

1. National Green Tribunal (NGT) has jurisdiction over which of the following acts?

1. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
2. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
3. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
4. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Answer:B**

**Explanation**

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on under the National **Green Tribunal Act 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and **conservation of forests** and other natural resources including **enforcement of any legal right relating to environment** and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It is a **specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle** environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide **speedy environmental justice** and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.

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- The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include
  1. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
  2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
  3. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
  4. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
  5. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
  6. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
  7. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- Two important acts - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 **have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction.**

### 2. Consider the following statements about Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)

- 1) Anti tank guided missiles are medium or long-range missiles whose primary purpose is to destroy tanks and other armoured vehicles.
- 2) ATGMs can be launched from land vehicles only.

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

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- An anti-tank missile, anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), anti-armour guided missile or anti-tank guided weapon (ATGW) is a missile that is created to destroy vehicles that are heavily armoured.
- **Antitank guided missile** are medium or long-range [missile](#) whose primary purpose is to destroy [tanks](#) and other [armoured vehicles](#). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- ATGMs can be launched from **aircraft or land vehicles or by infantry**. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM), can be directed to a target by several different guidance systems, including laser guiding, television camera, or wire guiding.
- The most compact systems are small enough to be carried and operated by a single soldier, and advanced models, such as the U.S. Javelin, are “**fire and forget**” missiles, which means that once the ATGM has been launched, it directs itself toward the target by using digital imaging.
- An ATGM can also be used against fortified positions or low-speed aircraft.

**Relevant information:**

- Recently, the indigenously-developed Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), a third generation low-weight fire-and-forget missile was successfully tested by the Defence Research Development Organisation.(DRDO).

**About DRDO:**

- DRDO is the R&D wing of Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems.
- It equips our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment in accordance with the requirements laid down by the three Services.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-are-anti-tank-guided-missiles-and-why-are-they-important-6771422/>

**3. With reference to State Development Loans (SDLs), consider the following statements.**

- 1) They are dated securities issued by states for meeting their market borrowings requirements
- 2) SDLs issued by the State Governments qualify for Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirements
- 3) Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) are allowed to invest in SDLs

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

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:**

- State Development Loans (SDLs) are dated securities issued by states for meeting their market borrowings requirements.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

- The SDL securities issued by states are credible collateral for meeting the SLR requirements of banks.

**Statement 3 is correct:**

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- Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) are allowed to invest in SDLs. The limits for FPI investment in SDLs is 2 per cent of outstanding stock of securities.

#### 4. With respect to BrahMos Missile, consider the following statements.

1. The name BrahMos is formed from names of two rivers i.e. Indian river Brahmaputra and the Moskva River of Myanmar.
2. The medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile has a strike range of about 9000 km.

**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: D**

**Explanation:**

- The BrahMos is a ramjet supersonic cruise missile of a short range developed by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroeyenia.
- The missile can be launched from land, aircraft, ships and submarines.
- The medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile has a strike range of about 290 km.

**Why in the news?**

- A naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from an indigenously built stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea recently.

#### 5. SLINEX is a bilateral maritime exercise between which of the following countries?

- a) India and Srilanka

- b) Saudi Arabia and India
- c) Singapore and India
- d) India and Uzbekistan

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The 8th edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 starts from October 19 to October 21, 2020, in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

**6. With reference to 'fly ash' produced by the power plants using coal as fuel, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is made of Silica, Aluminium oxide, calcium oxide and some potentially toxic elements.
2. Fly Ash is added as a mixture to cement for building construction, laying of roads and landfills.
3. A taller chimney helps reduce the concentration of fly ash by distributing it over a wider region

**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 (d)**

**Explanation:**

What is Fly Ash?

- Fly ash is a fine powder, which is the by-product of burning coal in thermal power plants.

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- Fly ash includes substantial amounts of micron sized earth elements of oxides of silica, aluminum and calcium. Elements like Arsenic, Boron, Chromium, lead etc. are also found in trace concentrations. So **statement 1 is correct.**

#### **Statement 2 is correct:**

- Fly ash can be used as a replacement for some of the Portland cement contents of concrete. It is environmentally beneficial because it reduces the Portland cement, a major contributor of CO<sub>2</sub>, required in concrete.
- Fly ash is used as resource material for many applications of construction industries and is also being utilized in manufacturing of bricks/blocks/tiles.

#### **Statement is 3 correct:**

A taller chimney helps reduce the concentration of fly ash by distributing it over a wider region

Other FlyAsh Management Techniques:

- It includes washing coal at its place of origin will prevent ash from coming to power plants.
- Promoting R&D for increasing efficiency of power plants will also help in reducing ash generation

### 7. Consider the following statements with respect to UNAIDS

1. It is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals
2. It is the only United Nations entity with civil society represented on its governing body

**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**

**Both the statements are correct:**

- **UNAIDS is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030** as part of the Sustainable Development Goals
- UNAIDS is a model for United Nations reform and is the **only cosponsored Joint Programme** in the United Nations system
- It draws on the experience and **expertise of 11 United Nations system Cosponsors** and is the **only United Nations entity with civil society represented** on its governing body
- It places people living with HIV and **people affected by the virus at the decision-making table** and at the centre of designing, delivering and monitoring the AIDS response
- It provides a platform for the countries to get on the Fast-Track to ending AIDS and is a bold advocate for **addressing the legal and policy barriers** to the AIDS response
- Recently, the **Union Minister of State for Shipping** and Chemical & Fertilizers participated in the High-level roundtable of UNAIDS (The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)  
<https://www.unaids.org/en/howeare/about>

**8. Which of the following countries is/are placed completely between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Equator?**

1. Angola
2. Indonesia
3. Australia
4. Bolivia

**Select the correct answer using the code below.**

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

**Answer : D**

Explanation

- Indonesia extends beyond the Tropic of Capricorn and Australia is virtually divided into half by the Tropic of Capricorn.
- On the other hand, African country Angola and South American country Bolivia are present completely between Equator and Tropic of Capricorn.

**9. Consider the following pairs of military exercises between India and other participating countries**

1. Malabar - USA and Japan
2. Maitree- Thailand
3. Hand in Hand - Nepal
4. Surya Kiran- Sri Lanka

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

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

**Answer-B**

**Explanation:**

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(i) **Exercise MALABAR:** A Trilateral Maritime Exercise is between **the navies of India, Japan and USA.**

(ii) **MAITREE:** A Joint Military Exercise between **India and Thailand.**

(iii) **Hand in Hand-India-China joint military exercise** on various themes.

(iv) **Exercise SURYA KIRAN :** A bilateral annual military exercise between **Indian and Nepal Army.**

(v) **Exercise MITRA-SHAKTI** refers to annual military exercise between **India and Sri Lanka.**

#### Why in the news?

The Ministry of Defence recently announced that Australia will join the Malabar 2020 naval exercise, consisting of India, Japan and the U.S., to be held next month.

#### 10. Consider the following statements about Asian Development Bank(ADB)

- 1) The primary mission of ADB is to foster growth and cooperation among countries in Asia only.
- 2) India is the largest borrower and second largest shareholder of ADB.

**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:**

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- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank. It is dedicated to reducing poverty in **Asia and the Pacific** through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.
- ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- ADB maximizes the development impact of its **assistance by facilitating policy dialogues**, providing advisory services, and mobilizing financial resources through cofinancing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.

#### **Statement 2 is incorrect:**

- India is a founding member of the ADB and is **currently the fourth largest shareholder** and the **largest borrower of the ADB**.
- It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- At present, ADB comprises 68 members (including India)- of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- The two largest shareholders of the ADB are Japan and the US .
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

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

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$177 million loan to upgrade 450 kilometers (km) of state highways and major district roads in the state of Maharashtra.

### **11. Consider the following statements about the Lift Irrigation**

1) Lift irrigation is a method of irrigation in which water is not transported by natural flow, but is lifted with pumps or surge pools

2) Minimal land acquisition problem and low water losses are advantages of lift irrigation project.

3) Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project built across river Godavari.

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

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

**Lift Irrigation:**

- Lift irrigation is a **method of irrigation in which water instead of being transported by natural flow (as in gravity-fed canal systems) requires external energy** through animal, fuel based or electric power using pumps or other mechanical means. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The **advantage of lift irrigation is the minimal land acquisition problem and low water losses. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The lift irrigation schemes are instrumental in stabilizing agriculture production particularly in the years of droughts and increase food production as water is available whenever it is required and thereby increase in income level.
- The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme of Telangana** is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the **Godavari River** in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, Telangana.
- The project starts at the confluence point of **Pranahita River and Godavari River.**
- It would bring **drinking water** and irrigation to the backward areas of Telangana.

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- It will also help to **restore the ground water** level to its original state by the way of shifting from usage of groundwater for irrigation to usage of surface water.
- The project will also support **Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha** schemes designed to provide drinking water to many villages and improve the capacities of tanks.

### 12. Consider the following statements regarding the National Green Tribunal (NGT)

1. It has been established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests
2. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
3. The NGT has jurisdiction to deal with civil cases under the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991

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

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

**Ans: B**

### Explanation

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 **under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010** for effective and **expeditious disposal of cases** relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources **including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief** and

compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

· It is a **specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise** to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.

· The Tribunal shall **not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice

· The Tribunal's **dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters** shall provide speedy environmental justice and help **reduce the burden of litigation** in the higher courts

The **NGT deals with civil cases** under the seven laws related to the environment, these include

Ø The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

Ø The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977

Ø **The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**

Ø The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

Ø The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Ø **The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and**

Ø The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

· Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has **directed all States and Union Territories to take adequate steps to mitigate risks** in disposal of bio-medical waste in view of the Covid-19 pandemic

**13. Which of the following pairs regarding the foundational agreement between India & US and their purpose is/are correctly matched?**

- 1) LEMOA- Access to designated military facilities
- 2) COMCASA- share secure communication and exchange information

3) BECA- secure sharing of mapping and other geospatial data

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

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

**What are the foundational agreements for?**

They are meant to build basic ground work and promote interoperability between militaries by creating common standards and systems. They also guide sale and transfer of high-end technologies.

**General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**

- GSOMIA allows militaries to share the intelligence gathered by them.

**Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**

- LEMOA allows both countries to have access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment.
- Signed by India in 2016.

**Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**

- BECA will allow India and US to share geospatial and satellite data with each other.

**Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)**

- It provides the legal framework for the US to part with its sensitive communication equipment and codes to enable transfer of real time operational information.
- This equipment is largely used for ground-to-air communication to enable best battle situation awareness.

- It ensures that the militaries of the US and India can boost their “interoperability” as well as share operational intelligence in real-time in the years ahead.

**14. Consider the statements about Foreigners’ Tribunals**

- 1) They are quasi-judicial bodies established under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- 2) District magistrates in all States and Union Territories can set up such tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

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

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**

- Foreigners’ Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established as per the Foreigners’ Tribunal Order, 1964 and the Foreigners’ Act, 1946.
- In the Foreigners’ Tribunal Order, 1964 the powers of the Tribunal have been laid down:-
- The Tribunal shall have the powers of a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- The Tribunal can summon and ask for the attendance of any person and examine him/her on oath.
- The Tribunal can ask anyone to produce the required documents,
- The Tribunal can commission examining any witness, as and when required.

**Statement 2 is correct:**

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- In 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not. Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
- Orders of Foreigners' Tribunals can be appealed in the High Court and the Supreme Court.

15. Consider the following initiatives/programmes

1. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH)
2. Aspirational District Programme
3. Atal Innovation Mission
4. INSPIRE Programme
5. POSHAN Abhiyaan

**Which of the given above are related to NITI Aayog?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

- **SATH** program was **launched by NITI Aayog (2017)**. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the **education and health** sectors. SATH aims to identify and build three future 'role model' states for health systems which are Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=165545>

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- The 'Transformation of **Aspirational Districts**' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform these districts. The broad contours of the programme are **Convergence** (of Central & State Schemes), **Collaboration** (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and **Competition** among districts driven by a mass Movement. At **Government of India level**, programme is anchored by **NITI Aayog**.  
<https://niti.gov.in/about-aspirational-districts-programme>
- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is a flagship initiative **set up by the NITI Aayog** to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country. AIM's objectives are to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.  
<http://vikaspedia.in/education/policies-and-schemes/atal-innovation-missionv>
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission**, is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** is **implementing** POSHAN Abhiyaan. **NITI Aayog** has played a **critical role in shaping the POSHAN Abhiyaan**. After launch of the mission, NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the task of closely monitoring the POSHAN Abhiyaan and undertaking periodic evaluations.  
<https://niti.gov.in/poshan-abhiyaan>
- "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the Department of Science & Technology for attraction of talent to Science. **NITI Aayog is not associated** with this programme in any way.  
<http://vikaspedia.in/education/policies-and-schemes/scholarships/post-matric-scholarship/inspire-programme>

**16. Consider the following statements regarding Operation Greens**

1. The objective is to ensure availability of Tomato Onion Potato (TOP) crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.
2. NAFED will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilization measures.

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

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

**1) Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Both the statements are correct.**

- **Operation Greens** seeks to stabilize the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops and to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility. Hence **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** has launched the scheme.
- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.**(NAFED)will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilization measures.Hence **statement 2 is correct.**
- It was announced to promote farmer producers organisations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
- The main aim of this project is to enhance sales realization of farmers growing these crops by strengthening production clusters and their FPOs, and linking/connecting them with the market.

17. Which of the following are components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)?

1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)
2. Har Khet ko Pani
3. Per Drop More Crop
4. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
5. Watershed Development

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Rainfed Area Development (RAD) is **not a component of PMKSY**. It is one of the five major programme components of the **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**.

#### **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana**

The overarching vision of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation to all agricultural farms in the country, to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity.

#### **Objectives**

The broad objectives of PMKSY include

- Achieve **convergence of investments in irrigation** .
- Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (**Har Khet ko pani**).

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- Integration of water source, distribution and its efficient use, to make best use of water through appropriate technologies and practices.
- **Improve on - farm water use efficiency** to reduce wastage and increase availability both in duration and extent.
- Enhance the adoption of **precision - irrigation** and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop).
- Enhance **recharge of aquifers** and introduce sustainable water conservation practices.
- Ensure the integrated development of rainfed areas using the watershed approach towards soil and water conservation, regeneration of ground water, arresting runoff, providing livelihood options and other NRM activities.
- Promote extension activities relating to water harvesting, water management and crop alignment for farmers and grass root level field functionaries.
- Explore the feasibility of reusing treated municipal waste water for peri - urban agriculture.
- **Attract greater private investments** in irrigation.

#### **Programme implementation**

- PMKSY has been formulated **amalgamating** ongoing schemes viz. **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)** of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation; **Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)** of Department of Land Resources; and **On Farm Water Management (OFWM)** component of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
- PMKSY is to be implemented in an **area development approach**, adopting **decentralized state level planning** and projectized execution, allowing the states to draw their irrigation development plans based on district/blocks plans with a horizon of 5 to 7 years. States can take up projects based on the District/State Irrigation Plan.

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- All the States and Union Territories including North Eastern States are covered under the programme.
- The **National Steering Committee (NSC)** of PMKSY under the **chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister**, will provide policy direction to programme framework and a National Executive Committee (NEC) under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog will oversee the programme implementation at national level.
- Provision has been made under PMKSY during 2015-16 for carrying out extension activities in the field with special focus on water harvesting, water management and crop alignment for farmers and grass root level field functionaries.

#### **Programme Components**

PMKSY has the following programme components:

##### **A. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)**

To focus on faster completion of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation including National Projects.

##### **B. PMKSY (Har Khet ko Pani)**

- Creation of new water sources through Minor Irrigation (both surface and ground water)
- Repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies; strengthening carrying capacity of traditional water sources, construction rain water harvesting structures (**Jal Sanchay**);
- Command area development, strengthening and creation of distribution network from source to the farm;
- Ground water development in the areas where it is abundant.
- Improvement in water management and distribution system for water bodies to take advantage of the available source which is not tapped to its fullest capacity (deriving benefits from low hanging fruits). At least 10% of the command area to be covered under micro/precision irrigation.

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- Diversion of water from source of different location where it is plenty to nearby water scarce areas, lift irrigation from water bodies/ rivers at lower elevation to supplement requirements beyond IWMP and MGNREGS irrespective of irrigation command.
- Creating and **rejuvenating traditional water storage systems** like Jal Mandir (Gujarat); Khatri, Kuhl (H.P.); Zabo (Nagaland); Eri, Ooranis (T.N.); Dongs (Assam); Katas, Bandhas (Odisha and M.P.) etc. at feasible locations.

### C. PMKSY (Per Drop More Crop)

- Promoting efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain - guns in the farm (**Jal Sinchan**);
- Secondary storage structures at tail end of canal system to store water when available in abundance (rainy season) or from perennial sources like streams for use during dry periods through effective on - farm water management;
- Water lifting devices like diesel/ electric/ solar pump sets including water carriage pipes, underground piping system.
- Extension activities for promotion of scientific moisture conservation and agronomic measures including cropping alignment to maximise use of available water including rainfall and minimise irrigation requirement (**Jal sarankchan**);
- Information Communication Technology (ICT) interventions through NeGP - A to be made use in the field of water use efficiency, precision irrigation technologies, on farm water management, crop alignment etc. and also to do intensive monitoring of the Scheme.

### D. PMKSY (Watershed Development)

- Effective management of runoff water and improved soil & moisture conservation activities such as ridge area treatment, drainage line 5 treatment, rain water harvesting, in - situ moisture conservation and other allied activities on watershed basis.

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- Converging with MGNREGS for creation of water source to full potential in identified backward rainfed blocks including renovation of traditional water bodies

<https://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/pradhan-mantri-krishi-sinchai-yojana>

18. Which of the following Islands is/are the part of Indian Ocean?

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Reunion Islands
3. Chagos Islands
4. Cocos Island
5. Kuril Island

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

All islands mentioned above except Kuril island is located in Indian ocean.

Kuril island is a part of North pacific Ocean.



19. Consider the following pairs

- |               |                                                                                                                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Meteoroids | A. Tiny bodies which move around the sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.                                      |
| 2. Satellite  | B. A small piece of rocks moving in the solar system that would become a meteor if it entered the earth's atmosphere. |
| 3. Asteroid   | C. A small Celestial body orbiting the Sun with a substantial fraction of its composition made of volatile ices.      |
| 4. Comet      | D. A celestial body that moves around the planets in the same way as the planets move around the sun.                 |

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	1	2	3	4
a)	B	D	C	A
b)	D	C	A	D
c)	B	D	A	C
d)	A	D	C	B

Ans : C

#### Explanation

- A **Satellite** is a celestial body that **moves around the planets** in the same way as the planets move around the sun
- Apart from the stars, planets and satellites, there **are numerous tiny bodies** which also move around the sun. **These bodies are called asteroids.**
- ☐ They are found between the **orbits of Mars and Jupiter**
- **The small pieces of rocks** which move around the sun are called **meteoroids**. Sometimes these meteoroids come near the earth and tend to drop upon it. During this process **due to friction** with the air **they get heated up and burn** causing a **flash of light known as Meteor**
- Comet is a **small Celestial body** orbiting the Sun with a substantial fraction of its composition **made of volatile ices.**

#### 20. Consider the following statements

1. Government of India has constituted the Jal Shakti Mantralaya by integrating the Ministry of Water Resources to ensure Har Ghar Jal to all households by 2025
2. The Jal shakti Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management.

**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

**Jal Shakti Mantralaya** refers to creation of a **new Ministry called 'Jal Shakti' after merging Ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation along with Drinking Water and Sanitation.**

- Jal Jeevan Mission ensures **HarGharJal (piped water supply) to all rural households by 2024** under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- This Mission, under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

**The Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.**

**21. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

<b>Missile/Missile system</b>	<b>Country</b>
1. THAAD	: USA
2. S-400	: Russia
3. NAG	: Bangladesh

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

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2 and 3 only

c. 1 and 2 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

### Explanation

#### Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)

- It is an **anti-ballistic missile defense system** developed by the **USA**. It is a missile defence system that is designed to **intercept and destroy short and medium-range ballistic missiles** in their final flight phase. The THAAD cannot be used as a form of attack against an enemy. Its role, by use of a powerful radar, is to simply **track and destroy missiles** before they are launched.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/what-is-thaad-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-us-anti-missile-system-4630087/>

#### S-400 Triumph

The S-400 Triumph is a modern **long-range surface-to-air missile (MLR SAM) system developed by Russia**. First used in 2007, the S-400 is an upgrade of the S-300 series of missile systems put in place for the defence of Moscow. It is considered **way ahead of the American THAAD** (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) system though both are different weapon systems.

The missile system **integrates a multifunction radar, autonomous detection** and targeting systems, anti-aircraft missile systems, launchers, and command and control centre. It can provide a layered defence as it is capable of firing three types of missiles.

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- The S-400 Triumf can engage **all types of aerial targets** such as aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) which are within the range of 400km, at an altitude of up to 30km

<https://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/what-is-s-400-triumf-missile-system-5383776/>

### Nag

- Nag is a **third-generation, fire-and-forget, anti-tank guided missile** developed by India's state-owned **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
- One of the world's finest in its class, the **all-weather missile** with day and night capabilities comes in **four variants** that can be launched from land and air.
- **Nag variants (Range)**
  - **Prospina, the land version** meant for infantry, can be launched from a tracking-cum-launch vehicle known as **NAMICA (Nag Missile Carrier)**
  - **HeliNa is a helicopter-launched version** of NAG with an extended range. The launch system is mounted on HAL "Rudra" helicopter. The launch system is used by both Indian Army and Air Force
  - **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM):** This version is lighter in comparison to other variants and can be launched from the shoulder. It has a strike range of 2.5 km.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/nag-the-anti-tank-missile-that-can-destroy-targets-miles-away/articleshow/72343339.cms>

### Why in the news?

**DRDO executes final user trial of Nag anti-tank missile.**

**22. The term 'Non-attainment cities' seen in the news, refers to?**

- a) Indian cities that don't have a pollution monitoring framework and infrastructure
- b) Smart cities that have not reached their specified goals
- c) Indian cities that have pollution greater than National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- d) City corporations that have not reached the national average of revenue generation

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Cities are considered as Non-attainment cities, if they were consistently showing poorer air quality than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Cities included under the list of Non-attainment cities Delhi, Varanasi, Bhopal, Kolkata, Noida, Muzaffarpur, and Mumbai.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has formulated a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for abatement of air pollution in the country.
- NCAP aspires to strengthen the ongoing government initiatives targeted towards prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution.
- It lays down a comprehensive framework for management of air quality in the country by augmentation of existing air quality monitoring network, introduction of rural monitoring stations and devising air quality management plans for non-attainment cities based on detailed source apportionment (identification of pollution sources) studies for each city.

**23. Consider the following statements.**

1. 'Access, Watch and Reserve', is an approach that specifies which antibiotics to use for the most common and serious infections.
2. WHO estimates that more than 50% of antibiotics in many countries are used inappropriately for treatment of viruses.

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:** Both the statements are correct.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a global campaign that urges countries to adopt its new online tool aimed at guiding policy-makers and health workers to use antibiotics safely and more effectively. Its objective is to limit drugs that are at risk of resistance.
- The tool, known as 'AWaRe', classifies antibiotics into three groups:
  - Access — antibiotics used to treat the most common and serious infections
  - Watch — antibiotics available at all times in the healthcare system.
  - Reserve — antibiotics to be used sparingly or preserved and used only as a last resort
- Antibiotic resistance is already one of the biggest health risks and is estimated to kill 50 million by 2050 worldwide, says the British government's Review on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- The threat continues to escalate globally because more than 50 per cent of antibiotics in many countries are used inappropriately such as for treatment of viruses when they only treat bacterial infections or use of the wrong (broader spectrum) antibiotic, according to a recent report by the International Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

**24. Consider the following statements about CPI-Industrial workers**

- 1) It is released by the Ministry of labour and employment.

2) The base year used to calculate CPI-Industrial Workers in India is 2011-2012

**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:**

- **Labour Bureau**, a unit of the **labour ministry**, has been compiling and releasing CPI-IW numbers since its inception in 1946. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- The CPI-IW is primarily used to regulate the dearness allowance of government employees and the workers in the industrial sectors.
- It is also used in the determination and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employment.
- The CPI-IW (2016=100) series replaces the CPI-IW (2001=100) series. The government recently launched a new series for Consumer Price Index — Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) changing the base year to **2016 from 2001**. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- The new series is more representative in character and reflects the latest consumption pattern of the industrial workers.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/govt-releases-new-series-of-retail-inflation-for-industrial-workers-with-2016-base-year/2111989/>

**25. Consider the following statements regarding the KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing) Scheme**

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1. It is an exclusive scheme for women with the mandate to bring gender parity in Science & Technology through gender mainstreaming
2. Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in women universities (CURIE) is a component of KIRAN scheme
3. KIRAN Scheme is mandated to support women at University level and it does not cater to schools

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

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

Ans: C

**Explanation**

- In the year 2014, Department of Science and Technology (DST) restructured the women specific programmes under one umbrella called “KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)”
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is an exclusive scheme for women with the **mandate to bring gender parity in S&T** through gender mainstreaming
- The programme is aimed at providing opportunities to women scientists who had a break in their career primarily due to family responsibilities
- Through KIRAN, DST is aimed at **providing opportunities in research, entrepreneurship, science, communication, technology development/demonstration and self-employment**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In addition, Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in women universities (**CURIE**) is **another component of KIRAN** that has a

focus to develop state-of-the-art infrastructure to help large number of women to enhance their S&T skills and knowledge in order to make a fulfilling career in this domain besides promoting research culture in such institutions

- **Statement 3 is correct:** KIRAN Scheme is mandated to support women at University level only and it does not cater to schools

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-many-bright-spots-on-indias-innovation-horizon/article32903649.ece>

26. Consider the following statements with respect to Essential Commodities Act, 1955

1. Under the Act, the government fixes the minimum price of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”
2. The Central government can include new commodities as and when need arises and also can remove a commodity from the list

**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: B

**Explanation**

- The ECA was enacted in 1955. It has since been used by the Government to **regulate the production, supply and distribution of a whole host of commodities** it declares ‘essential’ in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.
- The list of items under the Act includes **drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils**, and petroleum and petroleum products.

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- The Centre can **include new commodities as and when the need arises** and takes them off the list once the situation improves.
- Under the Act, the **government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP)** (not the minimum price) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”
- If the Centre finds that a **certain commodity is in short supply and its price is spiking**, it can notify stock-holding limits on it for a specified period
- Anybody trading or dealing in a commodity, be it wholesalers, retailers or even importers are **prevented from stockpiling it beyond a certain quantity**
- A State can, however **choose not to impose any restrictions**. But once it does, traders have to immediately sell into the market any stocks held beyond the mandated quantity.

#### Why in the news?

- With onion prices crossing Rs. 100 per kg in several cities, the Centre imposed stock limits on wholesalers and retailers until the end of the year to prevent hoarding.
- This is the first time stock limits have been imposed on any commodity after the Essential Commodities Act was amended last month to reduce such interventions.

#### About ECA amendment, 2020

- Removes commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.
- Ensures that interests of consumers are safeguarded by regulating agricultural foodstuff in situations such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity.
- However, the installed capacity of a value chain participant and the export demand of an exporter will remain exempted from such regulation so as to ensure that investments in agriculture are not discouraged.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/essential-commodities-act-amendments-explained-6442362/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/centre-slaps-stock-limits-as-onion-prices-shoot-up/article32933986.ece>

27. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Central Vigilance Commission?

- 1) The Central Vigilance Commission is a statutory body constituted under Prevention of Corruption Act,1988.
- 2) It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.

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: B

**Explanation**

- The Central Vigilance Commission was set up by the Government in February,1964 on the **recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption**, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.
- CVC are conceived to be the **apex vigilance institution**, free of control from any executive authority, **monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government** and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilant work.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Commission was **given statutory status** by the enactment of **“The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003”** (not under the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988)

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- CVC aims to promote integrity in the governance processes by
- Creation of a **credible deterrence against corruption** through prompt enforcement of anti-corruption laws and regulations
- Undertaking **effective preventive measures** to minimize the scope of corruption
- **It is a multi-member Commission**, consists of a **Central Vigilance Commissioner** (Chairperson) and not more than **two Vigilance Commissioners** (Members)
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are **appointed by the President** on the **recommendations of a Committee** consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (Member)
- **The term of office** of the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners is **four years** from the date on which they enter their office or **till they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The CVC is **not controlled by any Ministry/Department**. It is an **independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament**.

**28. With reference to the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 182, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the first ILO Convention to achieve universal ratification.
2. It is one of the eight fundamental Conventions of ILO.
3. India has ratified all the eight core Conventions.

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

- **International Labour Organisation is a U.N. agency** that was established in 1919.
- ILO brings together **governments, employers and workers representatives of 187 member States**, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men
- The principal means of action in the ILO is setting up the **International Labour Standards** in the **form of Conventions and Recommendations**
  - **Conventions** are international treaties and instruments, which create **legally binding obligations** on the countries that ratify them.
  - **Recommendations are non-binding** and set out guidelines orienting national policies and actions
    - For the first time in the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s 101-year history, a labour standard has been universally ratified, with the Kingdom of Tonga being the last to ratify Convention 182.
    - **Statement 1 is correct:** ILO Convention No. 182 is the first ILO Convention to achieve universal ratification.
    - It was also the most rapidly ratified Convention in the history of the ILO, with the majority of ratifications occurring within the first 3 years after it was adopted in 1999.

**Eight fundamental conventions of ILO**

- The ILO Governing Body has identified eight “fundamental” Conventions, covering subjects that are considered to be fundamental principles and rights at work which are as follows
  1. Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)

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2. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
3. Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (and its 2014 Protocol )
4. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
5. Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
6. Statement 2 is correct: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
7. Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
8. Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

### India and the ILO

- Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98)

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** These two have not been ratified by India while the other six have been ratified by India.

### Why in the news?

**India assumed the role of chair of the International Labour Organisation's governing body after a gap of 35 years for the period of October 2020 till June 2021.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-becomes-chair-of-ilo-governing-body/article32932599.ece>

**29. North Korea which was in the news recently is located between which of the following Seas?**

- a) Korea Bay and the Sea of Japan
- b) Yellow Sea and the East China Sea
- c) Korea Bay and Yellow Sea
- d) East China Sea and Sea of Japan

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**



**30. Consider the following statements with respect to Remdesivir and choose the most appropriate statement describing it.**

- a. It is a second generation gene editing tool after CRISPR-cas9.
- b. It is an antiviral drug that is used as a treatment for filovirus infections such as Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus.
- c. It is a space mission planned by NASA to explore the presence of water vapour in asteroid Bennu.
- d. It is the most advanced humanoid with in-built artificial intelligence (AI) technology developed by Microsoft.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

1. **Remdesivir is an antiviral drug that is used as a treatment for filovirus infections such as Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus.**

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2. Remdesivir was accidentally found to be effective against Nipah virus also in primates. Since Nipah currently does not have any cure/treatment, it is a welcome discovery.
3. Ebola and Nipah belong to different viral families, but remdesivir — made by Gilead Sciences and also known as GS-5734 — appears effective against both.
4. In mice or cells cultivated in the laboratory, the drug has also shown some effectiveness against two other threats: endemic Lassa fever and Pandemic MERS coronavirus.

#### Why in the news?

- **The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved remdesivir as the first drug to treat COVID-19.**
- The drug is designed to obstruct the replication of the virus in the body and has become the first drug to get official approval from the FDA for the treatment of the disease  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/remdesivir-coronavirus-covid-19-drug-food-and-drugs-administration-fda-approval-6853136/>