

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the Autonomous District Councils (ADC)**

1. It seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population governed under the fifth schedule of Indian constitution
2. ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature
3. The Governor can increase or decrease the area of any autonomous district by public notification

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

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

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** The **Sixth Schedule** consists of provisions for the **administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution
- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to **safeguard the rights of tribal population** through the formation of **Autonomous District Councils (ADC)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** ADCs are bodies **representing a district** to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature
- The **governors of these states are empowered to reorganise boundaries of the tribal areas..**

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- **Statement 3 is correct** Each district is an autonomous district and **Governor can modify / divide the boundaries of the said Tribal areas** by notification. The Governor may, by public notification,
  - (a) Include any area
  - (b) exclude any area
  - (c) create a new autonomous district
  - (d) **increase the area of any autonomous district**
  - (e) **diminish the area of any autonomous district**
  - (f) alter the name of any autonomous district
  - (g) define the boundaries of any autonomous district

**Constitution of District Councils and Regional Councils**

- Though **tribal areas under sixth schedule fall within the executive authority of the state**, provision has been made for the creation of the District Councils and regional councils for the exercise of the certain legislative and judicial powers.
- There shall be a **District Council for each autonomous district** consisting of not more than thirty members, of whom not more than four persons shall be nominated by the Governor and the rest shall be elected on the basis of adult suffrage.
- There shall be a **separate Regional Council** for each area constituted as an autonomous region

<https://theprint.in/theprint-essential/what-is-6th-schedule-why-it-allows-parts-of-northeast-to-be-exempt-from-citizenship-bill/331404/>  
<https://mhrd.gov.in/sixth-schedule>

**2. The "Nine-dash line", often mentioned in news in the context of**

- a) Economic Exploitation in the Global Commons

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- b) Space warfare
- c) South China Sea dispute
- d) Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure

**Ans: C**

**Explanation**

- The **South China sea dispute** involves contesting claims, both maritime and islands, in the region by **7 countries viz. Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.**
- The genesis of the dispute lies in the "eleven-dashed line" announced by the Chinese government in 1947, which was **later changed to "Nine-dash line" in 1949 by Communist China.**
- This line covers most of the South China Sea which **China claims to be a part of its territory and hence it possesses exclusive sovereign rights over the region.**
- China puts forward historical evidences which show that the region was under Chinese control. However, these **claims are contested by other littoral states** in the region.
- The nine-dash line encompasses important islands in the South China Sea such as the **Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, and the Scarborough Shoal.** However, Vietnam hotly contests Chinese claims saying that China had never claimed sovereignty over the islands and that it had actively ruled over both Spratly and Paracel Islands since the 17th century. Similarly, Philippines too claims control over the Spratly Islands citing its geographical proximity.
- Though the **United Nations Convention on Law of the Seas (UNCLOS)** has been signed by all the claimants, the dispute still persists.
- The claimants to the Spratly Islands include Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and China. There exist overlapping claims over Paracel Islands from Vietnam, Taiwan, and China.

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- Armed clashes had occurred between Vietnamese and Chinese forces over the Spratly Islands in 1974 and 1988. On the other hand, the Scarborough Shoal is claimed by the Philippines, Taiwan, and China.



3. 'Covid-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program' is an initiative of which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- c) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- d) United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

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- The CARES program will provide timely support for urgent public health measures and for the expansion of **social and economic assistance**.
  - CARES programme will contribute directly to the improvement of access to health facilities and care, as well as **social protection for more than 80 crore people**, including families below the poverty line, farmers, healthcare workers, women, senior citizens, people with disabilities, low wage earners, and construction workers
  - The CARES Program is funded through the Covid-19 Pandemic Response Option (CPRO) under the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s Countercyclical Support Facility**.
  - CPRO was established as part of ADB's \$20-billion expanded assistance for developing member countries' Covid-19 response.
  - ADB mentioned that the CARES Program will be provided with a \$2-million technical assistance grant to support the government to strengthen its operational framework and efficient targeting, delivery, and monitoring and evaluation of its **pro-poor economic package**, as well as its health sector and social protection interventions
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has **recently announced \$1.5 billion loan** (over Rs. 11,400 crore) **to India for its fight against Covid-19 pandemic**. The funding is part of the Covid-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/ino-54139-001-rrp>

4. Consider the following pairs

Regions/cities	Located in
1. Ramadi	- Iraq
2. Al-Hudaydah	- Saudi Arabia
3. Idlib	- Yemen

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

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

Ans: A

Explanation

All the above given places are recently in news with reasons ranging from civil war, international conflicts, COVID-19 outbreak etc

**Al-Hudaydah:** It is the **fourth-largest city in Yemen** and its principal port on the Red Sea.

**Ramadi:** It is a city in **central Iraq**, about 110 kilometers west of Baghdad

**Idlib:** It is a **city in northwestern Syria**





5. 'PARIVESH' is a web based application established to serve which of the following purposes?

- a) Research based management system to tackle air pollution in India
- b) To strengthen the mechanism for Real Time Monitoring (RTM) of nutritional outcomes in India
- c) It seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution
- d) To act as a single-window Integrated Environmental Management System

Ans: D

Explanation

**Pro Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub**

- PARIVESH is a **web based, role based workflow application** which has been developed for online submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted by the proponents for

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seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ Clearances from Central, State and district level authorities.

- PARIVESH is a **Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System**, developed in pursuance of the spirit of 'Digital India' initiated by the Prime Minister and capturing the essence of Minimum Government and Maximum Governance.
- It automates the **entire tracking of proposals** which includes online submission of a new proposal, editing/updating the details of proposals and displays status of the proposals at each stage of the workflow
- The main highlights of PARIVESH include - **single registration and single sign-in for all types of clearances** (i.e. Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ), unique-ID for all types of clearances required for a particular project and a single Window interface for the proponent to submit applications for getting all types of clearances
- PARIVESH offers a framework to generate economic growth and strengthens **Sustainable Development through EGovernance**

<https://parivesh.nic.in/>

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1542607>