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1.Consider the following statements

- 1) Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- 2) It is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and intercountry adoptions.
- 3) India is yet to ratify the Hague convention on Intercountry Adoption,1993.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.

Statement 2 is correct: It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate **in-country and inter-country adoptions**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in **accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, 1993**, ratified by the Government of India in 2003. CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

About Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, 1993

The Hague Convention 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention) protects **children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared adoptions abroad**.

This Convention, which operates through a system of national Central Authorities, reinforces the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 21) and seeks to ensure that intercountry adoptions

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are made in the best interests of the child and with respect for his or her fundamental rights. It also seeks to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or traffic in children.

It is an effort to protect those involved from the corruption, abuses, and exploitation which sometimes accompanies international adoption.

Why in the news?

CARA Celebrated its 6th Annual Day recently.

<http://cara.nic.in/#>

<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/intercountry-adoption>

2. Which of the following is/are associated with retreating monsoon in India?

1. Low pressure over Ganga plains
2. Cyclonic rainfall over Tamil Nadu coast
3. October heat

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer : C

Explanation

•Statement 1 is incorrect.

The south-west monsoon starts retreating from northern india in early October. Hence, the months of October and November are known for retreating monsoon. The reason for this retreat is that the monsoon trough of low pressure over the Ganga plains becomes weaker due to the apparent movement of the sun. The low pressure trough is gradually replaced by high pressure.

•Statement 2 is correct.

The low pressure conditions from Ganga plains are transferred to the centre of Bay of Bengal by early November. This shift of low pressure area is marked by cyclonic depressions which originate over the Andaman Sea. Some of the cyclonic depressions manage to cross the eastern coasts of southern peninsula resulting in heavy and widespread rains on the coast of Tamil Nadu and Orissa.

•Statement 3 is correct.

The retreat of monsoon is marked by clear skies and drop in night temperature. The land remains moist. The combination of high temperature and humidity gives rise to oppressive weather. This is commonly known as 'October heat'

3. 'Saksham', an annual flagship event is associated with which of the following?

- a) Awareness programme to strengthen the information technology network for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime
- b) To make citizens aware about the conservation and effective utilization of petroleum products
- c) To provide a time-bound "upskilling" exercise for employees of Railways to boost their efficiency
- d) Programme to enhance the accessibility of information relating to schools and to ensure a holistic approach to transform the education sector.

Answer: B

Explanation

- 'Saksham', is an annual **one-month long fuel conservation** mega campaign of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas .Saksham is an acronym for **Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav**
- It is an **annual flagship event** of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India
- Its main objective is to make citizens aware about the conservation and **effective utilization of petroleum products.**

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)

The Petroleum Conservation Research Association is an organization established in India in 1978, under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of Government of India. Its main objective is advising government to **promote energy efficiency** so as to conserve fossil fuel, **reduce the environmental impact** of oil use

4. Consider the following about Iron Ore Policy 2021

- 1) The policy was issued by the Ministry of Steel.
- 2) The Policy aims to attune it to the present day needs of customers and to meet the complete requirement of transportation of iron ore customers and provide total logistics support to the steel industry.

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:

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- A new iron-ore policy governing **allocation of rakes and transportation** of iron-ore has been by **Indian Railways**.
- The aim of policy is to attune it to the **present day needs of customers** and assure them that Indian Railways is **fully committed to meet the complete requirement of transportation of iron ore customers** and provide total logistics support to the steel industry to meet the competitive challenges domestically and globally.
- Production of steel is critically dependent on transportation of iron and other raw materials.
- The policy sets down **clear guidelines** on how to fully meet the requirement of customers by leveraging infrastructure facilities available at loading and unloading ends to the fullest.
- The new policy has been named as 'Iron-ore Policy 2021' and shall come into effect from 10.02.2021.
- **Iron-ore is the second most important stream of traffic of Railways** and along with steel accounts for nearly 17% (53.81 Million Tonne of Steel & 153.35 Million Tonne of Iron ore) of total 1210 Million Tonne freight loading of IR in 2019-20.
- The new Iron-ore Policy, 2021 issued by the **Ministry of Railways** is expected to have a positive impact on the steel industry, provide powerful impetus to the core sector of the economy and boost the country's economic growth.

5. With reference to the Open Skies Treaty (OST), consider the following statements

1. It permits each state-party to conduct unarmed, reconnaissance flights over the others territories to collect data on military forces and activities
2. Recently, India joined as a member of this treaty in the wake of increasing presence of China in South Asian region

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

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Answer: A

Explanation

Open Skies Treaty

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Signed March 24, 1992, the Open Skies Treaty **permits each state-party to conduct short-notice, unarmed, reconnaissance flights** over the others territories to collect data on military forces and activities.

- Ø It allows countries to **monitor signatories' arms development** by conducting surveillance flights over each other's territories.

- Observation aircraft used to fly the missions must be **equipped with sensors that enable the observing party to identify significant military equipment**, such as artillery, fighter aircraft, and armored combat vehicles.

- Though satellites can provide the same, and even more detailed, information, not all of the **34 treaty states-parties have such capabilities**.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The treaty entered into force on January 1, 2002, and **currently 34 states are party to the treaty** while a 35th, Kyrgyzstan, has signed but not ratified it.

- Ø India is **not a member of this treaty**

- **Territory:** All of a state-party's territory can be overflown. No territory can be declared off-limits by the host nation

- Each state-party has a **right to conduct an equal number of flights** over any other state-party that overflies it.

- Every state-party is **obligated to accept a certain number of overflights each year**, referred to as its passive quota, which is loosely determined by its geographic size. A state-party's active quota is the **number of flights it may conduct over other states-parties**

- An observing state-party must **provide at least 72 hours' advance notice** before arriving in the host country to conduct an overflight. The host country **has 24 hours to acknowledge the request** and to inform the observing party if it may use its own observation plane or if it must use a plane supplied by the host.

Why in the news?

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The United States left the Open Skies arms control and verification treaty in November, accusing Russia of violating it.

Russia announced recently that it was pulling out of the Open Skies treaty, saying that the pact, which allows unarmed surveillance flights over member countries, had been seriously compromised by the withdrawal of the United States.

