

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme

1. Under NBS programme, a fixed amount of subsidy is provided on each grade of subsidised phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers, except for urea, based on the nutrient content present in them

2. It is being implemented by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)

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: A

Explanation

- The government is making available fertilizers namely urea and **21 grades of P&K fertilisers** to farmers at **subsidised prices through manufacturers/importers**
- In **case of urea**, the government fixes the **maximum retail price (MRP)**. The difference between the production cost and the MRP is reimbursed to manufacturers

Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 2010, the government had launched the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) programme under which a **fixed amount of subsidy, decided on an annual basis**, is provided on each grade of subsidised phosphatic and potassic (**P&K**) fertilisers, **except for urea**, based on the nutrient content present in them

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- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is being implemented by the **Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has given its approval for fixation of nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for **2020-21**.
- The expected expenditure for release of subsidy on P&K fertilisers during 2020-21 will be 22,186.55 crore. The subsidy for nitrogen has been reduced to 18.78 per kg, phosphorous at 14.88 per kg, potash at 10.11 per kg and sulphur at 2.37 per kg for the current financial year
- ❖ Recently, the **Centre has slashed the subsidy on non-urea fertilisers**, a move that would reduce the burden on the exchequer to 22,186.55 crore in this fiscal amid the COVID-19 outbreak
- ❖ A decision in this regard was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister
<https://www.livemint.com/>
<http://fert.nic.in/page/fertilizer-policy>

2. The Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, which seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through education activities designed for primary, secondary and tertiary levels is launched by

- a) Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
- b) UNICEF
- c) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
- d) UNESCO

Ans: C

Explanation

- The **Education for Justice (E4J) initiative** seeks to **prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through education** activities designed for **primary, secondary and tertiary levels**.
- This initiative was launched by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes** to teach next generation about **crime prevention and address problems under law**
- These activities help educators **teach the next generation to better understand and address problems** that can undermine the **rule of law** and encourage students to actively engage in their communities and future professions in this regard
- The Education for Justice (E4J) initiative under the **Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration** has been developed to **create and disseminate education materials in UNODC mandated areas** of crime prevention and criminal justice across the primary, secondary and tertiary education levels.
- Online tools and academic resources will be made **available free of charge**, while workshops, conferences and symposia will be organized for teachers and academics to learn and exchange ideas and research

Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration

- Adopted at the conclusion of the **13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, the Doha Declaration highlights the **importance of education as a tool to preventing crime and corruption**. It emphasizes that education for children and youth is fundamental in promoting a culture that supports the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice

<https://www.unodc.org/dohadeclaration/en/news/2018/11/unodcs-education-for-justice-initiative-inspiring-changing-innovating.html>

https://www.unodc.org/documents/e4j/flyers/info_sheet_E4J_EN_rev.pdf

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/>

3. Consider the following statements regarding the World Food Programme (WFP)

1. WFP is the largest humanitarian organisation implementing school feeding programmes worldwide
2. It is the food assistance branch of the United Nations (UN)

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

- World Food Programme (WFP) is the **leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives**, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to **improve nutrition** and build resilience
- WFP's **efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation**, development aid and special operations.
- **Statement 1 and 2 is correct**: WFP is the **largest humanitarian organisation implementing** school feeding programmes worldwide and has been doing so for over 50 years. It is the **food assistance branch of the United Nations**
- Each year, **WFP provides school meals more than 16 million children** in 60 countries, often in the hardest-to-reach areas
- **Funded entirely by voluntary donations**, in 2018 WFP raised a record US\$7.2 billion. WFP has more than 17,000 staff worldwide of whom over 90 percent are based in the countries where the agency provides assistance

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- WFP is governed by a 36-member Executive Board. It works closely with its two Rome-based sister organizations, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development**.
- WFP partners with more than **1,000 national and international NGOs** to provide food assistance and tackle the underlying causes of hunger

<https://www.wfp.org/overview>

<http://www.cwmun.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/WFP-MS-2019.pdf>

4. Recently, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a 'Kasowal bridge' in Punjab along the India - Pakistan border. It has been constructed in which of the following river?

- a) Sutlej
- b) Beas
- c) Ghaggar
- d) Ravi

Ans: D

Explanation

- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and opened a **new permanent bridge on the river Ravi** connecting **Kasowal enclave in Punjab to the rest of the country** much ahead of its schedule.
- The enclave of around 35 square kilometres had hitherto been connected via pontoon bridge of limited load capacity
- The **pontoon bridge used to be dismantled every year prior to the Monsoon** or else it would have got washed away in the strong currents of the river. These meant thousands of acres of fertile land across the river **could not be tilled by farmers** during the Monsoon.

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- The local population and the Army required a **permanent bridge to give all weather connectivity to the enclave**. Border Roads Organisation conceived and planned for a permanent bridge
- **The 484-meter bridge** was built by 141 Drain Maintenance Coy of 49 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) of Project Chetak. The bridge costing Rs 17.89 crore excluding the approaches, consist of 16 cells of 30.25-metre length each
- ❖ Recently, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a permanent bridge on the Ravi river to connect Kasowal enclave in Punjab **along the India - Pakistan border** to the rest of the country
<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=202490>

5. With reference to 'Feluda', a paper-strip test for detecting the coronavirus, consider the following statements

1. The test is based on a bacterial immune system protein called Cas9 and it uses cutting-edge gene-editing tool called 'Crispr-Cas9' system
2. It was developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)

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

- Scientists at the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research** — Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) have developed a **low-cost, paper-strip test** called '**Feluda**' which can detect the new coronavirus within an hour
- The test, named Feluda after a fictional detective character created by Satyajit Ray, is expected to cost around **Rs 500 against the RT-PCR test** that costs Rs 4,500 in private labs
- The test is based on a **bacterial immune system protein called Cas9**. It uses cutting-edge gene-editing tool **Crispr-Cas9 system**.

Feluda test

- Through a **nasal swab**, the RNA samples of the virus from the patient is collected
- At first the **RNA is converted into genetic material** or complimentary DNA (cDNA). Then it is **amplified using a polymerase chain reaction** (done on a simple PCR machine) and mix with a complex Cas9 protein.
- The **Cas9 protein specifically binds to the DNA signature** of the Covid-19 virus. Finally, this mixture is **applied on a paper strip**.
- Depending on the presence of Covid-19 DNA, a line appears on the paper strip, apart from a control line that appears regardless of whether the virus is present or not.
- If there is presence **of even low amounts of viral RNA, it will detect it**.
- This is a **qualitative test**, so it can tell the presence or absence rapidly

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/cover/roping-in-feluda-to-detect-covid-19/article31306946.ece#>