

**1. Consider the following statements about the University Grants Commission (UGC).**

1. It is a statutory body set up under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. UGC has developed the SAKSHAM portal that aims towards empowerment of women in college campuses.

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: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The University Grants Commission is a **statutory body** set up by the Indian Union government in accordance with the UGC Act 1956 under **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
- It is charged with coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education.
- It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses funds to such recognised universities and colleges.
- The SAKSHAM portal aims towards empowerment of women in college campuses through creating awareness of the existing opportunities and initiatives, support and redressal mechanism.
- Web resources such as government and United Nations policy documents are made available to women students and employees of Higher Education Institutions through the portal.
- It brings together information on all women-oriented initiatives.
- It also provides a platform for registering complaints related to violence and harassment through a National helpline number.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is developed by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/education/colleges/coronavirus-students-in-limbo-as-ugc-yet-to-decide-on-final-year-exams/article31996448.ece>

**2. Consider the following statements about mutual funds and stock market.**

1. Mutual fund is a collective investment usually managed by a professional fund manager.
2. Mutual funds are riskier than stock market investment.
3. Both are regulated by the SEBI in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mutual funds are a collective investment that pools together the money of a large number of investors to purchase a number of securities like stocks, FDs, bonds, etc. A professional fund manager manages this fund.
- On the other hand, Stock market investing means investing directly in the stocks of the company. Here, you are purchasing the companies listed on the stock exchange with an expectation to earn profits when the price of that stock goes up.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Investing in the mutual fund is comparatively less risky than the stock market because of the diversification of investment profile. However, the returns are also slightly low in mutual funds compared to the stock market.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the principal regulator for Stock Exchanges and mutual funds in India.

<https://www.livemint.com/mutual-fund/mf-news/mf-investments-in-stocks-soar-in-january-june-11593997654620.html>

**3. Consider the following statements.**

1. The National List of Essential Medicines of India is prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers fixes the ceiling price of essential medicines in India.
3. Currently, India follows a cost-based pricing mechanism for price capping of drugs.

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:**

**How are prices of drugs regulated in India?**

- The Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 2013 controls the prices of all essential medicines by fixing ceiling prices, limiting the highest prices companies can charge.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is drawn up to include essential medicines that satisfy the priority health needs of the population. It is prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This list forms the basis of price controls under the DPCO.

**What is the mechanism for price capping?**

- The NLEM 2015 contains 376 medicines on the basis of which the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed prices of over 800 formulations using the provisions of the DPCO. However, these formulations cover less than 10% of the total pharmaceutical market.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The DPCO follows a **market-based pricing mechanism**. Under this, the ceiling price is worked out on the basis of the simple average price of all brands having at least 1% market share of the total market turnover of that medicine.

**Have any other methods been used?**

- Prior to 2013, the DPCO followed a **cost-based pricing mechanism** that was based on the costs involved in manufacturing a medicine along with reasonable profit margins.
- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), is an independent body of experts under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, formed in the year 1997 so as to implement and enforce the provisions of the DPCO for regulating medicine prices in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The functions of NPPA include fixation and revision of prices of scheduled drugs (those medicines included in Schedule I of the DPCO which are subject to price control) and formulations, Monitoring of prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations, Implementation and enforcement of the provisions of DPCO in accordance with the powers delegated, Monitoring the availability of drugs, identify shortages, taking remedial steps, etc.
- The organization is also entrusted with the task of recovering amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs from the consumers.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-government-mandated-price-controls-are-a-tricky-business-even-for-essential-medicines-6491779/>

**4. The main objective of the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is**

- A. To extend a financial assistance of ₹6,000 per year per farmer in the country.
- B. Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level and expand cultivable areas under assured irrigation.
- C. Adoption of organic village by cluster approach and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification.
- D. Implementing Direct Benefit Transfer for procurement of food grains by the Food Corporation of India.

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- Under PKVY, Organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification.
- This is a Government of India and the State government shared scheme with a sharing pattern of 60:40.

**The Scheme envisages:**

- Promotion of commercial organic production through certified organic farming.
- The produce will be pesticide residue free and will contribute to improve the health of consumers.
- It will raise farmer's income and create a potential market for traders.
- It will motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilization for input production.

**Programme implementation**

- Groups of farmers would be motivated to take up organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
- Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50 acre land to take up the organic farming under the scheme. In this way during three years 10,000 clusters will be formed covering 5.0 lakh acre area under organic farming.
- There will be no liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification.
- Every farmer will be provided Rs. 20,000 per acre in three years for seed to harvesting of crops and to transport produce to the market.
- Organic farming will be promoted by using traditional resources and the organic products will be linked with the market.
- It will increase domestic production and certification of organic produce by involving farmers
- Option A is related to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (*PM-KISAN*).
- Option B is related to Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-calls-for-adoption-of-organic-and-natural-farming-in-cluster-based-approach&id=392980>

**5. Consider the following statements about the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).**

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
2. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) programme is an initiative of FAO.

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: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Food and Agriculture Organization is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- Established in 1945, FAO's members include over 194 countries worldwide (including **India**).
- FAO is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
  
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) programme was started by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO) in 2002 for spreading public awareness and to safeguard world agricultural heritage sites.
- The objective is to support the international community to put forward food production practices that make skilful use of natural resources and protect soil health and biodiversity.
- GIAHS designated places in India:
  - **Saffron Heritage of Kashmir**
  - **Koraput Traditional Agriculture, Odisha**
  - **Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System, Kerala**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fao-issues-locust-alert-for-india/article31996016.ece>