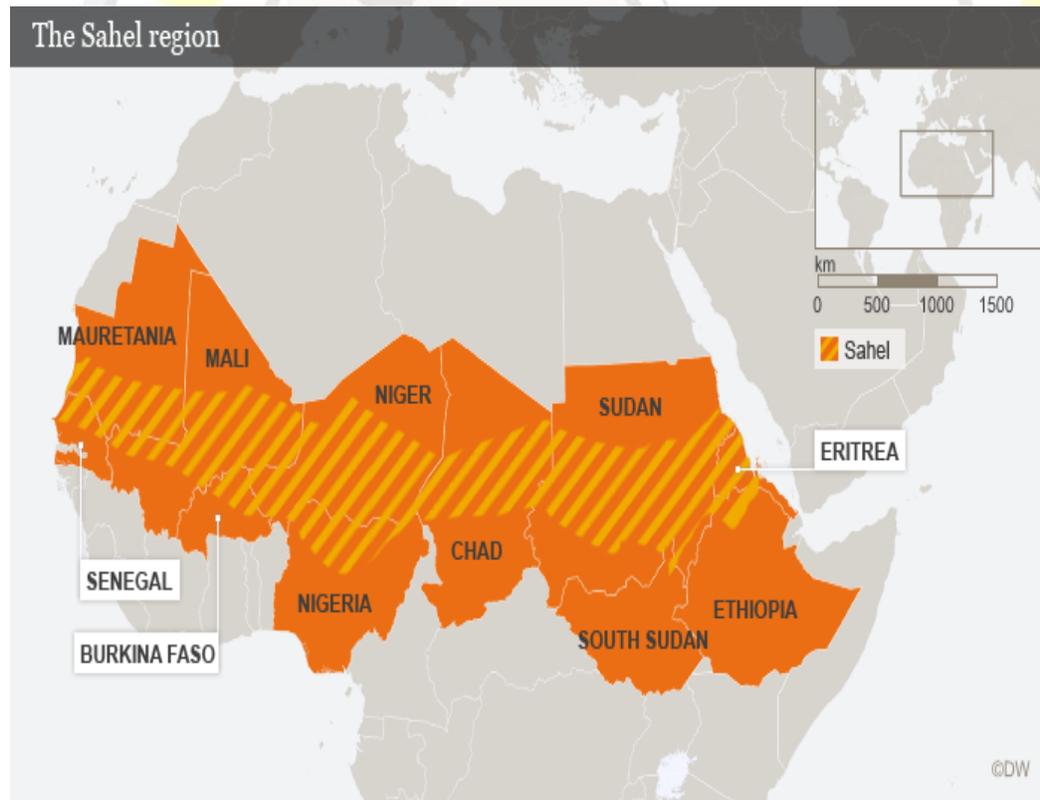


1. The 'Sahel Region', sometimes mentioned in the news is located in which of the following?

- a) South-East Asia
- b) Arctic polar
- c) Caribbean islands
- d) North Africa

Ans: D

Explanation



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- ❖ **Africa's Sahel**, a region running across the breadth of the continent, **between the Sahara in the north and the Sudanian Savanna in the south**, has become the latest battleground in the ongoing war between the **Islamic State and al-Qaeda**.
- ❖ Just like the other conflicts that the two terrorist groups have been engaged in over the past few years, this **latest battle is also for more influence**, access to resources and potential recruits.

**Why is there a tussle between IS and al-Qaeda?**

- The tussle between IS and al-Qaeda is not just a battle for influence, resources and recruits in the context of the Jihadist movement in various parts of the world. The **two terrorist groups are ideologically different** and they also have differing perceptions of whom they see as their "enemies" and their operational tactics.
- **The ideology of al-Qaeda** is to overthrow and **replace what it considered corrupt regimes** in the Middle East who have engaged in apostasy, **straying away from al-Qaeda's interpretation of Islam**.
- The al-Qaeda wants to **replace these existing governments** with those who conform to the group's beliefs.
- The group's operations are founded in **eradicating the presence and influence of the United States in the region**, a country that it considers to be the cause of instability and continued conflict in the Middle East, because of the diplomatic, military and economic operations that the US has engaged in the Middle East.
- In contrast, the **IS focuses on domestic "enemies"**, a long list that includes **religious minorities as well as competing jihadi groups**. This list includes the Iraqi Shias, Hezbollah, the Yazidis in Iraqi-Kurdistan, Kurds elsewhere in Iraq and Syria, and other jihadi groups it considers to be its rivals.

(IAS Academy by IAS Officers)

- While the **al-Qaeda's operations and tactics** have been more to shock the world with its terrorist activities, the IS which developed as a result of the civil wars in Syria and Iraq use terrorism to **force civilians and territories into submission** by using tactics such as rape, violence against women, public beheadings, kidnappings, torture, mass executions and destruction of private, public and heritage property.

**Why has Africa's Sahel become a battleground?**

- **New territory for more recruits, influence and access** to resources is not the only reason the African Sahel has become the latest battleground.
- Research on the operations of terrorist groups shows **illegal armed groups intentionally seek out countries where there are high rates of poverty, corruption and religious and ethnic conflict.**
- They also look for governments that are unable to curb the development and growth of illegal armed groups, such as these two terrorist organisations.
- **Countries in the African Sahel have been battling their own challenges** with high rates of poverty, corruption and ethnic conflict, making them vulnerable hunting grounds for groups like the IS and al-Qaeda

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-is-and-al-qaeda-are-battling-for-control-in-africas-sahel-6407732/>

**2. Consider the following pairs**

<b>River</b>		<b>Tributary</b>
1. Godavari	-	Koyna
2. Brahmaputra	-	Dibang
3. Narmada	-	Banas

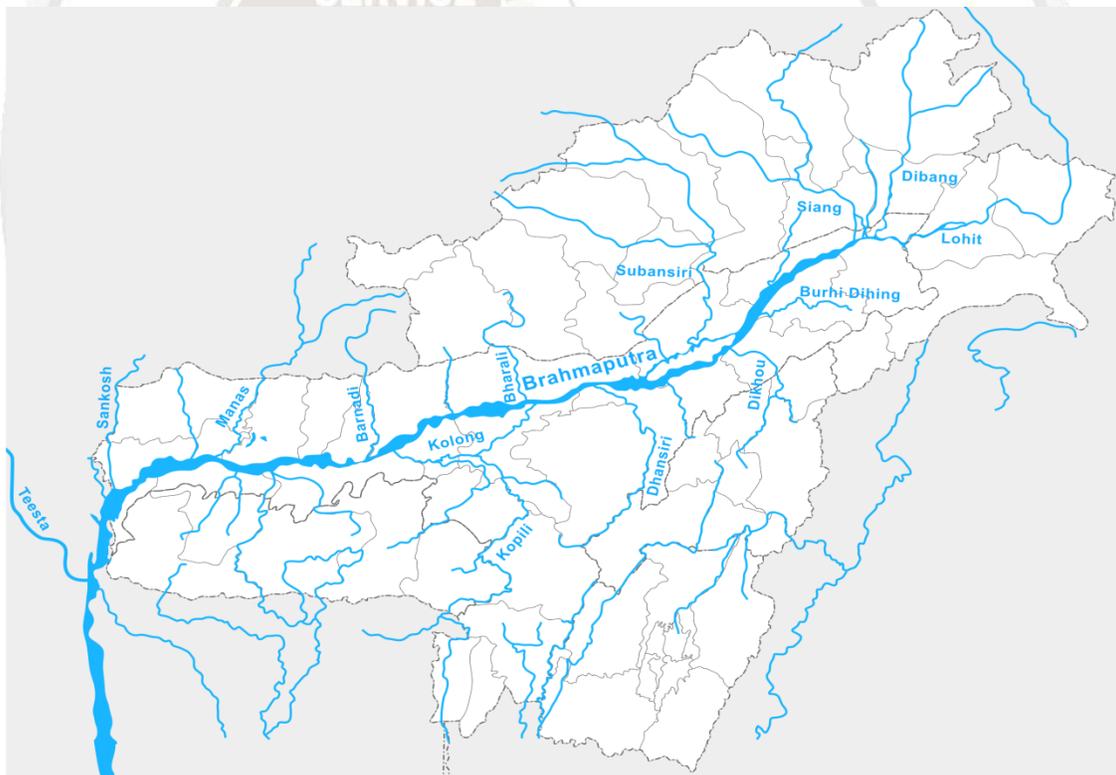
**Which of the above given pairs is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Ans: A**

**Explanation**

- Koyna is a tributary of River **Krishna**
- Banas is a river which **lies entirely within the state of Rajasthan** in western India. It is a **tributary of the Chambal River**, itself a tributary of the Yamuna, which in turn merges into the Ganga



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- ❖ The **Forest Advisory Committee**, the **apex body of the Environment Ministry** tasked with deciding whether forest land can be diverted for industrial projects, has once again **deferred its decision on a controversial hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh**
- The 3097 MW **Etalin Hydropower project**, in the **State's Dibang Valley**, has been delayed for over six years. This is because it required diverting 1165 hectares of forest in a region of rich biodiversity
- The Project is **located on river Dibang**, in Lower Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh
- In 2015, the **FAC had ruled that the Environment Impact Assessment** commissioned by the power company had not properly accounted for the environmental impact of the project.
- It recommended that an **"internationally credible" institute conduct studies** over multiple seasons to **record the region's ecological constitution**.
- It had also recommended that the National Tiger Conservation Authority be consulted, because **tigers had been sighted in the region**.
- In 2019, the FAC reviewed the progress of the environment appraisal and said **neither of its recommendations had been fully complied with**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/decision-on-power-project-deferred/article31568655.ece>

**3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**

1. Setting up of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is mandated by the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

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2. NDMA is headed by the Home Minister and works under the control of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

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: D

Explanation

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the **Disaster Management Act**, which envisaged the creation of **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, headed by the **Prime Minister**, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the **apex body for Disaster Management** in India. Setting up of NDMA and the creation of an enabling environment for institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels is **mandated by the Disaster Management Act, 2005**. It works under the control of **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**
- India envisions the development of an ethos of **Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness**. The Indian government strives to promote a national resolve to mitigate the damage and destruction caused by **natural and man-made disasters**, through sustained and collective efforts of all Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and People's participation.

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NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters. Towards this, it has the following **responsibilities**

- Lay down policies on disaster management
- Approve the National Plan
- **Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments** of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan
- **Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities** in drawing up the State Plan
- Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the Purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects
- Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plans for disaster management
- ❖ In the wake of the **gas leak at a factory in Visakhapatnam, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued detailed guidelines** for restarting industries after the lockdown and the precautions to be taken for the safety of the plants as well as the workers.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/ndma-issues-guidelines-for-restarting-industrial-activities-to-avoid-vizag-type-tragedy/articleshow/75657198.cms>  
<https://ndma.gov.in/en/about-ndma/ndma-logo.html>

**4. The 'Global Energy Transition Index' is being released by which of the following?**

- a) International Energy Agency (IEA)
- b) World Economic Forum (WEF)

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c) International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

- ❖ World Economic Forum has recently released its **global Energy Transition index 2020**
- The Global Energy Transition Index, a **composite score of 40 indicators**, benchmarks 115 countries on the **current performance of their energy system**, and their readiness for transition to a **secure, sustainable, affordable, and inclusive future energy system**
- The Energy Transition Index (ETI) is a **fact-based ranking intended to enable policy-makers** and businesses to plot the course for a successful energy transition.
- The benchmarking of energy systems is **carried out annually** across countries.
- Part of the **World Economic Forum's Fostering Effective Energy Transition initiative**, it builds on its predecessor, the Energy Architecture Performance Index.
- The ETI does not only benchmark countries on their current energy system performance, but also provides a forward-looking lens as it measures their readiness for the energy transition

**Key facts**

- The global energy transition has **been moving at a slow, but steady pace**. Of the 115 countries benchmarked on the ETI, **94 corresponding to more than 70% of global CO2 emission** have improved their scores since 2015.
- The economic development and growth dimension of energy transition is currently being **challenged by the cascading effects of COVID-19**.
- Over the past five years, most countries have reduced the level of energy subsidies, reflecting the movement towards **cost-reflective pricing**.
- India has **moved up two positions to rank 74th** with improvements on all key parameters of **economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability**

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- **Sweden has topped** the Energy Transition Index (ETI) for the third consecutive year and is followed by Switzerland and Finland in the top three

**World Economic Forum**

- The World Economic Forum is the **International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation**.
- The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas
- It was established in 1971 as a **not-for-profit foundation** and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is **independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests**. The Forum strives in all its efforts to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance.

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/fostering-effective-energy-transition-2020>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/india-up-at-74th-place-on-wef-s-global-energy-transition-index/story-QIoQqmRmjqqNeQc2XxyQBK.html>

**5. The 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti (MRGS)' is an initiative by Government of India which aims to**

- a) To establish a strategic linkage between industry and academia that can foster innovation and entrepreneurship in India
- b) It aims to work with small and marginal farmers especially the woman farmer for better agriculture productivity through scientific intervention
- c) To promote self-reliance and have an enabling framework for creation of Intellectual Property (IP) in Indian Defence sector
- d) None of the above

Ans: C

**Explanation**

- In 2018, Ministry of Defence has launched a programme '**Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti (MRGS)**' to promote **self-reliance and have an enabling framework for creation of Intellectual Property (IP) and management of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in Indian Defence sector**
- A **nodal Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC)** has been set up under Directorate General of Quality Assurance to create awareness about IPRs.
- The **Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)** has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.
- Innovative research in Defense PSUs and Ordnance Factories has enabled the **development of certain materials, components/assemblies** that result in performance upgradation of existing systems and simultaneously reducing **India's dependence on imports.**
- ❖ In a major step towards **rapid mass production of the Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** developed by the Indian Navy, a patent has been successfully filed by the **Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC)** of Ministry of Defence, in association with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), an enterprise under Ministry of Science & Technology
- ❖ The PPE developed by the Navy is made of a **special fabric** which affords high level of protection along with high '**breathability**' as against other PPEs available in the market and is therefore more suitable for use **in hot and humid weather** conditions as prevalent in India.

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### (IAS Academy by IAS Officers)

- ❖ The team of Innovators from Navy is working in close coordination with **IPFC which was set up under Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti**. Since its launch in Nov 2018, around **1500 IP assets** have been created under Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185978>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1623776>

