

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the powers of Press Council of India (PCI)?

1. Decisions of the PCI are final and cannot be appealed before a court of law
2. It can penalize newspapers and news agencies for violation of the guidelines
3. It does not have the power to review the functioning of the electronic media

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Ans: C

Explanation

- The PCI is a **statutory body** was established under the **PCI Act of 1978** for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and **improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies** in India.
- The PCI consists of a **chairman and 28 other members**. The Chairman is selected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and a member elected by the PCI.
- The functions of the PCI include among others (i) **helping newspapers maintain their independence**; (ii) build a **code of conduct for journalists** and news agencies; (iii) help maintain “high standards of public taste” and foster responsibility among citizens; and (iv) review developments likely to restrict flow of news.
- The PCI has the **power to receive complaints** of violation of the journalistic ethics, or **professional misconduct** by an editor or journalist.

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- The PCI is **responsible for enquiring in to complaints** received. It may summon witnesses and take evidence under oath, demand copies of public records to be submitted, even issue warnings and admonish the newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It can even require any newspaper to publish details of the inquiry. **Decisions of the PCI are final and cannot be appealed before a court of law.**

Limitations on the powers of the PCI

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The powers of the PCI are restricted in two ways. The PCI has limited powers of enforcing the guidelines issued. **It cannot penalize newspapers, news agencies, editors** and journalists for violation of the guidelines.

- **Statement 3 is correct** The PCI only overviews the functioning of press media. That is, it **can enforce standards upon newspapers**, journals, magazines and other forms of print media. **It does not have the power to review the functioning of the electronic media like radio, television and internet media.**

- ✓ The **Press Council of India** recently condemned the attack on Republic TV Editor and called for a report from the Maharashtra government

<https://www.prssindia.org/hi/theprsblog/regulation-media-india-brief-overview>

2. It is one of the prominent 51 Saktipeeths spread across South Asia with each representing a body part of Sati, Lord Shiva's consort. The sanctum sanctorum at this temple houses the yoni or the female genital represented by a rock. It is considered as one of the most important centers of Tantric worship. The famous 'Ambubachi Mela', one of the biggest religious festivals of eastern India is celebrated every year at this temple.

The above description refers to?

- a) Samaleswari temple

- b) Khajuraho temple
- c) Kalighat Kali temple
- d) Kamakhya temple

Ans: D

Explanation

- Kamakhya temple is **one of the prominent 51 Saktipeeths** spread across South Asia, with each representing a body part of Sati, Lord Shiva's consort.
 - **The sanctum sanctorum at Kamakhya houses the yoni or the female genital** represented by a rock, considered one of the most important **centers of Tantric worship**.
 - Some religious texts are of the view that the **temple was demolished by Mughal general Kalapahar** and was then rebuilt by King Naranarayana in the 16th century
 - **Ambubachi Mela**, one of the **biggest religious festivals of eastern India** in the border state of Assam is **celebrated in June every year at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati**
 - During the period of Ambubachi, the **shrine remains closed and opens for devotees only on the last day of the festival**, which is followed by elaborate rituals and a fair at the temple premises perched atop the scenic **Nilachal Hills on the banks of the Brahmaputra River**
- ❖ This year **Ambubachi Mela will not be held at Kamakhya Temple** in Assam Due to **Coronavirus Pandemic** This is the first time in recorded history that the annual festival will not be conducted

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/no-ambubachi-mela-at-guwahatis-kamakhya-temple-this-year-due-to-covid-19/article31412441.ece>
<https://thediplomat.com/2019/07/the-faces-of-indias-ambubachi-mela/>

3. Which among the following is an objective of 'Swamitva Yojana'?

- a) To provide social security benefits to urban street vendors
- b) To map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology
- c) Enabling the access to digital platforms in order to bridge digital divide in India
- d) A common national programme to develop and contribute towards the e-learning content

Ans: B

Explanation

- Swamitva Yojana is meant to **create a record of land ownership in rural areas** using modern technology.
- The scheme is piloted by the **Panchayati Raj ministry** of the Union government and has been launched on April 24 2020, the **Panchayati Raj Diwas**
- The need for this Yojana was felt since **several villagers in the rural areas don't have papers proving ownership** of their land. In most states, survey and measurement of the populated areas in the villages has not been done for the purpose of attestation/verification of properties.
- Swamitva Yojana is aimed to **fill the above gap to provide ownership rights** to people in the villages. It is expected to go a long way in **settling property rights in rural hinterlands** and likely to become a **tool for empowerment and entitlement**, reducing social strife on account of discord over properties.
- The residential land in villages will be **measured using drones to create a non-disputable record**. It is the latest technology for surveying and measuring of land.
- The scheme will be carried out in close coordination with the Central Panchayati Raj ministry, **Survey of India, Panchayati Raj departments** and Revenue departments of various states.

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- **Drones will draw a digital map of every property** falling within the geographical limits of a village and demarcate the boundaries of every revenue area
 - **Property card for every property** in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping. These cards will be **given to property owners** and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.
 - The delivery of property rights through an official document will **enable villagers to access bank finance** using their property as collateral
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- ❖ Prime Minister recently launched '**Swamitva Yojana**' or **Ownership Scheme** to **map residential land ownership in the rural sector** using modern technology like the use of drones
 - ❖ The scheme aimed to **revolutionise property record maintenance in India** was launched on the **Panchayati Raj Diwas**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/what-is-swamitva-yojana-launched-by-pm-narendra-modi-all-you-need-to-know/story-UpshkST02eW59ZGsF9jxLK.html>

4. With reference to Classical swine fever (CSF) or hog cholera, consider the following statements

1. It is a contagious viral disease of domestic and wild swine
2. Humans are not affected by this virus

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:** Classical swine fever (CSF), also known as hog cholera, is a contagious viral disease of domestic and wild swine (pig). It is caused by a virus of the genus **Pestivirus** of the family Flaviviridae, which is closely related to the viruses that cause bovine viral diarrhoea in cattle and border disease in sheep

Transmission and spread

- The most common method of transmission is **through direct contact between healthy swine and those infected with CSF virus.**
- The virus is shed in saliva, nasal secretions, urine, and feces. Contact with contaminated vehicles, pens, feed, or clothing may spread the disease.
- Animals that are **chronic carriers of the disease (persistently infected) may show no clinical signs of illness but may shed the virus in their feces.** Offspring of infected sows can become infected in the uterus, and can shed the virus for months
- CSF virus can **survive in pork and processed pork products for months** when meat is refrigerated and for years when it is frozen. Pigs can become infected by eating CSF-infected pork meat or products.

Public health risk

- **Statement 2 is correct: Humans are not affected by this virus.** Swine are the only species known to be susceptible.

Clinical signs

- The disease has **acute and chronic forms**, and can range from severe, with high mortality, to mild or even unapparent
- In the acute form of the disease, in all age groups, there is **fever, huddling of sick animals, loss of appetite, dullness, weakness, conjunctivitis, constipation followed by diarrhoea, and an unsteady gait.**

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- With low virulence strains, the **only expression may be poor reproductive performance** and the birth of piglets with **neurologic defects** such as congenital tremor.

<https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/Classical-swine-fever/>

5. In the context of modern Indian history, consider the following statements regarding the Khudai Khidmatgars (“Servants of God”) movement

- It was a non-violent movement led by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, to oppose the British in India's Northwest Frontier Province
- It played an important role in Non-cooperation movement launched by INC during 1920-1922

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

- Statement 1 is correct:** In 1929, the Khudai Khidmatgars (“Servants of God”) movement, led by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, nonviolently mobilized to oppose the British in India's Northwest Frontier Province.
- Ghaffar Khan and the Khudai Khidmatgar movement inspired thousands of Pashtuns (also called Pathans), who were known as fierce warriors, and others to lay down their arms and use civil resistance to challenge British rule.
- Statement 2 is incorrect:** Although Ghaffar Khan's initial reform efforts predated his involvement with Gandhi and the Indian National Congress (INC), he later formed a

formal alliance with them and became a formidable force during and following the INC's civil disobedience campaign of 1930-1931, helping the INC win provincial elections in 1937

- Ghaffar Khan, who is also known as Badshah Khan and the "**Frontier Gandhi**," formed the **world's first nonviolent army**, a force of perhaps 100,000 Pathans who took a solemn oath in joining the "Servants of God" movement
- Members of the movement were known as "**Red Shirts**" because of the red uniforms they wore. Initially they **set to work organizing village projects** and opening schools, but soon they became part of the broader Indian Independence movement, **accepting without retaliation** some of the most fierce British repression—mass firings on unarmed crowds, torture, personal humiliation, setting homes and fields on fire, and even the destruction of entire villages
- In 1937, a new Government of India Act, which was a **British response to the Independence Movement**, created limited local powers and allowed for elections to a legislative body that remained ultimately under British control.
- The Khudai Khidmatgar movement **supported the successful election of the INC** in a new provincial government headed by Ghaffar Khan's brother, Khan Sahib, which remained in power most of the time until the creation of Pakistan in 1947
- **Ghaffar Khan's dissatisfaction with Pakistan** later led him to favor the creation of an autonomous Pakhtunistan and he was **consequently imprisoned by the Pakistani government**. The movement waned after its involvement in electoral politics but has become a benchmark for contemporary Muslims organizing nonviolent resistance rooted in the Islamic tradition.

<https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/khudai-khidmatgar-servants-god-movement-badshah-khan-northwest-frontier-british-india-1933-1937/>