

1. Consider the following pairs :

Important ports sometimes mentioned in the news

1. Duqm : Oman
2. Changi : Myanmar
3. Chabahar : Iraq
4. Gwadar : Pakistan

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

1. Duqm : Oman
2. Changi : Singapore
3. Chabahar : Iran
4. Gwadar : Pakistan

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iran-drops-india-from-chabahar-rail-project-cites-funding-delay/article32072428.ece>

2. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is mandatory for the farmers who have borrowed institutional loans from banks.
2. The Maximum Premium payable by the farmers is 2% for all Kharif Food & Oilseeds crops, 1.5% for Rabi Food & Oilseeds crops and 5% for Annual Commercial/Horticultural Crops.
3. The difference between premium and the rate of Insurance charges payable by farmers is shared equally by the Centre and State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**, launched in 2016, provides a comprehensive insurance cover against crop damage or loss arising out of unforeseen events thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers and encouraging them for adoption of innovative practices.
- The scheme is administered by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.
- **Crops covered** : Oilseed crops; all food crops; Annual commercial/horticultural crops
- **Eligibility criteria** : The scheme is **mandatory** for the farmers who have borrowed institutional loans from banks, and it is optional for the farmers who have not availed institutional credit.
- **Premium** : There will be a uniform premium of 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. For annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be 5%. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The difference between premium and the rate of Insurance charges payable by farmers shall be **shared equally by the Centre and State**.
- **Coverage** : It aims at covering the losses suffered by farmers such as pre-sowing losses, post-harvest losses due to cyclonic rains and losses due to unseasonal rainfall in India. It also covers losses due to localized calamities such as inundation, hailstorm and landslide risks.
- **Exclusions** : The losses arising out of war and nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks are not covered under this scheme.

- The scheme is implemented by empanelled general insurance companies. The funds for the scheme come from the **Krishi Kalyan Kosh**.
- Krishi Kalyan Kosh (farmers' welfare fund) is an emergency fund to support farmers when they incur losses due to low rates of produce, crop damage due to natural disasters, and to assist them when there is a delay in payment of minimum support price (MSP) by the Centre.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the revamp of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to enable quick and accurate yield estimation thus leading to faster claims settlement.

Major changes

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The enrolment in the two schemes has been made **voluntary for all farmers**, including those with existing crop loans.
- The **Centre has reduced its share of the premium subsidy** under PMFBY from the current 50% to 25% in irrigated areas and 30% for unirrigated areas from the kharif season of 2020. Districts having 50 per cent or more irrigated area will be considered as irrigated area/district. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Central share in premium subsidy is increased to **90 per cent** for north eastern states from the existing sharing pattern of 50:50 under both the schemes.
- Technology solutions like **Smart Sampling Technique (SST)** to be adopted during assessment exercises.
- The Centre has given states/UTs the option to select any number of additional risk covers/features like prevented sowing, localised calamity, mid-season adversity, and post-harvest losses. Earlier, these risk covers were mandatory.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1638347>

3. Consider the following pairs

Index	Released By
1. Wholesale Price Index	Office of Economic Affairs
2. Index of Industrial Production	Office of Economic Affairs
3. Consumer Price Index- Combined	Central Statistical Organisation
4. Purchasing Managers' Index	Central Statistical Organisation

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

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

Index	Released By
● Wholesale Price Index	Office of Economic Affairs
● Consumer Price Index- Combined	Central Statistical Organisation
● Index of Industrial Production	Central Statistical Organisation
● Purchasing Managers' Index	Japanese firm Nikkei

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20200714/281505048518656>

4. The main objective of the Bharatmala Pariyojana is

- A. Making all national highways free of various railway crossings.
- B. Improving road connectivity particularly on economic corridors, border areas and far flung areas.
- C. To promote, develop and harness the potential of tourism in India.
- D. To provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Bharatmala, under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**, is an umbrella program for the highways sector in India that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight & passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps.
- Bharatmala will look to improve connectivity particularly on economic corridors, border areas and far flung areas with an aim of quicker movement of cargo and boosting exports.
- The Union Cabinet had approved the phase I of the project in October 2017 and it is set to be completed by 2021-22.
- The Bharatmala project was envisaged with the aim to improve logistics efficiency while easing up traffic congestion caused due to vehicles for such purposes, making our economic corridors more effective, improving connectivity to border areas and more.
- Highlights of Bharatmala Pariyojana
 - Improvement in efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point
 - Enhance focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways
 - Emphasis on use of technology & scientific planning for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring
 - Delegation of powers to expedite project delivery - Phase I to complete by 2022
 - Improving connectivity in the North East
- Option A is related to **Setu Bharatam scheme**. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 4th March 2016. It was an initiative to make all national highways free of various railway crossings by 2019.
- It involves the construction of 208 road overbridges (RoBs) and road underbridges (RuBs) across 19 states at a cost of Rs 208 billion.

- Option C is related to **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Tourism which aims to promote, develop and harness the potential of tourism in India.
- Option D is related to **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)**. It is a sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to facilitate transport facilities in the rural areas and also provide job opportunities to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM.
- AGEY aims to provide connectivity to rural areas through vehicles operated by SHG members. State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs) in consultation with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) under DAY – NRLM identify routes where roads have been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) but have poor transport services. SHG members are then provided interest free loans by the CBOs for operating vehicles on the identified routes based on financial viability.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/satellite-town-ring-road-between-tn-karnataka-gets-expert-committee-nod/article32064523.ece>

5. Consider the following statements about NABARD.

1. It involves in both direct and indirect financing.
2. It is a subsidiary of the RBI.

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:

- NABARD was established in 1982 under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.
- It is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development. It is responsible for the development of the small industries, cottage industries, and any other such village or rural projects.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** NABARD is an apex refinancing agency for the institutions providing investment and production credit for promoting the various developmental activities in rural areas.
- NABARD also provides direct term loans at affordable rates of interest to certain activities like Designated Food Parks (DFPs) and food processing units in the DFPs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In 2019, the RBI has sold its entire stake in the National Housing Bank (NHB) and the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (Nabard), by selling its entire stakes to the government, making them **fully government-owned**.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/nabard-to-provide-bank-refinance-of-rs-5000-crore-for-watershed-development-projects/articleshow/76941752.cms>