km due to obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). However, following India's admission to the MTCR in 2016, the range was extended to 450 km and is expected to be further increased to 600 km in the future.

**Relevance:** Understanding the basic technical aspects of BrahMos.

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