

1. Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an equipment called 'UV blaster' for which of the following purpose?

- a) For Pathogen Reduction in Food Processing
- b) For rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas
- c) To diffuse Unexploded Bombs with low order detonation
- d) To aid India's effort towards Automated border control systems

Ans: B

Explanation

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an **Ultra Violet (UV) Disinfection Tower** for rapid and **chemical free disinfection** of high infection prone areas.
- The **equipment named UV blaster** is a **UV based area sanitiser** designed and developed by Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC), the Delhi based premier laboratory of DRDO with the help of M/s New Age Instruments and Materials Private Limited, Gurugram
- The UV Blaster is **useful for high tech surfaces** like electronic equipment, **computers and other gadgets in laboratories** and offices **that are not suitable for disinfection with chemical methods.**
- The product is also **effective for areas with large flow of people** such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories, offices, etc
- The UV based area sanitiser may be used by **remote operation** through laptop/mobile phone using wifi link.
- This **sanitiser switches off on accidental opening of room or human intervention.** One more salient safety feature of the product is the key to arm operation

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1620919>

2. Consider the following statements regarding the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' initiative

1. Under the initiative, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any fair-price shop in the country
2. Aadhaar linkage is mandatory to claim benefits under this initiative

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the 'one nation, one ration card' initiative, **eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)** from any fair-price shop in the country. The scheme was announced in June, 2019
- On January 1, 2020, **12 states were integrated** among each other and now 17 states are on integrated management of the public distribution system (PDS)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While **Aadhaar linkage is not necessary** to access NFSA benefits in a **beneficiary's local registered ration shop**, located closest to her home address, it **will be necessary to access the portability scheme**
- About 60 crore beneficiaries from 17 states and UTs can benefit from the ration card portability and they can purchase the subsidised foodgrains using the existing ration cards

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- A **standard format for ration card** has been prepared after taking into account the format used by different states
- For national portability, the **state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format**, wherein besides the local language, the other language could be Hindi or English.
- The states have also been told to **have a 10-digit standard ration card number**, wherein **first two digits will be state code** and the next two digits will be running ration card numbers.
- Besides this, a **set of another two digits will be appended with ration card number** to create unique member IDs for each member of the household in a ration card.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- The objective is to provide for **food and nutritional security** by ensuring **access to adequate quantity of quality food** at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity
- The Act provides for **coverage of upto 75% of the rural population** and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population.
- The eligible persons will be entitled to receive **5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month** at subsidised prices of **Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains**.
- The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will **continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains** per household per month.
- The Act also has a **special focus on the nutritional support to women and children**. Besides meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth, such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/-one-nation-one-ration-card-scheme-5-more-states-join-the-initiative-11588331166781.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-gives-1-year-deadline-to-states-for-rolling-out-one-nation-one-ration-card/article28227599.ece>

3. Which of the following are tributaries of river Indus?

1. Shyok
2. Subansiri
3. Zaskar
4. Barakar

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Ans: D

Explanation

- The **Indus River originates near the Mansarovar Lake** in the Tibetan plateau, on the northern slopes of the Kailash Mountain Range
- Starting off in the **Tibetan highland of western China** near Lake Mansarovar in Tibet Autonomous Region, the Indus river flows through the **Ladakh district of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Subsequently, the river gets into Pakistan through the Northern Areas, running across the North in a southward route down the whole span of Pakistan, to join the Arabian Sea close to the port city of Karachi situated in Sindh. The **Indus River is 3,180 kilometers** (1,976 miles) long

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The Indus River has the following tributaries

- Astor River
 - Nagar River
 - **Dras River**
 - Balram River
 - Ghizar River
 - Gar River
 - Gumal River
 - Gilgit River
 - Kurram River
 - Kabul River
 - Shigar River
 - **Panjnad River** (Created by the joining of the rivers Chenab, Beas, Jhelum, Ravi, and Sutlej)
 - Sohan River
 - **Shyok River**
 - **Zaskar River**
 - Tanubal River
- ❖ **Barakar is a tributary of Damodar River**
- ❖ **Subansiri is a tributary of Brahmaputra**
- ✓ Recently, **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)**, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, studied rivers in Ladakh Himalaya, **bringing out 35 thousand-year history of river erosion** and identified hotspots of erosion and wide valleys that act a buffer zones

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- ✓ In the study published, **Zanskar catchment was explored by WIHG team** to understand the landform evolution in transitional climatic zone

Zanskar River

- The Zanskar River is a **north-flowing tributary of the Indus**
- It is one of the largest tributaries of the upper Indus catchment, draining orthogonally through highly deformed Zanskar ranges
- Two prominent tributaries of Zanskar River are the Doda and Tsrappingti Chu, which confluence at Padam village in the upper valley to form the Zanskar River

<https://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/rivers/indus.html>

4. "Ten Principles of Bandung" is related to the affairs of which of the following?

- a) ASEAN
- b) Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
- c) Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC)
- d) African Union

Ans: B

Explanation

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was created and founded during the **collapse of the colonial system and the independence struggles** of the peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and other regions of the world and at the height of the Cold War.
- Throughout its history, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has played a **fundamental role in the preservation of world peace** and security
- The Non-Aligned Movement was **founded and held its first conference (the Belgrade Conference)** in 1961 under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel

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Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Sukarno of Indonesia.

- It has **120 members** comprising 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Europe (Belarus, Azerbaijan). There are 17 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM
- While some meetings with a third-world perspective were held before 1955, historians consider that the **Bandung Asian-African Conference** is the most immediate antecedent to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- This Conference was held in **Bandung on April 18-24, 1955** and gathered 29 Heads of States belonging to the **first post-colonial generation of leaders from the two continents** with the aim of identifying and assessing world issues at the time and pursuing out joint policies in international relations
- The principles that would govern relations among large and small nations, known as the "**Ten Principles of Bandung**", were proclaimed at that Conference.
- Such principles were adopted later as the **main goals and objectives of the policy of non-alignment**. The fulfillment of those principles became the **essential criterion for Non-Aligned Movement membership**; it is what was known as the "**quintessence of the Movement**"
- The primary of objectives of the non-aligned countries focused on the **support of self-determination, national independence and the sovereignty and territorial integrity** of States; opposition to apartheid etc..
- NAM has sought to "create an **independent path in world politics** that would not result in member **States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major powers.**"
- It identifies the **right of independent judgment**, the struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism, and the use of moderation in relations with all big powers as the three basic

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elements that have influenced its approach. At present, an addition goal is facilitating a **restructuring of the international economic order**

- ✓ The **virtual Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** Contact Group Summit on “United against Covid-19” through video conferencing was held recently

<https://mea.gov.in/in-focus-article.htm?20349/History+and+Evolution+of+NonAligned+Movement>

5. Which of the following countries border Caspian Sea?

1. Russia
2. Armenia
3. Turkmenistan
4. Iran

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Ans: A

Explanation

The coastlines of the Caspian are shared by **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan**

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