

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

1. The Act encourages companies to spend 10 % of their average net profit in the previous three years on CSR activities
2. India is the first country in the world to mandate CSR spending along with a framework to identify potential CSR activities
3. Contributions to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and Chief Minister's Relief Fund by the company would qualify as CSR expenditure

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: C

Explanation

Corporate Social Responsibility

- It can be referred to as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare.
- In India, the concept of CSR is governed by **clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013**.
- **India is the first country in the world to mandate CSR spending** along with a framework to identify potential CSR activities.
- The CSR provisions within the Act is applicable to companies with an **annual turnover of 1,000 crore and more or a net worth of Rs. 500 crore** and more, or a net profit of Rs. 5 crore and more

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- The Act requires companies to set up a CSR committee which shall recommend a Corporate Social Responsibility Policy to the Board of Directors and also monitor the same from time to time
- The **Act encourages companies to spend 2% of their average net profit** in the previous three years on CSR activities
- The indicative activities, which can be undertaken by a company under CSR, have been specified under Schedule VII of the Act. The activities include:
 - Eradicating extreme hunger and poverty
 - **Promotion of education, gender equality** and empowering women
 - Combating Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and other diseases
 - **Ensuring environmental sustainability**
 - Contribution to the **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund** or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development and relief and funds for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women etc
- Recently, the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has clarified that the **contributions to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund** or the State relief fund **will not qualify as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** expenditure, while any donation to the PM CARES Fund will
- The Chief Minister's Relief Fund is **not included in Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013**, and therefore any contribution to such funds shall not qualify as admissible CSR expenditure.
- **Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013** provides the list of activities that can be included in CSR
- However, **donations to the State Disaster Management Authority** to combat Covid-19 can be counted as admissible CSR expenditure

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2. In the context of modern Indian history, consider the following statements regarding the Satya Shodhak Samaj (Truth Seekers' Society)

1. It was founded by Atmaram Pandurang to spread awareness, provide social services and spread education among lower caste community
2. It had initiated programme of positive action for women liberation, propagating education and for economic betterment

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: B

Explanation

- **Jyotiba Phule** (not Atmaram Pandurang) organized a powerful movement against the **exploitative structural Social System**, value and normative system caste and patriarchy based inequalities, discrimination and exploitation in Maharashtra
- He founded the **SatyaShodhak Samaj (Truth Seekers' Society)** to carry out his crusade against the Brahmanic hegemony
- The SatyaShodhak Samaj had **initiated programme of positive action for women liberation, propagating education**, and for economic betterment
- The middle castes **developed a sense of identity** as a class against Brahmans. Kammas, Reddis and Vellalas, the powerful intermediate castes, joined hands against the Brahmanas.
- The main objective of the movement was to **spread awareness, provide social services and spread education among lower caste community**
- His aim was an ideal society with a **complete abolition of caste system** and socio-economic inequalities

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- This movement **targeted the lower caste community for uplifting** and giving them a sense of identity
- ✓ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu recently paid homage to Jyotiba Phule on the occasion of Phule's Jayanti

3. Consider the following pairs

Volcano	Located in
1. Mauna Loa	Italy
2. Anak Krakatau	Indonesia
3. White Volcano	New Zealand

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

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

Ans: B

Explanation

- Recently, **Indonesia's Anak Krakatau** volcano spewed a **column of ash 500 meters** into the sky in the longest eruption since its explosive collapse in 2018.
- Anak Krakatoa is an island in a caldera in the **Sunda Strait** between the islands of Java and Sumatra in the Indonesian province of Lampung.

White Volcano

- White Volcano is an **active stratovolcano** situated 48 km from the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand, in the Bay of Plenty
- The island is **New Zealand's most active cone volcano**, and has been built up by continuous volcanic activity over the past 150,000 years

Mauna Loa

- Situated in the appropriately named **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**, Mauna Loa is the world's largest volcano. It's outrageously active, chalking up **33 eruptions since 1843** when it had a big blow out.

4. 'Bharat Padhe Online' campaign recently seen in news in the context of which of the following?

- a) Improving telemedicine infrastructure in India
- b) To incorporate knowledge about energy efficient lifestyle among the people of India
- c) Enhanced effort to safeguard cultural heritage of India
- d) Improving online education ecosystem in India

Ans: D

Explanation

Bharat Padhe Online

- 'Bharat Padhe Online' is a week-long campaign upto 16th April, 2020 for **crowdsourcing of ideas for improving the online education ecosystem of India.**
 - It aims to invite all the best brains in India to **share suggestions/solutions directly with the HRD Ministry** to overcome constraints of online education while promoting the available digital education platforms.
 - Students and teachers are the main target audience in it
- ✓ Recently, the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD)** has launched two new initiatives - Bharat Padhe Online Campaign and YUKTI web-portal - for **improving and monitoring the online education ecosystem in India.**

5. Consider the following statements with respect to funding for World Health organization (WHO)

1. The amount each Member State must pay is calculated relative to the country's wealth and population
2. The United States is currently the WHO's biggest contributor

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

- **WHO came into existence on 7 April, 1948** – a date which is now celebrated every year as World Health Day. The organisation has more than 7,000 people working in 150 country offices, six regional offices and at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The **World Health Assembly** (delegations from all members countries) determines the policies of the organisation
- The **executive board is composed of members** technically qualified in health, and gives effect to the decisions and policies of the health assembly.
- Its core function is to **direct and coordinate international health work** through collaboration.
- **There are four kinds of contributions that make up funding for the WHO. These are**
 - **Assessed contributions** are the dues countries pay in order to be a member of the Organization. The **amount each Member State must pay is calculated relative to the country's wealth and population.**

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- **Voluntary contributions** come from Member States (in addition to their assessed contribution) or from other partners. They can range from flexible to highly earmarked.
- **Core voluntary contributions** allow less well-funded activities to benefit from a better flow of resources and ease implementation bottlenecks that arise when immediate financing is lacking.
- **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contributions** were started in 2011 to improve and strengthen the sharing of influenza viruses with human pandemic potential, and to increase the access of developing countries to vaccines and other pandemic related supplies.
- **WHO's current funding pattern**
 - As of fourth quarter of 2019, total contributions were around \$5.62 billion, with assessed contributions accounting for \$956 million, specified voluntary contributions \$4.38 billion, core voluntary contributions \$160 million, and PIP contributions \$178 million
 - The **United States is currently the WHO's biggest contributor**, making up 14.67 per cent of total funding by providing \$553.1 million
 - The US is followed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation forming 9.76 per cent or \$367.7 million
 - The **third biggest contributor is the GAVI Vaccine Alliance** at 8.39 per cent, with the UK (7.79 per cent) and Germany (5.68 per cent) coming fourth and fifth respectively.
- ✓ US President Donald Trump is planning to **put a hold on America's funding to the World Health Organization**, accusing it of becoming China-centric during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic