

1. The Union Budget for 2023-24 has announced the need to simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance by financial sector regulators within laid down time limits to decide the applications under various regulations. It has, therefore, been decided to develop a secured web based centralised portal named \_\_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_\_ which will gradually extend to all types of applications made to RBI across all functions.

Identify (A) in the above context.

- a) NISCHAY
- b) SUVIDHA
- c) SAMADHAN
- d) PRAVAAH
- e) SWAYAM

Answer key: d

Solution:

### **Sampoorna – April 2023**

**Enhancing Efficiency of Regulatory Processes:** Various entities are required to obtain license / authorization to carry out activities regulated by RBI. Further, regulated entities are required to seek certain regulatory approvals from RBI under various statutes / regulations periodically. Currently, the application and approval processes for the same take place in varied on-line and off-line modes. The Union Budget for 2023-24 has announced the need to simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance by financial sector regulators within laid down time limits to decide the applications under various regulations. It has, therefore, been decided to develop a secured web based centralised portal named as '**PRAVAAH**' (**Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And AuthHorisation**) which will gradually extend to all types of applications made to RBI across all functions.

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Government e-marketplace (GeM)?

- A. GeM is a Section 8 (Companies Act 2013) company, under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce.
  - B. In the financial year 2022-2023, procurement of goods and services from government portal Government e Marketplace (GeM) has crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark.
  - C. It was setup in August 2016.
- a) All A, B and C
  - b) Both A and C
  - c) Both B and C
  - d) Only B
  - e) Only C

Answer key: b

Solution:

### Sampoorna – April 2023

Government e Marketplace (GeM) - GeM is a **Section 8** (Companies Act 2013) company, setup in **August 2016** under the administrative control of the **Department of Commerce**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for procurement of goods and services by Central Ministries, State Departments, PSEs and Autonomous Bodies. Social inclusion is a core value at GeM and it is focused at increasing participation from under-served sellers who face challenges in public procurement.

GeM is an example of how digital platforms created with a strategic and clear intent to reinvigorate and reimagine legacy processes can bring about lasting change for the nation as well as the underserved. GeM has been effectively contributing to the government's commitment of "**Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**".

3. Government compiles estimates of rural and urban income, in terms of Per Capita Net Value Added (NVA), only in the base year of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series, which is currently 2011-12. The per capita NVA for rural and urban area was Rs.40,925 and Rs.98,435 respectively in the year 2011-12.

All India annual per capita Net National Income (NNI) for 2022-23 at current prices is \_\_\_\_\_(A)\_\_\_\_\_.

Identify (A) in the above context.

- a) Rs 1,52,000
- b) Rs 1,62,000
- c) Rs 1,72,000
- d) Rs 1,82,000
- e) Rs 1,92,000

Answer key: c

Solution:

### Sampoorna – April 2023

Government compiles estimates of rural and urban income, in terms of **Per Capita Net Value Added (NVA)**, only in the **base year of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** series, which is currently **2011-12**. The per capita NVA for rural and urban area was Rs.40,925 and Rs.98,435 respectively in the year 2011-12.

All India annual per capita Net National Income (NNI) for 2022-23 at current prices is **Rs. 1,72,000**.

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Periodic Labour Force Survey?

A. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has been conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) since 2018.

B. Unemployment Rate is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the population.

C. As per the PLFS 2021-22, Labor Force Participation Rate of rural and urban combined was 51.7% for both the genders.

- a) Both A and C
- b) Both A and B
- c) Only C
- d) Both B and C
- e) Only B

Answer key: c

Solution:

### Sampoorna – April 2023

The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, has been conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) **since 2017**. As on 31.03.2023, five Annual Reports and 17 Quarterly Bulletins of PLFS have been published by NSSO. The latest Annual report of PLFS 2021-22 and the latest Quarterly Bulletin of PLFS for the Quarter October – December, 2022 was released on 24.02.2023. In recent years, the Ministry has made technological intervention in Survey process due to which the latest PLFS Quarterly Bulletins were released within two months from the end of the quarter.

From the PLFS, estimates of various Employment and Unemployment indicators (viz. **Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate**) are generated with different levels of disaggregation like, sector (rural/urban), age, education, gender, etc. Besides, from the survey, the indicators of the structural aspects of the workforce such as status in employment, industrial distribution and occupational distribution of the workers are also derived.

**Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

| all-India    |       |        |        |       |        |        |             |        |             |
|--------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Indicator    | Rural |        |        | Urban |        |        | Rural+Urban |        |             |
|              | male  | female | person | male  | female | person | male        | female | person      |
| (1)          | (2)   | (3)    | (4)    | (5)   | (6)    | (7)    | (8)         | (9)    | (10)        |
| PLFS 2021-22 |       |        |        |       |        |        |             |        |             |
| LFPR         | 76.7  | 29.2   | 53.0   | 74.2  | 22.1   | 48.6   | 75.9        | 27.2   | <u>51.7</u> |
| WPR          | 71.7  | 27.9   | 49.9   | 68.4  | 19.9   | 44.6   | 70.7        | 25.6   | 48.3        |
| UR           | 6.5   | 4.5    | 6.0    | 7.8   | 9.9    | 8.3    | 6.9         | 5.8    | 6.6         |

5. The following countries is/are a part of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA);

- A. Switzerland
- B. France
- C. Liechtenstein
- D. Germany

- a) A and C
- b) A and D
- c) B and D
- d) A, B and D
- e) A, B, C and D

Answer Key: a

Solution:

### **Sampoorna – May 2023**

India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) States (**Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland**) have taken a significant stride forward in their quest for a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

In a Ministerial meeting held in Brussels in May 2023, the Commerce Ministers from these countries discussed the modalities of engagement for working towards a comprehensive TEPA.

6. Economic Census is the complete count of all **non-farm economic establishments** located within the geographical boundary of the country. As per the 6<sup>th</sup> Economic Census results, a total of 5,84,95,359 economic establishments were listed in the country.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Survey has been launched by;

- a) Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation
- b) Survey of India
- c) Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- d) Ministry of Finance
- e) NITI Aayog

Answer Key: a

Solution:

### **Sampoorna – April 2023**

7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census was launched in 2019 and the final results are yet to be published. It is being carried out by the **Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI)** in collaboration with **Common Service Centre (CSC)**, a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** under **Ministry of Electronics and IT**.

#### **About Economic Census:**

- It is **conducted every five years** and crucial for framing policies and planning for the government and other organisations.
- It was held in **1978 for the first time** and this is the **7<sup>th</sup>** Census which will provide **disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all establishments** in the country.

- The census will provide valuable insights into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern; persons engaged etc. of the establishments engaged in economic activity.

7. Which of the following is/are ineligible for opening up a National Pension System (NPS) account?

- A. Overseas Citizens of India
  - B. Person of Indian Origin
  - C. Non-resident Indian citizens
  - D. Hindu Undivided Family
- a) Only C  
b) Only A  
c) A and B  
d) A, B and C  
e) A, B and D

Answer Key: e

Solution:

### **Sampoorna – April 2023**

NPS is being **implemented and regulated by PFRDA** in the country. National Pension System Trust (NPST) **established by PFRDA** is the registered owner of all assets under NPS.

NPS is structured into two tiers:

- **Tier-I account:** This is the non-withdrawable permanent retirement account into which the accumulations are deposited and invested as per the option of the subscriber.
- **Tier-II account:** This is a voluntary withdrawable account which is allowed only when there is an active Tier I account in the name of the subscriber. The withdrawals are permitted from this account as per the needs of the subscriber as and when claimed.

### **Beneficiaries:**

- NPS was made available to all Citizens of India from May 2009.
- Any individual citizen of India (both resident and Non-resident) in the age group of 18-65 years can join NPS.
- However, OCI (Overseas Citizens of India) and PIO (Person of Indian Origin) card holders and Hindu Undivided Family (HUFs) are not eligible for opening of NPS accounts.

8. The eShram portal will be used for enrollment, registration, collection and identification of the required data of all the unorganised workers. The government of India is paying \_\_\_A\_\_\_ per worker to Common Service Centre (CSC) and State Seva Kendras as registration charges for facilitating registration of unorganised workers on e-SHRAM.

Identify "A" from the given options.

- a) Rs. 20
- b) Rs. 25
- c) Rs. 50
- d) Rs. 80
- e) Rs. 100

Answer Key: a

Solution:

### Sampoorna – April 2023

The e-SHRAM portal envisages **registration of all unorganised sector workers** to create a comprehensive **database of unorganised workers**. At present, there are more than 28.62 crore workers registered in the portal. After registration on e-SHRAM, a **Universal Account Number (UAN)** is provided to the worker. The government of India is paying **Rs. 20 per worker** to Common Service Centre (CSC) and State Seva Kendras as registration charges for facilitating registration of unorganised workers on e-SHRAM. As on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 an amount of around Rs. 347 crore has been given to CSC and Rs. 19.07 Crore to States/UTs with regard to registration and IEC activities respectively.

9. The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the press note on Employment Outlook of the country covering the period September, 2017 to April, 2023 based on the administrative records available with selected government agencies to assess the progress in certain dimensions.

Which of the following major schemes are considered while making this payroll report?

- A. Employees Provident Fund
- B. PM Shram Yogi Man Dhan Yojana
- C. Employees' State Insurance Scheme
- D. National Pension Scheme
- E. Atal Pension Yojana

- a) C, D and E
- b) C and D
- c) A, B, C and E
- d) A, C and D
- e) A, B, C, and D

Answer Key: d

Solution:

### Sampoorna – April 2023

The report has considered number of new subscribers under three major schemes namely, **Employees Provident Fund (EPF)**, **Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESI)** and the **National Pension Scheme (NPS)**.

10. The quick estimates of Index of Industrial Production for each month are published with a \_\_\_\_\_ lag.

- a) 2 week
- b) 4 weeks
- c) 6 weeks
- d) 8 weeks
- e) 15 days

Answer Key: c

Solution:

#### **Sampoorna – April 2023:**

The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) are released on **12<sup>th</sup> of every month** (or previous working day if 12<sup>th</sup> is a holiday) with a **six weeks lag** and compiled with data received from source agencies, which in turn receive the data from the producing factories/ establishments.

#### **IIP: Overview**

- It is a **composite indicator** that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
  - **Broad sectors**, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
  - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- In India, the first official attempt to compute the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was made much earlier than the **first recommendation on the subject came at the international level**.
- With the inception of the **Central Statistical Organization** (now known as the National Statistics Office (NSO)) in 1951, the **responsibility for compilation and publication of IIP was vested with it**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Base year:** 2011-2012
- **Sources of data:** NSO compiles the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) using secondary data received from 14 source agencies in various Ministries/Departments or their attached/subordinate offices.
- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is the source for the major chunk of data for the calculation.

11. Identify the correct statement(s) regarding Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana?

A. Persons in the age group of 18-50 years having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.

B. Death by Suicide is also covered under this scheme.

C. Premium is Rs 336/- per annum.

a) Both B and C

b) Both A and B

c) Both B and C

d) Only A

e) Only B

Answer key: b

Solution:

**Sampoorna – May 2023:**

**Scheme:** PMJJBY is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to **any reason. Any Reason includes Suicide as well.**

**Eligibility:** Persons in the age group of 18-50 years having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme. People who join the scheme before completing 50 years of age can continue to have the risk of life covered up to age of 55 years upon payment of regular premium.

**Benefits:** Life cover of Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death due to any reason against a premium of Rs. 436/- per annum.

**Enrolment:** Enrolments under the scheme can be done by visiting the branch/ BC point or website of the bank of the account holder or at the post office in case of post office savings bank account. The premium under the scheme is auto debited every year from the subscriber's bank account based on a one-time mandate from the account holder.

12. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen 2.0?

A. In a village of Rajasthan, it is found that the area is only ODF certified but it is managing faecal sludge/Septage and not discharging untreated faecal sludge and sewerage into open drains. So, it is eligible to be given ODF++ certificate.

B. The budget allocation to the scheme for the year 2023-24 is Rs. 62,137 Crore.

C. Karnataka is the top-performing state in terms of percentage of ODF+ Villages.

a) Both A and B

b) Both A and C

c) All A, B and C

d) Both B and C



e) None of the above

Answer key: e

Solution:

**Sampoorna – May 2023:**

The country has achieved yet another major milestone under the **Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin** (SBM-G) with half of the total villages in the country i.e., 50% villages achieving ODF Plus status under phase II of the Mission. An ODF Plus village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems. As on date, more than 2.96 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus, which is a significant step towards achieving the SBM-G phase II goals by 2024-25.

The top performing states in terms of percentage of ODF Plus villages are - **Telangana** (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%) & Uttar Pradesh (95.2%) among the big states and Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%) among small states, are the top performer. Among UTs – Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Havelli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep have 100% ODF Plus Model villages. These States & UTs have shown remarkable progress in achieving the ODF Plus status, and their efforts have been instrumental in reaching this milestone.

Between 2014-15 and 2021-22, the Central Government has allocated a total of INR 83,938 crore to Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen. The **allocation for the year 2023-24 is Rs. 52,137 Crore**. In addition to the SBM(G) funds there is clear allocation of 15<sup>th</sup> FC funds for sanitation. These funds have been utilized to build sanitation assets, promote behaviour change, and implement solid and liquid waste management systems.

- **ODF:** An area can be notified or declared as ODF if at any point of the day, not even a single person is found defecating in the open.
- **ODF+:** This status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.
- **ODF++:** This status is given if the area is **already ODF+** and the faecal sludge/septage and sewage are safely managed and treated, with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas.

13. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)?

A. An Individual in mid-30s who wants to take loan to increase the capacity of his existing warehouse is not eligible to take loan.

B. Under this scheme, any entrepreneur can set up a unit up to Rs 50 lakh in the manufacturing sector and up to Rs 25 lakh in the service sector.

C. The Budget allocation for 2023-24 is proposed at Rs. 2700 cr.

a) Both A and B

b) Both A and C

c) Both B and C

- d) Only A
- e) All A, B and C

Answer key: d

Solution:

#### **Sampoorna – May 2023:**

**Ministry of MSME**, through **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for assisting entrepreneurs in setting up of new units in the non-farm sector. It aims to **provide employment opportunities to traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth** at their doorstep.

Since its **inception in 2008** and till 13.03.2023, more than 8.58 lakhs enterprises have been assisted generating a total estimated employment of around 70 lakhs. Around Rs. 21,509 cr. has been disbursed till date as Margin Money subsidy under PMEGP.

The Budget allocation for **2023-24** is proposed at **Rs. 2700 cr.**

- This scheme of the Government of India is playing vital role in providing **employment to the unemployed youth of rural and urban areas**. Under this scheme, any entrepreneur can **set up a unit up to Rs 50 lakh in the manufacturing sector** and up to **Rs 20 lakh in the service sector**. For the establishment of these units, **15% to 25% of the entire project cost is provided to the beneficiaries in urban areas** and **25% to 35% in rural areas** as grant by the Government of India. Along with this, **free entrepreneurship development training** is also provided to the beneficiaries after loan approval to make them established entrepreneurs.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Any individual, above 18 years of age.
- Only new projects/units are considered for sanction of loans.
- Self-help groups that have not availed benefits under any other public scheme, societies, production co-operative societies, and charitable trusts.

14. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding Jal Jeevan Mission?

- A. In 2023-24, the budget allocation is Rs 70,000 Crores.
  - B. Rahul is living in a municipality where he is not getting potable water through piped network. Under JJM, he can approach his municipal authority and ask for a new connection.
  - C. All financial transactions are undertaken through Public Finance Management System (PFMS).
- a) Both A and B
  - b) Both B and C
  - c) Both A and C
  - d) Only A
  - e) Only C

Answer key: c

Solution:

### Sampoorna – May 2023:

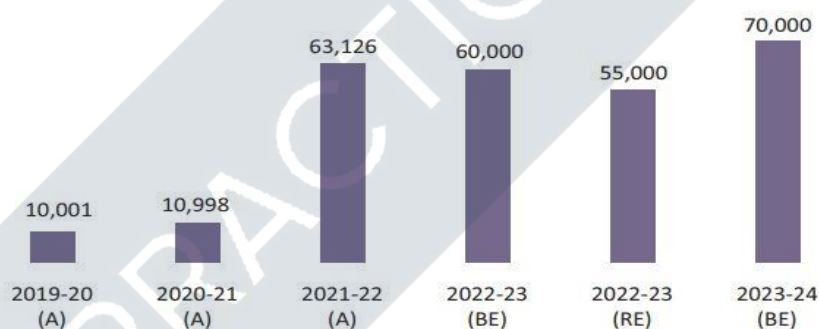
Jal Jeevan Mission (**Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti**), a **centrally sponsored scheme**, is being implemented in partnership with States, since August, **2019** to make provision of potable tap water supply **to every rural household** of the country on a regular and long-term basis, **by 2024**.

So, the scheme is **not for any urban area**.

**Use of Technology:** While addressing a webinar held on February 23, 2022, under the theme **‘Leaving no citizen behind’** on positive impact of Union Budget 2022 on water and sanitation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed upon use of technology, service delivery & community participation to achieve ‘Har Ghar Jal’ by 2024.

- Jal Jeevan Mission leverages the use of technology to ensure transparency, accountability, proper utilization of funds and service delivery.
- Every water supply asset created under Jal Jeevan Mission is **geo-tagged**.
- **Hydro-Geo Morphological (HGM)** maps are used in planning single village scheme to identify drinking water sources and construct aquifer recharge structure.
- Household tap connections provided by JJM are linked with Aadhaar number of the head of the household.
- All financial transactions are undertaken through **Public Finance Management System (PFMS)**.

Union Government Expenditure on Jal Jeevan Mission (Rs crore)



15. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Programme?

A. To provide financial support to the programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is providing \$US 500 million as a loan.

B. Under the Project, Jammu and Kashmir emerged as a leader in utilising the maximum amount in percentage from the allocated fund.

C. Education is a state subject. Thus, the scheme is Centrally sponsored scheme with state partnership.

- a) All A, B and C
- b) Both B and C
- c) Only C
- d) Both A and B
- e) Only A

Answer key: e

Solution:

**Sampoorna – May 2023:**

STARS Project was approved by the Cabinet in October 2020, to be implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme. After signing of the Loan Agreement, the STARS Project became effective on 23rd February 2021 for a period of five years i.e. up to FY: **2024-25**.

The STARS Project is being implemented in six identified States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

The STARS Program is carved out of **Samagra Shiksha**, with a focus on those elements of the scheme that will most directly support school education enhancement.

The total project cost is Rs 5718 crore with the financial support of World Bank amounting to **US \$ 500 million** (approximately Rs. 3700 crore). The \$500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a final maturity of **17.5 years** including a grace period of five years.

Education is a concurrent subject.

16. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding Carbon Market?

- A. Carbon markets are a market for selling products and services having low carbon emissions. Because Consumers prioritize green products over other products.
- B. The origins of carbon trading can be traced to 1997, when the Kyoto Protocol was laid out.
- C. Environment Protection Act lays the foundation for India's national carbon market.

- a) Both A and B
- b) Both B and C
- c) Both A and C
- d) Only B
- e) Only C

Answer key: d

Solution:

### Sampoorna – May 2023:

Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought. Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

One tradable carbon credit equal one tonne of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced, sequestered, or avoided. When a credit is used to reduce, sequester, or avoid emissions, it becomes an offset and is no longer tradable.

The origins of carbon trading can be traced to 1997, when the **Kyoto Protocol** established carbon as an internationally tradable commodity and developed countries (except economies in transition) were mandated to have carbon markets. This changed with the Paris Agreement making it voluntary for countries. This piece discusses the importance of the steps taken by Indian Parliament and the need for a holistic framework to reduce carbon emissions.

India has been at the forefront of climate action to meet the climate goals through its ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). To facilitate the achievement of India's enhanced climate targets and to meet the future goals, the government is developing the ICM. By accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy, the ICM will facilitate achieve the **NDC goal of reducing Emissions Intensity** of the GDP by **45 percent by 2030** against 2005 levels. The recently passed **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022**, lays the foundation for India's national carbon market.

17. The Ex-Officio Head for the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council is;

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Union Minister for Finance
- c) RBI Governor
- d) NITI Aayog Deputy Chairman
- e) NITI Aayog CEO

Answer Key: c

Solution:

### Sampoorna – May 2023:

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), **for the first time after the announcement of the Budget 2023-24.**

#### Financial Stability and Development Council:

- **Establishment:**
  - It is a **non-statutory apex council** under the Ministry of Finance constituted by the **Executive Order in 2010.**
  - The Raghuram Rajan committee (2008) on **financial sector reforms first proposed the creation of FSDC.**

▪ **Composition:**

- It is chaired by the **Finance Minister and its members include the heads of all Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA & IRDA)**, Finance Secretary, Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Secretary of Department of Financial Services (DFS), and Chief Economic Adviser.
  - In 2018, the government **reconstituted FSDC to include the Minister of State** responsible for the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Secretary of Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Chairperson of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** and the Revenue Secretary.
- FSDC sub-committee is headed by the **Governor of RBI**.
- The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.

18. Project SMART is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Ministry of Railways and;

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) ADB
- d) NDB
- e) JICA

Answer Key: e

Solution:

**Sampoorna – May 2023:**

The **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and **Ministry of Railways** jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for '**Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail**' (Project-SMART). Project-SMART envisages to develop surrounding areas of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.

19. Mission LiFE is designed with the objective to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and preserving the environment. Within India, at least \_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_ of all villages and urban local bodies are aimed to become environment-friendly by \_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_.

Identify (A) and (B) respectively!

- a) 80%, 2028
- b) 70%, 2027
- c) 90%, 2027
- d) 80%, 2027

e) 70%, 2028

Answer Key: a

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

The concept of **LiFE** was first introduced by the Prime Minister **at COP26 at Glasgow** on 1 November 2021. Further, the PM launched the Mission in India at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat in October 2022. NITI Aayog will curate and incubate Mission LiFE in the first year, and it will subsequently be implemented by MoEFCC. The mission is a 5-year programme. Mission LiFE is designed with the objective to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and preserving the environment in the period 2022 to 2027. **Within India, at least 80% of all villages and urban local bodies are aimed to become environment-friendly by 2028.**

20. GOBARdhan is being implemented in partnership with State Governments and Private Sector including entrepreneurs, societies etc. Any plant/project producing CBG/Biogas having more than \_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_ cuM/day and bio slurry as principal outputs is eligible to be under the ambit of GOBARdhan.

In the above context, Identify (A)!

- a) 10
- b) 20
- c) 50
- d) 100
- e) 200

Answer Key: a

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

The objective of **GOBARdhan** is to generate wealth and energy by converting cattle dung, agri residue and other organic waste into Biogas, CBG and bio fertilizers. This initiative comprises the entire gamut of schemes, programmes, policies promoting the conversion of organic waste like cattle dung, agri-residue etc. to biogas/CBG/Bio CNG. It encompasses schemes/programmes under various Ministries & Departments viz. Waste to Energy Scheme of M/o New and Renewable Energy, SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme of M/o Petroleum and Natural Gas, SBM(G) Phase II of DDWS, Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) of Dept. of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) of Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairy. GOBARdhan is being implemented in partnership with State Governments and Private Sector including entrepreneurs, societies etc. Any plant/project producing CBG/Biogas (**more than 10 cuM/day**) and bio slurry as principal outputs is eligible to be under the ambit of GOBARdhan.

21. Which of the following statement(s) is/are not correct regarding the Minimum Support Prices?

A. Marketing Season of Kharif Crops starts on 1st November.

B. For the Kharif season, planting which begins in June with the onset of the monsoon, the government announced an average hike of 7% year-on-year, for a basket of 16 crops which include cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and cotton.

C. CACP, which recommends MSP, is again a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

a) All A, B and C

b) Both A and B

c) Both B and C

d) Only A

e) All A, B and C

Answer Key: e

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

- **Agriculture Crop Year: 1st July – 30th June**
- **Marketing Season of Kharif crops starts from 1st October.**
- **Marketing Season of Rabi crops starts from 1st April.**

For the Kharif season, planting for which begins in June with the onset of the monsoon, the government announced an average hike of 7% year-on-year, for a basket of 14 crops which include cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and cotton.

CACP, which recommends MSP, is again not a statutory body and it is just an office attached to Ministry of Agriculture.

22. India achieved an all-time high export of seafood both in terms of volume and value (both US\$ and Rupee) by shipping 17,35,286 MT of seafood worth Rs. 63,969.14 crore (US\$ 8.09 billion) during FY 2022-23 despite the several challenges. Which of the following items comprises for the most part, both in volume and value, of this export figure?

a) Rohu

b) Catla

c) Frozen shrimp

d) Crabs

e) Dolphins

Answer Key: c

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**



Frozen shrimp remained the major export item in terms of both quantity and value while **USA and China turned out to be the major importers of India's seafood**. Frozen shrimp, which earned Rs 43,135.58 crore (US\$ 5481.63 million), retained its position as the most significant item in the basket of seafood exports, accounting for a share of 40.98% in quantity and 67.72% of the total US\$ earnings. Shrimp exports during the period increased by 1.01 % in Rupee value.

23. In Wholesale Price Index, the weightage for Fuel and Power is;

- a) 22.62 %
- b) 13.15 %
- c) 64.23 %
- d) 24.38 %
- e) 25.65 %

Answer Key:

Solution: b

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

The DPIIT releases index numbers of wholesale price in India on monthly basis on **14th of every month** (or next working day) with a **time lag of two weeks** of the reference month, and the index numbers are compiled with data received from institutional sources and selected manufacturing units across the country.

| Index Numbers & Annual Rate of Inflation (Y-o-Y in %)* |              |            |           |            |           |            |           |
|--|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| All Commodities/Major Groups                           | Weight (%)   | Mar-23 (F) |           | Apr-23 (P) |           | May-23 (P) |           |
|  |              | Index      | Inflation | Index      | Inflation | Index      | Inflation |
| All Commodities  | 100.0        | 151.0      | 1.41      | 150.9      | -0.92     | 149.6      | -3.48     |
| I. Primary Articles                                    | 22.62        | 175.2      | 2.52      | 177.3      | 1.60      | 175.3      | -1.79     |
| II. Fuel & Power                                       | <b>13.15</b> | 156.4      | 8.69      | 152.6      | 0.93      | 148.6      | -9.17     |
| III. Manufactured Products                             | 64.23        | 141.3      | -0.70     | 141.2      | -2.42     | 140.7      | -2.97     |
| Food Index   | 24.38        | 172.1      | 2.32      | 173.6      | 0.17      | 172.8      | -1.59     |

24. CPI was adopted as the key measure of retail inflation by the Reserve Bank of India in;

- a) 2010
- b) 2012
- c) 2014
- d) 2016
- e) 2018

Answer Key: c

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

#### **Consumer Price Index**

- It examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer **goods and services**, such as transportation, food, and medical care.
- It is calculated by taking changes in price over time for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.
- This is done from the perspective of a **retail buyer**.
- **Labour Bureau** under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** compiles the CPI for **Industrial Workers (IW), Agricultural Labourer (AL) and Rural Labourer (RL)**.
- **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics** and Programme Implementation compiles **CPI (Rural/ Urban/ Combined)**.
- CPI is adopted as the key measure of retail inflation by the **Reserve Bank of India** in 2014.

25. CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal is an initiative of the;

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) Ministry of MSME
- e) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Answer Key: d

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

On the occasion of International MSME Day, Ministry of MSME celebrated '**Udyami Bharat-MSME Day**' on **27<sup>th</sup> June**, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

During this programme, Ministry of MSME launched various initiatives for growth and development of MSMEs such as **CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal** and Mobile App for Geo-tagging of Cluster Projects and

Technology Centers. Further, this programme includes certificate distribution to Gold and Silver ZED certified MSMEs, and digital transfer of Rs. 400 crore, Margin Money subsidy to 10,075 PMEGP beneficiaries.

26. \_\_\_\_A\_\_\_\_, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has recently approved capital investment proposals of Rs. 56,415 crore in 16 States in the current financial year.

Identify "A" from the given options!

- a) Department of Expenditure
- b) Department of Revenue
- c) Department of Financial Services
- d) Department of Economic Affairs
- e) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

Answer Key: a

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

The **Department of Expenditure**, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has approved capital investment proposals of **Rs. 56,415 crore** in 16 States in the current financial year. Approval has been given under the scheme entitled 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24'.

Of the total allocation, **Bihar has secured the highest amount** at ₹9,640 crore, followed by Madhya Pradesh at ₹7,850 crore, West Bengal with ₹7,523 crore, Rajasthan with ₹6,026 crore, and Odisha obtaining ₹4,528 crore.

Capital investment projects in diverse sectors have been approved including health, education, irrigation, water supply, power, roads, bridges and railways. Funds for meeting the State share of Jal Jeevan Mission and *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* have also been provided to the States under this scheme to enhance pace of the projects in these sectors.

27. In the recent meeting, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has kept the fair and remunerative price of sugarcane for the sugar season 2023-24 at ₹\_\_\_\_\_ per quintal.

- a) 157
- b) 284
- c) 315
- d) 431
- e) 591

Answer Key: c

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

Keeping in view interest of sugarcane farmers, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by the **Prime Minister** Shri Narendra Modi has approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2023-24 (October - September) at **Rs.315/qtl**.

The cost of production of sugarcane for the sugar season 2023-24 is **Rs.157/qtl**. This FRP of Rs.315/qtl at a recovery rate of 10.25% is higher by 100.6% over production cost. The FRP for sugar season 2023-24 is 3.28% higher than current sugar season 2022-23.

28. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the national standard body of India, mandated for the development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification has taken an important step in a new push for standardization in the field of AYUSH. The Bureau has recently notified \_\_\_\_\_ Indian standards related to AYUSH.

- a) 17
- b) 23
- c) 31
- d) 42
- e) 59

Answer Key: c

Solution:

#### **Sampoorna – June 2023:**

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, the national standard body of India, **mandated for the development of the activities of standardization**, marking and quality certification has taken an important step in a new push for standardization in the field of Ayush. BIS has notified **31 Indian standards related to Ayush**, which includes **30 herbs and 1 product** (stainless steel neti pot). These standards were recently published through gazette notification. BIS has also created an additional department for enabling dedicated focus on Ayush at BIS.

BIS has also taken the initiative to formulate International Standards in collaboration with the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**. On the advice of BIS, a Working Group (WG-10) on **'Traditional Medicine'** has been created in the ISO/TC-215 **'Health Informatics'**.

29. Recently, the \_\_\_\_A\_\_\_\_ in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) announced the launch of 100 Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) for potential women entrepreneurs across the country at Vikram University in Ujjain.

Identify "A" from the given options!

- a) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- b) Ministry of Education
- c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- d) NITI Aayog
- e) National Commission for Women

Answer Key: e

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** in collaboration with the **Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)** announced the launch of 100 **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs)** for potential women entrepreneurs across the country at **Vikram University** in Ujjain. This is also the first EAP out of the 100 to be organised across the country.

The aim of the one-day EAP is to orient participating women to the benefits of adopting entrepreneurship as a career, learn the finer skills and overcome social, economic, and familial barriers to becoming entrepreneurs. The EAPs are aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills among women so that they could gain knowledge, skills and motivation to build their own businesses.

30. A report, titled “Potential Health Impacts of Jal Jeevan Mission” has been recently published by;

- a) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) World Health Organisation
- d) UNDP
- e) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answer Key: c

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

A recent report by the World Health Organisation, titled “**Potential Health Impacts of Jal Jeevan Mission**”, estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country could avert nearly 400,000 deaths caused by diarrheal diseases and prevent approximately 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) related to these diseases. This achievement alone would result in estimated cost savings of up to \$101 billion. The analysis focuses on diarrhoeal diseases as it accounts for majority of WASH-attributable disease burden.

The ‘Har Ghar Jal’ report focuses on diarrheal diseases as they contribute significantly to the overall disease burden related to **water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)** issues. The analysis underscores the urgent need to address these diseases and the potential for substantial gains in public health and economic well-being.

Prior to 2019, the situation of water supply in rural areas was challenging. The report reveals that in 2018, 36% of India's total population, including 44% of the rural population, lacked access to improved drinking-water sources on their premises. The direct consumption of unsafe drinking water had severe health and societal consequences. The analysis indicates that in 2019, unsafe drinking water, along with inadequate sanitation and hygiene, contributed to 1.4 million deaths and 74 million DALYs globally.

31. Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission has been given a fund of ₹ 15,000 crore for a period starting from 2023-24 to;

- a) 2024-25

b) 2025-26

c) 2026-27

d) 2027-28

e) 2028-29

Answer Key: c

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

**Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission** will saturate PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities and stressed on education for PVTG's. **A fund of Rs 15,000 crore** for the **next three years** (2026-27) has been allocated for the socio-economic development of the group. He said that this is the first time a special scheme for PVTGs has been formulated to have holistic development with a data centric human development indexing for the PVTG groups. Union Finance Minister announced a mission for the welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the **2023-24 Union Budget**. PVTGs are **more vulnerable among the tribal groups** who are in need of greater support and development. Out of the 705 Scheduled Tribes in India, **75 have been identified as PVTGs** and are spread **across 17 states and one Union Territory**.

32. The Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 is built on certain pillars. Which of the following is not one of them?

a) People

b) Prosperity

c) Planet

d) Protection

e) People

Answer Key: d

Solution:

**Sampoorna – June 2023:**

NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India signed the **Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027**. GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution designates the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework as the **principal planning and implementation instrument** for the UN Development System at country level. Programme priorities of the UN entities working at the country are derived from the GoI-UNSDCF.

The GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is built on **four strategic pillars** derived from the 2030 Agenda – **People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation**. The four interlinked pillars have **six outcome areas** focusing on Health and Well Being; Nutrition and Food Security; Quality Education; Economic Growth and Decent

Work; Environment, Climate, WASH and Resilience; and Empowering People, Communities, and Institutions.

33. The Industrial Park Rating System is an initiative of;

- a) DPIIT
- b) Department of Commerce
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) QCI
- e) BIS

Answer Key: a

Solution:

**Sampoorna – July 2023:**

**Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** successfully organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi.

The Workshop was a significant event aimed at advancing India's industrial competitiveness which brought together government officials from DPIIT and State/UTs, industry experts and stakeholders to foster knowledge-sharing and capacity building in creating a robust industrial infrastructure in India.

The Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) is a major initiative by DPIIT. **IPRS 2.0, launched on 5th October, 2021**, rates industrial parks across four pillars:

- internal infrastructure and utilities,
- external infrastructure and facilities,
- business support services, and
- environmental and safety management.

34. Choose the incorrect statement regarding Miniratna CPSEs!

- a) Miniratna scheme was announced in 1997.
- b) Category-II Miniratna companies are those which should have made profits in all of the last three years.
- c) Those Category-II Miniratna companies which also have a pre-tax profit of minimum 30 crore in at least one year in the past three years can be granted Category-I Miniratna status.
- d) A Miniratna Category-II company can be granted the Navratna status if it satisfies the Navratna criteria.
- e) None of the above

Answer Key: d

Solution:

### Sampoorna – April 2023:

**Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** has been accorded the status of **Miniratna Category-I** Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

**Classification of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs):** CPSEs are classified into 3 categories- **Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna.**

#### 'Miniratna' Scheme:

- In October 1997, the Government decided to grant enhanced autonomy and delegation of financial powers to some profit-making companies.
- These companies called 'Miniratnas', are in two categories- I & II.
- Category –I CPSEs should have made a profit in the last three years continuously, the pre-tax profit should have been Rs. 30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and should have a positive net worth.
- Category-II CPSEs should have made a profit for the last three years continuously and should have a positive net worth.
- These CPSEs shall be eligible for the enhanced delegated powers provided they have not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payments on any loans due to the Government.
- Categories-II Miniratna companies are given "Categories-I" status, subject to the fulfilment of certain criteria. Likewise, Category-I Miniratna companies are given "Navratna" status.

35. "Pratidin", a web-based daily performance management system recently seen in news, is related to;

- a) All India Radio
- b) GST
- c) Press Information Bureau
- d) Production Linked Incentive Schemes
- e) MGNREGA work management

Answer Key: b

Solution:

### Sampoorna – July 2023:

The 6<sup>th</sup> **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day** was celebrated on **1<sup>st</sup> July** with the vision GST@6  
□□□□□□ □□, □□□□□ □□□□□ with Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presiding over as the Chief Guest.

On the occasion, the Union Finance Minister inaugurated "□□□□□□□□" (Pratidin, translated to "everyday"), a web based daily **performance management system** in **Central Board of Indirect Taxes**



**and Customs** (CBIC) to monitor important tasks at the field level for better monitoring of work at the field level as well as to further motivate officers to perform better.

36. NLC India Limited, a Navratna company, recently bagged GeM award in the "Timely Payments (CPSEs)" category. This company comes under the administrative control of;

- a) Ministry of Petroleum
- b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- c) Ministry of Coal
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industries
- e) RBI

Answer Key: c

Solution:

**Sampoorna – July 2023:**

NLC India Limited, a **navratna company** under the Ministry of Coal, bagged GeM award in the category "**Timely Payments (CPSEs)**" for the year 2023 for its outstanding contribution in improving the reliability of e-market practices in line with the vision of GeM. NLCIL registered and on-boarded in GeM portal in the year 2017.

37. "The right to form cooperatives is enshrined in the Indian Constitution."

Which of the following articles validates the above argument through a fundamental right?

- a) Article 14
- b) Article 16
- c) Article 19
- d) Article 20
- e) Article 43

Answer Key:

Solution:

**Sampoorna – July 2023:**

On the occasion of **International Day of Cooperatives (1<sup>st</sup> July)**, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress in New Delhi. Its objective is to discuss various trends in cooperative movement, showcase best practices being adopted, deliberate challenges being faced and chalk out future policy direction for the growth of India's cooperative movement. There will be seven technical sessions on the main theme of "**Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India**".

**Cooperative under Indian Constitution:**

- The Indian Constitution recognizes the importance of cooperatives and provides for their promotion and regulation.

- **Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution** guarantees the right to form cooperatives as a fundamental right.
- **Article 43 of the Constitution** directs the State to promote cottage industries and cooperatives in rural areas.
- **Article 243ZH of the Constitution** empowers the Parliament and the State Legislatures to enact laws for the incorporation, regulation and winding up of cooperative societies.
- The government enacted various laws and policies to support and regulate the cooperatives, such as the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act of 2002**, the **National Policy on Cooperatives of 2002**, and the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act of 2011.

38. As per a recent report in July 2023, how many districts in India have been declared free from manual scavenging?

- a) 462
- b) 520
- c) 600
- d) 678
- e) 766

Answer Key: b

Solution:

**Sampoorna – July 2023:**

Dr. Virendra Kumar, the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, chaired the eighth meeting of the Central Monitoring Committee to review the implementation of the "**Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**" (MS Act, 2013).

All States/Districts have been requested to **declare their district free from manual scavenging**. As on date, such confirmation from **520 districts out of 766 districts** in the country has already been received. The Committee suggested to follow up with the remaining districts.

Manual scavenging is defined as "**the removal of human excrement from public streets and dry latrines, cleaning septic tanks, gutters and sewers**".

39. The sittings of the National Green Tribunal, other than the principal bench, are located at some cities except;

- a) New Delhi
- b) Bhopal
- c) Pune
- d) Kolkata
- e) Chennai

Answer Key: a

Solution:

**Sampoorna – July 2023:**

**Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** who had taken over National Green Tribunal as **Chairperson** on 06.07.2018 completed his tenure of 5 years today. During his period of 5 years, Justice Goel brought in several innovative and people-friendly methods for providing justice in the area of environment.

**About National Green Tribunal:**

- The National Green Tribunal has been established under **the National Green Tribunal Act 2010**.
- New Delhi is the **Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal** and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of the filing of the same.

40. In the Performance Grading Index 2.0, how many indicators have been included?

- a) 96
- b) 73
- c) 12
- d) 6
- e) 2

Answer Key: b

Solution:

**Sampoorna – July 2023:**

The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students from varied socio-economic backgrounds. **Department of School Education & Literacy**, Ministry of Education, devised **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** for States and UTs which assesses the performance of school education system at the State/UT level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis. The PGI - States/UTs was **first released for the year 2017-18** and so far, has been released up to the year 2020-21.

The new PGI structure covers **73 indicators**, focused more on qualitative assessment besides including digital initiatives and teacher education. The grades/level obtained by States/UTs in previous edition of the PGIs are thus not comparable as with the grades/levels obtained by States/UTs in this new edition.

The PGI 2.0 structure comprises of **1000 points across 73 indicators grouped into 2 categories viz., Outcomes, Governance Management (GM)**. These categories are further divided into **6 domains**, viz.,

- Learning Outcomes (LO),
- Access (A),

- Infrastructure & Facilities (IF),
- Equity (E),
- Governance Process (GP) &
- Teachers Education and Training (TE&T).

PRACTICE

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