1. With reference to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) post, consider the following statements.

1. CDS acts as the principal military adviser to the defence minister on all tri-service matters.
2. CDS acts as the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
3. CDS do not exercise any military command including over three service chiefs.

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

2. Consider the following statements about the mobile app Bhasha Sangam

1) The objective of the app is to help people acquire basic conversation ability in languages other than one’s mother tongue.
2) This is an initiative that comes under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Programme.

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

3) The E-Shram Portal is related to which of the following?

a) Providing information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public
b) Electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of child labour free society
c) Aims in the creation of a national database of unorganised workers such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, among others.
d) Online portal to improve the business environment in the country by enabling fast and efficient access to Government-to-Business (G2B) services
4) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

1) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG.
2) The scope of PMUY has now been expanded to cover all the poor families in the country.
3) Under the scheme, cash assistance of Rs. 16000 is given to the beneficiaries to get a deposit-free new connection.

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

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

1) Answer: D

Explanation

● **Statement 1 is correct**: CDS is a four star officer and the principal military adviser to the defence minister on all tri-service matters. But the three Chiefs will continue to advise the defence minister on matters exclusively concerning their respective services.

● **Statement 2 is correct**: In addition to heading the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the CDS also acts as the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. The three service chiefs will be members of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

● **Statement 3 is correct**: However, CDS do not exercise any military command including over three service chiefs.
Role and responsibilities of CDS:

- As the head of the DMA, the CDS has to facilitate restructuring of military commands for **optimal utilisation of resources** by bringing about **jointness in operations**, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands.
- The key focus of the CDS office will be involved in **procurement of military equipment** for all the three armed forces.
- CDS will be a **member of Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee**.
- Implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP), and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP), as a follow-up of Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP).
- Assign inter-Services prioritisation to capital acquisition proposals based on the anticipated budget.
- Prepare strategy papers on military matters for consideration of the competent authority.

**Why in News?**
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat perished when an Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17V5 helicopter crashed into the Nilgiris in western Tamil Nadu.

2) Answer: C

**Explanation**

**What’s in the news?**
- The Ministry of Education has launched a mobile app called Bhasha Sangam in order to **help people acquire basic conversation ability in languages other than one’s mother tongue** to at least 75 lakh people.
- This language learning initiative has been taken under **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Programme**.
- The App has more than 100 sentences of common usage, both in text and audio format, in 22 Indian languages.

**Related Information**

**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**
- The initiative ‘Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat’ was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 31st October, 2015 to commemorate the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel to **revive a sense of ‘nationhood’**.
- The programme aims to **actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures** living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.
- As per the programme, each year, **every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT** in India for reciprocal interaction between the people.
- It is envisaged through this exchange, that the knowledge of the language, culture, traditions and practices of different states will lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between one another, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.
- The broad objectives of the initiative are as follows:
OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

○ To CELEBRATE the Unity in Diversity of our Nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our Country;
○ To PROMOTE the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian States and Union Territories through a year-long planned engagement between States;
○ To SHOWCASE the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions of either State for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity that is India, thus fostering a sense of common identity
○ TO ESTABLISH long-term engagements and,
○ TO CREATE an environment which promotes learning between States by sharing best practices and experiences.

3) Answer: C

Explanation

About the Portal

● In August 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment unveiled the e-shram portal which aims to register 38 crore unorganised workers, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, among others.
● The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number, which will help in including them in social security schemes.
● The portal would lead to the creation of a national database of unorganised workers.
● Apart from being Aadhaar-linked, it will collect details of the name, occupation, address, educational qualification, skill types and family of the registered workers.
● The portal was developed by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, in technical collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (an attached office under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).
● The portal is open to workers engaged in the unorganised sector and aged between 16 and 59.

Why in News?
● The Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced that more than seven lakh gig and platform workers registered with eSHRAM portal.

4) Answer: A
Explanation

- The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched PMUY in 2016 to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households. Statement 1 is correct.
- It aims to provide 8 crore deposit free LPG connections to poor households. The connections are issued in the name of women of the households.
- The scheme increases the usage of LPG and helps in reducing health disorders, air pollution and deforestation. Use of fossil fuels and conventional fuel like cow-dung, firewood etc. has serious implications on the health of rural women and children.
- Initially, the beneficiaries were identified through Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 data. The scope of PMUY has now been expanded to cover all the poor families in the country subject to fulfilling the terms and conditions. Hence statement 2 is Correct.
- Under the scheme, cash assistance of Rs. 1600 is given to the beneficiaries to get a deposit-free new connection. Further, interest free loans are provided to purchase a stove and refill by Oil Marketing Companies. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

PMUY 2.0

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - Ujjwala 2.0.
- During Ujjwala 1.0, launched in 2016, a target was set to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households. Later, the target was revised to 8 Crore LPG connections which was achieved in August 2019.
- In the Union budget for Financial Year 2021-22, a provision for an additional one crore LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was announced. These one crore additional connections under Ujjwala 2.0 aim to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of this scheme.
- Along with a deposit free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.

Why in News?

- Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said a special provision has been made in the second edition of the Ujjwala Scheme for migrant families to avail new LPG connections.
- Migrant applicants can give a self-declaration as the proof of address and family composition to get LPG connections.
- The average consumption of LPG cylinders under Ujjwala 2.0 was three cylinders of 14.2 kilograms in 2019-20, which has increased to 4.39 cylinders in the last financial year.

5) 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.