

1. “Long March-5 carrier” sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- A. United Arab Emirates’s Mars Mission
- B. China's largest and most powerful launch vehicle
- C. Spacecraft shortlisted for Gaganyaan Mission
- D. NASA’s launch vehicle to study Solar Storms

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, China launched its most ambitious Mars mission yet in a bold attempt to join the United States in successfully landing a spacecraft on the red planet.
- The Tianwen-1 satellite was launched on a Long March-5 carrier rocket from Hainan Island. Long March-5 rocket is China's largest and most powerful launch vehicle. **Hence, option b is correct.**
- The Tianwen 1 probe will fulfil **three scientific objectives**: orbiting the red planet for comprehensive observation, landing on Martian soil and sending a rover to roam the landing site.
- It will conduct scientific investigations into the planet’s soil, geological structure, environment, atmosphere and water.
- It marked the second flight to Mars this week, after a United Arab Emirates’s **Hope mission**. And the U.S. is aiming to launch **Perseverance**, its most sophisticated Mars rover ever, from Cape Canaveral, Florida, next week.

<https://www.space.com/china-tianwen-1-mars-mission-launch.html>

2. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
2. The scheme is restricted to small and marginal farmers’ families holding cultivable land upto 2 hectares who will get a total of Rs 6,000/- annually in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000/- each directly into bank accounts.

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

Answer: **A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
- **Aim :** To augment the income of the farmers by providing income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Scheme initially provided income support to all Small and Marginal Farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land upto 2 hectares. Its ambit was later expanded w.e.f. 01.06.2019 to **cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings.**
- Under the Scheme an amount of Rs.6000/- per year is transferred in three 4-monthly installments of Rs.2000/- directly into the bank accounts of the farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status
- **Eligibility :** All landholder farmer's families in the country are eligible for the PM-Kisan Scheme subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria. **Farmers who do not own any land are not eligible for this scheme.**
- **Excluded from the scheme**
  - Institutional land holders,
  - Farmer families holding constitutional posts,
  - Serving or retired officers and employees of state/central government as well as PSUs and government autonomous bodies.
  - Professionals like doctors, engineers and lawyers as well as retired pensioners with a monthly pension of over Rs 10,000 and those who paid income tax in the last assessment year.
- **Identification of beneficiaries :** The responsibility of identifying the eligible beneficiary farmers and uploading their data on PM-KISAN portal lies entirely with the state governments.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/agriculture-ministry-to-share-taxpayers-information-with-i-t-dept-for-pm-kisan-scheme/articleshow/77141873.cms>

### 3. Consider the following statements about the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

1. It is a statutory organisation constituted under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
2. CPCB executes the National Clean Air Programme.

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

Answer: **B**

#### Explanation:

- The Central Pollution Control Board is a **statutory organisation** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It was constituted in 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**

- Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. It also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The mandate of the CPCB is to set environmental standards in India, lay down ambient standards and coordinate the activities of State Pollution Control Boards.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** CPCB executes the National Clean Air Programme.

#### About NCAP

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is a pollution control initiative that was launched by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It aims to reduce particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) pollution by **20-30% in 102 cities by 2024**, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.
- The programme also targets to foster collaborative and participatory approach involving relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other Stakeholders with focus on all sources of pollution.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=CPCB-issues-fresh-guidelines-on-disposal-of-COVID-19-waste&id=395552>

#### 4. With reference to the BRICS grouping, consider the following statements:

1. Asian Development Bank is an initiative of the BRICS member countries.
2. The grouping has put in place a Contingent Reserve Arrangement to support member countries during balance of payments pressures.

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

Answer: **B**

#### Explanation:

- BRICS brings together five major emerging economies- China, Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa. It comprises 43% of the world population, having 30% of the world GDP and a 17% share in world trade.
- The grouping was formalised during the first meeting of **BRIC** (Brazil, Russia, India and China) Foreign Ministers on the margins of the UNGA in New York in September 2006.
- South Africa was added to the grouping in 2011 creating "BRICS".
- BRICS cooperation is aimed at complementing and strengthening existing bilateral and multilateral relations among member countries.
- The **Chairship of the forum is rotated annually** among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.
- Cooperation among members is predicated on three levels or "tracks" of interaction, namely:
  - **Track I:** Formal diplomatic engagement between the national governments

- **Track II:** Engagement through government-affiliated institutions, e.g. state-owned enterprises and business councils
- **Track III:** Civil society and “people-to-people” engagement.

### Significant developments of BRICS:

#### New Development Bank

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The NDB created by the BRICS countries formally came into existence at the Ufa Summit (Russia) in 2015.
- It was established with the objective of financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, complementing the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions toward global growth and development.
- In 2018, the NDB received **observer status** in the UN General Assembly.
- The five member nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – have an **equal shareholding in the NDB.**
- Voting power of each member is equal to the number of its subscribed shares in capital stock.
- All members of the United Nations could be members of the bank, however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than **55% of voting power.**

#### Contingency Reserve

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments in response to actual or potential short-term balance of payments pressures.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=10th-BRICS-Trade-Ministers-Meeting-%3a-Piyush-Goyal-calls-for-all-nations-to-enhance-transparency-in-their-trade-%26-build-trust&id=395548>

### 5. Consider the following statements about the Composition scheme under GST.

1. The scheme is available for both manufacturers and service providers within a threshold limit.
2. Those who opt for composition scheme cannot avail input tax credit under GST.
3. Businesses with inter-State supplies cannot opt for the composition scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D**

#### Explanation:

- The Composition scheme is an easy, low procedure and compliance friendly tax scheme for small and medium enterprises.
- Under the scheme, firms pay a fixed percentage of their turnover as tax. Companies opting to file only four tax returns in a year (a normal taxpayer has to file 37 returns under GST), thereby reducing the tax compliance burden and cost of small firms.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** However, a Composition scheme firm is not allowed to avail input tax credit of GST.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 2019, the Composition scheme was extended for small service providers (turnover up to Rs 50 lakh). Till then, it was applicable only to manufacturers whose taxable business turnover is up to Rs 1.5 crore.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Businesses with inter-State supplies, manufacturers of ice cream, pan masala and tobacco, and e-commerce players cannot opt for the composition scheme.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/gst-network-makes-annual-returns-available-online-for-composition-dealers-120072101693\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/gst-network-makes-annual-returns-available-online-for-composition-dealers-120072101693_1.html)