

## Pre-Mix – 5 MCQs for Prelims

### Subject - International Relations

Date - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

#### Monthly Current Affairs

##### May 2022

1. With reference to the Indo Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF) consider the following: (May 2022)

1. Trade, Clean Energy, Supply Chains & Anti Corruption Practices are among the 4 Pillars of IPEF
2. IPEF partners are required to join all four pillars to be a Member of this framework.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both are Incorrect
- D. Both are Correct

##### May 2022

2. Green Strategic Partnership was signed Between Which 2 Countries ? (May 2022)

- A. India & Australia
- B. India & Denmark
- C. USA & South Korea
- D. USA & Mexico

##### May 2022

3. Which of the Following Statements Regarding Chittagong Port is **Incorrect**? (June 2022)

- A. The port of Chittagong is Bangladesh' principal seaport.
- B. It is the busiest port along the coastline of the Bay of Bengal.
- C. This port handles more than 92% of the country's EXIM maritime trade.

D. It is Built on the Kushiyara River

##### July 2022

4 . Consider the following statements regarding Partners in Blue Pacific Initiative. (July 2022)

1. PBP is a five-nation “informal mechanism” to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, economic ties in the region.
2. This pact was announced at the G7 Summit held in Germany in 2022.
3. US and its allies – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Germany are the Members of PBP.

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

- A. 1,2 & 3 only
- B. 1 & 2 Only
- C. 3 Only
- D. None of the Above

#### UPSC Previous Year Question

5.Which of the following is/are the indicator/ indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report?

1. Undernourishment
2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

## Answers with Explanations

Click [here](#) to watch the following topics on YouTube.

### Monthly Current Affairs

May 2022

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**Answer : B**

### Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- In May 2022, the United States launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) with Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- This framework will advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness for 14 economies.
- Through this initiative, the IPEF partners aim to contribute to cooperation, stability, prosperity,

development, and peace within the region.

- The 14 IPEF partners represent 40% of global GDP and 28% of global goods and services trade.

**Statement 2 is Incorrect:**

- The launch began discussions of future negotiations on the following pillars: (1) Trade; (2) Supply Chains; (3) Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Infrastructure; and (4) Tax and Anti-Corruption.
- **The IPEF is designed to be flexible, meaning that IPEF partners are not required to join all four pillars.**
- The IPEF represents a new age economic framework which promises to allow each participating member to pick and choose the pillars of negotiations based on its own domestic political sensitivities.

### Additional Information

- India hosted the special negotiating round for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in New Delhi, India, from February 8-11, 2023.
- The round covered IPEF Pillars II (Supply Chains), III (Clean Economy), and IV (Fair Economy).
- Approximately 300 officials from India, the United States, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the deliberations.
- India is the only country which has so far not joined the trade pillar of IPEF negotiations.

- IPEF Negotiations are likely to focus on digital trade standards, labour laws and environmental financing issues.



### RCEP's 15 members



May 2022

2. Green Strategic Partnership was signed Between Which 2 Countries ? (May 2022)

- India & Australia
- India & Denmark
- USA & South Korea
- USA & Mexico

Answer : B

Explanation

- India and the Kingdom of Denmark have launched the Green Strategic Partnership for delivering sustainable solutions to India.

- This was Announced in September 2020.
- Her excellency, Mette Frederiksen mentioned that there is now a renewed global political will to tackle the climate crisis.
- The Prime Minister mentioned that Denmark is proof that you can grow and be sustainable at the same time.
- Denmark has achieved economic growth while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Green Strategic Partnership will focus on expanding economic ties, green growth, and cooperation on global challenges such as climate change.
- The creation of India-Denmark energy parks in areas with large numbers of Danish firms and an India-Denmark skill institute to train Indian manpower has been proposed.

May 2022

3. Which of the Following Statements Regarding Chittagong Port is *Incorrect*? (June 2022)

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- It is the busiest port along the coastline of the Bay of Bengal.
- This port handles more than 92% of the country's EXIM maritime trade.
- It is Built on the Kushiara River

Answer : D

Explanation

- *Built on the Karnafuli river*, 16 kilometres upstream of the sea, the port of Chittagong is Bangladesh's principal seaport.
- This Port has been used by India, Nepal and Bhutan for transshipment.

- It ranked as the 58th busiest container port in the world in 2019.
- The port is one of the oldest in the world, with a recorded history dating back to ancient Roman accounts.
- The Chittagong area has been a recorded seaport since the 4th century BCE.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered India the use of the Chittagong Port.
- Ms. Hasina said the port would be of benefit to India's northeastern States, particularly Assam and Tripura.
- The two other northeastern States bordering Bangladesh – Meghalaya and Mizoram – could also benefit from access to the port.

### Strategic Significance

- The line of partition which carved out East Pakistan from the Indian subcontinent in 1947, landlocked India's Northeast, depriving it of convenient access to the sea.
- Nonetheless, the region was still allowed to use the ports of East Pakistan until the second Kashmir war broke out in 1965 between India and Pakistan.
- Ever since then, India has been trying to regain access to the Chittagong Port which is much nearer to its Northeastern territory than its own port of Kolkata.
- Moreover, the Chittagong Port is also easier to access through proper multimodal connectivity.



### China's Eye on Chittagong Port

- The port is important for China as one of its gateways into the Indian Ocean.
- Some international reports have described Chinese investments in the port to be a part of its plan to *“control the maritime energy channels in the Indian Ocean Region and expand the scope of its power through developing ports in South Asian countries”*.

### July 2022

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2. This pact was announced at the G7 Summit held in Germany in 2022.
3. US and its allies – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Germany are the Members of PBP.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. 1,2 & 3 only
- B. 1 & 2 Only
- C. 3 Only
- D. None of the Above

**Answer : B**

**Explanation**

## 'Partners in the Blue Pacific' is initiated by US and its allies –

1. Australia
2. New Zealand
3. Japan
4. United Kingdom

### Purpose for this Initiative

- China's aggressive push to increase its Pacific sphere of influence
- For "Effective and Efficient cooperation" with the South Pacific Small island nations.

### What is Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) initiative?

- The PBP is a 5 Nation "informal mechanism" to support Pacific islands.
- To boost **Diplomatic & Economic Ties** in the region.
- Announced on June 24, it speaks of enhancing "prosperity, resilience, and security" in the Pacific through closer cooperation.

### It simply means that:

- Through the PBP, these countries – together and individually – will direct more resources here to **counter China's aggressive outreach**.
- They will "Elevate Pacific regionalism", and forge stronger ties with the Pacific Islands Forum.

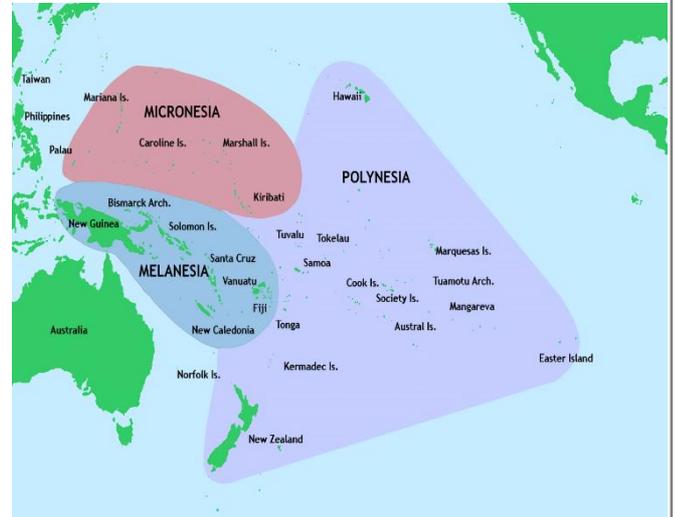
### Areas of Cooperation

1. *Climate crisis*
2. *Connectivity*
3. *Transportation*
4. *Maritime Security and Protection*
5. *Health*
6. *Prosperity*
7. *Education*

### Additional Information

The Pacific Islands is a area geographic region of the Pacific Ocean comprised of #hree ethno geographic groupings:

- ✓ Melanesia
- ✓ Micronesia
- ✓ Polynesia



- The region is made up of **independent states**, associated states, and parts of non-Pacific countries.
- The Pacific Islands **do not include** Australia, the Aleutian Chain islands, or the Indonesian, Philippine, and Japanese archipelagos.
- The Pacific Islands create a triangle, starting at New Guinea, stretching to Hawaii, and then down to New Zealand.
- Of the Pacific Island nations, **only New Zealand** is classified as a **developed country**
- **Agriculture, fishing, and services** are the 3 largest economic sectors overall in the region.

### Pacific Island Nations

1. Northern Mariana Islands
2. Federate States of Micronesia
3. Fiji
4. French Polynesia

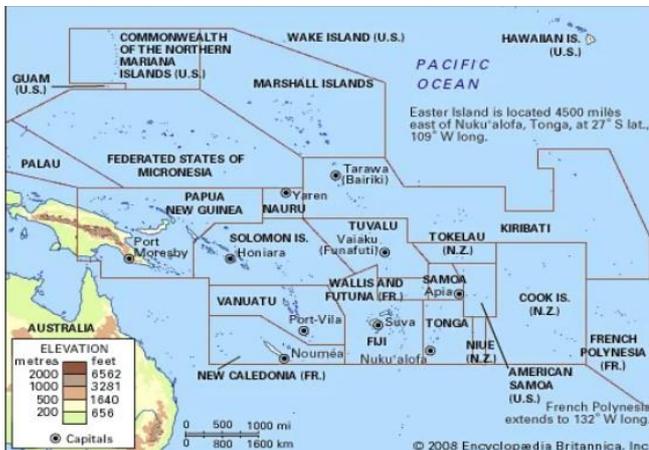
5. Kiribati
6. Marshall Islands
7. Nauru
8. New Caledonia
9. New Zealand
10. Palau
11. Solomon Islands
12. Tonga
13. Tuvalu
14. Vanuatu
15. Wallis and Futuna

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

**Answer : C**

**Explanation**

- The *Global Hunger Index (GHI)* is designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally and by country and region.
- Calculated each year by the *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*, the GHI highlights successes and failures in hunger reduction and provides insights into the drivers of hunger.
- By raising awareness and understanding of regional and country differences in hunger, the GHI aims to trigger actions to reduce hunger.
- To reflect the multidimensional nature of hunger, the GHI combines the 4 component indicators into one index.
- In 2021, India's Rank in GHI was 101 out of 116 countries.



**China in South Pacific**

- China signed a security pact with Solomon Islands in April 2022.
- The deal flagged serious concerns about the Chinese military getting a base in the southern Pacific, close to the *US island territory of Guam*, and right next to Australia and New Zealand.

**UPSC Previous Year Question**

**5. Which of the following is/are the indicator/indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report?**

1. Undernourishment
2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality

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

**4 Components**

- **Undernourishment:** the *proportion of undernourished people* as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient)
- **Child wasting:** the *proportion of children under the age of five* who suffer from wasting (that is, *low weight for their height*, reflecting acute undernutrition)
- **Child stunting:** The *proportion of children under the age of five* who suffer from stunting (that is, *low height for their age*, reflecting chronic undernutrition)



- Child mortality: *The mortality rate of children under the age of five* (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).