

**DAILY MCQ 16.11.2020 TO 21.11.2020**

**1. Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1) Birsa Munda, wanted to reform his tribal society and also eliminate outside forces like the dikus and the Europeans, who tried to control the tribe.
- 2) He was against Christian Missionaries, but supported Hindu landlords and Vaishnavites.
- 3) Many Tribals were incorporated in Plantations and mining of Assam and Jharkhand.

**Select the correct answer-**

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

**Answer- D**

**Explanation**

- Birsa was deeply influenced by many of the ideas he came in touch with in his growing-up years. His **movement was aimed at reforming tribal society.**
- He urged the Mundas to give up drinking liquor, clean their village, and stop believing in witchcraft and sorcery.
- But **Birsa also turned against missionaries and Hindu landlords.** He saw them as outside forces that were ruining the Munda way of life. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- From the late nineteenth century, tea plantations started coming up and mining became an important industry.
- **Tribals were recruited in large numbers to work the tea plantations of Assam and the coal mines of Jharkhand.**
- They were recruited through contractors who paid them miserably low wages, and prevented them from returning home. **Statement 1 and 3 are correct.**

**2. Consider the following regarding Fly Ash:**

1. Fly ash is a very dense powder produced during coal burning.

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2. Fly ash in the air slowly settles on leaves and crops in fields in areas near to thermal power plants and lowers the plant yield.
3. Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

- Fly Ash is produced whenever combustion of solid material takes place.
- Fly ash is one such residue which rises with the gases into the atmosphere.
- Fly ash is a very fine powder and tends to travel far in the air. The ash which does not rise is termed as bottom ash.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- If fly ash is not captured and disposed off properly, it can pollute air and water considerably.
- It causes respiratory problems.
- Fly ash in the air slowly settles on leaves and crops in fields in areas near to thermal power plants and lowers the plant yield.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

- Cement can be replaced by fly ash, thus, reducing the cost of construction, making roads, etc.
- Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability. Fly ash is a better fill material for road embankments and in concrete roads.
- Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands. Abandoned mines can be filled up with fly ash. Fly ash can increase the crop yield and it also enhances the water holding capacity of the land.

3. Consider the following about Forest Rights Act, 2006

1. For the first time the Forest Rights Act recognizes and secures Community Rights in addition to their individual rights.
2. As per the Act, the Gram Sabha has been designated as the competent authority for initiating the process of determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights.

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: C**

**Explanation**

**Forest Rights Act, 2006**

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
- Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides for the restitution of deprived forest rights across India.
- The Act is providing scope of integrating conservation and livelihood rights of the people.

**FRA is tool**

- To empower and strengthen the local self-governance
- To address the livelihood security of the people
- To address the issues of Conservation and management of the Natural Resources and conservation governance of India.
- For the first time Forest Rights Act recognizes and secures
- Community Rights in addition to their individual rights
- Right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which the communities have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.

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- Right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and cultural diversity
- Rights of displaced communities & Rights over developmental activities

#### **Salient Features**

- Nodal Agency for the implementation is Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).
- This Act is applicable for Tribal and Other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities.
- The Act provides for recognition of forest rights of other traditional forest dwellers provided they have for at least three generations prior to 13.12.2005 primarily resided in and have depended on the forests for bonafide livelihood needs.
- The maximum limit of the recognizing rights on forest land is 4 ha.
- National Parks and Sanctuaries have been included along with Reserve Forest, Protected Forests for the recognition of Rights.
- The Act recognizes the right of ownership access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce by tribals.
- Minor forest produce includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.
- The rights conferred under the Act shall be heritable but not alienable or transferable.
- As per the Act, the Gram Sabha has been designated as the competent authority for initiating the process of determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights.

**Hence both the statements are correct.**

#### **4. Consider the following statements about Nutrient Based Subsidy scheme (NBS)**

- 1) 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 depending upon its nutrient content.
- 2) The scheme is being implemented by the Department of Fertilizers, 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 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 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
- Under the NBS Policy, the Government announces a **fixed rate of subsidy** by taking into account all **relevant factors including international prices, exchange rate, inventory level and prevailing Maximum Retail Prices** of P&K fertilizers
- **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)

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5. Arrange the following islands in sequence from South to North

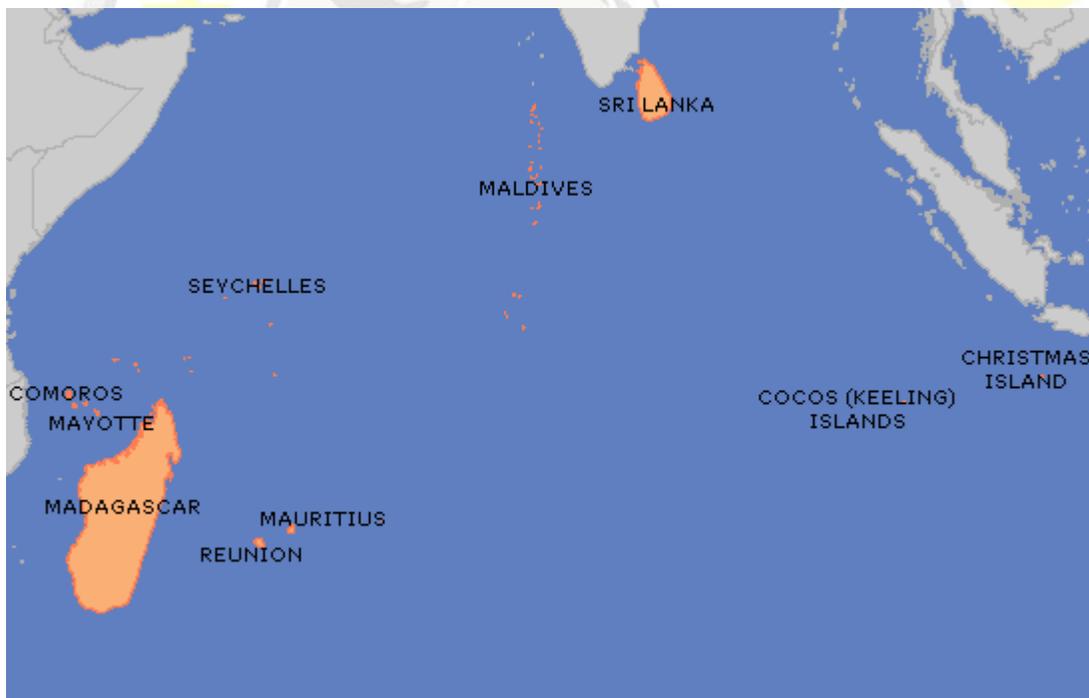
- (1) Maldives
- (2) Reunion
- (3) Seychelles
- (4) Mauritius

Select the answer from the code given below

- (a) 2-4-3-1
- (b) 2-3-1-4
- (c) 4-3-2-1
- (d) 3-2-1-4

Answer : A

**EXPLANATION**



6. SDG Gender Index is released by?

- a) The group of 30 under 30
- b) Equal Measures 2030

- c) WHO  
d) World Bank

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The 2019 edition of SDG Gender Index has been released.
- **Developed by Equal Measures 2030, a joint effort of regional and global organisations including African Women's Development and Communication Network, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation etc.**
- It accounts for 14 out of 17 SDGs (sustainable development goals) that cover aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.
- India is ranked **95th** among **129 countries**.

Note:

**The SDG Gender index is different from the Global gender gap Index which is released by the World Economic Forum.**

7. **Which of the following countries in Africa open out to Red sea?**

1. Eritrea
2. Nigeria
3. Ethiopia
4. Sudan

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

Ans: C

**Explanation**

∅ **Ethiopia is a landlocked country**

Ø Nigeria is located on the western coast of Africa. It does not open out to red sea



8. It is a South American country. It borders Peru to the north and Bolivia to the northeast. The Andes Mountains are located on the eastern border and the Pacific Ocean to the west of this country. The arid Atacama Desert is located in this country. It is the world's southernmost country that is geographically on the mainland. The above description refers to which of the following countries?

- a) Ecuador
- b) Brazil
- c) Argentina
- d) Chile

Ans : D

**Explanation**

- **Chile is a South American country** occupying a long, narrow strip of land between the **Andes mountains to the east** and the Pacific Ocean to the west. It borders **Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast**, Argentina to the east, and the Drake Passage in the far south.
- The **arid Atacama Desert in northern Chile** contains great mineral wealth, principally copper and lithium.
- The relatively small central area dominates in terms of population and agricultural resources, and is the **cultural and political center from which Chile expanded** in the late 19th century when it incorporated its northern and southern regions.

- Southern Chile is rich in forests and grazing lands, and features a string of volcanoes and lakes. It is the **world's southernmost country that is geographically on the mainland.**



9. Which of the following is/are members of ASEAN?

- 1) Myanmar
- 2) Singapore
- 3) Indonesia
- 4) India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

d) All the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.

**Member Nations**

- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia are members of ASEAN.
- India is not a member of ASEAN.

10. **Which of the following is/are the criteria for declaring a wetland as a Ramsar site.**

1. If it regularly supports 40,000 or more water birds.
2. If it regularly supports 3% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of water bird.
3. If it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given.**

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

**Answer:C**

**Explanation:**

**About Ramsar Convention:**

International treaty for “the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands”.It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands.It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran.The Convention was signed on 2nd of February, 1971.The 2nd of February each year is World Wetlands Day.

**What is wetland?**

The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. It includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatland, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

**Criteria for Identification of Wetlands under Ramsar Convention:**

- If it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type.
- if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species; or threatened ecological communities.
- If it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
- If it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
- If it regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds. **Statement 1 is incorrect**
- If it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of water birds. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- If it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies
- If it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path. **Statement 3 is correct.**
- If it is an important source of food and water resource, increased possibilities for recreation and ecotourism, etc.

11. It is a salt water lake. The colour of the lake water recently turned pink due to a large presence of the salt-loving 'Haloarchaea' microbes. The lake has been recently declared as a Ramsar site.

The above description refers to which of the following lakes?

- a) Pulicat lake
- b) Chilika lake
- c) Lonar Lake
- d) None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Lonar lake is a salt water lake, the colour of which recently turned pink due to a large presence of the salt-loving 'Haloarchaea' microbes.

**Why in the news?**

- India has 41 wetlands, the highest in South Asia, with two more added to the list of recognised sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention.
- The **Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar**, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra, have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites.

12. Which of the following statements is *incorrect* regarding the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India?

- a) PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory
- b) A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status
- c) There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far
- d) Irular and Katkari tribes are included in the list of PVTGs

**Answer : C**

**Explanation**

**PVTGs**

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- 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 (PVTGs).
- PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are **mostly homogenous, with a small population** (stagnant or declining population), **relatively physically isolated**, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a **slower rate of change** etc.
- **Option C is incorrect: 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.**

### Population

- PVTGs are scattered in different geographical areas of the country. According to the 2001 census, the **PVTGs population is approximately 27,68,322**.
- The PVTG of **Sahariyas has the highest population** of 4,50,217, while the PVTGs of Sentinelets and Andamanese has a very small population of 39 and 43, respectively

### Social conditions and declining population

- The cultural practices, systems, self governance and livelihood practices of PVTGs have a lot of variations, depending on the group and locality.
- These tribal groups are **widely different culturally**. The level of inequalities in social and economical conditions is very high amongst PVTGs. Their problems are also very different from group to group.
- The **growth of PVTGs' population is either stagnating or declining**, compared to the general population growth, particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where the declining rate is very high.

<https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/scheduled-tribes-welfare/primitive-vulnerable-tribal-groups>

*For the list of PVTG, Kindly refer the link below:*

<https://tribal.nic.in/DivisionsFiles/ListofPVTGs191212.pdf>

**13. Consider the following statements**

- 1) Additional Judges of the high court are appointed by the President under Article 224 of the Constitution.
- 2) No person appointed as an additional Judge of a High Court shall hold office after attaining the age of sixty-two 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:**

**Article 224- Appointment of additional and acting Judges.**

- If by reason of any temporary increase in the business of High Court or by reason of arrears of work therein, it appears to the President that the number of the Judges of that Court should be for the time being increased, the **President may appoint** duly qualified persons to be additional Judges of the Court for such period not exceeding two years as he may specific.
- When any Judge of a High Court other than the Chief Justice is by reason of absence or for any other reason unable to perform the duties of his office or is appointed to act temporarily as Chief Justice, the President may appoint a duly qualified person to act as a Judge of that Court until the permanent Judge has resumed his duties.
- **No person appointed as an additional or acting Judge of a High Court shall hold office after attaining the age of sixty-two years.**

Hence **both the statements are correct.**

**14. Which of the following are tributaries of river Indus?**

1. Shyok
2. Subansiri

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3. Zanskar

4. Barakar

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

a) 2 and 3 only

b) 1, 2 and 3 only

c) 1, 3 and 4 only

d) 1 and 3 only

**Ans: D**

### **Explanation**

- The **Indus River originates near the Mansarovar Lake** in the Tibetan plateau, on the northern slopes of the Kailash Mountain Range
- Starting off in the **Tibetan highland of western China** near Lake Mansarovar in Tibet Autonomous Region, the Indus river flows through the **Ladakh district of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Subsequently, the river gets into Pakistan through the Northern Areas, running across the North in a southward route down the whole span of Pakistan, to join the Arabian Sea close to the port city of Karachi situated in Sindh. The **Indus River is 3,180 kilometers** (1,976 miles) long

**The Indus River has the following tributaries**

- Ø Astor River
- Ø Nagar River
- Ø **Dras River**
- Ø Balram River
- Ø Ghizar River
- Ø Gar River
- Ø Gumal River
- Ø Gilgit River
- Ø Kurram River

- Ø Kabul River
- Ø Shigar River
- Ø **Panjnad River** (Created by the joining of the rivers Chenab, Beas, Jhelum, Ravi, and Sutlej)
- Ø Sohan River
- Ø **Shyok River**
- Ø **Zaskar River**
- Ø Tanubal River
  - v **Barakar is a tributary of Damodar River**
  - v **Subansiri is a tributary of Brahmaputra**

**15. Consider the following statements regarding the e - NAM (National Agriculture Market)**

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
2. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing e-NAM under the aegis of 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

**Ans: C**

**Explanation**

- National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a **pan-India electronic trading portal** which **networks the existing APMC mandis** to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities
- It is an **online trading platform for agriculture produce** aiming to help farmers, traders, and buyers with online trading and getting a better price by smooth marketing

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· It was launched by the Centre in 2015 and the government had to extend it in a phased manner across the 585 mandis of the country by December 31, 2019

· **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

#### Advantages

· For the farmers, **NAM promises more options for sale.** It would increase his access to markets through **warehouse-based sales** and thus obviate the need to transport his produce to the mandi

· For the local trader in the mandi / market, NAM offers the **opportunity to access a larger national market** for secondary trading

v Union Agriculture Minister recently launched new features of **e-NAM platform.** They are important steps in our fight against COVID-19

v They will **strengthen agriculture marketing & reduce the need for cultivators** to physically come to the mandis to sell their produce

The newly launched software modules are namely

· **Warehouse based trading module in e-NAM** software to facilitate trade from warehouses based on e-NWR.

· **FPO trading module in e-NAM** whereby FPOs can trade their produce from their collection center without bringing the produce to APMC

· **Enhanced version of logistic module** has been released whereby aggregators of transport logistic platform have on boarded which helps **users to avail trackable transport facilities** for transporting their produce

**16. Which of the following statements about Harega desh jeetega campaign is/are correct?**

(a) Campaign to eliminate TB by the year 2025 against the global target of 2030

(b) Campaign aimed at reducing child mortality due to pneumonia

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- (c) Campaign aimed at bringing beneficiaries of PMAY (urban) into the fold of other central schemes
- (d) Campaign to encourage the birth and education of girl children

**Answer: A**

#### **Explanation:**

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** has launched a new campaign to end TB called the Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign along with the National TB Prevalence Survey.
- Multi-stakeholder and community participation will form the pivot of the countrywide campaign.
- The three strong pillars of the new program includes:
  - (i) clinical approach,**
  - (ii) public health component**
  - (iii) active community participation.**
- The new TB campaign aims to improve and expand the reach of TB care services across the country, by 2022.
- This includes preventive and promotive approaches, and proposes potentially transformative interventions such as engagement with private sector health care providers, inter-ministerial partnerships, corporate sector engagement, latent TB infection management, and community engagement.
- **This Campaign aims to eliminate TB by the year 2025 against the global target of 2030**
- **Option B refers to SAANS campaign.**
- **Option C refers to the Angikaar campaign.**
- **Option D refers to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.**

#### **Why in the news?**

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare while digitally addressing the 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet, revealed how India's preparation for containing the COVID-19 Pandemic can be repurposed to eradicate TB by 2025.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1673854>

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17. In the context of 'Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)', Consider the following statements.

1. The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission is to achieve a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2019.
2. In the first step ,a gram panchayat declares a village to be ODF.
3. ODF plus status will at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, AND all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.

Select the correct answer using the given codes.

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

**Answer:D**

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct.**

- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is a nation-wide campaign in India run by the Government of India.
- The mission aims to achieve an "open-defecation free" (ODF) India by 2 October 2019, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Statement 2 is correct.**

The process of declaring ODF status is as follows,

- Once every household in the village has resolved to end the practice of open defecation and have constructed the necessary infrastructure for the same, a resolution is passed in the gram sabha to declare the village ODF.
- To keep track of the declaration, verification is carried out for the village by the state governments within 90 days of the declaration. At this stage, verification is done for each household in the village.

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- ODF sustainability verification, which primarily focuses on toilet usage is also conducted after a period of 270 days.
- SBM ODF Plus protocol focuses on sustaining community/ public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness and maintenance.

#### ODF Definition

- "ODF is the termination of faecal-oral transmission, defined by
  - a) no visible faeces found in the environment/village; and
  - b) every household as well as public/community institutions using safe technology option for disposal of faeces
- A city / ward can be notified/declared as ODF city/ ODF ward if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open.

#### ODF +

- A city / ward / work circle<sup>1</sup> can be notified/declared as SBM ODF+ city/ SBM ODF+ ward/SBM ODF+ work circle if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained. Hence **Statement 3 is correct.**

#### ODF ++

- A city / ward / work circle<sup>1</sup> can be notified/ declared as SBM ODF++ city/ SBM ODF++ ward/ SBM ODF++ work circle if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/ or urinating in the open, all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained, And faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated, with no discharging and/or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas.

#### Why in the news?

- Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti is celebrating 'World Toilet Day' on November 19, 2020 under 'Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen (SBMG)' for promoting awareness on access to Safe Sanitation and felicitating districts/states for making significant contribution towards Swachhata.

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<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1673772>

**18. With reference to the MGNREGA scheme in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Ministry of Agriculture is monitoring the entire implementation of the scheme
2. Consumer Price Index-Combined (CPI-C) is used for MGNREGA wage revisions

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 is incorrect:** The **Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)**, is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The wages are revised according to the Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL).
- The Labour Bureau has recently begun work to update the consumer price indices for agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) which determines MGNREGA wage revisions.

**19. Certificate of Origin sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Geographical Indication (GI)
- b) Trade
- c) National Register of Citizens
- d) National Population Register

Ans-B

**Explanation:**

- A certificate of origin (CO) is a document declaring in which country a **commodity or good** was manufactured.

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- The certificate of origin **contains information regarding the product, its destination, and the country of export.**
- India has 15 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)/ Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with various partner countries under which Indian exporters avail reduced import tariffs in the destination country.
- In order to avail this benefit, the exporters must provide a preferential Certificate of Origin..
- Required by many treaty agreements for cross-border trade, the CO is an important form because it can **help determine whether certain goods are eligible for import, or whether goods are subject to duties.**

**Hence Option B is correct.**

#### 20. 'INSTEX', recently in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) A trade mechanism established by some European countries to circumvent US sanctions against trade with Iran.
- b) Currency swap agreement between India and Japan
- c) A mechanism on exchange of goods and services recently adopted by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- d) Policy to encourage Indian textile industry to cater to the domestic and international markets efficiently

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- A trade mechanism '**Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX)**' that was established by France, Germany and the United Kingdom to allow European entities to maintain trade with Iran.
- The mechanism has been designed to circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding the use of the dollar.
- The United States imposed sanctions, after it withdrew from the **Iran nuclear deal**, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018

**Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA):**

JCPOA is also known as the "Iran deal" or "Iran nuclear deal". The deal was made in July 2015. It is an agreement on Iran's nuclear program made between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) and the European Union. JCPOA **limits Iran's uranium enrichment programme** until 2030 and contains monitoring and transparency measures that will remain in place long after that date.

**21. The Miyawaki method recently seen in news is related to,**

- a) Dense plantation of very young seedlings
- b) Growing of plants without soil
- c) Dripping of water directly to the roots
- d) Climate controlled growth of plants

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

**Miyawaki Method**

Miyawaki is a Japanese technique of growing dense plantations in a short time. This method originated in Japan and is now increasingly adopted in other parts of the world. It is named after the Japanese botanist and plant ecologist Akira Miyawaki. This method includes planting trees, only native species, as close as possible in the same area. The approach ensures that plant growth is 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser than usual.

**Miyawaki Process:**

- The native trees of the region are identified and divided into four layers namely shrub, sub-tree, tree, and canopy.
- The quality of soil is analysed water retention capacity, and nutrients in it, is mixed with it.
- A mound is built with the soil and the seeds are planted at a very high density of three to five saplings per square meter.

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- The ground should be covered with a thick layer of mulch. These trees lack some qualities of natural forests, such as medicinal properties and the ability to bring rain.
- Such fast-growing plantations can be used for wood lots, recreational uses like bird watching, bushwalking, and wildflower appreciation.

#### **Statement b refers to Hydroponics Method**

- It is a method of growing plants without soil in which plants get their nutrients from a mineral solution.
- The method is suitable for growing greens and herbs as they don't have deep roots. Tomatoes and strawberries are other popular items.

#### **Statement c refers to Drip Irrigation**

- It is a type of micro-irrigation system that has the potential to save water and nutrients by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either from above the soil surface or buried below the surface.

#### **Statement d refers to GreenHouse and PolyHouse Method**

- **Green houses** are climate controlled with cooling and heating system. It is mainly used to grow exotic vegetables, off-season growing of vegetables, floriculture, planting material acclimatization and plant breeding and varieties improvement under adverse agro-climatic conditions.
- Poly house is a less sophisticated version of green house with naturally ventilated climate controlled as against the fully climate controlled greenhouses.

### **22. Consider the following statements about Asia Pacific Economic Organisation(APEC)**

- 1) It is a regional economic forum established to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
- 2) India is a member of APEC.

#### **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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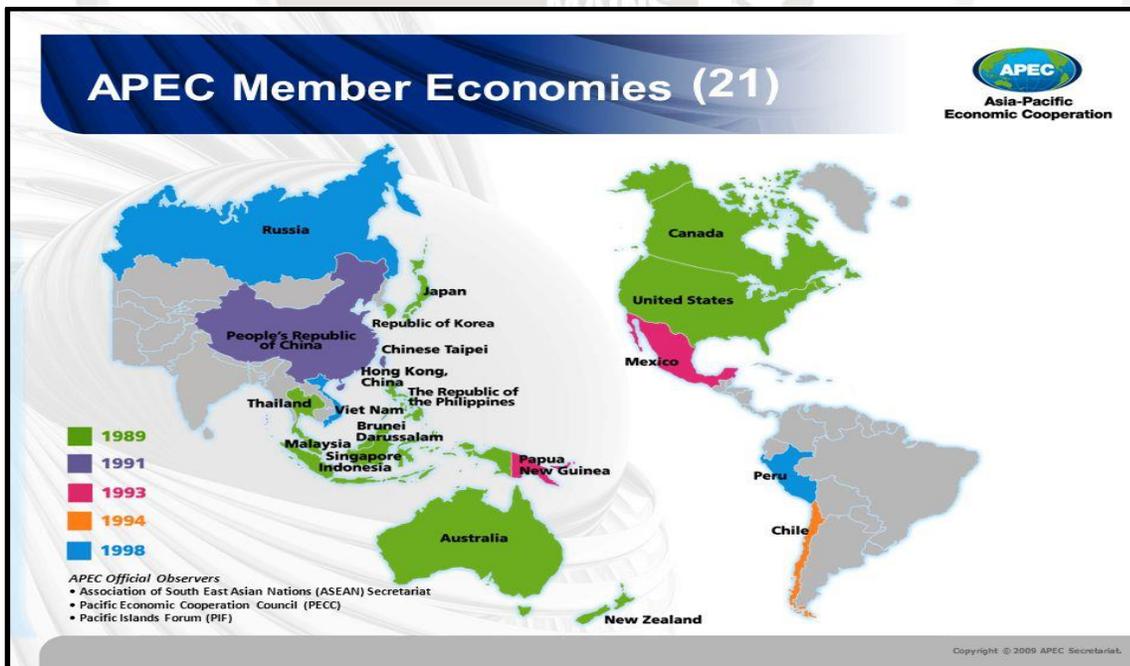
- c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**

**Explanation: Statement 1 is correct.**

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. It operates as a **cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum.**
- It is the only international intergovernmental grouping in the world committed to reducing barriers to trade and investment without requiring its members to enter into legally binding obligations.
- APEC achieves its goals by promoting dialogue and arriving at decisions on a consensus basis, giving equal weight to the views of all members.
- APEC's aim is to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** India is not a member of APEC.



23. Which of the following industries are mandated to get Environmental Impact Assessment?

1. Pulp, paper and newsprint
2. Synthetic Rubber
3. River Valley Projects
4. Cement
5. Nuclear Power projects

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 3 and 5 only
- b) 1,3,4 and 5 only
- c) 2,4 and 5 only
- d) 1,2,3,4 and 5

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Environmental Impact Assessment is a tool designed to identify and predict the impact of a project on the bio-geophysical environment and on man's health and well-being, to interpret and communicate information about the impact, to analyze site and process alternatives and provide solutions to sift out, or abate/mitigate the negative consequences on man and the environment. EIA was made mandatory in 1994 under the Environmental Protection Act of 1986 with the following four objectives:

- Predict environmental impact of projects;
- Find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts;
- Shape the projects to suit local environment; and
- Present the predictions and options to the decision-makers.

Few industries that are mandated to get EIA include:

- Pulp, paper and newsprint
- Synthetic Rubber
- River Valley Projects

- Cement
- Nuclear Power projects
- Mining of minerals including Opencast/Underground mining
- Leather/skin/hide processing industry
- Air ports
- Highways, railways, transport terminals, mass rapid transport systems etc..

**Benefits of EIA:**

- EIA links environment with development for environmentally safe and sustainable development.
- EIA provides a cost effective method to eliminate or minimize the adverse impact of developmental projects.
- EIA enables the decision makers to analyse the effect of developmental activities on the environment well before the developmental project is implemented.
- EIA encourages the adaptation of mitigation strategies in the developmental plan.

**24. The term 'biological carbon pump' is related to which of the following?**

- a) Transformation of CO<sub>2</sub> into organic carbon and its sinking into deep ocean
- b) Forests absorbing carbon from the atmosphere
- c) Process of obtaining carbon by thermally decomposing acetylene gas
- d) Cultivating plants with high CO<sub>2</sub> absorption

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

**What is the biological carbon pump?**

- Just like plants on land, the microscopic marine phytoplankton take up carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>] and water [H<sub>2</sub>O] from their surrounding and use energy from sunlight to turn it into glucose [C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>] and oxygen [O<sub>2</sub>].
- The glucose powers the metabolism of the plankton cells, and can be turned into other organic compounds.

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- If enough nutrients are available the plankton will grow and multiply.
- Phytoplankton are the 'grass of the sea' - at the bottom of the marine food chain. Respiration by animals, bacteria and plants 'remineralised' the organic carbon - turning it back into carbon dioxide and water.
- When plants and animals die their remains sink into deeper water as detritus and decompose, releasing carbon dioxide and nutrients back into the water.
- This is why nutrients such as nitrate are scarce in surface water, but found in much higher concentrations in the deep ocean.
- The transformation of carbon dioxide and nutrients into organic carbon, its sinking into the deep ocean, and its decomposition at depth, is known as the **biological carbon pump**.

The 'biological carbon pump' (BCP) contributes to the ocean's role in taking up and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Without the BCP the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> would be much higher.

#### **Statement c refers to Acetylene Black Process**

This process obtains carbon black by thermally decomposing acetylene gas. It provides carbon black with higher structures and higher crystallinity, and is mainly used for electric conductive agents.

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

- 1) Nameri National Park – Assam
- 2) Kaziranga National Park – Assam
- 3) Singalila National Park – Himachal Pradesh

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- Singalila National Park is a national park of India located on the Singalila Ridge at an altitude of more than 7000 feet above sea level, in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal.

**26. Consider the following statements about Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**

- 1) IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India.
- 2) It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India only.
- 3) All the satellites in IRNSS are located in the geostationary orbit.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: A

**Explanation**

**Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS): NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** IRNSS is an **independent regional navigation satellite system** being developed by India
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is designed to provide **accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary**, which is its primary service area.
- An **Extended Service Area** lies between primary service area and area enclosed by the rectangle from Latitude 30 deg south to 50 deg North, Longitude 30 deg East to 130 deg East
- IRNSS will provide two types of services, namely **Standard Positioning Service (SPS)** which is provided to all the users and **Restricted Service (RS)**, which is an **encrypted service provided only to the authorised users**.

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- The IRNSS System is expected to provide a **position accuracy of better than 20 m** in the primary service area.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** IRNSS is a **constellation of seven satellites in space**. Out of these, **three are located in the geostationary orbit** over the Indian Ocean and the other **four in geosynchronous orbits**, with the desired inclination and equatorial crossings in two different planes.

#### Geosynchronous Orbit

- About 35,786 kilometers above the Earth's surface, satellites are in geostationary orbit. At any inclination, a **geosynchronous orbit synchronizes with the rotation of the Earth**. More specifically, the time it takes for the Earth to rotate on its axis is 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09 seconds, which is the same as a satellite in a geosynchronous orbit

#### Geostationary Orbits

- While geosynchronous satellites can have any inclination, the key difference to geostationary orbit is the fact that **they lie on the same plane as the equator**.
- Geostationary orbits fall in the same category as geosynchronous orbits, but it's parked over the equator. This one special quality **makes it unique from geosynchronous orbits**.

#### Some applications of IRNSS are

- Terrestrial, Aerial and Marine Navigation
- Disaster Management
- **Vehicle tracking and fleet management**
- **Integration with mobile phones**
- Precise Timing
- Mapping and Geodetic data capture
- Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers
- **Visual and voice navigation for drivers**

#### Why in the news?

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- The **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** has been accepted as a component of the **World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS)** for operation in the **Indian Ocean Region** by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**.
- This will enable merchant vessels to use IRNSS for **obtaining position information** similar to GPS and GLONASS to assist in the **navigation of ships in ocean waters** within the area covered by 50°N latitude, 55°E longitude, 5°S latitude and 110°E longitude (approximately up to 1500 km from Indian boundary).

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1674483>

<https://www.isro.gov.in/irnss-programme>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/irnss>

27. Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, diversion of forest land for public utility facilities managed by the Government, such as schools & dispensaries is to be recommended by:

- (a) Gram Sabhas
- (b) Divisional Forest Officer
- (c) District Collector
- (d) Zilla parishad

Answer (a)

(Excerpt taken from the act) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for the following facilities managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, namely:-

- (a) schools;
- (b) dispensary or hospital;
- (c) anganwadis;
- (d) fair price shops;
- (e) electric and telecommunication lines;

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- (f) tanks and other minor water bodies;
- (g) drinking water supply and water pipelines;
- (h) water or rain water harvesting structures;
- (i) minor irrigation canals;
- (j) non-conventional source of energy;
- (k) skill up-gradation or vocational training centers;
- (l) roads; and
- (m) community centers:

Provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if, -

- (i) the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in this subsection is less than one hectare in each case; and
- (ii) **the clearance of such developmental projects shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.**

Hence option a is correct.

**28. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evem Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme. Consider the following statements with respect to the scheme:**

1. It provides for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants.
2. It provides 100% central financial assistance for Solarisation of Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps.

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: (b)

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Centre gives only 30 % assistance for component B and C.

**PM KUSUM scheme**

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhayan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for farmers for installation of **solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants** in the country. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs. 34,422 Crore including service charges to the implementing agencies.

**Scheme Components**

The Scheme consists of three components:

- Component A:** 10,000 MW of **Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants** of individual plant size up to 2 MW. (by individual farmers/ group of farmers/ cooperatives/ panchayats/ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)/Water User associations (WUA) on barren/fallow land)
- Component B:** Installation of 17.50 lakh **standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps** of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP for replacement of existing diesel Agriculture pumps / irrigation systems in off-grid areas, where grid supply is not available. Pumps of capacity higher than 7.5 HP can also be installed, however, the financial support will be limited to 7.5 HP capacity.
- Component C:** **Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps** of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP. The farmer will be able to use the generated solar power to meet the irrigation needs and the excess solar power will be sold to DISCOMs at a pre-fixed tariff.

**Central Financial Assistance (CFA)/ State Government Support:**

- Component A:** Procurement Based Incentive (PBI) @ 40 paise/kWh or Rs. 6.60 lakhs/MW/year, whichever is less, will be provided for the first five years **by MNRE to DISCOMs**, for buying the power from farmers/developers.

ii. **Component B & C:**

CFA of **30% of the benchmark cost or the tender cost**, whichever is lower. **State Government** subsidy **30%**; Remaining **40% by the farmer**.

In **North Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Lakshadweep and A&N Islands**, CFA of **50%**, State Government subsidy **30%**, Remaining **20% by the farmer**.

**Scheme benefits**

- The scheme will open a stable and continuous source of income to the rural landowners for a period of 25 years by utilisation of their dry/uncultivable land.
- Further, in case cultivated fields are chosen for setting up solar power projects, the farmers could continue to grow crops as the solar panels are to be set up above a minimum height.
- The proposed scheme would ensure that sufficient local solar/ other renewable energy based power is available for feeding rural load centres and agriculture pump-set loads, which require power mostly during the day time.
- As these power plants will be located closer to the agriculture loads or to electrical substations in a decentralized manner, it will result in **reduced Transmission losses** for STUs and Discoms.
- Moreover, the scheme will also help the Discoms to achieve the RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation) target
- The solar pumps will save the expenditure incurred on diesel for running diesel pumps and provide the farmers a reliable source of irrigation through solar pumps apart from preventing harmful pollution from running diesel pumps.
- In light of the long waiting list for electric grid connection, this scheme will benefit 17.5 lakh farmers over a period of four years, without adding to the grid load.

<https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/renewable-energy-1/solar-energy/scheme-for-farmers-for-solar-pumps-and-power-plant>

<https://mnre.gov.in/pm-kusum-scheme>

29. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. In this context, which of the following has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in India?

- a) National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Sustainable Development Cell (SDC)
- d) Bureau of energy efficiency

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were **adopted in September 2015 as a part of the resolution**, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'
- India is committed to **achieve the 17 SDGs and the 169 associated targets, which comprehensively cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of development** and focus on ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions
- At the Central Government level, **NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country**
- To spread awareness about the Goals, bring together stakeholders and build capacities for the realization of SDGs, **NITI Aayog has organized several national and regional level consultations**

30. Consider the following statements regarding the Anticipatory bail

1. As opposed to Ordinary bail, which is granted to a person who is under arrest, in anticipatory bail a person is directed to be released on bail even before a arrest is made
2. According to provision of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc), only the Sessions Court and High Court can grant anticipatory bail

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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: C

### Explanation

- Recently, the Supreme Court recently ruled that **no time restriction should ordinarily be fixed for anticipatory bail** and that it can continue even until the end of the trial.
- As opposed to Ordinary bail, which is granted to a person who is under arrest, **In anticipatory bail a person is directed to be released on bail even before a arrest is made.**
- **Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) lays down the law on anticipatory bail.** Sub-section (1) of the provision reads: “When any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a **“non-bailable offence”**, he may **apply to the High Court or the Court of Session** for a direction under this section and that Court may, if it thinks fit, direct that in the event of such arrest, he shall be released on bail.”
- The protection granted under **Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc)** “should not invariably be limited to a fixed period”, a 5-judge Constitution bench, deciding a reference made to it following **“conflicting views” of some other benches of the court**
- The provision empowers **only the Sessions Court and High Court to grant anticipatory bail.**