

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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## 1. Consider the following statements about National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

- 1) It is a constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- 2) It has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

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

## 2. Consider the following statements about Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

- 1) It engages in extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.
- 2) It is a Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- 1) The spirit and the objective of the scheme is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected Habitations.
- 2) The PMGSY shall cover only the rural areas.

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

## 4. Consider the following statements about National Disaster Response Force

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- 1) The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the parent body of National Disaster Response Force.
- 2) The role of the NDRF is disaster management and community awareness for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in India.

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

5. Consider the following pairs of regions sometimes mentioned in news vs country:

1. Yongbyon: North Korea
2. Davos: Switzerland
3. Kulhudhuffushi : Sri Lanka

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?

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

1) Answer: C

Explanation

- **Both the statements are incorrect:** The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was established in **1993** as per the provisions of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993**, initially for the period upto March 31, 1997. Later the validity of the Act was extended for five years and then again for two years i.e up to February 29, 2004.
- After that it was lapsed and the tenure of the commission was extended as a **non-statutory body** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**. The tenure of the Commission was being extended from time to time through government resolutions. The present tenure is valid upto March 31, 2022.
- The major beneficiaries under the commission are the **Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers** in the country. According to the government data, there were 58,098 manual scavengers identified in the country as on December 31, 2021.
  - *Safai Karamchhari means a person engaged in, or employed for any sanitation work and includes his/her dependents.*

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### Functions

- The NCSK has been giving its recommendations to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis, investigate cases of specific grievances etc.
- Also as per the provisions of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, the NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Act, tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act.

### Why in News?

- The union cabinet has approved the extension of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years with effect from April 1, 2022.

### Significance

- Though the Government has taken many steps for the upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, the deprivation suffered by them in socio-economic and educational terms is still far from being eliminated.
- Although manual scavenging has been almost eradicated, sporadic instances do occur. Hazardous cleaning of sewer/septic tanks continues to be an area of the highest priority for the Government.
- Hence, the Government feels that there is a continued need to monitor the various interventions and initiatives of the Government for welfare of Safai Karamcharis and to achieve the goal of complete mechanization of sewer/septic tanks cleaning in the country and rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

## 2) Answer: A

### Explanation

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a Government of India Enterprise under the **administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- IREDA was established as a **Non-Banking Financial Institution** in 1987.
- It engages in promoting, developing and extending **financial assistance** for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.

### Why in News?

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited.
- This equity infusion will help in employment generation of approximately 10200 jobs-year and CO2 equivalent emission reduction of approximately 7.49 Million Tonnes CO2/year.
- Additional equity infusion will enable IREDA to enhance its networth which will help it in additional Renewable Energy financing, thus contributing better to the Government of India targets for Renewable Energy.

## 3) Answer: C

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### Explanation

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched in 2000 as **centrally sponsored scheme** to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations of **designated population size** (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East, hill, tribal and desert areas as per Census, 2001) as part of a poverty reduction strategy.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- **Phase III** of PMGSY was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2019. It involves the consolidation of Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.

### Guiding Principles of PMGSY

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The spirit and the objective of the scheme is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected Habitations. A habitation which was earlier provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad.
- The unit for this Programme is a **Habitation** and not a Revenue village or a Panchayat. A Habitation is a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The PMGSY shall cover **only the rural areas**. Urban roads are excluded from the purview of this Programme.

### Funding pattern

- The Union Government bears **90% of the project cost** in respect of projects sanctioned under the scheme in North-Eastern and Himalayan States, whereas for other states the Union Government bears **60% of the cost**.

### Initiatives related to PMGSY

- **Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism affected Areas (RCPLWEA):** It was launched in 2016 as a separate vertical under PMGSY to provide all-weather road connectivity with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures in 44 districts (35 are worst LWE affected districts and 09 are adjoining districts), which are critical from security and communication point of view.
- **Meri Sadak mobile app:** It was launched to enable citizens to register complaints regarding the quality and pace of construction of PMGSY roads.

### Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** conducted a nationwide review of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

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### 4) Answer: D

### Explanation

#### What's in the news?

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day was marked on January 19. The NDRF was formed on this day in 2006.

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### About NDRF

- The National Disaster Response Force is a specialised, multi-skilled, humanitarian force in India, which has been playing a crucial role in the country's disaster management and community awareness for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

### Formation

- The successive natural calamities from 1990 to 2004 led to the enactment of the **Disaster Management Act** on December 26, 2005. The result was the formation of the National Disaster Response Force. This was set up to lay down the plans, policies, and guidelines for disaster management.

### Structure

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is the parent body of NDRF, which currently consists of 15 battalions from the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Assam Rifles.
- With more than 13,000 personnel, the battalions of the NDRF have been equipped to respond to **natural as well as man-made disasters**. They are also trained to respond during **chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies**.

### Roles

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The role of the NDRF is disaster management and community awareness for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in India.
- The personnel in NDRF are trained in flood rescue, rope rescue, collapsed structure search and rescue, and other activities to support people during any calamities.

5) Answer: D

Explanation:

- Yongbyon is a city of nuclear reactor site in North Korea, which is predicted to produce



material for nuclear arms.

- **Davos is a city in Switzerland which hosts the World Economic Forum annual meetings.**

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- Kulhudhuffushi is an atoll in the Maldives (not in Sri Lanka).

