

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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1. SWAYAM is

- A. A network that aims to tap the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs towards self reliant India.
- B. A Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) initiative on a national platform.
- C. An empowerment scheme for advancing the participation of girls in education.
- D. A scheme that supports differently abled children to pursue technical education

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., **access, equity and quality**.
- It is an integrated platform for offering online courses and covering school (9th to 12th) to Postgraduate Level.
- The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.
- SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/more-than-10-000-enroll-for-pu-s-online-digital-marketing-course/story-GOG00d4FeiipgBmDaJNwNM.html>

2. With reference to Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), consider the following statements.

- 1. Government of India uses ETF to disinvest its holdings in public sector companies.
- 2. Gold-backed ETFs are passive investment instruments that are based on price movements and investments in physical gold.

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:

- An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trade on an exchange. ETFs can contain all types of investments including stocks, commodities, or bonds.
- ETFs are in many ways similar to mutual funds; however, they are listed on exchanges and ETF shares trade throughout the day just like ordinary stock.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Government of India uses ETF to disinvest its holdings in public sector companies. According to the Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM), the total subscription received by the Centre from various ETFs launched so far stands at Rs 1.87 lakh crores.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gold-backed ETFs are passive investment instruments that are based on price movements and investments in physical gold.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/markets/commodities/coronavirus-impact-gold-etfs-now-hold-more-precious-metal-than-any-central-bank/story/413768.html>

3. Of the major ports in India, which of the following has been constituted under the Companies Act, 2013?

- A. Mormugao Port
- B. Mumbai Port
- C. Chennai Port
- D. Ennore Port

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Currently, India has 12 major ports. These are Kandla Port (Gujarat), Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT; Maharashtra), Mumbai Port Trust (Maharashtra), New Mangalore Port (Karnataka), Cochin Port (Kerala), Mormugao Port (Goa), Paradip Port (Odisha), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Port of Kolkata (West Bengal), Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu), Tuticorin Port (Tamil Nadu), Ennore Port (also known as Kamarajar Port; Tamil Nadu).
- While the major ports fall under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Shipping**, the non-major ports come under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective **State maritime boards or governments**.
- Of the major ports, only **Ennore** has been constituted under the **Companies Act, 2013**, while the rest are administered and governed by the provisions of the **Major Port Trusts Act 1963**.

About Ennore port

- Located on the Coromandel Coast about 24 km north of Chennai Port, Chennai, Ennore port is the 12th major port of India, and the **first port in India which is a public company**.

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- The port was declared as a major port under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 in March 1999 and incorporated as Ennore Port Limited under the Companies Act, 1956 in October 1999.
- The Kamarajar Port is the **only corporatized major port** and is **registered as a company**.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1647887>

4. Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural festival celebrated in

- A. Eastern India
- B. North-Eastern India
- C. Western India
- D. Southern India

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- Nuakhai Juhar, one of the most ancient festivals, is the agricultural festival celebrated in **Odisha, Chhattisgarh and areas of neighbouring states** to welcome the new crop of the season.
- It is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1647996>

5. In which one of the following States is Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Jharkhand

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary was created in the year 1984 mainly to protect the Indian giant squirrel. It is located in north-west **Maharashtra**.
- The sanctuary is known for avifauna with species of birds including Indian shag, little cormorant, little egret, Indian pond heron, Asian openbill, black-winged kite, brahminy kite shikra, red wattled lapwing, common sandpiper and spotted dove.

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- In a boost to preserve the wildlife corridors in Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, the Union government has recently declared the sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/bhimashankar-wildlife-sanctuary-declared-as-eco-sensitive-zone/story-wni982LRT0C3Bm6KAzNFsN.html>

