

MCQ 10.08.2020 to 15.08.2020

1. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.

1. At least one PVTG resides in every State and Union Territory of India.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs.
4. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In India, tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.
- Among them some groups are declared as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) based on the following criteria.
 - A pre-agriculture level of technology;
 - A stagnant or declining population; Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - Extremely low literacy; and
 - A subsistence level of economy.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect: 75 tribal groups** have been categorized by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as PVTGs.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect: PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.**

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- **Statement 3 is correct:** Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in **Odisha (13)**, followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.
- PVTGs depend on various livelihoods such as food gathering, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), hunting, livestock rearing, shifting cultivation and artisan works. Most of their livelihoods depend on the forest.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=World-Tribal-Day-being-observed-today&id=396845>

2. With reference to Government e-Marketplace (GeM), consider the following statements.

1. The Government of India holds 51% of the share capital of GeM, while the private sector has the balance 49% of the share capital.
2. It is mandatory for sellers on the GeM portal to clarify the country of origin of goods when registering new products.

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:** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a **100 percent government-owned company** setup under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.
- In 2017, the government made it mandatory for all the departments and ministries to source goods and services from the GeM.
- More than 3,000 startups are already registered on GeM and the marketplace also working to on board self-help groups and artisan clusters on the platform.

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- In 2019, GeM launched 'SWAYATT' [Startups, Women And Youth Advantage Through eTransactions] to bring together key stakeholders, within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to the national procurement portal of Government [GeM].
- **Statement 2 is correct:** On June 23, 2020, the government made it mandatory for sellers on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal to clarify the country of origin of goods when registering new products.
- The GeM portal now allows buyers to reserve a bid for Class I local suppliers, or suppliers of those goods with more than 50 per cent local content. For bids below Rs 200 crore, only Class I and Class II (those with more than 20 per cent local content) are eligible.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Piyush-Goyal-calls-upon-more-buyers-and-sellers-to-join-GeM&id=396878>

3. The main objective of the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is

- A. Scheme to promote village development under which each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in three villages.
- B. Integrated development of selected villages having more than 50% Scheduled Caste (SC) population through implementation of existing schemes in a convergent manner.
- C. To provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages.
- D. To ensure universal household electrification by providing last mile connectivity.

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) aims for integrated development of selected villages having more than 50% Scheduled Caste (SC) population through implementation of existing scheme of Central and State Governments in a convergent manner and by utilization of gap filling funds provided as Central Assistance.
- The scheme was launched in 2009-10 on a pilot basis, for the integrated development of 1000 villages in 5 States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Assam and further extended in 2015 to another 1500 villages in 11 states.

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- The Government of India is planning to cover all the eligible 26968 villages by the end of 2024-25.
- Works and programmes taken up under PMAGY in the identified States include inter alia, construction of village roads, community halls/meeting places, community toilets, drainage works, installation of hand pumps, solar powered street lights, drinking water scheme etc.
- As per scheme, for a village to be declared as Adarsh village a **minimum of three of the targets listed below** have to be achieved by the end of the third year of implementation of PMAGY:-
 - As far as possible, elimination of poverty, but reduction in its incidence by at least 50% within three years.
 - Universal adult literacy
 - 100% enrolment and retention of children at the elementary stage (I-VIII).
 - Reduction of infant mortality rate (per thousand live births) to 30 and maternal mortality rate (per lakh) to 100, by 2012.
 - Village should fulfill the Nirmal Gram Puraskar norms of the Deptt. Of Drinking Water Supply, M/o Rural Development, ie, these villages should be 100 % open defecation free
 - Access to safe drinking water facility to all villagers on a sustainable basis.
 - 100% institutional deliveries for pregnant women
 - Full immunisation of children
 - Achieving all weather road connectivity to the village
 - 100% registration of deaths and births in the village
 - No child marriages, and child labour
 - No public consumption of liquor and other intoxicating substances
 - 100% allotment of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMGAY) houses to all eligible families
- Option A is related to **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)**.
- Option C is related to **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**.
- Option D is related to **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (or Saubhagya)**.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=J%26K%3a-424-PMAGY-works-identified-for-31-villages-of-Udhampur-district&id=396863>

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4. With reference to the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), consider the following statements.

1. It is an outcomes-focused programme to improve health, nutrition, education, and economic outcomes in India's 102 socio-economically challenged districts.
2. NITI Aayog anchors the programme with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been tasked with the monitoring of Aspirational districts programme in 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.

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: **B**

Explanation:

- Launched in January 2018, the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is one of the largest experiments on **outcomes-focused governance** in the world.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Spread across **115 of India's socio-economically challenged districts**, the ADP is Niti Aayog's flagship initiative to improve health, nutrition, education, and economic outcomes.

Core Strategy

- The broad contours of the programme are **Convergence** (of Central & State Schemes), **Collaboration** (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and **Competition** among districts driven by a spirit of mass Movement.
- With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.

Selection of districts 115 districts were identified from 28 states, at least one from each state using a composite index of key data sets that included deprivation enumerated under the Socio-

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Economic Caste Census, key health and education sector performance and state of basic infrastructure.

Institutional framework

- **Statement 2 is correct:** NITI Aayog anchors the programme with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** While NITI Aayog is steering the initiative in 30 districts, various central ministries oversee 50 districts besides the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, which focuses on 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.
- Officers at the level of Joint Secretary / Additional Secretary have been nominated to become the ‘**Central Prabhari Officers**’ of each district.
- States have appointed state-nodal and Prabhari officers.
- An Empowered Committee under the Convenorship of the CEO, NITI Aayog will help in the convergence of various government schemes and streamlining of efforts.

Focus Areas

- To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focuses closely on improving people’s ability to participate fully in the vibrant economy.
- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme’s core areas of focus.

Baseline Ranking

- The objective of the program is to monitor the real-time progress of aspirational districts based on 49 indicators (81 data-points) from the 5 identified thematic areas.
- Districts are aspiring to first catch-up with the best district within their State, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Gadkari-emphasises-upon-improving-MSME-footprint-in-115-aspirational-districts&id=396807>

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5. With reference to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), consider the following statements.

1. It was signed by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.
2. The treaty was brokered by the World Bank, which is also a signatory.
3. Under the treaty, India received the control of Jhelum, Chenab and Indus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

What is the Indus Water Treaty (IWT)?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Signed in the year 1960 by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan, the Indus Water Treaty is an agreement that was made to chalk out the control over the 6 rivers that run across India and then Pakistan into the Indus basin.
- This treaty was signed following the partition of the subcontinent.
- On an international level, the IWT has been seen as one of the most successful cases of conflict resolution. It is so because India and Pakistan, ever since IWT was signed, have engaged in 4 major wars but the treaty has stayed in place.
- The origin of the six rivers that make the Indus basin take place in **Tibet** from where they flow across the Himalayan ranges and end in the Arabian sea south of Karachi. The Treaty was devised as the Indus basin was one of the networks between the two nations and because Pakistan was unsurprisingly threatened with the prospect of being fed by India.

Which rivers belong to India and which ones to Pakistan?

- Before 1960, in order to sort out the water sharing issue, the Inter-Dominion accord was laid down in order to release enough waters to Pakistan from India in return for annual payments. However,

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the problem of this arrangement was soon realised. A new alternative solution was considered necessary.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the **World Bank**, which is also a signatory.
- Precise details were laid out about how the water will be divided.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While **Jhelum, Chenab and Indus** (3 western rivers) were allocated to Pakistan, India received the control of **Ravi, Beas and Sutlej** (3 eastern rivers).
- The treaty also stated that aside from certain specific cases, no storage and irrigation systems can be built by India on the western rivers.
- India's share of water from Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers came to 33 million acres feet (MAF). While about 95 per cent of the water was being used in the country after the construction of three main dams across the rivers, close to 5 per cent water or 1.6 MAF would flow to Pakistan.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-pak-spar-over-indus-water-talks-amid-pandemic/article32310182.ece>

6. Invisibles in the Balance of Payments (BOP) includes

1. Net services earnings
2. Income from Investment
3. Unilateral Transfers
4. Merchandise exports

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: C

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Explanation:

- Under the current account of the BoP, transactions are classified into merchandise (exports and imports) and invisibles. Invisible transactions are further classified into three categories, namely:
- ‘Services’ such as travel, transportation, insurance, etc.
- ‘Income from Investment’ comprises payment of interest on non-resident deposits, payment of interest on loans from non-residents, payment of dividend/profit to non-resident shareholders, etc.
- ‘Unilateral Transfers’ represent one-sided transactions, i.e., transactions that do not have any quid pro quo, such as grants, gifts, and migrants’ transfers by way of remittances for family maintenance, repatriation of savings, etc.
- Official transfer receipts record grants, donations and other assistance received by the Government from bilateral and multilateral institutions. Similar transfers by the Indian Government to other countries are recorded under official transfer payments.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/balance-of-payments-will-be-strong-this-year-says-goyal/article32320275.ece>

7. The Duncan Passage separates

- A. Little Andaman and South Andaman
- B. Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands
- C. Islands of Java and Sumatra
- D. Java and Bali

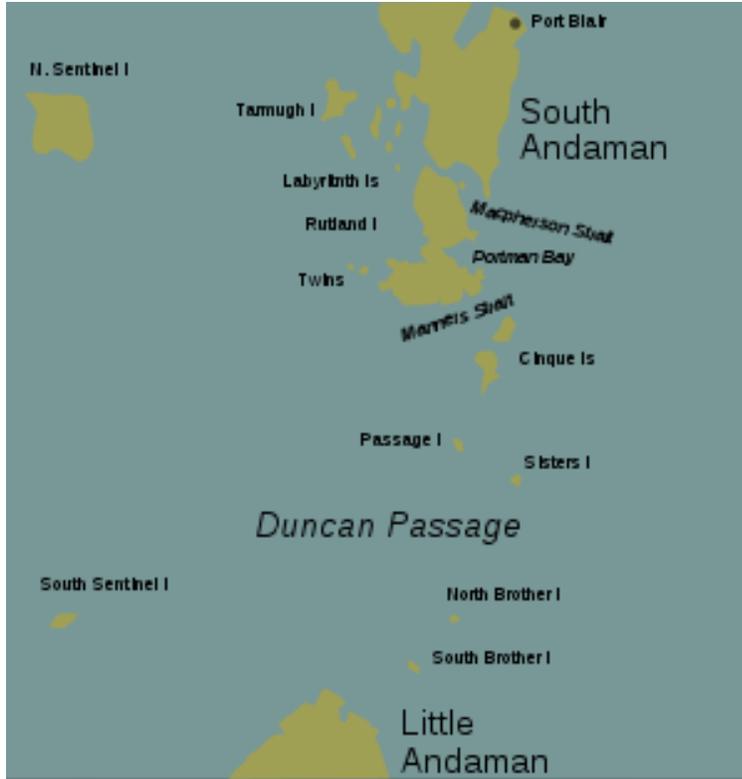
Answer: A

Explanation:

Duncan Passage separates Little Andaman from South Andaman

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<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-launches-submarine-optical-fibre-cable-to-andaman-nicobar-islands/article32314430.ece>

8. Banking Correspondents engage in which of the following activities?

1. Creating awareness about savings and other products
2. Promoting, nurturing and monitoring of Self-Help Groups/ Joint Liability Groups/Credit Groups
3. Receipt and delivery of small value remittances
4. Recovery of principal / collection of interest
5. Sale of micro insurance/ mutual fund products/ pension products/ other third-party products

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

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Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Banking Correspondents (BCs) are individuals/entities engaged by a bank in India (commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Local Area Banks (LABs)) for **providing banking services in unbanked / under-banked geographical territories.**
- A banking correspondent works as an agent of the bank and substitutes for the brick and mortar branch of the bank.
- BCs engage in
 - identification of borrowers;
 - collection and preliminary processing of loan applications including verification of primary information/data;
 - **creating awareness about savings and other products and education and advice on managing money and debt counselling;**
 - processing and submission of applications to banks;
 - **promoting, nurturing and monitoring of Self-Help Groups/ Joint Liability Groups/Credit Groups/others;**
 - post-sanction monitoring;
 - follow-up for recovery,
 - disbursement of small value credit,
 - **recovery of principal / collection of interest**
 - collection of small value deposits
 - **sale of micro insurance/ mutual fund products/ pension products/ other third-party products and**
 - **receipt and delivery of small value remittances/ other payment instruments.**
- The banks in India may engage the following individuals/entities as BCs.
 - Individuals like retired bank employees, retired teachers, retired government employees and ex-servicemen, individual owners of kirana (small shops) / medical /Fair Price shops, individual Public Call Office (PCO) operators, agents of Small Savings schemes of Government of India/Insurance Companies, individuals who own petrol pumps, authorized functionaries of well-

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run Self Help Groups (SHGs) which are linked to banks, any other individual including those operating Common Service Centres (CSCs);

- NGOs/ Microfinance Institutions set up under Societies/ Trust Acts or as Section 25 Companies ;
- Cooperative Societies registered under Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Acts/ Cooperative Societies Acts of States/Multi State Cooperative Societies Act;
- Post Offices;
- Companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 2013 with large and widespread retail outlets
- Non-banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) were not allowed to be appointed as Business Correspondents (BCs) by banks. However, since 2014 banks have been permitted to engage non-deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) as BCs, subject to certain conditions.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/when-the-postman-acts-as-a-human-atm/article32315734.ece>

9. Consider the following statements about Nutrient Based Subsidy scheme (NBS).

1. Under the scheme, a fixed amount of subsidy is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers depending upon its nutrient content.
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare.

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:

- In a country like India, where around **65 per cent of the population depends on agriculture** for their livelihood, the **Government has a major role in ensuring** the availability of agri-inputs

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including **fertilisers at affordable prices**. At the same time, **balanced fertilisation** is necessary to enhance farm productivity

- Government is making available Urea and 21 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/importers. The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by the NBS Scheme.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) programme for fertilizer was initiated in the year 2010. Under the scheme, a **fixed amount of subsidy decided on an annual basis** is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers based on its nutrient content.

Aims of the Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme

- The scheme aims at ensuring that sufficient quantity of P&K is at the farmer's disposal at statutory controlled prices, so that the agricultural growth can be sustained and **balanced nutrient application to the soil can be ensured**
- It aims at improving the agricultural productivity, promoting the **growth of the indigenous fertilizers industry** and also reducing the burden of Subsidy
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The scheme is being implemented by the **Department of Fertilizers** under the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** (not under the Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/pm-wants-farmers-to-slash-use-of-urea/articleshow/77451010.cms>

10. Consider the following statements about the UMANG mobile app.

1. It was launched in 2017 to drive Mobile Governance in India.
2. It was developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

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D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app, powered by a robust back-end platform providing access to high impact services of various organizations (Central and State).
- **Statements 1 & 2 are correct:** It was developed by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** to **drive Mobile Governance in India**.
- Launched in 2017, at present, about 660 services from 127 departments & 25 states and about 180 utility bill payment services are live and more are in pipeline. UMANG user base has crossed 2.1 Crore including Android, iOS, Web and KaiOS.
- Services offered include Provident Fund (PF) services, Aadhaar-related services, online tax payments, and pension-related services.
- Citizens can also access their Digilocker from UMANG and give their feedback after availing any service through Rapid Assessment System (RAS) which has been integrated with UMANG.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644807>

11. The Budapest Convention is related to

- A. International treaty seeking to address Cybercrime.
- B. Multilateral treaty to provide an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one-member country to another.
- C. International treaty to ensure that countries put in place various institutional mechanisms to prevent the use of torture.
- D. International treaty which aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Convention on Cybercrime of the **Council of Europe**, known as the Budapest Convention, is the only binding international instrument on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, dealing particularly with infringements of copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security. It also contains a series of powers and procedures such as the search of computer networks and interception.
- It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between State Parties to this treaty.
- It was open for signature in 2001 and came into force in 2004.
- The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a **Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems**.
- Option B is related to the **Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction**.
- Option C is related to the **United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT)**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/from-locker-rooms-to-classrooms/article32329122.ece>

12. Consider the following statements about the National Food Security Act, 2013.

1. The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidised grains.
2. According to the Act, pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000.
3. It comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

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Explanation:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 was notified on 10th September, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in **human life cycle approach**, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- NFSA covers upto **75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population** under **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households**. While AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, priority households are entitled to 5 kg per person per month.
- Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, State-wise coverage under NFSA was determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs. It is the **responsibility of the State Governments/UTs, to evolve criteria for identification of priority households and their actual identification**.
- The Act also contains provisions for setting up of **grievance redressal mechanism** at the District and State levels
- The eldest women of the household of age 18 years or above will be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing ration cards
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It comes under the ambit of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- Eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a nutritious "take home ration" of 600 Calories and a maternity benefit of at least Rs 6,000.
- Children 6 months to 14 years of age are to receive free hot meals or "take home rations".
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ramvilas-paswan-asks-states-to-do-doorstep-ration-delivery-in-flood-hit-areas/article32326564.ece>

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13. With reference to the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), consider the following statements.

1. Mutual funds is an example of AIF.
2. In India, they are primarily regulated by 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: **D**

Explanation:

- Alternative Investment Fund or AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect: AIF does not include funds covered under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 or any other regulations of the Board to regulate fund management activities. Thus, mutual funds will not come under the category of AIF.**
- **Categories of AIF:**
 - Category I AIF:
 - Venture capital funds (Including Angel Funds)
 - SME Funds
 - Social Venture Funds
 - Infrastructure funds
 - Category II AIF (real estate funds, private equity funds, funds for distressed assets, etc)
 - Category III AIF (hedge funds, private investment in public equity (PIPE) Funds, etc.)
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In India, AIFs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cbd-t-notifies-new-rules-for-foreign-investors-of-aifs-operating-in-ifsc/articleshow/77482315.cms>

14. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), consider the following statements.

1. It aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.
2. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation is the implementation agency for PMBJP.
3. Reputed NGOs, Private hospitals and individual entrepreneurs are eligible to apply for new Jan Aushadhi stores.

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: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.
- PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP.

Who can open a Jan Aushadhi store?

- **Statement 3 is correct:** State Governments or any organization / reputed NGOs / Trusts / Private hospitals / Charitable institutions / Doctors / Unemployed pharmacists/ individual entrepreneurs are eligible to apply for new Jan Aushadhi stores.
- The applicants shall have to employ one B Pharma / D Pharma degree holder as Pharmacist in their proposed store.

About BPPI

- The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India comprising all the Pharma CPSUs under the Department of Pharmaceuticals was established in 2008.
- It aims to bring about effective collaboration and cooperation in furthering the working and resources of these organizations.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645085>

15. The Defence Procurement Policy 2016 accorded top most priority for procurement of capital equipment to which among the following categories?

- A. Buy (Indian)
- B. Buy and Make (Indian)
- C. Buy Indian-IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)
- D. Buy & Make (Global)

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP-2016) replaced the DPP-2013.
- DPP, 2016 focuses to boost the Make-in-India initiative by promoting indigenous design, development, and manufacturing of defense equipment, platforms, and systems.
- The government has introduced a newly incorporated procurement class called “**Buy Indian (IDDM)**”, where IDDM stands for Indigenous Designed Developed and Manufactured. **This would have the first preference in all acquisitions once the DPP comes into effect.**
- Besides this, preference has been accorded to ‘Buy (Indian)’ and ‘Buy and Make (Indian)’ categories of capital acquisition over ‘Buy (Global)’ & ‘Buy & Make (Global)’ categories.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645092>

16. In which one of the following States is Sariska tiger reserve located?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat

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D. Rajasthan

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Sariska tiger reserve is located in Rajasthan.
- The reserve area has varied topography that includes grasslands, dry deciduous forests, cliffs and rocky landscape. The **Aravalli mountain ranges** surround the reserve.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/how-the-tiger-can-regain-its-stripes/article32339842.ece>

17. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for providing affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors.
2. Under the Scheme, vendors can avail an initial working capital loan of up to Rs. 1,00,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments.

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:** The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** for **providing affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors** to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under the Scheme, vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to **Rs. 10,000**, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of **one year**. The loans would be **without collateral**.

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- On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an **interest subsidy @ 7% per annum** will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis.
- There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan. The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
- The scheme targets to benefit over **50 lakh street vendors**. The duration of the scheme is till March 2022.
- **SIDBI** will implement the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645282>

18. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) acts as a financial mechanism for which of the following conventions?

1. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
2. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
3. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. The Minamata Convention on Mercury
5. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the **1992 Rio Earth Summit** to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.
- The GEF is a unique partnership of 18 agencies — including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs — working with 183 countries to address the world's most challenging environmental issues.
- It is a **financial mechanism** for five major international environmental conventions:

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- the Minamata Convention on Mercury,
- the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),
- the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD),
- the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and
- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- GEF provides grants to developing countries for projects that benefit the global environment and promote sustainable livelihoods in local communities. GEF projects address six designated focal areas: Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, Ozone Depletion, Land Degradation and Persistent Organic Pollutants.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/how-the-tiger-can-regain-its-stripes/article32339842.ece>

19. Consider the following statements about Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER).

1. It is the weighted average of bilateral nominal exchange rates of the home currency in terms of foreign currencies.
 2. It is often taken as a measure of a country's international competitiveness
- 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:

- Effective exchange rates are summary indicators of movements in the exchange rates of home currency against a basket of currencies of trade partner countries and are considered to be an indicator of international competitiveness. It is divided into 2 categories. NEER & REER.
- Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) is the weighted average of bilateral nominal exchange rates of the home currency in terms of foreign currencies.

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- Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) is defined as a weighted average of India's bilateral **real exchange rates** of the home currency in terms of foreign currencies. The real exchange rate calculates the purchasing power of a currency by adjusting the nominal exchange rate for inflation effects. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** REER is often taken as a measure of a country's international competitiveness.
- REER has two components: (i) real exchange rates and (ii) weights assigned to each currency (which depends on the importance of the countries in the currency basket as India's trading partners).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1062940820301595>

20. 'Mount Sinabung' recently seen in the news is located in?

- A. Japan
- B. New Zealand
- C. Papua New Guinea
- D. Indonesia

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Mount Sinabung volcano is located in Indonesia.
- The volcano erupted recently, sending a column of ash and smoke more than 16,000 feet into the air.
- The volcano became active in 2010, erupting after nearly 400 years of inactivity.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-volcanic-eruption-in-indonesias-mount-sinabung-6550530/>

21. Which of the following are the features of 5G technology?

1. Faster speeds
2. Higher bandwidth
3. Higher latency

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

The three major differences between 4G and 5G are **faster speeds, higher bandwidth and lower "latency,"** or lag time in communications between devices and servers.

5G is expected to be nearly 100 times faster than 4G. Those speeds are possible because most 5G networks are built on **super-high-frequency airwaves**, also known as **high-band spectrum**. The higher frequencies can transmit much more data, much faster than on 4G.

A small but significant **difference exists between speed and latency**, which is the time it takes for devices to communicate with each other or with the server that's sending them information.

Speed is the amount of time it takes for your phone to download the contents of a webpage. Latency is the time between when you send a text to a friend's phone and when their phone registers that it has received a new message. Although latency is measured in milliseconds, all those milliseconds add up when sending and receiving huge packets of information for something as complex as video — or self-driving car data.

Latency is already low with 4G, but 5G will make it virtually zero.

It will be essential for technologies, such as self-driving cars, which will need to send signals about their environment over the internet to a computer in the cloud, have the computer analyze the situation and return signals to the car telling it how to respond.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/boost-to-cybersecurity-ties-says-tara-cavanagh/article32347379.ece>

22. 'Oslo Accords' sometimes seen in the news is related to

- A. Tariff concessions for least developed countries
- B. Peace process in the Middle East region

C. Freedom of navigation in the South China Sea

D. Comprehensive rules, procedures, and guidelines for reducing Global warming

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

Israel-Palestine conflict

- Jerusalem lies in the heart of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The tussle is over who gets to control the ancient city that is sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians
- After the end of the **First Arab-Israel War in 1948**, Jerusalem was partitioned into West and East, under Israeli and Palestinian control respectively
- But in 1967, during the **Six-Day Arab-Israel War**, Israel occupied East Jerusalem from Jordanian forces, and Israel's Parliament declared the territory had been annexed to Israel
- This marginalised the Palestinians, who wanted East Jerusalem to be their capital under the **“two-state solution”**

What is it?

- Its basis is two separate states, Israel and Palestine, living peacefully side by side on the land between the western bank of the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea.
- This territory would be divided broadly along the **pre-1967 armistice line or “green line”**
- **Jerusalem**, which both sides want as their capital, would be shared.

Past negotiations have failed to make progress and there are currently no fresh talks in prospect

Oslo Accords & India's position

- Despite Israel's hold over the Jerusalem, in 2016, the UN reaffirmed that Jerusalem's Palestinian territories were under “hostile occupation”.
- Undeterred by the refusal of the international community to endorse the annexation, Israel further expanded settlements in the territories of East Jerusalem.
- Under the **Oslo Accords** of the 1990s, both Israel and the Palestinians agreed that the status of settlements would be decided by negotiations. But the negotiations process has been stalled for several years now.
- India has **traditionally backed a two-state solution** to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uae-israel-reach-agreement-to-establish-diplomatic-ties/article32347451.ece>

23. Consider the following categories.

1. Primary Articles
2. Fuel and Power
3. Manufactured products

Arrange them in decreasing order of their weightage in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)?

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

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures and tracks the changes in the price of goods in the stages before the retail level. It provides estimates of inflation at the wholesale transaction level for the economy as a whole. WPI does not cover services.

WPI is divided into three major groups: **PRIMARY ARTICLES (Weight 22.62%), FUEL & POWER (Weight 13.15%) and MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS (Weight 64.23%).**

It is released by the Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The base year is 2011-2012.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645696>

24. Consider the following statements about Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).

1. These schools are being set up by the Ministry of Education.
2. At least 75% seats are reserved for rural children.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has been setting up Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) since 1998-99 for imparting quality education to tribal children in their own environment.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The objective of EMRSs is to provide quality middle and high level education to **Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas**.
- As per the budget 2018-19, **every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons**, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645464>

25. Which of the following became the first State in the world to become fully organic?

- A. Shikoku
- B. Kerala
- C. Sikkim
- D. Hanoi

Answer: **C**

Explanation:

Sikkim became the first state in the World to officially announce adoption of organic farming in the year 2003 to ensure long term sustenance of soil fertility, protection of environment and ecology, healthy living and decreasing the risk of health ailments.

Other States including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645497>

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26. With reference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), consider the following statements.

1. It is an international treaty which aims to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.
2. Full compliance with the obligations of the NPT is a membership criteria to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
3. India is yet to sign the NPT.

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:** The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament.
- It entered into force in 1970.
- Its 190 states-parties are classified into two categories: **nuclear-weapon states (NWS)**—consisting of the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—and **non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS)**.
- Under the treaty, the five NWS commit to pursue general and complete disarmament, while the NNWS agree to forgo developing or acquiring nuclear weapons.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Only four countries (South Sudan, **India**, Israel, and Pakistan) have not signed the treaty, and one country (North Korea) has signed and then withdrawn from the treaty.

Why didn't India join?

- The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967.
- Thus, the spirit of the NPT creates a divide between countries that did develop nuclear power before 1967 and those that didn't develop nuclear power before 1967.

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- Being a signatory to NPT means that the party state will cease all development of nuclear weapons and will open doors for inspection of its nuclear facilities by the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.
- The NPT, in India's opinion, doesn't explain the need for this distinction and loss of national sovereignty.

Nuclear Suppliers Group

- Established in 1975, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) comprises 48 states that have voluntarily agreed to coordinate their export controls to non-nuclear-weapon states.
- The NSG governs the transfers of civilian nuclear material and nuclear-related equipment and technology.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Full compliance with the obligations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a **membership criteria** to join NSG.

China's blockade

- India has been trying, since 2008, to join the NSG, which would give India access to more sophisticated nuclear technology.
- However, China has repeatedly blocked India's entry into NSG as India is not a signatory to the NPT.
- It should be noted that members are admitted to NSG only by **consensus**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/gaps-in-the-casting-of-indias-foreign-policy/article32359123.ece>

27. Which of the following are components of RBI's reserves?

1. Contingency Fund
2. Currency and Gold Revaluation Account
3. Asset Development Fund
4. Investment Revaluation Account

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

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

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

RBI's reserves fall under four main heads: **the Contingency Fund (CF), the Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA), the Asset Development Fund (ADF) and the Investment Revaluation Account (IRA).**

CF is the corpus created to take care of unexpected and unforeseen contingencies, including depreciation in the value of securities held, systemic risks and risks arising out of monetary and exchange rate policy operations. The ADF corpus is meant to be drawn upon for investments in subsidiaries and to meet internal capital expenditure etc.

Of these, the CGRA and the IRA are 'notional' in the sense that they are there to reflect the movements in the market prices of the asset classes (mainly gold, foreign currency and investments) to which they relate. No cash flow is involved in their case and the net credit balance in the CGRA account only indicates the unrealised or potential gain from the disposal by sale of those assets today.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/rbi-board-approves-transfer-of-57128-crore-as-surplus-to-govt/article32356075.ece>

28. Which among the following are examples of Non-tariff barriers?

- 1. Quotas
- 2. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary requirements
- 3. Rules of Origin
- 4. Anti Dumping duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

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Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) is a way to restrict trade using trade barriers **in a form other than a tariff**. It refers to restrictions that result from prohibitions, conditions, or specific market requirements that make importation or exportation of products difficult and/or costly.
- Quotas, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary requirements and Rules of Origin are part of Non-Tariff Barriers.
- A **“quota”** is a government-imposed trade restriction that limits the number or monetary value of goods that a country can import or export during a particular period. Countries use quotas in international trade to help regulate the volume of trade between them and other countries.
- **“Sanitary and phytosanitary measures”** are restrictions placed on imports to protect humans, animals, and plants from diseases, pests, or contaminants.
- **“Rules of origin”** are the criteria used to define where a product was made. They are an essential part of trade rules because a number of policies discriminate between exporting countries.
- On the other hand, a tariff barrier is a **price based policy** to restrict trade because it changes the price of import paid by the importer. Eg: Customs duty, **Anti-dumping duty**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-to-take-equal-proportional-measures-if-other-countries-impose-trade-barriers-goyal/article32358864.ece>

29. **With reference to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), consider the following statements.**

1. It is a statutory organisation of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats and strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.
3. "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" is an initiative of the CERT-In.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** CERT-In is a **statutory organisation** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** established in 2004.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats and strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" is a Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre (BCMAC), operated by CERT-In as part of the Government of India's Digital India initiative.
- Its goal is to create a secure cyberspace by detecting botnet infections in India and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users so as to prevent further infections.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/democracy-needs-an-internet-ombudsman/article32359134.ece>

30. "SRIJAN" portal has been launched with the main objective of

- A. Improving coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants.
- B. Facilitating trading across Borders.
- C. Creating awareness of the value of Snow Leopard for the ecosystem.
- D. To promote indigenisation of defence items' production.

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently launched the "SRIJAN"- an online portal that provides information about defence equipment and items that can be taken up for indigenisation by private sector companies.

It aims to promote indigenisation of defence items' production.

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=397312>