

**1. "Paris call" sometimes seen in the news in the context of**

- A. Agreement which commits countries to undertake nationally determined contributions to strengthen the global response to climate change.
- B. Global health partnership of public and private sector organizations dedicated to immunisation for children in the world's poorest countries.
- C. Convention which recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.
- D. Agreement on nine fundamental cybersecurity principles and a commitment to work together to promote a safe and secure cyberspace for all.

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace of 12 November 2018 is a call to come together to face the new threats endangering citizens and infrastructure. It is based around **nine common principles** to secure cyberspace, which act as many areas for discussion and action.
- The Paris Call invites all cyberspace actors to work together and encourage States to cooperate with private sector partners, the world of research and civil society. The supporters of the Paris Call commit to working together to adopt responsible behaviour and implement within cyberspace the fundamental principles which apply in the physical world.
- The Paris Call was sent in 2018 by the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, during the Internet Governance Forum held at UNESCO and the Paris Peace Forum.
- Option A is related to the **Paris climate agreement**.
- Option B is related to the **Gavi alliance**.
- Option C is related to the **UNESCO World Heritage Convention**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-quest-for-order-amid-cyber-insecurity/article32225383.ece>

**2. With reference to the Dispute resolution mechanism of the WTO, consider the following statements.**

1. The first step to resolve a trade dispute is engaging in the consultation process.
2. If two trading partners having a dispute could not resolve at the first level, one of them can ask for a settlement of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) for hearing.
3. Appeals from the DSB lie with the Appellate Body which must have at least two sitting members to hear an appeal.

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to the procedure established by the WTO, the first step to resolve a trade dispute is engaging in the **consultation process**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** If two trading partners having a dispute could not resolve at that level, one of them can ask for a settlement of the **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)** for hearing.
- The DSB's ruling can be challenged at the **appellate body**, the highest court for global trade disputes.

**WTO's Appellate Body**

- The Appellate Body is a standing committee of **seven members** that presides over appeals against judgments passed in trade-related disputes brought by WTO members.
- Members of the Appellate Body have four-year terms.
- In the selection process, WTO members follow the **consensus principle**, which means that the nomination of the Appellate Body members can only proceed smoothly with the agreement of all 164 members of the WTO.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Appellate Body **must have at least three sitting members** to hear an appeal.
- Last year, the Appellate Body became dysfunctional because of the United States' refusal to approve the appointment of new members to the body.
- Consequently, the Appellate Body is left with only one member, who will not be able to deliver any rulings on pending trade disputes as a minimum of three members is required to adjudicate any dispute.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/dispute-up-a-notch-wto-sets-up-2-more-dispute-panels-against-indias-import-duties/articleshow/77245563.cms>

**3. With reference to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), consider the following statements :**

1. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) regulates the functioning of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and Information utilities.
2. The latest amendments mandate a deadline for the completion of the resolution process within 270 days, including all litigation and judicial processes.

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: D

**Explanation:**

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) creates time-bound processes for insolvency resolution of companies and individuals. These processes will be completed within 180 days (unless extended by a one time extendable period of 90 days). If insolvency cannot be resolved, the assets of the borrower may be sold to repay creditors (known as liquidation).
- The resolution processes are conducted by licensed insolvency professionals (IPs). These IPs are members of insolvency professional agencies (IPAs).
- **Information utilities** (IUs) are established to collect, collate and disseminate financial information to facilitate insolvency resolution.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **National Company Law Tribunal** (NCLT) adjudicates insolvency resolution for companies and Limited Liability Partnerships. The **Debt Recovery Tribunal** (DRT) adjudicates insolvency resolution for individuals and partnership firms.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** (IBBI) regulates the functioning of IPs, IPAs and IUs.
- IBC was later amended with the provision to **bar promoters from bidding for their own companies**. It prevented defaulters from regaining control of their companies at a cheaper value
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The code was again amended in 2019 which mandates a deadline for the completion of the resolution process **within 330 days, including all litigation and judicial processes**.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/suspending-ibc-for-a-year-bad-idea-restart-bankruptcy-courts-in-2-3-months-viral-acharya/articleshow/77248303.cms>

**4. Consider the following statements about the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN scheme.**

1. It aims at providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports.
2. The scheme offers viability gap funding to companies in addition to waiver of certain statutory charges and taxes on jet fuel.
3. The Airports Authority of India is designated as the Implementing Agency under this Scheme.

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 2017, the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) “UDAN” (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) which aims at **providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports** of the country through revival of

existing air-strips and airports to make **flying affordable** to the common man who want to travel to and fro the Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of the country.

- UDAN has a unique market-based model. Airline routes are allocated to operators selected through a **competitive bidding mechanism**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** UDAN scheme offers **viability gap funding** to companies in addition to waiver of certain statutory charges and taxes on jet fuel in order to offer affordable connectivity.
- Airlines have to set aside **50% of the total aircraft capacity** for cheaper fares to be offered at the rate of **Rs 2,500 per hour of flight**, in return for which airlines are given a subsidy by the Centre and the State government concerned.
- The airport that will be renovated under this scheme will be chosen after referring to the respective State government. Together with the State government the Central government will revive the dysfunctional and unserved airports of the country.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is designated as the Implementing Agency under this Scheme.
- The scheme is now in its **fourth phase** with focus on bringing connectivity to priority areas like North East India, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, hilly states in other parts of the country, and islands.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1642079>

#### 5. Consider the following statements.

1. Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) is located in the state of Rajasthan.
2. CTR has the highest tiger density amongst 50 tiger reserves in India.

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:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** According to the report titled 'Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India', released by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) of **Uttarakhand** has recorded the highest tiger density amongst 50 tiger reserves in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CTR has 14 tigers per 100 square kilometers which is the highest in India.
- The CTR also has the highest tiger numbers with 231 inside the reserve and 266 utilizing the reserve.
- Utilizing means animals do not necessarily share the habitat on a permanent basis but move from one area to another through corridors which connect the forests where tigers reside.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/jul/28/corbett-reserve-has-highest-tiger-density-in-india-report-2175962.html>