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1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Startup Advisory Council

1. Niti Aayog had constituted the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.
2. The Council will be chaired by the Minister for Commerce & Industry.
3. To suggest measures for the commercialization of intellectual property rights is one of the functions of this council.

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: B

Explanation:

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** had constituted the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Council will be **chaired by the Minister for Commerce & Industry.** Hence **statement 2 is correct.**
- It will consist of the **non-official members**, to be nominated by the Central Government, from various categories like **founders of successful startups**, veterans and persons capable of representing interests of incubators and accelerators etc.
- The **term of the non-official members** of the Startup Advisory Council will be for a period of **two years**
- The nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, will be ex-officio members of the Council.

Roles and functions

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- **To Suggest measures** to facilitate public organizations to assimilate innovation with a view to improve public service delivery, promote creation, protection and **commercialization of intellectual property rights. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- To Suggest making it easier to **start, operate, grow and exit businesses** by reducing regulatory compliances and costs, promote ease of access to capital for startups, and incentivize domestic capital for investments into startups.
- **Mobilize global capital for investments** in Indian startups, keep control of startups with original promoters and provide access to global markets for Indian startups.

Why in the news?

Minister of Railways, **Commerce & Industry**, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal **recently chaired the first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council(NSAC).**

2. Which of the following statements about Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana is incorrect?

- a) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- b) It is a nationwide placement-linked skill training program.
- c) DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 45 years from poor families.
- d) Both a and c

Answer: D

Explanation

About DDUGKY

- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** launched the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) Antyodaya Diwas in 2014.
- DDU-GKY is tasked with the **dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.**
- As a **part of the Skill India campaign**, it plays an instrumental role in supporting the social and economic programs of the government like the Make In India, Digital India, Smart Cities and Start-Up India, Stand-Up India campaigns.

Beneficiaries

- DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on **rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.**
- Over 180 million or 69% of the country's youth population between the ages of 18 and 34 years, live in its rural areas. Of these, the bottom of the pyramid youth from poor families with no or marginal employment number about 55 million.

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- There are several challenges preventing India's rural poor from competing in the modern market, such as the lack of formal education and marketable skills.
- DDU-GKY bridges this gap by funding training projects benchmarked to global standards, with an emphasis on placement, retention, career progression and foreign placement.
- The **Alumni meets**, an important component of the scheme **provide healthy ground for experience sharing** by the former trainees with their present counterparts on topics like placements, career goals, challenges they faced in finding employment before undertaking the training and the benefits they reaped after.

Implementation Model

- DDU-GKY follows a **3-tier implementation model**.
- The **DDU-GKY National Unit** at MoRD functions as the policy-making, technical support and facilitation agency. The **DDU-GKY State Missions** provide implementation support; and the **Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)** implement the programme through skilling and placement projects.

Why in News?

- Alumni meets are organized across the country under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), commemorating 75 years of Independence.

3. World Population Report is an annual report published by

- A. United Nations Population Fund
- B. World Health Organization
- C. World Demographic and Ageing Forum
- D. Global Health Council

Answer: A

Explanation:

- World Population Report is an annual report published by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**.
- Each edition covers and analyses developments and trends in world population and demographics, as well as shedding a light on specific regions, countries and population groups and the unique challenges they face.

Why in the news?

- United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) flagship State of **World Population Report 2021** titled 'My Body is My Own' was launched recently.

News in detail

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- This is the first time a United Nations report has focused on **bodily autonomy**, defined as the power and agency to make choices about your body without fear of violence or having someone else decide for you.
- The report shows that in countries where data is available, only 55% of women are fully empowered to make choices over healthcare, contraception and the ability to say yes or no to sex.
- It also highlights that only 75% of countries legally ensure full and equal access to contraception.
- Some examples of violation of bodily autonomy include, child marriage, female genital mutilation, a lack of contraceptive choices leading to unplanned pregnancy, unwanted sex exchanged for a home and food or when people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities cannot walk down a street without fearing assault or humiliation.
- Under its ambit also fall people with disabilities stripped of their rights to self-determination, to be free from violence and to enjoy a safe and satisfying sexual life.
- Women's access to bodily autonomy is measured in the report through their power to make their own decisions about their reproductive health care, contraceptive use and sexual relations and the extent to which the laws of the countries support or interfere with a woman's right to make these decisions.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

1. WPI basket includes both goods and services.
2. WPI is published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Ans : B

Explanation

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the average change in the prices of commodities for bulk sale at the level of early stage of transactions.

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- The index basket of the present 2011-12 series has a total of **697 items** including 117 items for Primary Articles, 16 items for Fuel & Power and 564 items for Manufactured Products. WPI basket **does not cover services**. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- Wholesale price index is calculated with **2011-12 base year**.
- The Office of the Economic Adviser in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** is responsible for compiling WPI and releasing it. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

Why in the news?

- Inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) accelerated last month to a record 7.4%.

5. The terms 'neutral', 'calibrated tightening', 'accommodative' sometimes seen in the news are related to

- A. Fiscal policy
- B. Monetary policy
- C. External trade
- D. Inflation

Answer: B

Explanation:

- These terms indicate the central bank's monetary policy stance on deciding policy rates like repo rate.
- "Accommodative" indicates that the central bank is telling the market to expect a rate cut anytime, "neutral" means that RBI could either increase or reduce repo rates as per liquidity conditions, "calibrated tightening" means that a cut in the repo rate is unlikely in the current rate cycle.