

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Universal Account Number (UAN)

1. UAN is a 12-digit number, allotted by the Employee Provident Fund Organisation to every employee having an EPF account
2. The UAN remains constant throughout the life of an employee

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

Universal Account Number (UAN)

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** The Universal Account Number (UAN) is a **12-digit number, allotted by the Employee Provident Fund Organisation** to every employee having an **EPF account**. The UAN remains **constant throughout the life of an employee and is portable**.
- The primary benefit under the UAN is that there is no need to withdraw the EPF when a person changes his job. He/she can **transfer the EPF from an old employer to a new one** quickly and without hassle.
- The concept behind UAN is to have **one account number for one subscriber, irrespective of the number of employers** that the subscriber changes. So, once a person get a UAN from the EPFO, it will **remain the same in all his future jobs** in organisations that are covered under the EPF scheme.

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- While the UAN number will remain the same, **EPFO will give you a new member ID or an EPF account for every employer, which will be employer-specific**
Employee Provident Fund (EPF)
- The Employee Provident Fund (EPF) is a **scheme that helps people save up a sufficient corpus for retirement**. The plan was introduced with the **Employees Provident Funds Act in 1952** and is managed by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- In this scheme, an **employee has to contribute 12% of their basic income towards the fund every month**.
- The employer **matches this amount with an equal contribution**. When a person retire, he receive the total amount (personal as well as the employer's contribution) as a lump sum along with interest. As mentioned above, **both the employee and the employer need to contribute equally** to the EPF account every month
- The EPF is regarded as a **low-risk investment** as the Government of India manages it and assures a fixed rate of return.
- Companies with a **minimum of 20 employees must maintain EPF accounts** for their employees.
- Also, the provision of an **EPF account is compulsory for employees with a salary of less than 15000**. And if a employee move from one job to another, they **can transfer your EPF corpus** easily. This is possible through the Universal Account Number.
- ❖ Recently, Union Finance Minister has announced **reduction of statutory provident fund contribution by both employers and employees to 10 percent** of basic wages from the existing 12 per cent for the next three months

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/investments-markets/5-steps-to-activate-universal-account-number/slideshow/47847883.cms>

<https://www.livemint.com/Money/YX0uXYwwFmdfYJ2wHSQ79L/Heres-how-to-find-your-PF-UAN-number.html>

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<https://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/employers-employees-contribution-to-epf-reduced-to-10-announces-fm-sitharaman/story-46nUQIcYoVndsRwS26uTyO.html>

https://www.epfindia.gov.in/site_docs/PDFs/UAN_PDFs/UAN_ForEmployers/FAQ-Employer-July2015.pdf

2. The areas known as 'West Bank' and 'Gaza Strip' sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the events related to

- a) Central Asia
- b) Middle East
- c) South-East Asia
- d) Central Africa

Ans: B

Explanation

- Recently, **U.S. Secretary of State** met Israeli Prime Minister to **discuss the country's plans to annex parts of the West Bank**, as Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian teen in a clash with stone-throwers in the occupied territory.

The West Bank

- The West Bank is a **landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast** of Western Asia, **bordered by Jordan** to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north.
- The "West Bank" was the name given to the territory that was captured by Jordan in the aftermath of the **1948 Arab-Israeli War**, and subsequently annexed in 1950, until 1967 when it was **occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War**

Oslo Accords

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- The Oslo Accords are a **pair of agreements between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)**: the Oslo I Accord, signed in 1993 and the Oslo II Accord, signed in 1995
 - The Oslo Accords marked the start of the Oslo process, a **peace process aimed at achieving a peace treaty** and at fulfilling the "right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."
 - The Oslo Accords created a **Palestinian Authority tasked with limited self-governance** of parts of the **West Bank and Gaza Strip** and acknowledged the **PLO as Israel's partner in permanent-status negotiations**
- **West Asia is known as the Middle East**



<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/despite-virus-pompeo-talks-west-bank-annexation-in-israel-6408956/>

3. With reference to Direct seeding of Rice (DSR), consider the following statements

1. Under DSR, there is no nursery preparation or transplantation
2. DSR technique is labour intensive and consumes more water when compared with transplanting of paddy technique

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: B

Explanation

How is Direct seeding of Rice (DSR) different from normal transplanting of paddy?

Normal transplanting of paddy

- In transplanting, farmers prepare nurseries where the paddy seeds are first sown and raised into young plants.
- These seedlings are then uprooted and replanted 25-35 days later in the main field. The nursery seed bed is 5-10% of the area to be transplanted.

Direct seeding of Rice (DSR)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In DSR, there is no nursery preparation or transplantation. The seeds are instead directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine.
- The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana has developed a 'Lucky Seed Drill' that can both sow seeds and simultaneously spray herbicides to control weeds.

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What is the main advantage with DSR?

Statement 2 is incorrect

- The most obvious one is **water savings**. The first irrigation under DSR is **necessary only 21 days after sowing**. This is **unlike in transplanted paddy**, where **watering has to be done practically daily** to ensure submerged/flooded conditions in the first three weeks.
- The **second savings**, relevant in the present context, is **that of labour**. About three labourers are required to transplant one acre of paddy in a single day
- **DSR saves labour as it avoids nurseery raising, uprooting seedlings, transplanting** as well as puddling

Drawbacks

- The **seed requirement for DSR is higher**, at 8-10 kg/acre compared to 4-5 kg in transplanting. Further, **laser land levelling**, which costs Rs 1,000/acre is compulsory in DSR. This is not so in transplanting
- ❖ The two granary states of **Punjab and Haryana could face a shortage of an estimated 10 lakh labourers**, mainly seasonal migrants from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, to undertake transplantation of paddy in the upcoming kharif season.
- ❖ With **lockdown relaxations** not extending to trains to ferry these labourers who usually arrive by early June, **farmers are now being encouraged to adopt 'direct seeding of rice' (DSR)** in place of conventional transplanting

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/labour-short-can-direct-seeding-be-alternative-to-paddy-transplanting-6408653/>

4. It is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women during local harvest seasons using naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. Traditionally painted on the walls of mud

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houses, they are now seen on other surfaces, too. The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography

The above description refers to?

- a) Pithora painting
- b) Warli painting
- c) Sohrai Khovar painting
- d) Telia Rupal painting

Ans: C

Explanation

Sohrai Khovar painting

- The Sohrai Khovar painting is a **traditional and ritualistic mural art being** practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, **naturally available soils** of different colours in the **area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand**.
- The Sohrai Khovar painting is **primarily being practised only in the district of Hazaribagh**. However, in recent years, for promotional purposes, it has been seen in other parts of Jharkhand
- Traditionally painted on the **walls of mud houses**, they are now seen on other surfaces, too. The **style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants**, often representing religious iconography.



Geographical Indications

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a **reputation that are due to that origin.**
- A GI is primarily an **agricultural, natural or a manufactured product** (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory
- Typically, such a name **conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness**, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin
- Once the GI protection is granted, **no other producer can misuse the name to market** similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product
- Any association of **persons, producers, organisation or authority** established by or under the law can be a registered proprietor

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- The registration of a geographical indication is **valid for a period of 10 years**. It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.
 - At the International level: **Geographical Indications are covered as a component of intellectual property rights (IPRs)** under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
 - GI is also governed by the **World Trade Organisation (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**
 - In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from September 2003. The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was **Darjeeling tea** in the year 2004-05
 - ❖ **Recently, Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting and Telangana's Telia Rumal were given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai
- Telia Rumal**
- Telia Rumal cloth involves **intricate handmade work with cotton** loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white
 - Telia Rumal can **only be created using the traditional handloom** process and not by any other mechanical means as otherwise, the very quality of the Rumal would be lost
- <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/gi-tag-for-jharkhands-sohrai-khovar-painting-telanganas-telia-rumal/article31569123.ece>

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Gandhi Peace Prize Awards

1. The award is to restricted to Indian nationals and the Persons of Indian origin (PIO)
2. The Award for every year is selected by a Jury under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister

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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

- **Gandhi Peace Prize Awards** is for **Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence** was instituted in the year 1995.
- The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation. The Award may be divided between two persons / institutions who are considered by the Jury to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year.
- **Work by a person since deceased cannot be the subject of an Award.** If, however, his death occurred subsequent to a proposal having been submitted to the Jury in the manner stipulated in the Code of Procedure, **then a Posthumous Award may be made.**

Eligibility

- This annual award will be **given to individuals, associations, institutions or organizations** who have worked selflessly for **peace, non-violence and amelioration of human sufferings** particular of the less-privileged section of society contributing towards social justice and harmony.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Award is **open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.** Normally, contributions made during **ten years immediately preceding the nomination are considered.** Older contributions may also be considered if their significance has not become apparent recently.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Award for every year is **selected by a Jury under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister**

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- ❖ The Union Ministry of Culture **extended the nomination period for the Gandhi Peace Prize** from April 30 to June 15. For the year 2020, **last date for receiving the nominations was April 30.**
- ❖ Due to **COVID-19 lockdown throughout the country**, the last date for receipt of nominations for the Gandhi Peace Prize 2020 has now been extended up to and including June 15

<https://gandhi.gov.in/gandhi-peace-prize-awards.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/coronavirus-lockdown-gandhi-peace-prize-nominations-extended-till-june-15/article31560125.ece>

