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## Government Schemes

**Que. 1** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)**:

1. The NMNF aims to promote natural farming among 1 crore farmers and cover 750,000 hectares over two years.
2. It integrates initiatives like Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati and Gobardhan Mission.
3. The scheme has been allocated ₹3,000 crore by the Union Cabinet.

Which of the above statements are correct?

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. All 1, 2, and 3
5. Only 1

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is **Only 1 and 2.**



### **In News**

- The Government of India launched the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) on November 25, 2024.
- The scheme promotes natural farming practices for 1 crore farmers and targets 750,000 hectares over two years.



### **Key Points**

- The scheme integrates initiatives like Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati and Gobardhan Mission to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).
- An allocation of ₹2,481 crore has been approved, not ₹3,000 crore.
- The focus is on locally adapted farming methods and sustainable agricultural practices.



### **Additional Information**

- **Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati**
  - An initiative under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
  - Focuses on promoting traditional and natural farming practices.
- **Gobardhan Mission**
  - Launched to promote waste-to-wealth initiatives through bio-gas and organic manure.
  - Aims to support farmers by utilizing cattle dung and other agricultural waste.

**Que. 2** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the various developmental initiatives announced for India as per Budget 2025-2026?

1. ₹1 lakh crore has been allocated for the Urban Challenge Fund to support cities as growth hubs and enhance water and sanitation.



2. The Jal Jeevan Mission has been extended till 2030, ensuring universal piped water coverage with increased funding for rural water projects.
3. A revised UDAN scheme aims to enhance regional connectivity to 120 new destinations, with a target of carrying 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years.

1. Only 1 and 3
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 3
4. Only 1
5. All are correct

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is Only 1 and 3

### **In News**

- ₹1 lakh crore has been allocated to the Urban Challenge Fund to support ‘Cities as Growth Hubs,’ ‘Creative Redevelopment of Cities,’ and ‘Water and Sanitation,’ with ₹10,000 crore allocated for 2025-26.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission’s total budget has been enhanced to ₹67,000 crore with an extension till 2028 to ensure universal piped water coverage.
- A revised UDAN scheme will enhance regional connectivity to 120 new destinations, aiming to carry 4 crore passengers over the next 10 years, supporting helipads and smaller airports in hilly and aspirational regions.

### **Key Points**

- The Urban Challenge Fund aims to promote ‘Cities as Growth Hubs,’ creative redevelopment, and improve water and sanitation with ₹10,000 crore allocated for the year 2025-26.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission has successfully reached 15 crore households, benefiting 80% of India’s rural population by ensuring piped water coverage.
- ₹25,000 crore has been allocated to the Maritime Development Fund, with a 49% contribution by the government, supporting long-term financing for shipbuilding, ports, and logistics infrastructure.
- The revised UDAN scheme aims to increase regional connectivity with 120 new destinations and 4 crore passengers over 10 years, supporting helipads and airports in North East and hilly regions.

### **Additional Information**

- **PM Research Fellowship**
  - The PM Research Fellowship will provide 10,000 fellowships for advanced research in IITs and IISc.
- **Day Care Cancer Centers**
  - Day Care Cancer Centers will be established in all district hospitals in the next 3 years, with 200 centers planned for 2025-26 to ensure affordable cancer treatment accessibility.
- **Nuclear Energy Mission for Viksit Bharat**
  - A ₹20,000 crore outlay has been allocated for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), with at least 5 indigenously developed SMRs operational by 2033.
  - Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act will be taken to promote private sector partnership in the nuclear energy sector.

What is the name of the festival series launched by the Ministry of Culture to showcase India's cultural heritage?

1. Bharat Utsav
2. Amrit Parampara
3. Sanskriti Mahotsav
4. Kala Sangam
5. Parampara Sanchay

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Amrit Parampara.**

### **In News**

- The Ministry of Culture (MoC) launched “Amrit Parampara,” a festival series to celebrate and preserve India’s traditional arts.

### **Key Points**

- The series focuses on fading art forms and aims to blend tradition with modern technology through innovative programs.
- It was jointly organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Kalakshetra Foundation, and the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training.
- “Amrit Parampara” seeks to highlight the cultural diversity and heritage of India.
- The initiative supports the preservation and promotion of India's traditional art forms for future generations.

### **Additional Information**

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi**
  - The national academy for music, dance, and drama, established in 1952.
  - Promotes and preserves India's performing arts.
- **Kalakshetra Foundation**
  - A premier institution for performing arts, focusing on Bharatanatyam and traditional Indian music.
  - Known for its contributions to cultural and artistic heritage.
- **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)**
  - An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture.
  - Engages in programs for cultural education and training across India.

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**Que. 4** What is the name of India’s first anti-pesticide bodysuit launched by Union Minister Jitendra Singh in December 2024?

1. Agri Shield
2. Kisan Kavach
3. Kisan Madad
4. Kisan Sahara
5. None of the above

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Kisan Kavach.**

### **In News**

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched 'Kisan Kavach', India's first anti-pesticide bodysuit, in December 2024.

## Key Points

- 'Kisan Kavach' is a specially designed bodysuit to protect farmers from harmful pesticide exposure.
- It was developed by BRIC-inStem and Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd., both based in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- The suit enhances safety for agricultural workers by minimizing health risks from toxic chemicals used in farming.
- The initiative is supported by the Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

## Additional Information

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**
  - Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
  - Known for launching tech-driven initiatives to empower farmers and researchers
- **BRIC-inStem**
  - Bio-medical Research Institution under the Department of Biotechnology
  - Involved in developing innovative health and safety solutions
- **Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd.**
  - A Bangalore-based health-tech company focused on protective healthcare products
  - Collaborated with BRIC-inStem on 'Kisan Kavach' development
- **Pesticide Exposure Risks**
  - Can lead to respiratory problems, skin disorders, and long-term health effects for farmers
  - Protective suits like Kisan Kavach are essential for occupational safety in agriculture

**Que. 5** The AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (AI RAM) serves as a diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for governments to engage, particularly in AI regulatory and institutional capacity-building efforts. With which of the following organizations, the Ministry of Electronics and IT has organized consultation on AI RAM in India?

1. World Bank
2. UNESCO
3. International Telecommunication Union
4. United Nations Development Programme
5. World Health Organization

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is UNESCO.

## In News

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT has organized a consultation on AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (AI RAM) in collaboration with UNESCO.

## Key Points

- The consultation on AI RAM was the second in a series of five consultations organized under the AI RAM initiative by UNESCO and MeitY.
- The event was held at IIIT Bangalore with Ikigai Law as the implementing partner.

- The initiative aims to create an India-specific AI policy report to identify growth opportunities and strengths within India's AI ecosystem.
- The report will offer actionable insights to promote the responsible and ethical adoption of AI across various sectors in India.

## **Additional Information**

- **AI Readiness Assessment Methodology (AI RAM)**
  - AI RAM serves as a diagnostic tool to assess AI capabilities and help governments engage in AI regulatory and institutional capacity-building efforts.
- **Ikigai Law**
  - Ikigai Law is the implementing partner for the AI RAM initiative, playing a crucial role in organizing consultations and drafting reports.
- **IIIT Bangalore**
  - The consultation event was held at IIIT Bangalore, a key venue for discussions on AI policy and innovation.
- **India's AI Ecosystem**
  - The initiative focuses on creating a framework to enhance the growth and development of India's AI ecosystem while ensuring ethical practices.

**Que. 6** Until when has the Union Cabinet approved the continuation and restructuring of the Skill India Programme (SIP)?

1. 2025
2. 2026
3. 2028
4. 2030
5. 2029

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **2026**.

## **In News**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation and restructuring of the Skill India Programme (SIP) until 2026, with an outlay of Rs 8,800 crore from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26.
- This initiative aims to develop a skilled, future-ready workforce across India that meets evolving industry needs and global standards through industry-aligned, technology-driven skill training.

## **Key Points**

- The Skill India Programme (SIP) aims to provide industry-aligned, technology-driven skill training to create a skilled workforce across India.
- The programme includes three flagship schemes: Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0), Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS), and Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme.
- PMKVY 4.0 introduces over 400 new courses in emerging technologies like AI, 5G, Cybersecurity, and Drone Technology.
- PM-NAPS supports apprenticeships in technologies like AI, Robotics, and Blockchain, with a special focus on MSMEs, aspirational districts, and the North-East Region.
- The JSS scheme targets women, rural youth, and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (EDGs) to provide low-cost vocational training for self-employment.

## Additional Information

- **Key Reforms and Impact of SIP**
  - All certifications under SIP are integrated with the Digital Locker system (DigiLocker) and National Credit Framework (NCrF).
  - SIP supports economic planning through the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data, strengthening vocational education, apprenticeship, and Lifelong Learning (LLL).
- **Skill India Programme's Objectives**
  - Develop a skilled workforce to meet industry needs and improve India's global competitiveness.
  - Provide training in emerging technologies like AI, Blockchain, and Green Hydrogen.

**Que. 7** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has established the National Turmeric Board. Where is the headquarters of the board located?

1. Pune, Maharashtra
2. Nizamabad, Telangana
3. Mumbai, Maharashtra
4. Hyderabad, Telangana
5. Delhi

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Nizamabad, Telangana**.

## In News

- **The National Turmeric Board's headquarters has been established in Nizamabad, Telangana, a key region for turmeric production.**

## Key Points

- The National Turmeric Board is located in Nizamabad, Telangana, which is known for its turmeric production.
- India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric globally, holding more than 62% of world trade.
- Sh. Palle Ganga Reddy has been appointed as the first chairperson of the board.
- Representatives from the Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Agriculture, and top turmeric-growing states like Maharashtra and Telangana will also be part of the board.

## Additional Information

- **Turmeric Production in India**
  - India is the world's largest producer of turmeric, particularly in states like Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
- **Lakadong Turmeric**
  - Meghalaya is known for its high-quality Lakadong Turmeric, which is renowned for its high curcumin content.
- **Turmeric Export**
  - India's turmeric export accounts for a significant share of the global market, with India commanding over 62% of the global trade.



**Que. 8** To ensure equitable access to affordable healthcare through quality generics, the Government of India annually observes March 7 as a day of awareness under the pharmaceutical welfare scheme titled the \_\_\_\_\_, which also aims to expand low-cost medical retail outlets to 25,000 locations by March 2027.

1. National Generic Medicines Movement
2. Swasthya Bharat Drug Access Scheme
3. Jan Swasthya Mission for Essential Medicines
4. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana
5. Ayushman Generic Access Program

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana**

### **In News**

- **March 7th is celebrated as Jan Aushadhi Diwas every year to promote awareness about the use of generic medicines and the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).**

### **Key Points**

- The PMBJP was launched in 2008 to make quality generic medicines accessible and affordable to the masses.
- It is implemented by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).
- Jan Aushadhi Stores are retail outlets established to supply medicines at reduced costs across India.
- The scheme aims to scale up to 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2027.

### **Additional Information**

- **Financial Incentives**
  - Up to ₹5 lakh incentive to store owners at 20% of monthly purchase, max ₹20,000/month.
  - Additional one-time ₹2 lakh for IT and infrastructure in special areas/categories.
- **Compensation for Loss**
  - 2% of total sales or actual loss (whichever is lower) for expired medicine stock.
- **Infrastructure Requirements**
  - Minimum 120 sq. ft. of space required for Kendra; ₹5000 application fee (waived for special categories).
- **Supportive Digital Tools**
  - **Mobile App:** Janaushadhi Sugam – for store locator, price check, and medicine availability.
  - **Affordable Hygiene:** Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Sanitary Napkins at ₹1 per pad (launched 2019).

**Que. 9** What is the full form of the PM-WANI scheme, introduced to enhance public Wi-Fi access across India?

1. Prime Minister's Wireless Access Network Infrastructure
2. Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface
3. Public Management Wireless Access Network Infrastructure
4. Public Management Wi-Fi Access Network Interface
5. Prime Minister's Wireless and Network Initiative

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface.**



## **In News**

- In January 2025, TRAI released the Draft Telecommunication Tariff (71st Amendment) Order to rationalize broadband tariffs under the PM-WANI scheme.

## **Key Points**

- PM-WANI stands for Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface.
- The scheme is aimed at creating public Wi-Fi hotspots to improve internet penetration across India.
- It supports the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, and Bharat 6G Vision.
- The target is to deploy 50 million public Wi-Fi hotspots by 2030.

## **Additional Information**

- **PM-WANI Highlights**
  - Focuses on providing affordable internet access in rural and urban areas.
  - Promotes entrepreneurship by enabling Public Data Offices (PDOs) to deliver Wi-Fi services.
- **Draft Telecommunication Tariff**
  - Broadband tariffs for PDOs under PM-WANI should not exceed twice the retail broadband tariff.
  - Ensures affordable internet for users through rationalized tariff structures.
- **National Digital Communications Policy, 2018**
  - Aims to provide universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen.
  - Focuses on expanding the digital infrastructure and enabling digital services.

**Que. 10** Which of the following statements regarding India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) are true?

1. India has committed to protecting at least 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030, aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. The NBSAP emphasizes financial commitment, with a projected annual expenditure for biodiversity conservation through 2029-2030 of ₹32,200 crore.
3. India aims to restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030, acknowledging the impact of agricultural expansion, industrialization, and urbanization on ecosystems.

1. Only statement 1 is true
2. Statements 1 and 3 are true
3. Statements 1 and 2 are true
4. All statements are true
5. Only statement 2 is true

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Statements 1 and 3 are true.**

## **In News**

- India has committed to protecting 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- The NBSAP outlines 23 national targets addressing key biodiversity threats and emphasizes the need for ecosystem restoration.
- The updated NBSAP also highlights financial investments in biodiversity conservation, with a projected annual expenditure of ₹81,664.88 crore through 2029-2030.



## Key Points

- India's NBSAP reflects a serious commitment to conserving its rich biodiversity, which comprises 7-8% of the world's species within only 2.4% of global land area.
- The strategy includes themes like reducing biodiversity threats, promoting sustainable use, and restoring degraded ecosystems.
- The financial backing for these efforts highlights the integration of conservation into India's broader developmental plans.

## Additional Information

- **Mission Life**
  - India's Mission Life initiative promotes environmentally friendly lifestyles to reduce waste generation and overconsumption, both of which contribute to biodiversity loss.

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**Que. 11** Consider the following statements regarding the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme:

1. The ONOS scheme will provide access to over 13,000 scholarly journals from 30 major international publishers.
2. The scheme will benefit approximately 1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers across more than 6,300 government-managed higher education institutions and central government R&D institutions.
3. The subscription process will be centrally coordinated by the National Digital Library of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 3
4. Only 1 and 3
5. All of the above

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is **Only 1 and 2.**

## In News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme to provide nationwide access to international scholarly research articles and journal publications.

## Key Points

- The ONOS scheme will provide access to more than 13,000 scholarly journals from 30 major international publishers.
- The scheme will benefit about 1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers across disciplines such as STEM, Medicine, Social Sciences, Finance & Accounts.
- The subscription process will be centrally coordinated by INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network), not the National Digital Library of India.

## Additional Information

- **Implementation Agency**

- INFLIBNET, an autonomous inter-university centre under the UGC, will coordinate the subscription process.
- **Budget Allocation**
  - Rs. 6000 crores have been allocated for the initiative, covering the years 2025, 2026, and 2027.
- **Beneficiaries**
  - The scheme covers more than 6,300 government-managed HEIs and central government R&D institutions across India.
- **Open Access Support**
  - A central funding support of Rs. 150 crore per year will be provided to authors for publishing in Open Access journals.

**Que. 12** In the financial year 2024-25, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister has approved an infusion of equity of how many crores for working capital in the Food Corporation of India?

1. 1,000 crore
2. 5,000 crore
3. 10,000 crore
4. 15,000 crore
5. 20,000 crore

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **5,000 crore.**



### **Key Points**

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
- **CCEA** approved an equity infusion of **5,000 crore** for the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the financial year 2024-25.
- This equity infusion is aimed at enhancing the **working capital** of the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**.
- **FCI** is a major public sector undertaking responsible for ensuring the food security of India.
- The approval aligns with the government's objective to strengthen the financial health and operational efficiency of the FCI.



### **Additional Information**

- The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** was established under the **Food Corporations Act, 1964**.
- **FCI** plays a critical role in India's food policy and the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The main objectives of **FCI** include ensuring minimum support prices to farmers, maintaining buffer stocks of food grains, and distributing food grains under the PDS.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** is one of the standing committees of the Cabinet of India and is responsible for economic matters.
- Working capital refers to the funds necessary to cover the day-to-day operational expenses of an organization.

**Que. 13** Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) notified by the Ministry of Finance (MoF)?

1. The UPS will be effective from April 1, 2025, and will be available for central government employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS).



2. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will regulate the UPS and provide operational guidelines.
3. The central government's contribution to the UPS is set at 14%, the same as the contribution under NPS.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. Only 2
5. Only 3

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is **Only 1 and 2.**



### **In News**

- Statement 1 is correct: The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) will be effective from April 1, 2025, and is available for central government employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS).
- Statement 2 is correct: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will regulate the UPS and provide operational guidelines.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The central government's contribution to the UPS is 18.5%, an increase from the previous 14% under NPS.



### **Key Points**

- Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is aimed at providing retirees with a guaranteed pension, ensuring financial security and dignity post-retirement.
- PFRDA will oversee the UPS regulations and ensure its proper functioning under the Ministry of Finance (MoF).
- The central government has increased its contribution from 14% to 18.5% under UPS, compared to the previous rate under NPS.



### **Additional Information**

- National Pension System (NPS)
  - Introduced in 2004, NPS is a government-sponsored pension scheme for employees of the central government, state governments, and the private sector.
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
  - Regulates the pension sector in India and works to protect the interests of pension holders.

**Que. 14** To promote localized access to climate-resilient and high-yielding seed varieties, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare launched the Seed Village Program as part of a national mission on food and nutrition, which was introduced during the year \_\_\_\_\_.

1. 2010–11
2. 2012–13
3. 2014–15
4. 2016–17
5. 2018–19



Correct Option - 3

The correct answer is 2014–15.

### In News

- The Seed Village Program is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare to improve seed accessibility and self-sufficiency at the village level.

### Key Points

- The program was launched in 2014–15 under the Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP).
- It is a key component of the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission.
- It aims to make biofortified, high-yielding, and climate-resilient certified seeds available at the village level.
- Certified seed distribution support is provided at 50% cost for cereals and 60% for oilseeds, fodder, and green manure crops.

### Additional Information

- Financial Assistance Under the Program
  - 50% subsidy on certified seeds of cereals for distribution to farmers.
  - 60% subsidy for quality seed production of oilseeds, fodder, and green manure—limited to 1 acre per farmer.
- Mission Linkage
  - Part of the Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP).
  - Implemented under the umbrella of the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission.
- Program Objective
  - Ensure timely availability of high-quality seeds suited to local agro-climatic conditions.
  - Promote farmer-level seed production and reduce dependency on external seed sources.

**Que. 15** The union cabinet has reviewed the progress made under the National Health Mission. The Under-5 Mortality Rate has decreased from \_\_\_\_\_ per 1,000 live births in 2014 to \_\_\_\_\_ in 2020.

1. 50, 32
2. 45, 32
3. 40, 30
4. 45, 35
5. 50, 30

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is 45, 32.

### In News

- The Under-5 Mortality Rate has decreased from 45 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 32 per 1,000 live births in 2020, according to the progress under the National Health Mission.

### Key Points

- The National Health Mission has made significant progress in reducing key health indicators such as MMR, Under-5 Mortality Rate, and Infant Mortality Rate.

- The mission contributed to a reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis from 237 per 1,00,000 in 2015 to 195 in 2023, through the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program.
- Under the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0, over 34.77 crore children were vaccinated, achieving a 97.98% coverage under the Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign.
- The U-WIN platform has expanded to 65 districts across 36 States/UTs, improving real-time vaccination tracking and immunization coverage.

## **Additional Information**

- **MMR (Maternal Mortality Ratio)**
  - India has successfully reduced the MMR from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh in 2018-20 under the National Health Mission.
- **Kala-azar Elimination**
  - Under the National Health Mission, Kala-azar elimination efforts have been successful, with 100% of endemic blocks achieving the target of less than one case per 10,000 population by 2023.
- **Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM)**
  - The number of operational Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) centres has increased to 1,72,148 by the end of FY 2023-24, offering a variety of healthcare services.
- **National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission**
  - Launched in 2023, the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission has already screened over 2.61 crore individuals in tribal areas for this disease.

**Que. 16** In 2025, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying recognized exemplary service in animal protection and welfare by conferring the \_\_\_\_\_, which include individual and institutional categories honoring contributions ranging from advocacy and innovation to compassionate caregiving by children.

1. Gau Raksha and Jeevan Seva Samman
2. Animal Welfare Excellence Awards
3. Compassionate Earth Awards
4. Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Awards
5. Pashu Rakshak Abhiman Samman

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Awards.**

## **In News**

- **The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying has conferred the Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Awards to individuals and organizations for their outstanding work in animal welfare and protection.**

## **Key Points**

- The Prani Mitra Award was instituted in 1966 and has now been extended to include organizations in addition to individuals.
- The Jeev Daya Award was introduced in 2001 to honor individuals and institutions for compassionate work toward animals.
- In the 2024 edition, the Prani Mitra Award was presented under five categories, and the Jeev Daya Award under three categories.
- Notable awardees include Akhil Jain (Advocacy), Harnarayan Soni (Lifetime Service), and children like Master Aadi Shah for their contributions.



## **Additional Information**

- **Prani Mitra Award**
  - Launched in 1966; conferred to 54 individuals so far.
  - Categories include Advocacy, Innovative Ideas, Lifetime Service, Organizations, and Corporate/PSU contributions.
- **Jeev Daya Award**
  - Started in 2001; awarded to 12 individuals/organizations since inception.
  - 2024 categories included Individual, AWO, and Children below 18 years.
- **Notable 2024 Recipients**
  - Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust – Corporate/PSU category (Prani Mitra).
  - Bhagwan Mahavir Pashu Raksha Kendra – AWO category (Jeev Daya).
  - Master Chaitanya M Saxena and Master Aadi Shah – Children category (Jeev Daya).
- **Implementing Ministry**
  - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying oversees animal welfare policy and schemes in India.

**Que. 17** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding agricultural initiatives announced for the improvement of farming in India as per Budget 25-26?

1. The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana will cover 100 low agricultural productivity districts and benefit 1.7 crore farmers.
2. The Enhanced Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit has been raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh to facilitate credit flow for 7.7 crore farmers.
3. A new urea plant in Assam will be established with a capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tons to increase agricultural productivity.

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. Only 3
5. All of the above are correct.

Correct Option - 5

The correct answer is **All of the above are correct.**

## **In News**

- Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana aims to cover 100 low agricultural productivity districts, benefiting 1.7 crore farmers by enhancing irrigation and post-harvest storage facilities.
- The Enhanced Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit has been increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh to facilitate credit flow for 7.7 crore farmers.
- A new urea plant with a 12.7 lakh metric ton capacity will be established in Assam to boost agricultural productivity, especially in fertilizer availability.

## **Key Points**

- Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana will be launched to focus on irrigation and post-harvest storage, benefiting 1.7 crore farmers in 100 low agricultural productivity districts.
- The Enhanced Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit has been raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh to ease credit access for farmers.





- A new urea plant in Assam, at Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (BVFCL), will have a capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tons and is expected to increase agricultural productivity.
- The Atma Nirbharta in Pulses mission is a 6-year initiative focusing on ensuring climate-resilient seeds and remunerative prices for Tur, Urad, and Masoor pulses.

## Additional Information

- **National Mission on High Yielding Seeds**
  - The mission will focus on strengthening research and ensuring the availability of over 100 high-yielding and pest-resistant seed varieties.
- **Mission for Cotton Productivity**
  - A 5-year initiative aims to increase extra-long staple cotton production and improve quality, promoting sustainable farming practices.
- **Makhana Board in Bihar**
  - A Makhana Board will be established in Bihar to improve the production, processing, and value addition of Makhana, a local crop.
- **Fisheries Development**
  - A new framework will be established for sustainable fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone and High Seas, focusing on Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep regions.

**Que. 18** Which of the following statements are correct about the Vigyan Dhara scheme launched by the Government of India in January 2025?

1. The Vigyan Dhara scheme merges three existing umbrella schemes under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T).
2. The total outlay for the scheme is Rs. 5,000 crore for the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26).
3. The annual allocation for the scheme increased by 4.31 times, from Rs. 330.75 crore (2024-25) to Rs. 1,425 crore (2025-26).

1. Only 1
2. Only 1 and 3
3. Only 2
4. Only 3
5. All are correct

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Only 1 and 3.**

## In News

- The Vigyan Dhara scheme was launched on January 16, 2025, to strengthen India's scientific research, innovation, and technological development.

## Key Points

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The scheme merges three existing umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST): Science and Technology Institutional and Human Capacity Building, Research and Development, and Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The total outlay for the Vigyan Dhara scheme is Rs. 10,579.84 crore, not Rs. 5,000 crore, for the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26).

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The annual allocation for the scheme increased by 4.31 times, from Rs. 330.75 crore (2024-25) to Rs. 1,425 crore (2025-26).

### **Additional Information**

- The Government of India (GoI) launched the unified Vigyan Dhara scheme on 16 January 2025 to strengthen India's scientific research, innovation, and technological development.
- It merges three existing umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T):
  - Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building
  - Research and Development (R&D) Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment
  - Total Outlay: Rs. 10,579.84 crore for the 15th Finance Commission (FC) period (2021-22 to 2025-26).
  - Annual Allocation: 4.31 times Increased from Rs. 330.75 crore (2024-25) to Rs. 1,425 crore (2025-26).

**Que. 19** India will participate in the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which will assess global progress since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a defining resolution for women's rights formally agreed upon in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

1. 1980
2. 1985
3. 1990
4. 1995
5. 2000

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **1995**

### **In News**

- India will participate in the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- This session focuses on reviewing the progress made since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

### **Key Points**

- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China.
- It remains the most comprehensive global policy framework for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Adopted by 189 countries, it outlines 12 critical areas of concern including education, health, economic participation, and violence against women.

### **Additional Information**

- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**
  - Established in 1946 as a functional commission of ECOSOC.
  - Monitors and reviews progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration.
  - Headquartered at the United Nations in New York.
- **India's Role**

- India has been an active participant in CSW processes and Beijing+ reviews.
- Aligns national gender initiatives like Mission Shakti and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao with global frameworks.

**Que. 20** Who issued the Call for Proposals (CfP) for setting up Centers of Excellence under the National Green Hydrogen Mission?

1. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
4. Ministry of Science and Technology
5. Ministry of Finance

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.

### **In News**

- The Call for Proposals (CfP) for setting up Centers of Excellence under the National Green Hydrogen Mission was issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on November 4, 2024.

### **Key Points**

- The CoEs aim to foster innovation and research in Green Hydrogen technologies, supporting India's transition to a low-carbon economy.
- The government has allocated Rs. 100 crores to support the establishment of these centers under the Green Hydrogen Mission.

### **Additional Information**

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission**
  - Launched in January 2023, this mission aims to position India as a leader in Green Hydrogen technologies and promote clean energy transition.
  - It is part of India's broader strategy to decarbonize its economy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

**Que. 21** Which of the following statements regarding the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is/are true?

1. The Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project has been approved for inclusion under the PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).
2. The central assistance approved for the Jamrani Dam project is Rs. 1,557.18 crore, with an estimated total project cost of Rs. 2,584.10 crore.
3. PMKSY was launched in 2020 with the aim of improving water conservation practices and expanding irrigable area.

1. Only statement 1 is true
2. Statements 1 and 2 are true
3. Statements 1 and 3 are true

4. All statements are true
5. Only statement 2 is true

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is Statements 1 and 2 are true.

### In News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project in Uttarakhand under the PMKSY-AIBP.

### Key Points

- The project has received central assistance of Rs. 1,557.18 crore for its completion.
- The estimated total cost of the Jamrani Dam project is Rs. 2,584.10 crore.
- PMKSY was launched in 2015-16, not 2020, aiming to improve irrigation access and water conservation.
- The Jamrani Dam project is the seventh project to be included under the AIBP component of PMKSY.

### Additional Information

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)
  - PMKSY was launched during the year 2015-16 with the objective of increasing access to water on the farm and expanding cultivable area under assured irrigation, improving efficiency of water use in the field, implementing sustainable water conservation practices etc.
  - The Government of India had in December 2021 approved the implementation of PMKSY during 2021-26 with an overall outlay of Rs.93,068.56 crore (central assistance of Rs.37,454 crore).

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**Que. 22** In March 2025, which scheme was introduced by the Department of Higher Education (DHE) under the Ministry of Education (MoE) to mentor young authors?

1. PM-YUVA 2.0
2. PM-YUVA 3.0
3. Swachh Bharat Yuva
4. National Young Writers' Scheme
5. Young Scholars' Program

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is PM-YUVA 3.0.

### In News

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) launches PM-YUVA 3.0 to nurture young authors and promote Indian heritage.

### Key Points

- PM-YUVA 3.0 aims to mentor young authors and foster Indian heritage through literature.
- The scheme encourages participation from young authors in 22 Indian languages and English.

- **Launched by the Department of Higher Education (DHE) under the Ministry of Education in March 2025.**
- **PM-YUVA 3.0 builds on the success of its previous editions, expanding its outreach and impact.**

## **Additional Information**

- **PM-YUVA**
  - In view of the significant impact of the first and second editions of PM-YUVA Scheme with large scale participation of young and budding authors in 22 Indian languages and English, PM-YUVA 3.0 is being launched on 11 March 2025.
  - The Themes of PM-YUVA 3.0 are:
    - 1) Contribution of Indian Diaspora in Nation Building;
    - 2) Indian Knowledge System; and
    - 3) Makers of Modern India (1950-2025).
- **Department of Higher Education (DHE)**
  - Responsible for higher education policies in India.
  - Under the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- **Indian Languages in Focus**
  - The scheme includes participation from authors writing in 22 Indian languages.
- **Promoting Indian Heritage**
  - The initiative aims to emphasize the promotion of Indian culture, history, and heritage through literature.

**Que. 23** Consider the following statements regarding the ‘MISHTI’ scheme and identify which of them is/are correct:

1. Gujarat has planted mangroves on approximately 19,020 hectares under the MISHTI scheme.
2. The MISHTI scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. The Government of India aims to cover 540 sq km of mangroves in five years under this scheme

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1 and 2 only
5. 3 only

Correct Option - 3

The correct answer is **1 and 3 only**.

## **In News**

- **In February 2025, Gujarat led India by planting mangroves over 19,020 hectares under the MISHTI scheme.**

## **Key Points**

- Gujarat planted mangroves across 19,020 hectares under the MISHTI scheme at a cost exceeding Rs 76 crore.
- The MISHTI scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, not the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Government of India aims to cover 540 sq km of mangrove area in five years under this initiative.

- MISHTI stands for **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes**.

## Additional Information

- **MISHTI Scheme**
  - Launched in 2023 to promote sustainable mangrove plantations in coastal states and UTs.
  - Focuses on biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.
- **Mangroves**
  - Serve as natural barriers against coastal erosion and storms.
  - Provide breeding grounds for marine biodiversity.
- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**
  - Responsible for policy and programs related to the environment and forests.
  - Currently led by the Union Minister Bhupender Yadav (as of 2025).
- **Gujarat**
  - Leads India in mangrove plantation efforts under MISHTI.
  - Has significant coastal area contributing to marine ecology.

**Que. 24** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the taxation and financial reforms announced in the Union Budget 2025-26?

1. No Income Tax is applicable for annual incomes up to ₹12 lakh, and the tax rate for salaried taxpayers has been extended to ₹12.75 lakh with deductions.
2. The Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on rent has been increased from ₹2.4 lakh to ₹6 lakh, reducing the tax compliance burden.
3. The time limit for updated tax returns has been extended from 2 years to 4 years, making it easier for taxpayers to comply voluntarily.

1. Only 1
2. Only 3
3. Only 3 and 1
4. Only 2
5. All of the above are correct.

Correct Option - 5

The correct answer is All of the above are correct.

## In News

- **No Income Tax** will be applicable for annual incomes up to ₹12 lakh, with the limit extended to ₹12.75 lakh for salaried taxpayers with deductions.
- **The Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on rent** has been increased from ₹2.4 lakh to ₹6 lakh, easing the tax compliance burden.
- **The time limit for updated tax returns** has been extended from 2 years to 4 years to encourage voluntary tax compliance.

## Key Points

- The direct tax reforms aim to reduce the income tax burden for individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh annually, with a progressive tax rate structure for higher income brackets.
- The updated tax return filing time limit extension will facilitate easier tax compliance by allowing taxpayers more time to file voluntary corrections.



- The TDS limit on rent has been increased to ₹6 lakh to streamline tax deductions for rent payments, benefiting both landlords and tenants.
- Basic Customs Duty (BCD) exemptions have been granted for 36 life-saving drugs, including those for cancer, chronic, and rare diseases, to improve access to healthcare.
- Lithium-ion battery manufacturing capital goods for electric vehicles (EVs) and mobile devices have been exempted from BCD to boost domestic production in these sectors.

## Additional Information

- **Customs Duty Exemptions**
  - 36 life-saving drugs for cancer, chronic, and rare diseases have been fully exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD).
  - Lithium-ion battery manufacturing capital goods for electric vehicles (EVs) and mobile devices are now exempted from BCD to promote domestic manufacturing.
- **Textile and Electronics Exemptions**
  - Exemptions have been introduced for textile and electronics sector components to encourage local manufacturing and reduce dependency on imports.

**Que. 25** Consider the following statements regarding the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

1. The scheme provides subsidized rooftop solar installations and offers collateral-free loans at an interest rate of around 7 percent for residential rooftop solar systems up to 3 kW.
2. Under the Model Solar Village initiative, each selected village receives a financial assistance grant of Rs. 2 crore to promote solar energy adoption.
3. As of January 27, 2025, the scheme has benefitted 8.46 lakh households, with 45 percent of beneficiaries receiving zero electricity bills.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only
5. 1, 2, and 3

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **1 and 3 only**.

## In News

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has completed one successful year of implementation, significantly boosting rooftop solar adoption across India.**

## Key Points

- The scheme provides substantial subsidy support for households installing rooftop solar plants.
- It offers collateral-free loans at an interest rate of around 7 percent for rooftop solar systems up to 3 kW.
- **Under the Model Solar Village component, each selected village receives Rs. 1 crore as financial assistance, not Rs. 2 crore.**
- As of January 27, 2025, the scheme has benefitted 8.46 lakh households, with 45 percent of beneficiaries receiving zero electricity bills.



- Top five states with the highest number of households benefiting under the scheme are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and Rajasthan.

## **Additional Information**

- **Subsidy Details**
  - For 0-150 units of monthly electricity consumption: Subsidy of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 60,000 for 1-2 kW solar plants.
  - For 150-300 units of monthly consumption: Subsidy of Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 78,000

**Que. 26** Consider the following statements regarding the proposals approved by the Union Cabinet on March 5, 2025, and identify which of them is/are correct:

1. The Union Cabinet approved the revision of the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) with an outlay of Rs. 3,880 crore.
2. A ropeway from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji under the Parvatmala Pariyojana will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 4,081.28 crore.
3. The ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath will be 12.9 km long and is approved under the National Ropeways Development Programme.

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 2 only
5. 3 only

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **1 and 3 only**.

## **In News**

- On March 5, 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved key proposals including LHDCP revision and major ropeway projects in Uttarakhand.

## **Key Points**

- The Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) was revised with a total outlay of Rs. 3,880 crore.
- The 12.4 km ropeway from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji was approved at a cost of Rs. 2,730.13 crore, not Rs. 4,081.28 crore.
- A 12.9 km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath was approved under the National Ropeways Development Programme (NRDP) – Parvatmala Pariyojana at a cost of Rs. 4,081.28 crore.
- Both ropeways aim to enhance accessibility and promote tourism in Uttarakhand's pilgrimage sites.

## **Additional Information**

- **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)**
  - Aims to control animal diseases and improve livestock health infrastructure.
  - Supports vaccination and surveillance of livestock diseases.
- **National Ropeways Development Programme (NRDP)**
  - Also known as Parvatmala Pariyojana.

- Focuses on developing ropeways in hilly and remote areas to boost connectivity and tourism.
- **Govindghat–Hemkund Sahib Ropeway**
  - Length – 12.4 km
  - Approved cost – Rs. 2,730.13 crore
- **Sonprayag–Kedarnath Ropeway**
  - Length – 12.9 km
  - Approved cost – Rs. 4,081.28 crore

**Que. 27** Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

1. PMFBY, launched in 2016, provides crop insurance coverage to farmers against financial losses due to natural calamities.
2. Over the past nine years, PMFBY has disbursed claims worth Rs. 1.75 lakh crore and protected over 23.22 crore farmers.
3. The scheme offers affordable premiums, with farmers paying 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi crops, and 5% for horticulture/commercial crops.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 3
4. Only 2
5. All 1, 2, and 3.

Correct Option - 5

The correct answer is **All 1, 2, and 3.**

### **In News**

- PMFBY has completed its nine-year anniversary in February 2025, providing financial protection to farmers against crop losses due to natural calamities.
- Over the past nine years, the scheme has protected over 23.22 crore farmers and disbursed claims worth Rs. 1.75 lakh crore.
- PMFBY offers affordable premiums for farmers, with government subsidies, and continues to support agricultural resilience with a budget extension for 2025-26.

### **Key Points**

- PMFBY was launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to help farmers recover from crop losses caused by natural disasters.
- Over 23 crore farmers have benefited from the scheme in its first nine years, highlighting its importance in protecting the agricultural community.
- The scheme covers a wide variety of crops, including Kharif, Rabi, and horticulture/commercial crops, ensuring extensive farmer support.

### **Additional Information**

- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
  - Flagship crop insurance scheme introduced by the Government of India
  - Aims to support farmers in cases of crop failure due to natural calamities
  - PMFBY provides financial assistance to farmers, making agriculture more resilient



- **Affordable Premiums**
  - Farmers pay only a small percentage of the premium, with the remaining amount subsidized by the government
  - 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi crops, and 5% for horticulture/commercial crops
- **Extension and Budget Allocation**
  - The scheme has been extended until 2025-26 with a substantial budget allocation of Rs. 69,515.71 crore
  - Continues to support farmers' welfare and contribute to sustainable agriculture practices in India

**Que. 28** Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana and identify which of them is/are correct:

1. PM-SYM scheme ensures a minimum monthly pension of Rs 3,000 after the age of 60 for eligible unorganised sector workers.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Finance in partnership with LIC and CSC SPV.
3. As of March 3, 2025, Haryana issued the highest number of PM-SYM cards among all states.

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only
5. 2 and 3 only

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **1 and 3 only**.

### **In News**

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana aims to provide financial security to workers in the unorganised sector with a pension of Rs 3,000 per month after 60 years of age.

### **Key Points**

- PM-SYM provides a minimum pension of Rs 3,000 per month after the age of 60 to unorganised workers with monthly income up to Rs 15,000.
- The scheme is monitored by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E)**, not the Ministry of Finance.
- Haryana topped the list with 8,26,208 PM-SYM cards issued as of March 3, 2025.
- LIC and CSC SPV are implementing partners of the scheme, ensuring accessibility across rural and urban areas.

### **Additional Information**

- **Top 5 States (as of March 3, 2025)**
  - Haryana - 8,26,208 cards
  - Uttar Pradesh - 6,94,169 cards
  - Maharashtra - 6,21,500 cards
  - Gujarat - 3,91,043 cards
  - Chhattisgarh - 2,33,172 cards
- **Eligibility Criteria**
  - Unorganised workers aged 18–40 years

- Monthly income of Rs 15,000 or below
- **LIC's Role**
  - Acts as the fund manager for the scheme
  - Responsible for pension payout post-retirement
- **CSC SPV**
  - Provides enrollment and grievance redressal support
  - Ensures scheme reach through digital services network

**Que. 29** In February 2025, which initiative under Government eMarketplace (GeM) celebrated 6 years of promoting Startups, Women & Youth through eTransactions?

1. UDYAM
2. SWAYATT
3. SAMARTH
4. e-SHRAM
5. None of the above

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **SWAYATT**.

### **In News**

- In February 2025, the Government eMarketplace (GeM) celebrated 6 years of its SWAYATT initiative at its headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi.

### **Key Points**

- SWAYATT stands for Startups, Women & Youth Advantage Through eTransactions.
- It is an initiative under the Government eMarketplace (GeM), Department of Commerce.
- SWAYATT completed 6 years in February 2025 and the celebration was held in New Delhi.
- During the event, GeM signed an MoU with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) to further women entrepreneurship.

### **Additional Information**

- **Government eMarketplace (GeM)**
  - Online procurement platform for goods and services by government departments.
  - Operates under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **SWAYATT Initiative**
  - Aims to promote inclusivity of startups, women, and youth entrepreneurs on GeM.
  - Launched to drive equitable access to public procurement opportunities.
- **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)**
  - Women's division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
  - Partnered with GeM to enhance participation of women entrepreneurs in government e-procurement.

**Que. 30** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is implementing the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization (UNNATI) Scheme with an outlay of \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Rs.5053 Crores
2. Rs.10037 Crores

3. Rs.7577 Crores
4. Rs.20027 Crores
5. Rs.12097 Crores

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Rs.10037 Crores**.

## **In News**

- **The Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme has been launched with an outlay of Rs.10037 Crores to support industries in the region.**

## **Key Points**

- The scheme aims to enhance regional infrastructure, create employment opportunities, and promote resilience and prosperity in the Uttar Poorva region.
- It has a tenure of 10 years, with the aim to support industrial development in both Zone A (industrially advanced districts) and Zone B (industrially backward districts).
- The scheme offers incentives such as capital investment incentives and interest subvention to new and expanding industrial units in the region.
- The implementing agency for the scheme is the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

## **Additional Information**

- **Zone A and Zone B**
  - Zone A refers to industrially advanced districts, while Zone B refers to industrially backward districts, with different incentives for each zone.
- **Capital Investment Incentive**
  - Zone A offers 30% of the eligible investment with a cap of Rs.5 Cr, whereas Zone B offers 50% of the eligible investment with a cap of Rs.7.5 Cr for new and expanding units.
- **Central Capital Interest Subvention**
  - Zone A offers a 3% interest subvention for 7 years, while Zone B offers a 5% interest subvention for 7 years for new and expanding units.
- **DPIIT**
  - The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is responsible for implementing the scheme to promote industrialization in the region.

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**Que. 31** Consider the following statements regarding the Union Cabinet approvals made on March 28, 2025. Which of them are correct?

1. The Union Cabinet approved the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) with an outlay of Rs 22,919 crore.
2. A subsidy of Rs 37,216 crore on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers was approved for the Rabi season 2025.
3. Bihar's Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project has been included under PMKSY-AIBP with an allocation of Rs 6,282.32 crore.

1. 1 only
2. 2 only

3. 3 only
4. 1 and 2 only
5. 2 and 3 only

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **1 and 2 only**.

## **In News**

- In March 2025, six Indian sites were added to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, increasing the total number of Indian entries in the list to 62.

## **Key Points**

- UNESCO added **six Indian sites** to the **Tentative List of World Heritage Sites** in March 2025.
- With these additions, India's total on the Tentative List has increased to **62 sites**.
- Among the new sites are **Kanger Valley National Park (Chhattisgarh)** and **Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas (Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh)**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect as the correct number of total sites is 62, not 58.

## **Additional Information**

- **List of Six Newly Added Sites (2025)**
  - **Kanger Valley National Park** – Chhattisgarh
  - **Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs** – Telangana
  - **Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes** – Multiple States
  - **Chausath Yogini Temples** – Multiple States
  - **Gupta Temples in North India** – Multiple States
  - **Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas** – Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh
- **UNESCO Tentative List**
  - A prerequisite for any site to be nominated for the World Heritage List.
  - India now has **62 sites** listed as of March 2025.
- **Significance**
  - Helps promote cultural heritage and natural conservation.
  - Enables global recognition and tourism promotion.

**Que. 32** Which of the following statements about **Mission MAUSAM** is/are correct?

1. Mission MAUSAM is led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and aims to position India as a leader in weather and climate sciences.
2. The mission was launched in 2022 with a budget of Rs 5,000 crore for a period of five years.
3. The implementation of Mission MAUSAM involves institutions like IMD, NCMRWF, and IITM.

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. All of the above
5. None is correct

Correct Option - 3



The correct answers are: **Only 1 and 3.**

## **In News**

- **Mission MAUSAM, led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), was approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2024 with a budget of Rs 2,000 crore.**
- **The initiative aims to enhance India's weather and climate resilience by 2026.**
- **The mission is implemented through IMD, NCMRWF, and IITM.**

## **Key Points**

- **Mission MAUSAM is led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).**
- **It was approved in September 2024 with a budget of Rs 2,000 crore for two years.**
- **Aims to make India "Weather Ready" and "Climate Smart" by 2026.**
- **Implemented by IMD (New Delhi), NCMRWF (Noida), and IITM (Pune).**

## **Additional Information**

- **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**
  - Responsible for meteorology, ocean development, and climate change studies.
  - Oversees key institutions like IMD, NCMRWF, and IITM.
- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**
  - Headquarters: New Delhi.
  - Provides weather forecasts, warnings, and climate services.
- **National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**
  - Located in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
  - Focuses on numerical weather prediction and atmospheric research.
- **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**
  - Based in Pune, Maharashtra.
  - Conducts research on monsoons, climate modeling, and air quality.

**Que. 33** Consider the following statements regarding the NAMASTE Scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:

1. The scheme is being implemented in 300 cities with a total outlay of ₹500 crores for the period 2023–2028.
2. Sanitation workers covered under the scheme receive Ayushman Bharat health coverage and may also avail capital subsidy and subsidized interest loans.
3. The National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation is the implementing agency of the NAMASTE scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. Only Statement 1 is correct
2. Only Statement 2 is correct
3. Only Statements 1 and 3 are correct
4. Only Statements 2 and 3 are correct
5. All statements are correct

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **Only Statements 2 and 3 are correct**

## **In News**



- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has distributed Sanitation Kits and Ayushman Health Cards to sanitation workers under the NAMASTE Scheme.

## **Key Points**

- The NAMASTE Scheme was launched in 2022 for the period FY 2022–23 to FY 2025–26 with a total outlay of ₹360 crores.
- It covers 500 cities and is implemented by the National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC).
- The scheme provides sanitation workers with Ayushman Bharat health coverage, financial support, skill training, and safety kits.
- Capital subsidy and concessional loans are provided to sanitation workers to support sustainable livelihoods.

## **Additional Information**

- **Financial Support**
  - Loan interest rate: 5% for projects up to ₹1 lakh (4% for women); 6% for above ₹1 lakh.
  - Capital subsidy up to 50% or ₹3.75 lakh depending on project cost and group size.
- **City Coverage Criteria**
  - Cities with population over 1 lakh with notified municipalities, all capital cities/towns of states/UTs, and 10 select cities from hill states or tourist areas.
- **Loan Repayment Period**
  - Up to ₹5 lakh: maximum 5 years including moratorium.
  - Above ₹5 lakh: maximum 7 years including moratorium.
- **Implementing Agency**
  - National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

**Que. 34** Consider the following statements regarding the Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme:

1. The Soil Health Card scheme was launched by the Government of India on February 19, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Suratgarh, Rajasthan.
2. The SHC scheme has been successfully implemented for 10 years and has been merged with the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as a component under the name ‘Soil Health & Fertility’.
3. The number of soil health cards issued to farmers surged from 16.84 lakh in 2020-21 to 53.08 lakh in 2024-25.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 1 and 3
3. Only 2 and 3
4. Only 3
5. All 1, 2 and 3

Correct Option - 5

The correct answer is **All 1, 2, and 3.**

## **In News**

- The Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, launched by the Government of India on February 19, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has successfully completed 10 years of implementation.
- The scheme aims to issue soil health cards to all farmers in India, promoting sustainable agricultural practices.
- As of 2024-25, the number of soil health cards issued to farmers surged from 16.84 lakh in 2020-21 to 53.08 lakh, indicating significant progress.

## Key Points

- The SHC scheme was introduced as part of efforts to support farmers with soil testing and recommendations on how to improve soil health and fertility.
- It was merged with the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2022-23, under the new component 'Soil Health & Fertility' to enhance its outreach and effectiveness.
- The scheme has contributed significantly to improving soil health, increasing agricultural productivity, and promoting sustainable farming practices across the country.

## Additional Information

- **Soil Health Cards**
  - Provide farmers with information on soil health and suggestions for improving soil fertility through fertilizers and organic matter
  - Support the government's goal of achieving sustainable agriculture and increasing agricultural productivity
- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**
  - A national scheme to promote agricultural development and support farmers across India
  - Incorporates various initiatives such as soil health, irrigation improvement, and crop diversification
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)**
  - Responsible for implementing policies and programs to support farmers and improve agricultural practices in India

**Que. 35** Consider the following statements regarding the recent Union Cabinet approvals in 2024:

1. The Cabinet has approved the construction of a Third Launch Pad (TLP) for ISRO at Sriharikota, with a project cost of ₹3,984.86 crore.
2. The 8th Pay Commission is expected to come into effect after January 1, 2026, and proposes to increase the basic salary to over ₹40,000.
3. Indian Space Transportation Systems currently use three launch pads including the newly approved TLP.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 3 only
5. All are correct

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is **1 and 2 only**.

## In News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a Third Launch Pad (TLP) at ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, to support Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLVs).
- The Cabinet also approved the formation of the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries and pensions for over 1.2 crore central government employees and pensioners.

## Key Points

- The TLP project is estimated at **₹3,984.86 crore** and will be completed in **4 years at SDSC, Sriharikota**.
- The pad will support both NGLV and LVM3 and include horizontal rocket integration capabilities.
- It will enable ISRO to launch heavier spacecraft with payloads up to 30,000 tonnes into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), compared to the current 8,000 tonnes.
- The project aligns with India's upcoming space goals such as the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and crewed lunar missions.
- Currently, ISRO operates using two launch pads: **First Launch Pad (FLP)** and **Second Launch Pad (SLP)**.

## Additional Information

- The 8th Pay Commission will be effective after the term of the 7th Pay Commission ends on **December 31, 2025**.
- The minimum basic salary will be increased from **₹18,000 to over ₹40,000**.
- The salary hike is estimated to be between **25% and 30%, including allowances and performance-based pay**.
- Fitment factor under the **8th Pay Commission** is expected to be **2.6% to 2.85%, compared to 2.57% under the 7th CPC**.
- The 7th Pay Commission was constituted on February 28, 2014, by the UPA government and was chaired by **Justice Ashok Kumar Mathur**.
- Since 1947, seven Pay Commissions have been formed, generally every 10 years, to revise the pay structures of government employees.

**Que. 36** Celebrated globally to reinforce the importance of consumer rights and protection, World Consumer Rights Day was first officially observed in the year \_\_\_\_\_, drawing inspiration from a 1962 address by U.S. President John F. Kennedy recognizing four basic consumer rights.

1. 1975
2. 1980
3. 1983
4. 1987
5. 1990

Correct Option - 3

The correct answer is **1983**

## In News

- World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on 15th March to raise global awareness about consumer rights and promote fair, safe, and sustainable consumer practices.
- The theme for 2025 is "A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles."

## Key Points

- World Consumer Rights Day was first observed in 1983 to commemorate President John F. Kennedy's 1962 speech to the U.S. Congress formally recognizing consumer rights.
- He identified the right to safety, to be informed, to choose, and to be heard as essential consumer rights.
- The day is now marked globally by organizations, governments, and civil societies to promote consumer welfare and protections.

## **Additional Information**

- **Consumer Protection in India**
  - Consumer Protection Act, 2019: Establishes a three-tier redressal mechanism — District, State, and National Commissions.
  - Addresses unfair trade practices and ensures swift resolution of consumer complaints.
- **Digital Consumer Services**
  - **E-Daakhil:** Enables online filing of consumer complaints.
  - **E-Jagriti:** Portal for case tracking and management.
  - **National Consumer Helpline:** Offers multilingual support (available in 17 languages).
  - **Jaago Grahak Jaago:** A flagship awareness initiative empowering consumers with legal and practical knowledge.
- **Consumer Welfare Fund**
  - Supports capacity-building initiatives for consumer awareness.
  - Operational in 24 States and 1 Union Territory (Puducherry).

**Que. 37** Which of the following statements is/are true regarding the launch of the 'Swavalambini' Women Entrepreneurship Programme?

1. Union MoS Jayant Chaudhary launched 'Swavalambini' in February 2025.
2. The programme was launched in three North East states: Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
3. The programme was introduced through the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in coordination with NITI Aayog.

1. Only 1 is true
2. Only 2 is true
3. Only 3 is true
4. Only 1 and 2 is true
5. All are true

Correct Option - 5

The correct answer is **All are true.**

## **In News**

- **Union MoS Jayant Chaudhary Virtually Launched 'Swavalambini' Women Entrepreneurship Programme in 3 NE States.**

## **Key Points**

- **Union Minister of State (MoS) Jayant Chaudhary launched 'Swavalambini' in February 2025.**
- The programme was launched in three North East states: Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
- The programme was introduced through the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in coordination with NITI Aayog.

## Additional Information

- **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE)**
  - Based in Guwahati, Assam.
  - Coordinating the 'Swavalambini' programme.
- **NITI Aayog**
  - National Institution for Transforming India.
  - Involved in the 'Swavalambini' programme's coordination.
- **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**
  - Responsible for skill development initiatives in India.

**Que. 38** To address the challenges of climate change and enhance livelihood security along coastal regions, the Government of India has launched an initiative to develop 100 existing coastal fishermen villages into climate-resilient communities under the centrally funded scheme titled the \_\_\_\_\_.

1. National Marine Sustainability Mission
2. Blue Revolution Fisheries Development Scheme
3. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
4. Integrated Coastal Livelihood Programme
5. Sagarmala Matsya Suraksha Yojana

Correct Option - 3

The correct answer is **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**

## In News

- **The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying is developing 100 Coastal Fishermen Villages into Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).**

## Key Points

- **The project aims to make 100 coastal fishermen villages climate-resilient by improving infrastructure and livelihood sustainability.**
- **Launched in 2024 under the umbrella of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana.**
- **Total outlay for the initiative is ₹200 crore, with ₹2 crore allocated per village.**
- **The initiative is 100% centrally funded and implemented by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).**

## Additional Information

- **PMMSY Overview**
  - Launched in 2020 to enhance fish production and improve fisherfolk livelihoods.
  - Focuses on sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture across inland and marine sectors.
- **NFDB Role**
  - Nodal agency for planning, funding, and technical support under the initiative.
  - Coordinates with coastal states for implementation and monitoring.
- **Climate Resilience Components**
  - Includes disaster-proof housing, early warning systems, cold chain facilities, and eco-friendly infrastructure.

**Que. 39** The Ministry of Rural Development has launched a geospatial land survey initiative from Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, covering 152 Urban Local Bodies across 26 States and 3 Union Territories. The project, aimed at improving land ownership records and urban planning, is officially named \_\_\_\_\_.

1. SVAMITVA Yojana
2. Urban Bhoomi Abhiyan
3. Digital Nagar Mapping Mission
4. NAKSHA
5. Smart Urban Records Initiative

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is the **National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA)**.

### **In News**

- The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the NAKSHA initiative to modernize urban land record systems using geospatial technology.

### **Key Points**

- NAKSHA stands for National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations.
- Launched from Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, it covers 152 Urban Local Bodies in 26 States and 3 Union Territories.
- Survey of India is the technical partner conducting aerial surveys and orthorectified imagery.
- The total cost of the initiative is Rs. 194 crores, fully funded by the Government of India.
- The project aims to enhance land ownership documentation, ease of living, urban planning, and reduce disputes.

### **Additional Information**

- **Survey of India**
  - The national mapping agency under the Department of Science & Technology.
  - Responsible for providing high-resolution geospatial data.
- **Web-GIS Platform**
  - Developed by Madhya Pradesh State Electronic Development Corporation (MPSEDC).
  - Provides visual access to mapped urban land records.
- **NICSI (National Informatics Centre Services Inc.)**
  - Provides secure digital storage for project data.
  - Operates under the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- **Objective of NAKSHA**
  - Ensure reliable land ownership records in urban areas.
  - Support dispute resolution and urban development strategies.

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**Que. 40** Which of the following statements regarding the PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme are true?

1. The scheme provides a full tuition fee coverage for students in top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs).
2. The scheme is designed to provide loans only to students from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC).
3. The total outlay for the PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme is ₹3,600 crore for the period 2024-2025 to 2030-2031.



1. Only statement 3 is true
2. Only statement 1 is true
3. Statements 1 and 3 are true
4. Statements 2 and 3 are true
5. All statements are true

Correct Option - 3

The correct answer is **Statements 1 and 3 are true.**

### **In News**

- The PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme aims to provide collateral-free loans for meritorious students in the top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs).

### **Key Points**

- The scheme provides full tuition fees and other course-related expenses coverage.
- It is open to meritorious students in both government and private institutions, as long as they are among the top 860 QHEIs based on NIRF rankings.
- The allocated outlay of ₹3,600 crore for 2024-2025 to 2030-2031 is aimed to benefit over 22 lakh students annually.

### **Additional Information**

- **PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme**
  - Launched to provide educational loans to meritorious students from economically weaker sections without the need for collateral or a guarantor.
  - The scheme will cover tuition fees and related expenses for students in the top-ranked institutions according to NIRF rankings.

**Que. 41** Which of the following statements regarding the Sanchaar Saathi Mobile App and National Broadband Mission 2.0 is correct?

- I. The Sanchaar Saathi Mobile App enables users to report suspected calls and SMS directly from mobile phone logs.
- II. The National Broadband Mission 2.0 aims to increase rural internet subscribers per 100 population from 45 to 60 by 2030.
- III. The National Broadband Mission 2.0 aims to achieve 100% broadband connectivity to 90% of anchor institutions by 2025.

1. I only
2. I and II only
3. II and III only
4. I and III only
5. I, II, and III

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **I and II only.**

### **In News**



- The Sanchaar Saathi Mobile App allows users to report suspected calls and SMS directly from mobile phone logs, contributing to telecom security.

## Key Points

- The National Broadband Mission 2.0 aims to increase the number of rural internet subscribers per 100 population from 45 to 60 by 2030.
- However, the mission plans to achieve 100% broadband connectivity to 90% of anchor institutions like schools, PHCs, and Panchayat offices by 2030, not by 2025.
- Sanchaar Saathi Mobile App is designed to enhance telecom security, helping users report suspicious activities and track mobile handset authenticity.
- The National Broadband Mission 2.0 aims to improve broadband infrastructure, including extending optical fibre connectivity to 2.70 lakh villages by 2030 and enhancing fixed broadband speeds to 100 Mbps by 2030.
- The mission will also focus on the protection of telecom infrastructure through apps like 'Call Before u Dig' to avoid damage to underground telecom and utility networks.

## Additional Information

- **Chakshu**
  - A feature in the Sanchaar Saathi Mobile App that allows users to report suspected calls and SMS directly from their mobile phone logs for better security management.
- **National Broadband Mission 1.0**
  - Under NBM 1.0, nearly 8 lakh towers were established, and the success of this phase paved the way for the launch of National Broadband Mission 2.0.
- **Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity**
  - The mission aims to extend optical fibre cable connectivity to 2.70 lakh villages by 2030, significantly improving broadband access in rural areas.
- **Broadband Speed Goal**
  - The National Broadband Mission 2.0 aims to improve the national average fixed broadband download speed from 63.55 Mbps to 100 Mbps by 2030.

**Que. 42** Which of the following statements about the UJALA scheme and SLNP Programme is correct?

1. UJALA scheme was launched by the Ministry of Renewable Energy in 2014.
2. LED bulbs under UJALA are provided at Rs 70 per bulb, significantly reducing from Rs 450-500 in 2014.
3. SLNP has replaced over 1 crore conventional streetlights with LED lights across India.

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. All 1, 2, and 3
5. None of the above

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Only 2 and 3.**

## In News

- On January 5, 2025, the UJALA scheme and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) completed 10 years of successful implementation in promoting energy-efficient lighting across India.

## Key Points

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** UJALA was launched in 2015, not by the Ministry of Renewable Energy but by the Ministry of Power under Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** LED bulbs are provided at Rs 70 each under the UJALA scheme, reduced from the initial cost of Rs 450-500 in 2014, making energy-efficient lighting affordable for households.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The SLNP has installed over 1.34 crore LED streetlights across India, contributing to significant energy savings and reduced carbon emissions.

## Additional Information

- **UJALA scheme** is aimed at promoting energy efficiency by providing affordable LED bulbs, tube lights, and fans to households, leading to reduced electricity bills and lower energy consumption.
- **SLNP** is a national initiative to replace conventional streetlights with energy-efficient LED lights in urban and rural areas, managed by EESL under the Ministry of Power.

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**Que. 43** Consider the following statements regarding the Stand-Up India Scheme. Which of them are correct?

1. The Stand-Up India Scheme completed 9 years on April 5, 2025, since its launch in 2016 to promote grassroots entrepreneurship.
2. The scheme provides bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 100 lakh to at least one SC/ST and one woman borrower per bank branch.
3. Only SC/ST entrepreneurs under the age of 18 are eligible for the scheme.

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1 and 2 only
5. 1 and 3 only

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is **1 and 2 only**.

## In News

- On April 5, 2025, the Government of India marked 9 years of successful implementation of the Stand-Up India Scheme, launched on April 5, 2016.

## Key Points

- The **Stand-Up India Scheme** was launched on **April 5, 2016** and completed **9 years** on **April 5, 2025**.
- It aims to **promote grassroots entrepreneurship** with a focus on **economic empowerment and job creation**.
- The scheme provides **bank loans ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 100 lakh** to a minimum of **one SC/ST and one woman borrower per Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) branch**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: **Only individuals above the age of 18 years** are eligible under the scheme, not below 18.

## Additional Information

- **Stand-Up India Scheme**
  - Launched by the Government of India on April 5, 2016.
  - Focuses on promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women communities.
  - Offers institutional credit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 100 lakh for setting up new enterprises.
- **Nodal Agency**
  - **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, headquartered in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
  - Implements the scheme under the guidance of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance (MoF).
- **Eligibility Criteria**
  - Only **SC/ST or women entrepreneurs**.
  - Must be **above 18 years of age**.
  - Applies to new businesses only (greenfield projects).

**Que. 44** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Cabinet approvals in March 2025?

1. The Union Cabinet approved a Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD) with an additional Rs 1,000 crore, bringing the total budget to Rs 2,790 crore for the 15th Finance Commission period.
2. The Cabinet approved a new Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex with an annual capacity of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes at a cost of Rs 10,601.40 crore in Assam.
3. The Cabinet approved the construction of a 3-lane National Highway connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) Port with Chowk in Maharashtra, with an estimated cost of Rs 4,500.62 crore.

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2
3. Only 2 and 3
4. Only 1 and 3
5. Only 3

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is **Only 1 and 2.**

### **In News**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD) with an additional Rs 1,000 crore, bringing the total budget to Rs 2,790 crore for the period of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) cycle.
- They also approved a new Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex with an annual capacity of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes at an estimated cost of Rs 10,601.40 crore in Assam.
- In addition, a proposal for the construction of a Greenfield National Highway connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) Port with Chowk in Maharashtra was approved, but it is a 6-lane highway, not a 4-lane highway.

### **Key Points**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Union Cabinet approved the Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD) with an additional Rs 1,000 crore for the 15th FC cycle, bringing the total budget to Rs 2,790 crore.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A new Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex with an annual capacity of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes is being set up at Namrup in Assam with an estimated cost of Rs 10,601.40 crore.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Cabinet approved the construction of a 6-lane National Highway, not a 4-lane highway, to connect Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) Port with Chowk in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs 4,500.62 crore.

## Additional Information

- Additional approvals:
  - Incentive Scheme for promotion of low-value Bharat Interface for Money- Unified Payments Interface (BHIM-UPI) transactions Persons to Merchant (P2M)', with estimated budget of Rs 1,500 crore for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).
  - Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), with an additional Rs 1,000 crore, bringing the total allocation to Rs 3,400 crore during 15th FC cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
  - Setting up of a new Brownfield AmmoniaUrea Complex of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) annual capacity of urea production, at Namrup in Assam, with total estimated cost of Rs 10,601.40 crore.

**Que. 45** Bharat Tex 2025, India's largest global textile event, will take place in Greater Noida and New Delhi. Digital India Corporation is showcasing various initiatives to support artisans and weavers, including Indiahandmade.com, which serves as an e-commerce marketplace for Indian handloom and handicraft products. This platform currently features more than \_\_\_\_\_ artisans and weavers and over 15,000 products.

1. 10,000
2. 7,500
3. 5,000
4. 2,500
5. 1,000

Correct Option - 4

The correct answer is 2,500.

## In News

- **Bharat Tex 2025, India's largest global textile event, is set to take place in Greater Noida and New Delhi.**
- **Digital India Corporation is featuring its initiatives at Bharat Tex 2025 to help artisans reach a larger audience through digital platforms.**

## Key Points

- **Indiahandmade.com is an e-commerce marketplace dedicated to Indian handloom and handicraft products.**
- The platform currently features a listing of over 2,500 artisans and weavers and more than 15,000 products.
- DigiBunai is an open-source software that facilitates the digital transformation of textile design processes.
- eSaras.in is an e-commerce platform designed to uplift rural livelihoods by showcasing handcrafted products from self-managed Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions.
- The "Bharat ke Kaarigar" campaign connects consumers with the stories and traditions behind each handmade piece.

## Additional Information

- **Bharat Tex 2025**
  - Aims to bring together stakeholders from the global textile industry.

- Showcases India's diverse textile heritage, innovative textile technologies, and sustainability efforts.
- **Indiahandmade.com**
  - Developed under the Digital India initiative to promote handmade products.
  - Offers direct-to-consumer sales, eliminating middlemen for better profits for artisans.
- **DigiBunai**
  - Designed to modernize traditional weaving techniques through digital tools.
  - Supports artisans in creating complex textile designs with precision.
- **eSaras.in**
  - Launched to promote rural artisans and Self-Help Groups.
  - Provides an online marketplace for authentic handcrafted products.

**Que. 46** Consider the following statements regarding the second round of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel launched in January 2025:

1. The PLI Scheme 1.1 will be implemented from FY 2025–26 to FY 2029–30 with an outlay of ₹6,322 crore.
2. The investment and capacity thresholds for Cold-Rolled Grain-Oriented (CRGO) steel have been increased to ₹5,000 crore and 1 lakh tonnes.
3. The total investment made by companies under the first round of the PLI Scheme reached ₹18,300 crore as of November 2024.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 3 only
5. All are correct

Correct Option - 1

The correct answer is **1 and 3 only**.



### **In News**

- **On January 6, 2025, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy, launched the second round of the PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel (PLI Scheme 1.1) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.**
- **The application window for PLI Scheme 1.1 remains open from January 6 to January 31, 2025.**



### **Key Points**

- PLI Scheme 1.1 will be implemented over five financial years, from **FY 2025–26 to FY 2029–30**.
- It will operate within the previously allocated budget of **₹6,322 crore from the first round of the scheme**.
- It targets five product categories: Coated/Plated Steel Products, High Strength/Wear Resistant Steel, Specialty Rails, Alloy Steel Products & Steel Wires, and Electrical Steel.
- Investment and capacity creation thresholds for Cold-Rolled Grain-Oriented (CRGO) steel have been reduced to **₹3,000 crore and 50,000 tonnes**.
- As of November 2024, total investment made by companies in the first round reached **₹18,300 crore**.



### **Additional Information**



- The first round of the **PLI Scheme** was notified in **July 2021** with a budget of **₹6,322 crore**, resulting in 44 active projects by 26 companies and ~₹27,106 crore committed investment.
- The PLI Scheme was originally launched in March 2020 to boost manufacturing, exports, and reduce import dependence.
- Initially launched for **3 sectors**, it has been expanded to **14 sectors** with a total budget of **₹1.97 lakh crore**.
- As of August 2024, ₹1.46 lakh crore of investment under PLI has led to ₹12.50 lakh crore in production and sales, generating ~9.5 lakh jobs.
- **Union Minister of Steel: Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy (Mandya, Karnataka); MoS: Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma (Narasapuram, Andhra Pradesh).**

**Que. 47** What is the total outlay approved by the Ministry of Tourism for 40 projects under the Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI) guidelines?

1. Rs 3,100 crore
2. Rs 3,295 crore
3. Rs 3,560 crore
4. Rs 2,952 crore
5. Rs 3,750 crore

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **Rs 3,295 crore**.

### **In News**

- The Ministry of Tourism has approved 40 projects with a total outlay of over Rs 3,295 crore.
- The initiative is aimed at promoting sustainable tourism and reducing overcrowding at popular tourist destinations.

### **Key Points**

- These projects span 23 states and focus on transforming lesser-known destinations into iconic tourist spots.
- They were selected from 87 proposals received under the SASCI guidelines.
- The funding will be provided through long-term interest-free loans.
- The initiative emphasizes enhancing tourism infrastructure and stimulating local economies.

### **Additional Information**

- **Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI)**
  - A scheme to provide financial support to states/UTs for infrastructure development.
  - Focuses on sustainable and long-term development projects.
- **Objective of the Initiative**
  - To promote sustainable tourism by reducing the pressure on overcrowded destinations.
  - To stimulate local economies by developing lesser-known tourist destinations.

**Que. 48** Odisha became the 34th state in India to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in convergence with which existing scheme in the state?

1. Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana



2. Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana
3. Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana
4. Odisha Health Insurance Scheme
5. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

Correct Option - 3

The correct answer is **Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana.**

### **In News**

- In January 2025, the Government of Odisha signed an MoU with the National Health Authority (NHA) for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.

### **Key Points**

- Odisha became the 34th state in India to implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- The MoU involves the convergence of AB PM-JAY with Odisha's existing Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY).
- AB PM-JAY is a flagship scheme aimed at providing healthcare coverage to economically vulnerable families.
- The MoU was signed by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, with the NHA under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

### **Additional Information**

- **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**
  - Aims to provide free healthcare coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalizations.
  - Targets economically weaker sections of society, including those listed under the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC).
- **Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY)**
  - Odisha's state-level health insurance scheme.
  - Offers healthcare benefits to beneficiaries not covered under AB PM-JAY.
- **National Health Authority (NHA)**
  - The implementing body for AB PM-JAY under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
  - Works on enhancing health insurance coverage in India.

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**Que. 49** What initiative was launched by Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar to empower marginalized artisans?(November 2024)

1. Rang Paridhan Program
2. TULIP (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme)
3. Vishwas Yojana
4. Namaste Yojana
5. TPM-SURAKSHA Portal

Correct Option - 2

The correct answer is **TULIP (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme).**

### **In News**

- Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024' and unveiled the TULIP platform to empower marginalized artisans.

## Key Points

- TULIP is a digital e-marketing platform aimed at providing global exposure and sales opportunities for marginalized artisans, including SC, OBC, sanitation workers, and persons with disabilities.
- Other initiatives launched include the Rang Paridhan Program, TPM-SURAKSHA Portal, and PM-DAKSH Portal to support artisans and marginalized communities.
- The initiatives aim to provide financial assistance, skill training, and marketing opportunities to over 5.6 million beneficiaries and 614,000 young individuals.

## Additional Information

- **Shilp Samagam Mela 2024**
  - Aimed at providing a platform for marginalized artisans to showcase their traditional crafts and products, further supporting their livelihoods and cultural heritage.

**Que. 50** The Ministry of Rural Development has launched 56 new watershed development projects under PMKSY in 10 best-performing states viz; Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim. What is the outlay of these 56 projects?

1. Rs.500 Crores
2. Rs.600 Crores
3. Rs.700 Crores
4. Rs.800 Crores
5. Rs.900 Crores

Correct Option - 3

The correct answer is **Rs.700 Crores**.

## In News

- The Ministry of Rural Development has launched 56 new watershed development projects under PMKSY with an outlay of Rs.700 Crores.

## Key Points

- The total outlay for these 56 new watershed development projects is Rs.700 Crores, aimed at improving rainfed/degraded land through integrated watershed management.
- The projects cover about 5,000 hectares each and are located in 10 best-performing states.
- The Watershed Development Component under PMKSY aims to improve livelihoods, promote sustainability, and increase efficiency through community-based initiatives.

## Additional Information

- **PMKSY (Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana)**
  - A scheme launched in 2015 to promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve water use efficiency across India.
- **Watershed Development**
  - Aimed at improving the productive potential of rainfed and degraded land through integrated watershed management and strengthening local institutions.

- **WDC-PMKSY 2.0**
  - In 2021-22, the government-sanctioned 1150 projects with a total outlay of Rs.12,303 Crores, covering approximately 50 Lakh hectares under WDC-PMKSY 2.0.
- **Best-performing States**
  - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim were identified as the 10 best-performing states for these watershed projects.

