

1. With reference to the Coral Reefs, consider the following statements:

1. Only hard corals build reefs.
2. Coral reefs occur in shallow tropical areas where the sea water is clean, clear and warm.

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

- Coral is a living animal.
- Coral has a symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae microscopic algae which live on corals.
- zooxanthellae assist the coral in nutrient production through its photosynthetic activities . These activities provide the corals with fixed carbon compounds for energy, enhance classification, and mediate elemental nutrient flux.
- There are two types of corals: hard corals and soft corals, such as sea fens and gorgonians.
- Only hard corals build reefs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The tissues of corals themselves are actually not the beautiful colors of the coral reefs, but are instead clear (white). The corals receive their coloration from the zooxanthellae living within their tissues.
- Corals occur in shallow tropical areas where the sea water is clean, clear and warm. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The reef building corals are a symbolic association of polyps (coral animals) and zooxanthellae (the microscopic algae).

Why in the news?

A new shrimp species were found in the coral reef in the Lakshad-weep islands.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to the appointment of judges to the High Court

1. The judges to the High Court are recommended by the collegium consisting of the Chief Justice of India and two senior most judges of the Supreme court
2. The appointment of High Court judges is made by the Governor of the respective states.

Which of the above statements 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 collegium consists of CJI and 2 senior most judges for recommendation of judges to High Courts. For recommendation of name for the Supreme court judges, the collegium consists of CJI and 4 senior most judges.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The appointment is made by the President.

Why in the news?

Collegium system followed in India by the judiciary has been criticised that it not only encroaches on the rights of the States but is also against the idea of a federal structure.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Rafale aircraft

1. It is a twin-jet fighter aircraft able to operate only from aircraft carrier.
2. It can carry out all combat aviation missions.

Select the correct answer

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : B

Explanation

- **Rafale** is a twin-jet fighter aircraft able to operate from **both an aircraft carrier and a shore base**.
- It is a **fully versatile aircraft** which can carry out **all combat aviation missions** to achieve air superiority and air defence, close air support, in-depth strikes, reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes and nuclear deterrence.

4. Which of the following states share border with Mizoram?

- a) Assam, Tripura and Manipur
- b) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur
- c) Nagaland, Manipur and Assam
- d) Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland

Answer: A



Why in the news?

- There is a border stand-off continuing in Assam-Mizoram border.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

5. The term 'sponge city' in the news recently refers to which of the following?

- a) A city structured and designed to absorb and capture rainwater and utilize it to reduce floods.
- b) A city that has fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for over five years.
- c) A city where there is a significant and extensive improvement in the physical, social, and economic infrastructure.
- d) None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

- A city structured and designed to absorb and capture rainwater and utilize it to reduce floods is referred to as Sponge city.
- The idea of a sponge city is to make **cities more permeable** so as to hold and use the water which falls upon it.
- Sponge cities absorb the rain water, which is then naturally filtered by the soil and allowed to reach urban aquifers. This allows for the extraction of water from the ground through urban or peri-urban wells. This water can be treated easily and used for city water supply.
- In built form, this implies contiguous open green spaces, interconnected waterways, and channels and ponds across neighbourhoods that can naturally detain and filter water.
- The most promising idea that **mitigates flood risk** and provides a pathway to **water security** appears to be the idea of "**sponge cities**".
- It implies **support for urban ecosystems, bio-diversity** and **newer cultural and recreational opportunities**.
- These can all be delivered effectively through an urban mission along the lines of the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) and Smart Cities Mission**.

6. In which of the following circumstances herd immunity can be best achieved?

- a) preventing an infectious disease from spreading by immunising a certain percentage of the population.
- b) preventing an infectious disease from spreading after enough people have become immune after being infected.
- c) delaying in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services.
- d) Both a and b

Answer: D

Explanation:

What does herd immunity mean?

- Herd immunity refers to preventing an infectious disease from spreading by **immunising a certain percentage of the population.**
- While the concept is most commonly used in the context of vaccination, herd immunity can also be achieved after **enough people have become immune after being infected.**
- Hence both a and b refers to herd immunity.
- The premise is that if a certain percentage of the population is immune, members of that group can no longer infect another person. This breaks the chain of infection through the community (“herd”), and prevents it from reaching those who are the most vulnerable.

When do we know that a population has achieved herd immunity?

- It depends on multiple factors: how effective the vaccine for a given disease is, how long-lasting immunity is from both vaccination and infection, and which populations form critical links in transmission of the disease.
- Mathematically, it is defined on the basis of a number called “herd immunity threshold”, which is the number of immune individuals above which a disease may no longer circulate.
- Polio has a threshold of 80% to 85%, while measles has 95%. With the current data for COVID-19, experts have estimated a threshold of over 60%. That means more than 60% of the population needs to develop immunity to reach the stage of herd immunity.

Option c refers to **Vaccine hesitancy.**

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Enforcement Directorate

1. It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
2. The administrative control of the Directorate is under the Ministry of Home affairs

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

Ans: A

Explanation

- It is a **Multi Disciplinary Organization** mandated with the task of **enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**
- The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an **'Enforcement Unit' was formed, in Department of Economic Affairs**, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947
- The administrative control of the Directorate was transferred from Department of Economic Affairs to **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance** (not Home ministry) in 1960

Functions

- Processing cases of fugitives from India **under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.**
- Sponsor cases of preventive detention under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974(**COFEPOSA**) **in regard to contraventions of FEMA**

The Directorate enforces two laws

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

FEMA, a **Civil Law having quasi judicial powers**, for investigating suspected contraventions of the Exchange Control Laws and Regulations with the **powers to impose penalties** on those adjudged guilty

- **PMLA**, a **Criminal Law** whereby the Officers are **empowered to conduct enquiries to locate, provisionally attach/confiscate assets** derived from acts of Schedules Offences besides arresting and prosecuting the Money Launderers.

8. Consider the following statements about star campaigners

- 1) Both national and state parties enjoy the privileges of utilising star campaigners for their election campaigns.
- 2) A recognised national or state party can have a maximum of 40 star campaigners during a state or national election even for elections held during the pandemic.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Star campaigners can be described as persons who are nominated by parties to campaign in a given set of Constituencies. These persons are, in almost all cases, prominent and popular faces within the Party. However, there are no specific definitions according to law or the Election Commission of India.
- Both national and state parties enjoy the privileges of utilising star campaigners for their election campaigns. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Benefits: The expenditure incurred on campaigning by such campaigners is exempt from being added to the election expenditure of a candidate. However, this only applies when a star campaigner limits herself to a general campaign for the political party she represents.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Recently, the Election Commission has revised norms for star campaigners for polls during the pandemic. As per the revised norms:
 - Maximum number of star campaigners reduced from 40 to 30 for a recognised party.
 - For unrecognised registered parties, the number of star campaigners has been reduced from 20 to 15.
 - Besides, they now require permission from the district election official 48 hours prior to campaigning.

The new norms will apply to the Bihar Assembly elections and the bypolls across the country, as well as future elections during the pandemic.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

9. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Tribes Regions associated

- | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| 1) Jaintia | - | Assam |
| 2) Todas | - | Tamilnadu |
| 3) Munda | - | Odisha |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

Jaintia tribe

- **Meghalaya tribes** can mainly be classified into three groups - **Garos, Khasis and Pnars or Jaintias**. Garos are believed to be the descendants of Tibeto-Burman race who came down all the way from Tibet to the north eastern states while the Khasis and Pnars or **Jaintias are the descendants of Proto Australoid Monkhmer race**

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The most noteworthy feature of tribes of Meghalaya is their **parental lineage**. The tribes at Meghalaya follow **matrilineal lineage** whereby a **property's inheritance is traced through the women**. Though the women section of the tribes at Meghalaya take the responsibility of the household work, men are responsible for the mental and material life of his family. The property gets transferred to the women in the house

Toda Tribe

- The Toda are **tribal pastoral people** who live in the **Nilgiri Hills of Tamilnadu**. Also known as the Todava, Ton and Tutavar, they are **linguistically, culturally and economically distinct**.
- They speak a **Dravidian language** like the other peoples of the Nilgiri Hills and southern India but their language has **no written form** and for the most part is not understood by non-Toda.
- They have traditionally been buffalo and **cattle herders** utilizing **grasslands called sholas**, while those around them have traditionally been farmers or forest people. Toda culture is being **threatened by encroachments** from the outside world,

Munda tribes

- Munda tribe **mainly inhabit the states of Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhatisgarh and Bihar**
- The Munda have **traditionally been farm labourers**, woodcutters and basket weavers. They are **endogamous**, that is, they marry within their community.
- Society is **patriarchal** with older men ruling over the villages. The Munda have **elaborate rituals** to celebrate birth, death, and marriage.

10. Which of the following states is not located in the Horn of Africa?

- a) Sudan
- b) Chad
- c) Eritrea
- d) Djibouti

Answer: B

Explanation:



11. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Food items</i>	<i>Fortified with</i>
1. Rice	- Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid
2. Salt	- Vitamin C and Iron
3. Milk	- Vitamins A and D

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: (c)

In October 2016, FSSAI operationalized the **Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016** for fortifying staples namely

- i. **Wheat Flour and Rice with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid,**
- ii. **Milk and Edible Oil with Vitamins A and D and**
- iii. **Double Fortified Salt with Iodine and Iron** (not Vitamin C).

Hence **only 2 is incorrectly matched**. 1 and 3 (option C) are correctly matched.

Food Fortification in India

- Food Fortification is a scientifically proven, cost-effective, scalable and sustainable global intervention that **addresses the issue of micronutrient deficiencies** .
- Food Fortification Regulations are aimed to reduce the high burden of micronutrient malnutrition in India.
- The **'+F' logo** has been notified to identify fortified foods. Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018 were notified in the Gazette of India on 09.08.2018.

<https://fssai.gov.in/cms/fortified-food.php>

What is Food Fortification?

- Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as **Iron, Iodine, Zinc, Vitamins A & D** to staple foods such as rice, wheat, oil, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- These nutrients may or may not have been originally present in the food before processing or may have been lost during processing.

Why do we Need Fortification of Food?

- Deficiency of micronutrients or micronutrient malnutrition, also known as **hidden hunger**, is a serious health risk.
- Access to safe and nutritious food is a must and sometimes due to lack of consumption of a balanced diet, lack of variety in the diet or unavailability of food, one does not get adequate micronutrients.
- Often, there is considerable loss of nutrients during the processing of food as well.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- One of the strategies to address this problem is fortification of food.
- This method **complements other ways** to improve nutrition such as diversification of diet and supplementation of food.
- India has a **very high burden of micronutrient deficiencies** caused by inadequate consumption of Vitamin A, Iodine, Iron and Folic Acid leading to **Night Blindness, Goitre, Anaemia and various birth defects**.
- According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) 2015-16:**
 - a. 58.4 percent of children (6-59 months) are anaemic
 - b. 53.1 percent women in the reproductive age group are anaemic
 - c. 35.7 percent of children under 5 are underweight
- Fortification is a globally proven intervention to address the much prevalent micronutrient deficiencies in the population.

<https://ffrc.fssai.gov.in/aboutus?about=ff>

Why in the news?

In a bid to combat chronic anaemia and undernutrition, the government is making plans to distribute fortified rice through the **Integrated Child Development Services** and **Mid-Day Meal schemes** across the country from next year, with a special focus on **112 aspirational districts**, according to a statement from the Food Ministry.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-to-extend-fortified-rice-scheme-to-112-districts/article33016045.ece>

12. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

1. Under the scheme, Jan aushadhi medical stores have been set up to provide generic drugs
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and family welfare to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses

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

Ans: A

Explanation

- It is a campaign **launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses
- Jan Aushadhi medical 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.
- It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name **Jan Aushadi Campaign. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementation agency for PMBJP
- The Main objective of the scheme includes making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, **through exclusive outlets "Jan Aushadhi Medical Store"**, so as to **reduce out of pocket expenses** in healthcare.

13. Consider the following statements about FAME India scheme

- 1) It is an incentive scheme for the production of pest resistant genetically modified crop varieties in the country.
- 2) It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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:

Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect :

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020** is a National Mission document providing the vision and the roadmap for the faster adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country. As part of the NEMMP 2020, the **Department of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises** formulated a Scheme viz. **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India)** Scheme in the year 2015 to **promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth** of the same.

The Scheme operates in **two phases**.

Phase I: started in 2015 and was completed on March 31st, 2019.

Phase II: started from April 1st, 2019, will be completed by March 31st, 2022.

- The 1st Phase of FAME India Scheme was implemented through four focus areas namely (i) Demand Creation, (ii) Technology Platform, (iii) Pilot Project and (iv) Charging Infrastructure.
- Market creation through demand incentives was aimed at incentivizing all vehicle segments i.e. 2-Wheelers, 3-Wheelers Auto, Passenger 4-Wheeler vehicles, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.

Salient features of FAME 2 scheme

- The outlay of 10,000 crore has been made for three years till 2022 for FAME 2 scheme.
- The centre has sanctioned investment in **setting up charging stations** for electric vehicles in India
- The government will offer the incentives for electric buses, three-wheelers and four-wheelers to be used for commercial purposes.
- Plug-in hybrid vehicles and those with a sizeable lithium-ion battery and electric motor will also be included in the scheme and fiscal support offered depending on the size of the battery.

14. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

1. It is an international organisation consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean

2. India is a founding member of this organisation

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

Ans: D

Explanation

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

- It is an **intergovernmental organization** that was created in **1982 at Port Louis, Mauritius** and institutionalized in 1984 by the **Victoria Agreement in Seychelles**. The **COI is composed** of five **African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion and Seychelles**.
- **Indian ocean Rim Association (IORA):** It is an international organisation consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean
- Notwithstanding their different characteristics (Reunion as a French overseas region; Mauritius and Seychelles as Middle-Income Countries whereas Comoros and Madagascar are amongst the Least-Developed Countries), the **five islands share geographic proximity, historical and demographic relationships**, natural resources and common development issues
- Recently, **India has been approved as an observer state** for a five-nation grouping in the Western Indian Ocean, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), which includes Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and French Reunion
- The IOC is also **significant for its geographical location**, as the islands sit around a **“key choke-point” in the Indian Ocean** — the Mozambique Channel.

15. Consider the following statements

1. India's Balance of Payments (BOP) is characterised by large trade deficit sustained by large positive invisible inflows
2. India's capital account in the BOP ended with a surplus in the last five financial years

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:** India's widening trade deficit is largely sustained by positive invisible inflows in the form of service earnings, private remittances, etc.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the last 5 financial years, India's capital account has ended with a surplus.

16. Consider the following statements about cess and surcharge.

1. Cess and surcharge are earmarked for a specific purpose
2. The Union government does not have to share cesses and surcharges with the states

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:

- A cess is a tax that is levied by the government to raise funds for a specific purpose. Collections from the Education Cess and Secondary and Higher Education Cess, for instance,

are supposed to be used for funding primary and higher and secondary education respectively.

- Surcharge is an additional charge or tax. For example: A surcharge of 10% on a tax rate of 30% effectively raises the combined tax burden to 33%.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The main difference between surcharge and cess is that surcharge can be spent like any other taxes, the cess should be spent only for a specific purpose for which it is created.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Union government does not have to share cesses and surcharges with the states as they are not part of the divisible pool that needs to be shared with states.

17. Vultures which used to be very common in Indian countryside some years ago are rarely seen nowadays. This is attributed to:

- A) the destruction of their nesting sites by new invasive species
- B) a drug used by cattle owners for treating their diseased cattle
- C) scarcity of food available to them
- D) a widespread, persistent and fatal disease among them

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The major cause of mortality of vultures was found to be the veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug 'Diclofenac', given to cattle in pain and inflammation.
- "Diclofenac was found to be extremely toxic to vultures and causes renal failure.
- The Government of India banned the veterinary use of the drug in 2006 which was gazetted in 2008, but the misuse of multi-dose vials of human formulation of the drug in treating cattle was still causing mortality in vultures

Why in news? Nationwide vulture surveys are being carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) every four years sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Departments of various States since 1990.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

According to the recent vulture survey, there has been a sharp decline in the population of vultures in the country.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/vulture-conservation-plan-targets-drug/article33026880.ece>

18. Which of the following species of vultures are accorded Critically endangered according to IUCN?

- 1) Slender billed vulture
- 2) Long billed vulture
- 3) Red headed vulture

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Of the nine species of vultures found in India
- Oriental white backed vulture, Slender billed vulture, Long billed vulture and Red headed vulture are critically endangered according to IUCN.
- Egyptian vulture- Endangered
- Indian griffon vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Cinereous vulture and Bearded Vulture are all near threatened.

19. 'International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)', often in the news, is

- a) a division of the International Police Association
- b) a non-governmental international organization
- c) an inter-governmental body

d) a specialized agency of the United Nations

Ans: C

Explanation

- The **International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol**, is a 194-member **intergovernmental organisation**
- Headquartered in Lyon, France. Formed in **1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission**, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956. India joined the organisation in 1949, and is one of its oldest members.
- Interpol's declared global policing goals include **countering terrorism, promoting border integrity worldwide**, protection of vulnerable communities, providing a secure cyberspace for people and businesses, curbing illicit markets, supporting environment security, and promoting global integrity
- The **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)** has warned member countries that **cybercriminals were attempting to target major hospitals** and other institutions on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 with **ransomware**. Interpol has also issued a 'Purple Notice'.
- Organisations at the forefront of the global response to the COVID-19 outbreak have also **become targets of ransomware attacks**, which were "designed to lock them out of their critical systems in an attempt to extort payments"
- Cybercriminals are **using ransomware to hold hospitals and medical services digitally hostage**, preventing them from accessing vital files and systems until a ransom is paid.

20. Which of the following are the provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India?

1. If a member of a House belonging to any political party voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

2. If an independent member of a House joins any political party after such election.
3. If a nominated member of a House joins any political party within six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Tenth Schedule contains the following provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection:

Disqualification

Members of Political Parties:

A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House,

- (a) if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
- (b) if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days. From the above provision it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.

Independent Members:

An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

Nominated Members: A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the

date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting this disqualification.

21. Consider the following statements

1. The coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under Indira Gandhi.
2. Now, coal blocks are allocated on a lottery basis
3. Till recently, India imported coal to meet the shortages of domestic supply, but now India is self-sufficient in coal production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- Unscientific mining practices and **poor working conditions of labour** in some of the **private coal mines** became matters of concern for the Government. On account of these reasons, the **Central Government took a decision to nationalise the private coal mines.**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **nationalisation was done in two phases**, the first with the coking coal mines in 1971-72 and then with the non-coking coal mines in 1973. The coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under **Indira Gandhi who served as prime minister of India for three consecutive terms (1966-77)** and a fourth term from 1980 until she was assassinated in 1984.
- **Coal Mines (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1973**, extended the right of the Government of India to take over the management of the coking and non-coking coal mines
- This was followed by the **nationalisation of all these mines** with the enactment of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 which now is the piece of Central legislation determining the eligibility of coal mining in India.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

<https://www.coal.nic.in/content/historybackground>

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Currently, coal is allocated through a **process of Auction by Competitive Bidding** of Coal Mines. So it **not done through lottery basis**
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The country's **coal imports registered an increase** of 4.4 per cent to 161.43 million tonnes (MT) in the April-November (2019). The country produced 730.35 MT of coal in FY'19, while the imports were 235.24 MT. India's coal imports stood at 208.2 MT in 2017-18 and 190.95 MT in 2016-17. India's **coal imports is on increasing trend**, So, India is **not self-sufficient** in coal production

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/indias-coal-imports-rise-4-pc-to-161-mt-in-apr-nov/articleshow/73014825.cms?from=mdr>

22. Consider the following statements about Kartarpur Corridor

- 1) Kartarpur Sahib is located across the Ravi River which is a tributary of Indus.
- 2) The corridor is the first visa-free corridor between India and Pakistan since Independence.
- 3) Gurunanak was born and died in Kartarpur.

Which of the above statements 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

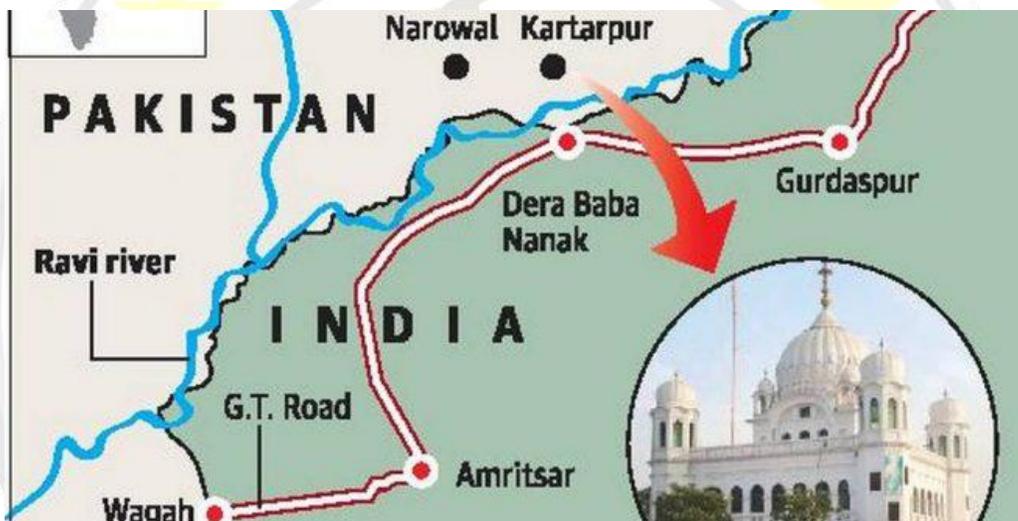
Explanation:

- India had signed an agreement with Pakistan on the modalities for **operationalisation of the Kartarpur corridor** at "Zero Point" of the international boundary at Dera Baba Nanak.
- The Kartarpur Corridor, connecting the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur, Punjab to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan, was inaugurated last year allowing Sikh pilgrims in India year round access to one of their holiest sites.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The Kartarpur Corridor opening marks the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism.
- The corridor facilitates visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims, who will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, which was established in 1522 by Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev.
- **The corridor is the first visa-free corridor between India and Pakistan since Independence. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Kartarpur Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district **across the Ravi River**, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine. Hence **Statement 1 is correct.**



- Gurunanak was Born in Nankana Sahib, Pakistan(not Kartarpur) but died in Kartarpur. Hence **statement 3 is incorrect.**

23. "One number-One colour-One description" is associated with which of the following?

- (a) IUCN red data book
- (b) CITES
- (c) National Air Quality Index
- (d) WHO health indicators associated with pollution

Answer: C

- The **National Air Quality Index** is an initiative under the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- AQI will act as a One Number- One Colour-One Description to judge the Air Quality for Common Man. The earlier measuring index was limited to three indicators, while this index has been made quite comprehensive by the addition of five additional parameters.
- The proposed AQI will consider eight parameters (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃, NH₃, and Pb) for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

24. Which of the following pollutants are monitored under both National air quality monitoring program and National air quality index?

- 1) Particulate Matter 2.5
- 2) Particulate Matter 10
- 3) Sulphur Dioxide
- 4) Carbon monoxide

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1,2 and 4 only
- b) 2,3 and 4 only
- c) 1,2 and 3 only
- d) 1,2,3 and 4

Answer: C

Explanation:

National Air quality monitoring program

Central Pollution Control Board along with State Pollution Control Boards has been operating National Air Monitoring Program (NAMP). The objectives of the N.A.M.P. are

- To determine status and trends of ambient air quality;
- To ascertain whether the prescribed ambient air quality standards are violated,
- To Identify Non-attainment Cities
- To obtain the knowledge and understanding necessary for developing preventive and corrective measures;

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- To understand the natural cleansing process undergoing in the environment through pollution dilution, dispersion, wind based movement, dry deposition, precipitation and chemical transformation of pollutants generated.

The **National Air Monitoring Program (NAMP)** will consider four air-pollutants viz.,
Sulphur dioxide (SO_x) ,
Nitrogen dioxide (NO_x) ,
Suspended Particulate Material (SPM) and
Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM)

The National Air Quality Index

National Air Quality Index (AQI) transforms complex air quality data of eight pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour. In simple terms it is '**One Number-One Colour-One Description**' for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity. The formulation of the index was an initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission

There are **six AQI categories**, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. The AQI will consider **eight pollutants** .

Particulate Matter (size less than 10 µm) or (PM₁₀),
Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5 µm) or (PM_{2.5}),
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂),
Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂),
Carbon Monoxide (CO),
Ozone (O₃),
Ammonia (NH₃), and
Lead (Pb)

AQI CATEGORY, POLLUTANTS AND HEALTH BREAKPOINTS								
AQI Category (Range)	PM ₁₀ (24hr)	PM _{2.5} (24hr)	NO _x (24hr)	O ₃ (8hr)	CO (8hr)	SO ₂ (24hr)	NH ₃ (24hr)	Pb (24hr)
Good (0-50)	0-50	0-30	0-40	0-50	0-1.0	0-40	0-200	0-0.5
Satisfactory (51-100)	51-100	31-60	41-80	51-100	1.1-2.0	41-80	201-400	0.5-1.0
Moderately polluted (101-200)	101-250	61-90	81-180	101-168	2.1-10	81-380	401-800	1.1-2.0
Poor (201-300)	251-350	91-120	181-280	169-208	10-17	381-800	801-1200	2.1-3.0
Very poor (301-400)	351-430	121-250	281-400	209-748	17-34	801-1600	1200-1800	3.1-3.5
Severe (401-500)	430+	250+	400+	748+	34+	1600+	1800+	3.5+

25. Consider the following with respect to National Food Security Act, 2013

- 1) The Act legally entitled only the rural population to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- 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 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

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

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Act provides for coverage of **upto 75% of the rural population** and **upto 50% of the urban population** for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus **covering about two-thirds of the population**.
- The eligible persons will be **entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains**. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Act also has a **special focus on the nutritional support to women** and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000. **It is however restricted to two children only.**
- **Children upto 14 years** of age will be entitled to **nutritious meals** as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of **non-supply of entitled foodgrains** or meals, **the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance**. 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** (not under the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare)

Why in the news?

According to the ministry of Food & Public Distribution, 4.39 crore bogus ration cards weeded out since 2013 for rightful targeting of beneficiaries under NFSA-

26. Consider the following statements about National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

1. It has been constituted as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Currently, the NPPA fixes price of scheduled drugs only

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), was established in 1997 **as an independent body of experts** as per the decision taken by the Cabinet committee in September 1994 while reviewing Drug Policy as regulator for pricing of drugs.
- It has been constituted as **an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** (not the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare). **Hence statement 1 is Incorrect.**
- The Authority has been entrusted with the task of
 - Fixation/revision of prices of pharmaceutical products (bulk drugs and formulations),
 - Enforcement of provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order
 - Monitoring of the prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs in the country.

What is the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) ?

- The Drugs Prices Control Order, 1995 is an order issued by the Government of India under Sec. 3 of **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to regulate the prices of drugs.
- The Order provides the **list of price controlled drugs, procedures for fixation of prices of drugs, method of implementation of prices fixed by Government, penalties for contravention of provisions etc.**
- Later, the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 2013 was notified.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The DPCO 2013 contains 680 scheduled drug formulations spread across 27 therapeutic groups. However, the prices of other drugs can be regulated, if warranted in public interest.
- The manufacturer of a **non-scheduled drugs** (drugs not under direct price control) is **not required to take price approvals** from NPPA for such drugs.
- However, NPPA is required to monitor the prices of such drugs and take corrective measures where warranted and their includes the **power to fix and regulate such prices**. Thus, NPPA **can fix the price for Non-scheduled drugs also (not only for scheduled drugs)**. Hence **statement 2 is Incorrect**.

Why in the news?

- NPPA Observes National Cancer Awareness day on 07th November.
- Invoking extraordinary powers in public interest NPPA had launched a Pilot on Trade Margin Rationalisation for 42 anti cancer drugs as a step towards making healthcare more affordable for the suffering patients.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670707>

27. Consider the following statements about Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

- 1) It is a credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities in both farm and nonfarm sectors.
- 2) It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship.
- 3) The Scheme is being implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at the national level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a **credit-linked subsidy** programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities **through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector** by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth. (not both farm and non farm sector)
- Any **individual above 18 years of age is eligible.**
- For setting up of projects costing above Rs.10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the business /service sector, the beneficiaries should possess at least VIII standard pass educational qualification. General category beneficiaries can avail of margin money subsidy of 25 % of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas.
- For beneficiaries belonging to special categories such as scheduled caste/scheduled tribe/OBC /minorities/women, ex-serviceman, physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas etc. the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas.
- It was introduced by merging the two schemes that were in operation till 31.03.2008, namely Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)
- PMEGP is a **central sector scheme** administered by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).**
- At the national level, the Scheme is being implemented by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency.
- At the State level, the Scheme will be implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.

Objectives

- To generate continuous and sustainable employment opportunities in Rural and Urban areas of the country

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- To provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans, rural and urban unemployed youth in the country through setting up of micro enterprises.
- To facilitate participation of financial institutions for higher credit flow to the micro sector.

Why in the news?

Ministry of MSME, Government of India, has alerted the general public and potential entrepreneurs against cheating in the name of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670661>

28. Consider the following statements about Indian Meteorological Department

- 1) It has the responsibility of forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region
- 2) It is the principal agency under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

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 2 is correct: India Meteorological Department** was established in 1875. It is the **National Meteorological Service of the country** and the principal government agency in all matters relating to **meteorology, seismology and allied subjects**. IMD is the **principal agency** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**
- **Statement 1 is correct: IMD** is also one of the **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organization**. It has the responsibility for

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

forecasting, naming and distribution of **warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region**, including the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Mandate

- To take meteorological observations and to provide current and **forecast meteorological information** for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.
- To warn against severe **weather phenomena like tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms**, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.
- To provide **meteorological statistics required for agriculture**, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- To conduct and **promote research in meteorology** and allied disciplines.
- To detect and **locate earthquakes and to evaluate seismicity** in different parts of the country for development projects.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an **intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States** and Territories.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), the roots of which were planted at the **1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress**.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, **WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later.
- The Secretariat, **headquartered in Geneva**, is headed by the Secretary-General. Its supreme body is the World Meteorological Congress.

Why in the news?

Salient weather features over the country for the month of Oct, 2020 has been released by IMD in its Report.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Highlights:

- Southwest Monsoon withdrew from the entire country and Northeast Monsoon rains simultaneously commenced over extreme south peninsular India on 28th October 2020
- In October 2020, a total of 3 Depressions formed over NIO with one intensifying into a Cyclone
- During, Oct, 2020, the rainfall over the country is 78.1 mm with 3% above Long Period Average (LPA) over the country as a whole.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670698>

29. Consider the following statements regarding Khelo India Programme

1. The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level.
2. Promotion of Sports among the disabled is one of its objectives.
3. Annual financial assistance of 15 lakh per annum for the first 18 years of the age of players is given.

Which of the above statements is /are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) Only 1
- d) 1, 2 and 3

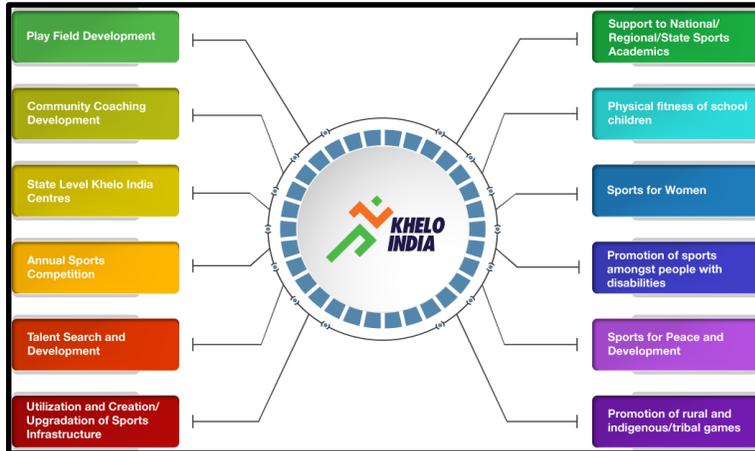
Answer: A

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

Its objectives are :

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS



Statement 3 is incorrect.

Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by the High-Powered Committee will be provided **annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.**

30. Consider the following statements

- 1) Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) acts as the principal military advisor to the defence minister on all tri service matters.
- 2) The National Security Advisor (NSA) advises the Prime Minister of India on matters relating to external & internal security threats to India.

Which of the statements given above is/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.

Chief of Defence Staff is in the rank of a four-star General with salary and perquisites equivalent to a Service Chief. The Chief of Defence Staff will also head the Department of

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Military Affairs (DMA), to be created within the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.

The following areas will be dealt by the Department of Military Affairs headed by CDS:

- The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.
- The Territorial Army.
- Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.

The **duties and functions of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** include the following:

- To head the Department of Military Affairs in the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.
- To act as the **Principal Military Advisor to Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on all Tri-Service matters.**
- To function as the **Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**
- To administer the Tri-Service organizations/agencies/commands.
- To be a member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri.
- To function as the Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- To bring about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, etc of the three Services.

Statement 2 is correct.

The National Security Advisor is the **senior official on the National Security Council of India, and the chief adviser to the Prime Minister of India** on national security policy and international affairs. Ajit Doval is the current NSA, and uniquely has the same stature as a minister in the union cabinet.

Functions

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The NSA is the senior official on the National Security Council (NSC) of India, and the chief **adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national and international security policy.** Presently NSA is the most powerful bureaucrat in the Government of India.
- The National Security Adviser (NSA) is tasked with regularly **advising the Prime Minister of India on all matters relating to internal and external threats and opportunities to India,** and oversees strategic and sensitive issues on behalf of the Prime Minister.
- The NSA of India also serves as the **Prime Minister's Special Interlocutor with China as well as the envoy to Pakistan and Israel on security affairs.**
- The NSA **receives all intelligence reports and co-ordinates them** to present before the Prime Minister. NSA is assisted by the Deputy National Security Advisers.

Why in the news?

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Saïd that India will not accept any "shifting" of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

