



**DATE: 30.09.2026**

1) With reference to Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, consider the following statements:

1. AFSPA can be applied only in areas declared as “disturbed areas”.
2. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 originally applied to the then Union Territories of Assam and Manipur.
3. AFSPA itself authorises the deployment of armed forces in every disturbed area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with reference to PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)

1. **Statement I:** The PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) was approved in 2024 as an umbrella scheme to promote sustainable agriculture and provides flexibility to States to address their specific agricultural requirements.
2. **Statement II:** PM-RKVY includes components such as Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development, Agro Forestry, Per Drop More Crop, Crop Diversification Programme and an Accelerator Fund for Agri Startups.
3. **Statement III:** PM-RKVY is implemented directly by the Central Government without the involvement of State Governments, and its funds cannot be reallocated between different components according to State-specific needs.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of Statement II and Statement III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

3) Consider the following statements with regard to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. The SCO originated from the "Shanghai Five" mechanism, which was formed in 1996 prior to the official founding of the organization in 2001.
2. Belarus is the newest member to join the grouping, making it a 10-member organisation.
3. The 27th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be hosted by Pakistan, which holds the rotating presidency for 2026–27.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



- 4) The term 'PRAGATI-50', recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
- Infrastructure project monitoring
  - Urban sanitation programme implementation
  - Rural digital literacy programme
  - Food processing park development
- 5) Consider the following statements:
- India is the world's largest importer of edible oils, relying on imports for over half its consumption, led by palm oil.
  - Rajasthan is the largest oilseed-producing state in India, driven largely by rapeseed and mustard.
  - The National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) features a Viability Price mechanism for farmers linked to global crude palm oil prices.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3

#### Explanation

**1) Answer: (B)**

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** AFSPA operates in areas that have been declared "disturbed areas." The power to declare an area as a "disturbed area" lies with the **Central Government**, the **Governor of a State**, or the **Administrator of a Union Territory**.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** It was initially enacted as the **Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958**. It specifically targeted growing unrest and insurgency in the Naga Hills (then part of Assam) and adjacent areas of Manipur. Over subsequent decades, particularly through amendments in 1972, the Act's geographic scope expanded to cover other parts of the Northeast, and it was renamed the general Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** AFSPA creates a statutory framework for the exercise of specified powers when its conditions are met. It should not be read as meaning that the Act itself automatically deploys forces everywhere an area is declared disturbed.

**2) Answer: (C)**

- **Statement I is Correct:** The Union Cabinet approved the PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) in October 2024 as part of the rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Its principal focus is sustainable agriculture, with flexibility for States to prepare agriculture strategies according to their specific requirements.
- **Statement II is Correct:** PM-RKVY includes several components, including Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development, Agro Forestry, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Agricultural Mechanization, Per Drop More Crop, Crop



Diversification Programme, RKVY-DPR and the Accelerator Fund for Agri Startups. These components cover different aspects of sustainable and productive agriculture.

- **Statement III is Incorrect:** PM-RKVY is implemented through State Governments, not directly by the Central Government alone. Further, States have flexibility to re-allocate funds from one component to another according to their State-specific requirements.
- Therefore, **option C** is the correct answer.

### 3) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) traces its origins back to the “**Shanghai Five**” **mechanism**, which was formed in **1996** (comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) to resolve border demarcation and demilitarization issues. It was later expanded and officially rechristened as the SCO in 2001 with the inclusion of Uzbekistan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Belarus** officially became the newest and **10th member state** of the SCO during the Astana Summit, expanding the Eurasian bloc into a 10-member organization.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Pakistan** holds the rotating presidency of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the **2026–27 term**, succeeding the previous chair and gearing up to host high-level meetings and the forthcoming leaders' summit.
- **Therefore option D is the correct answer.**

### 4) Answer: (B)

- **PRAGATI-50** is a targeted urban transformation initiative launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** under the framework of **Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)**.
- **Core Objective:** The initiative identifies **50 model cities** across 24 States/UTs to demonstrate higher benchmarks in urban sanitation, scientific waste management, used water management, circular economy practices, and visible cleanliness.
- **Key Distinction:** This program is distinct from the **PRAGATI** platform (*Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation*), which is an ICT-based multi-modal platform monitored directly by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to track major infrastructure projects and public grievances.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

### 5) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** India imports over 50% of its edible oil needs, making it the top global importer, with palm oil constituting the largest share.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Rajasthan leads India's oilseed production, primarily driven by rapeseed and mustard.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** NMEO-OP is a central mission providing a Viability Price safety net to protect oil palm farmers from international price volatility.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**



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