

- The G-20 group was originally established as a platform for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss the international economic and financial issues.
- Digital public infrastructure is one of India's G-20 priorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1 only

(b) 2 only

Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

G20 BALI SUMMIT

The 2022 G20 Bali summit was held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia in November 2022 under Indonesia's presidency which adopted the Bali Declaration.

Mandate of G20:

- . The Group of Twenty (G 20) is an intergovernmental forum for international economic cooperation.
- . The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to inter-alia include trade, climate change, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.

Timeline:

- The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues. Since 1999, an annual meeting of finance ministers has taken place.
- The G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/ Government in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2007. The first G20 Summit took place in 2008 in Washington DC, US.

Analysis of G20:

- Significance: The member countries represent around 85 % of the global GDP, 75 % of the global trade, and two-thirds of the world population.
- . Criticism: However, the G-20 has been criticized for various reasons like lack of transparency, encouraging trade agreements that strengthen large corporations, being slow to combat climate change, and failing to address social inequality and global threats to democracy.

Bali Summit: Key Highlights of Bali Declaration

- . The war in Ukraine is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy.
- The threat of using nuclear weapons in the war is "inadmissible".
- The challenges to global food security have been intensified by the ongoing "conflicts and tensions".
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) should "lead global action" to counter money laundering and terror financing.

Statement 1 - Source : December 2022 Magazine, Page - 40

India's Priorities during G20 Presidency Includes:

- · Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
- Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth
- Accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure
- Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century
- Women-led development



Statement 2 - Source : March 2023 Magazine, Page - 27



Consider the following pairs:

Regions often mentioned in news

: War between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Reasons for being in news

North Kivu and Ituri
 Nagorno-Karabakh

: Insurgency in Mozambique

3. Kherson and Zaporizhzhia

: Dispute between Israel and Lebnon

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Recently, Azerbaijan claimed that it had captured the territory in Karabakh in a retaliatory campaign, after an Armenian attack killed one Azerbaijani soldier.

About:

- Nagomo-Karabakh is a disputed territory, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.
- But most of it is controlled by Armenian separatists since the first Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988 to 1994).



Background of Conflict:

- Armenians have made historical claims over the enclave, which is largely populated by ethnic Armenians.
- The conflict has roots dating back over a century into competition between Christian Armenian and Muslim Turkic
 and Persian influences.

Ceasefire Agreement:

- The war ended on 10 November 2020, when a trilateral ninepoint ceasefire agreement was signed between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia.
- The agreement imposed an immediate ceasefire, a timeline for withdrawal from Azerbaijan's occupied regions, the introduction of Russian peacekeepers, and the need for new transport corridors.
- However, this failed to initiate a peace agreement because it altered the power balance between the two countries and lacked clarity on several issues resulting in the subsequent ceasefire violations on both sides.

Why are Ceasefire Agreements not Working?

- First, Armenia and Azerbaijan have never agreed upon a boundary between them in the past and the 2020 ceasefire statement did not make it clear on how exactly the border should be drawn out.
- Second, the dispute over transport routes. The overland route that goes from Stepanakert (a city within the Nagorno-Karabakh region) to Armenia has become an issue between the two countries.
- Third, the difference over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.
 Both countries claim absolute historic ownership of the region.

World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO):

- The WANO is a non profit, international organisation with a mission to maximize the safety and reliability of the world's commercial nuclear power plants.
- The organization's members are mainly owners and operators of nuclear power plants.
- It was established on 15 May, 1989 following the nuclear accident at Chernobyl (Ukraine).
- Headquarters London, United Kingdom

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB):

- It was constituted in 1983 by the President of India by exercising the powers conferred by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- The regulatory authority of AERB is derived from the rules and notifications promulgated under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The headquarters is in Mumbai
- The mission of the Board is to ensure that the use of ionising radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to health and the environment.
- Currently, the Board consists of a full-time Chairman, an ex officio Member, three part-time Members and a Secretary.

ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR PLANT

- Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant is located in southern Ukraine on the banks of Kakhovka reservoir on the Dnipro river. It is located 200-km from Russia-annexed Crimea, and 500odd km from Ukraine's capital Kylv.
- The plant is Europe's largest, and 10th biggest in the world. Before the war started, it produced half of Ukraine's power with a total capacity of 5,700 MW. The plant has six reactors with a capacity of 950 MW each.







Consider the following pairs with regard to sports awards:

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awards: For the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over period of last four years.

Arjuna Award For the lifetime achievement by a sportsperson.

Dronacharya Award To honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained

sportspersons or teams.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar To recognise the contribution made by sportspersons even

after their retirement.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

Only one Only two

Only three (d) All four



MAINS TEST SERIES PORTAL ■ PRELIMS ANALYTICA

Live

· Announced by: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

• Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021:

o It is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of the previous four years.

ABOUT US CSE CLASSROOM COURSES MENTORSHIP NEW BATCHES TEST SERIES POSTAL COURSES ADMISSION

- o This year, it will be given to 12 Sportspersons.
- Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2021:
 - o It is given for good performance over a period of the previous four years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
 - This year, 35 Sportspersons will receive this award.
- Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games
 - o It is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.
- Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games
 - o It is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to the promotion of sports events after their retirement.
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar
 - o It is given to corporate entities (both in the private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies at the State and National level who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy:
 - Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given this award.



SET-A

Consider the following statements in respect of the 44th Chess Olympiad, 2022:

- . It was first time that Chess Olympiad was held in India.
- The official mascot was named 'Thambi'.
- 3. The trophy for the wining team in the open section is the Vera Menchik Cup.
- 4. The trophy for the wining team in the women's section is the Hamilton-Russel Cup. How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

44th CHESS OLYMPIAD

The 44th Chess Olympiad (also known as the Chennai Chess Olympiad), was held in Chennai, India from 28 July to 9 August 2022.

About:

- It was organised by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE).
- This was the first Chess Olympiad to take place in India.
- The official mascot was named "Thambi", a chess knight dressed in the traditional Tamil male attire vetti with a white shirt.

Source: September 2022 Magazine Page-116



SET-A

Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002:

Statement-I: One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm × 400 mm.

Statement-II: The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-II
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.



Both Statements 1 and 2 are from September 2022 Magazine, Page - 15



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

Statement -I: 7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day

Statement-II: It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-II
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY

8th National handloom day was observed on August 7, 2022.

About:

- National Handloom Day is observed every year on August 7th across the country. It was on this day, in 1905 Swadeshi Aandolan was started.
- In 2015, Prime Minister Modi announced to celebrate this date as National handloom day.
- In India, after agriculture, handloom is one of the largest employment providers. This sector provides employment to 43.31 lakh persons engaged in about 23.77 lakh handlooms.

Both Statements 1 and 2 are from September 2022 Magazine, Page - 110



SET-A

Consider the following statements in respect of the Constitution Day:

Statement-I: The Constitution Day is celebrated on 26th November every year to promote constitutional values among citizens.

Statement-II: On 26th November, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India set up a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to prepare a Draft Constitution of India.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-II
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

CONSTITUTION DAY

Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.

About:

- Why 26th November? On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950.
- Since when? It was first observed in 2015 (which was the 125th birth anniversary year of B. R. Ambedkar, who is known as the father of the Indian constitution).
- · Previously this day was celebrated as 'National Law Day'.

Timeline of Formation of the Constitution of India:

- · 6 December 1946: Formation of the Constitution Assembly.
- 9 December 1946: The first meeting was held in the constitution hall.
- 13 December 1946: An "Objective Resolution" was presented by Jawaharlal Nehru, laying down the underlying principles of the constitution.
- 29 August 1947: Drafting Committee appointed with B. R. Ambedkar as its Chairman.
- 26 November 1949: The Constitution of India was passed and adopted by the assembly.
- 24 January 1950: Last meeting of Constituent Assembly. The Constitution was signed.

Both Statements 1 and 2 are from December 2022 Magazine, Page - 84



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: In India, prisons are managed by State Governments with their own rules and regulations for the day-to-day administration of prisons.

Statement-II: In India, prisons are governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 which expressly kept the subject of prisons in the control of Provincial Governments.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

MODEL PRISONS ACT 2023

The Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared the 'Model Prisons Act 2023' on the recommendations of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

Legal Status:

- Constitution: 'Prisons'/Persons detained therein' is a "State-List" subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisons and prisoners is the responsibility of respective State Governments.
- Laws: The existing law in this context, the Prisons Act of 1894
 is a pre-independence era Act and is almost 130-years-old.
 Two other related laws The Prisoners Act, 1900 and The
 Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950 are also decades-old. There is
 also The Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003.

Overview of Prisons in India:

- As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), The total number of prisons at national level is 1,319 in 2021.
- The 1,319 prisons in the country consist of 564 Sub Jails, 424 District Jails, 148 Central Jails, 88 Open Jails, 41 Special Jails, 32 Women Jails, 19 Borstal Schools and 3 Other than the above Jails.

 Prison Staff - Strength & Training: The sanctioned strength of jail-staff was 89,479 while the actual strength was 64,449 as on 31st December, 2021 due to vacancies not being filled up.

Model Prisons Act 2023:

- Model Prisons Act 2023 has assimilated the relevant provisions of The Prisons Act, 1894; 'The Prisoners Act, 1900' and The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950'.
- Objective: It will serve as a "guiding document" for the States, and for adoption in their jurisdiction. It aims to overhaul the prison administration, with focus on the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates.

Salient Features of the Model Prisons Act, 2023:

- Provision for security assessment and segregation of prisoners, individual sentence planning, grievance redressal, prison development board, attitudinal change towards prisoners.
- Provision of separate accommodation for women prisoners,

Source: May 2023 Magazine, Page - 29



Consider the following statements:

- Amarkantak Hills are at the confluence of Vindhya and Sahyadri Ranges.
- 2. Biligirirangan Hills constitute the easternmost part of Satpura Range.
- 3. Seshachalam Hills constitute the southernmost part of Western Ghats.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

SET-A



Statement 1 - Source: May 2023 Magazine, Page - 93

Western Ghats:

- Recent data shows a decrease in tiger occupancy throughout the Western Ghats (from 981 in 2018 to 824 in 2022), except in a few areas like Kali (Anshi Dandeli).
- Although tiger occupancy increased in the Anshi-Dandeli landscape (eastern part), it declined in the border areas of Goa and Karnataka (Mollem-Mhadei-Anshi Dandeli complex).
- Significant declines in tiger occupancy was observed in Mookambika-Sharavathi-Sirsi and Biligiriranga Hills.
- The Nilgiri cluster (Nagarahole-Wayanad-Bandipura-Mudumalai-Sathyamangalam to BRT Hills) in the Western Ghats landscape is the largest tiger population in the world.
- Local extinctions of tiger populations were observed in Sirsi,
 Kanyakumari, and Srivilliputhur.

Statement 2 - Source : April 2023 Magazine, Page - 63

SESHACHALAM HILLS

- Seshachalam Hills are the hill ranges of the Eastern Ghats, southern Andhra Pradesh state, and south-eastern India.
 They are bounded by the Rayalaseema uplands in the west and northwest and the Nandyal Valley (formed by the Kunderu River) in the northeast.
- Minerals contained in these hills include sandstone and shale interbedded with limestone.
- The hills contain seven peaks namely, Anjanadri, Garudadri, Narayanadri, Neeladri, Seshadri, Venkatadri, and Vrishabhadri.
- . Tirupati, a major Hindu pilgrimage town is located in the hills.

Statement 3 - Source : January 2023 Magazine, Page - 93



SET-A

Consider the following countries:

- . Bulgaria 2. Czech Republic
- . Hungary 4. Latvia
- . Lithuania 6. Romania

How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukrain?

- a) Only two (b) Only three
- Only four (d) Only five



Source: March 2023 Magazine, Page - 13



SET-A

Wolbachia method is sometimes talked about with reference to which one of the following?

- (a) Controlling the viral diseases spread by mosquitoes
- b) Converting crop residues into packing material
- (c) Producing biodegradable plastics
- (d) Producing biochar from thermo-chemical conversion of biomass





Consider the following pairs:

Area of conflict mentioned in news

Donbas :

. Kachin : Ethiopia

. Tigray : North Yemen

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

a) Only one (b) Only two

Only three (d) None

IZUIM

In a rapid counter-offensive, Ukraine seized the town of Izium in what is being seen as a major setback for Russia in the Kharkiv region.

About:

- Izuim had fallen to the Russians on April 1, and has been recaptured over six months later.
- Izium is considered the gateway to Donbas region, a
 Russian-speaking area whose complete capture has been
 Russia's key war aim since the beginning of the conflict. It is
 considered a passage to the Black Sea, and thus referred to
 as the Izium passage by the Russians.
- With this, Ukraine is back in control of two key logistics centres. Kupiansk was the major railway station supplying Izium formations.

Statement 1 - Source : October 2022 Magazine, Page - 78

earmarking dedicated fund for the purpose.

Sukapaika River:

- Sukapaika is one of the several distributaries of the mighty Mahanadi river in Odisha.
- It branches away from the Mahanadi at Ayatpur village in Cuttack district and flows for about 40 kilometers (km) before rejoining its parent river at Tarapur in the same district.
- It was alleged that the river Sukapaika in Cuttack district became dead after the mouth of the river was closed during the year 1950 for development of Taladanda Canal System and for flood protection in the delta of Sukapaika.

Mahanadi River:

- . The Mahanadi is a major river in East Central India.
- The river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and finally merged with Bay of Bengal. It has a total length of 900 kilometres.
- Mahanadi is also known for the Hirakud Dam.

ETHIOPIA (TIGRAY REGION)

The two sides in Ethiopia's civil war have begun formal peace talks for the first time since the conflict started nearly two years ago in and around Ethiopia's northern Tigray region.



Country where it is located

Tigray Region:

Syria

- The Tigray Region is the northernmost regional state in Ethiopia.
- The Region is the homeland of the Tigrayan people. Its capital is Mekelle.
- Tigray is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Sudan to the west, the Amhara Region to the south and the Afar Region to the east and southeast.
- The Tigray War is an ongoing civil war that began on 3 November 2020 in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia. The war is primarily being fought by the Ethiopian federal government and Eritrea on one side, and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on the other.

DEBATE OVER NATIVES VERSUS BENGALI-SPEAKING INDIGENOUS MUSLIMS

The Assam Government has decided to identify 5 Muslim sub-groups as "indigenous" Assamese Muslim communities.

About:

- The indigenous Assamese Muslim communities includes the Muslim communities of Goriyas, Moriyas, Julhas, Deshis, and Syeds.
- Background: Assamese indigenous Muslims have Assamese as their mother tongue and trace their ancestry to the Ahom kingdom (1228-1826).
 - Thus, they consider themselves as a part and parcel of the larger Assamese-speaking community, together with Assamese Hindus.
- Bengali-speaking Muslims however migrated afterward and formed a larger population than Assamese-speaking Muslims. Kachin Muslims form a distinct 3rd category.
- Rational behind the Categorisation: To ensure development of health, education, financial inclusion, skill development and women empowerment along with preserving their cultural identity.



Statement 2 - Source : August 2022 Magazine, Page - 68

Which one of the following countries has its own Satellite Navigation System?

Key Points

2020 with 30 satellites.

Asia-Oceania regions.

January 2018.

· It is operated by the Japanese government. · It is a four-satellite regional time transfer system and enhancement for GPS covering Japan and the

. Its services have been available on a trial basis since

(a) Australia

(b) Canada

Israel

Satellite Navigation Systems

Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS)

(d) Japan



Global Positioning System (GPS)	Initiated in 1978 and achieved global coverage in 1995 and is owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Air Force. It consists of 24 to 32 medium Earth orbit satellites in six different orbital planes.
Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS)	Operated by Roscosmos, a state corporation responsible for the space flight and cosmonautics program for the Russian Federation. It became operational in 1982 and achieved global coverage in 1996, and again in 2011 (after the system had fallen into disrepair). It has full global coverage with 24 satellites.
GALILEO	It was initiated in 2005 by the European Space Agency and projected to provide global coverage by

(NTI	IPRIT)_
	It is an apex training institute of the Department of Telecommunications.
	Establishment: In 2010 as National Telecom Academy. Function & objectives: It involved in conduction of induction Training for pro
	officers of Indian Telecommunication Service Group — A (ITS Group A) recruit Al

Source: https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/29-04-2021/navigation-with-indianconstellation-navic-technology



With reference to India's projects on connectivity, consider the following statements:

- East-West Corridor under Golden Quadrilateral Project connects Dibrugarh and Surat.
- 2. Trilateral Highway connects Moreh in Manipur and Chiang Mai in Thailand via Myanmar.
- Bangladesh China India Myanmar Economic Corridor connects Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh with Kunming in China.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None



- The India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway will provide connectivity from Moreh (Manipur) to Mae Sot (Tak province, Thailand) and the Kaladan project would link Mizaram to the Bay of Rangal
- Political instability and violence in Myanmar would also delay plans to further extend the trilateral highway to Vietnam.

Statement 2 - Source : January 2022 Magazine, Page - 52

<u> India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT Highway)</u>

- It is a 1,360 km long highway in the maing under India's Look East policy
- It will connect Moreh, India with Mae Sot, Thailand via Myanmar.
- The road is expected to boost trade and commerce in the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, as well as with the rest of Southeast Asia.
- India has also proposed extending the highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
 - The proposed approx 3,200 km route from India to Vietnam is known as the East-West Economic Corridor.
 - This highway will also connect to the river ports being developed along the way at Kalay (also called Kalaymyo) and Monywa on the Chindwin River.

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Corridor: The project has been envisaged to enhance economic connectivity between China and India while benefiting Myanmar and Bangladesh, which lie on the route. India is less enthusiastic for the projects like Kolkata to Kunming Bullet Train (K2K Project), which China has mooted as a part of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, India has kept the BCIM corridor alive, claiming that the idea predated the BRI project.

Source: <a href="https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/19-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/16-08-2022/quad-grouping-https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/https://www.nextias



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Israel has established diplomatic relations with some Arab States.

Statement-II: The 'Arab Peace Initiative' mediated by Saudi Arabia was signed by Israel and Arab League.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

ABRAHAM ACCORDS Israel and Sudan will sign an "historic peace agreement" in 2023, with Sudan becoming the latest Arab League country to establish such ties. ISPAEL AND THE APARLEAGUE normalized relations with Israel. While Sudan signed the declarative section of the agreement, it did not sign the corresponding document with Israel, unlike the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. As of February 2023, negotiations continue towards normalization. Significance: . Israel's establishment of diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain marked the first instance of Arab-Israeli normalization since 1994, when the Israel-Jordan peace treaty came into effect. Since 2020, when the Abraham Accords were signed, there are now six Arab League countries with formal relations with Israel, plus others that engage informally. . Trade between Israel and the Abraham Accords countries now amounts to almost \$3.5 billion, the majority with the UAE. Implications for India: . For India, the Abraham Accords, especially the normalisation of relations between Israel and UAE offers newer opportunities for strengthening its 'Act West' policy. That the two-Israel and UAE-are the most important regional partners of India in the Middle East is an added advantage. There are various areas where India, UAE and Israel can cooperate . There are immense potential for scientific collaboration India faces a number of developmental challenges. The UAE . The Abraham Accords are a series of joint normalization also wants to transform its economic base beyond oil. Israel statements between Israel and Arab countries by mediated can help as it is one of the world's most advanced country in by the United States. The name of the Abraham Accords is roated in the common There are immense potentials for investments in both belief of the Abrahamic religions-particularly Judaism. conventional business sectors such as infrastructure as well Christianity, and Islam-regarding the role of Abraham as a as non-conventional areas.

Source: April 2023 Magazine, Page - 16



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

- 1. Ballistic missiles are jet-propelled at subsonic speeds throughout their flights, while cruise missiles are rocket-powered only in the initial phase of flight.
- 2. Agni-V is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile, while BrahMos is a solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

AGNI-V MISSILE

In December 2022, India successfully carried out the night trials of the nuclear-capable Agni-V missile from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

About:

- The Agni-V is the fifth variant of India's long-range surfaceto-surface ballistic missile. It is a fire-and-forget missile, which cannot be stopped without an interceptor missile.
- The nuclear-capable missile, which uses a three-stage solidfuelled engine, has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The missile was first tested in 2012, with subsequent tests being conducted in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2021. The recent test was the ninth flight of the Agni-V.
- The Agni-V missile has a maximum payload of around 1,360 kilogram. It has a height of 17 metres and it is capable of carrying a 1.5-tonne warhead. The missile has a very high degree of accuracy to hit targets.



Agni-V vs. China's Dongfeng-26:

- Agni 5 is now being compared with China's Dongfeng-26 (DF-26) which has an estimated range of over 5000 kms.
- DF-26, which is nicknamed as Guam Killer is also a nuclearcapable missile. The missile is named as it has the potential to reach the US base in Guam in Western Pacific.

Recent Test:

- The Strategic Forces Command (SFC), which operates the Agni-5, carried out the test from A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha to validate new equipment on the missile.
- Incidentally, the recent trial comes at a time when India and China ties are at its lowest following the clash on 9 December, 2022 in the Tawang sector of Arunachal.
- However, officials commenting on the timing of the test said that the trial of the Agni-V missile had been planned earlier.

Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme

- The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) was conceived in 1980s by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, the then Director of Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.
- The IGMDP was approved by the Government of India in 1983. DRDO formally announced successful completion of IGMDP in 2008.
- . The missiles developed under the programme were:

Statement 2 - Source: January 2023 Magazine, Page - 43



SET-A

Consider the following statements regarding mercury pollution:

- Gold mining activity is a source of mercury pollution in the world.
- 2. Coal-based thermal power plants cause mercury pollution.
- 3. There is no known safe level of exposure to mercury.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None



Mercury pollution of India

- India is the second-largest user of mercury in the world after the US, although India does not
 mine or produce mercury instead imports most of its requirements.
 - Globally, Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) is the largest source of anthropogenic mercury emissions (37.7%), followed by stationary combustion of coal (21%).
- High levels of mercury in fish stocks have been found, mainly in coastal areas. Mumbai, Kolkata, Karwar (in Karnataka) and North Koel (in Bihar) are some of the severely affected areas.

Statements 1 and 2 are from Daily Current Affairs https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/23-03-2022/mercury-pollution



SET-A

Consider the following pairs:

Port : Well known as

Kamarajar Port : First major port in India registered as a company

2. Mundra Port : Largest privately owned port in India

Visakhapatnam : Largest container port in Port India

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one pair (b) Only two pairs

(c) All three pairs (d) None of the pairs

HOME ABOUT US CSE CLASSROOM COURSES MENTORSHIP NEW BATCHES TEST SERIES POSTAL COURSES AD Ships.

 In the 8th meeting, India requested that EU regulation should not hinder recycling to non-European countries which are compliant as per International Convention.

Maritime Industry in India

- India has 12 major and 200 non-major/intermediate ports (under state government administration).
 - Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust is the largest major port in India, while Mudra is the largest private port.

Source: https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/18-11-2022



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

- India has more arable area than China.
- The proportion of irrigated area is more in India as compared to China.
- The average productivity per hectare in Indian agriculture is higher than that in China.

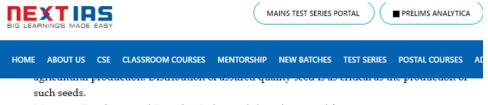
How many of the above statements are correct?

a) Only one

(b) Only two

c) All three

d) None



- Manures, Fertilizers and Biocides: Indian soils have been used for growing crops over thousands of years without caring much for replenishing. This has led to depletion and exhaustion of soils resulting in their low productivity.
- Irrigation: Although India is the second largest irrigated country of the world after China, only
 one-third of the cropped area is under irrigation. Irrigation is the most important agricultural
 input in a tropical monsoon country like India.



- Ineffectiveness of Agriculture: More than 60% of the Indian population is dependent upon agriculture for livelihood. Despite that, it contributes hardly 16% to the Gross Value Added (GVA). Therefore, it cannot be said that an increase in agricultural growth has a direct bearing on poverty in the country. Major reasons for low productivity in Agriculture:
 - Low Agricultural Productivity: As compared to Western countries or even China, the productivity of Indian Agriculture is very low. For e.g., as per the Government of India, India's rice yield was less than 2200 kg/ ha, as compared to the global average of more than 3000 kg/ ha. Similarly, wheat productivity was 2750 kg/ ha as compared to the global average of more than 3250 kg/ ha.

Source: https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/19-01-2022/need-for-green-revolution-20-rbi (Editorial)

https://www.nextias.com/survey/down-to-earth/downtoearth(july-16---31)



SET-A

"Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects."

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

- (a) Buddhism
- (c) Shaivism

- (b) Jainism
- (d) Vaishnavism

Comparison with Buddhism:

- Jainism and Buddhism share many features, terminology and ethical principles, but emphasize them differently.
- Both are Sramana ascetic traditions that believe it is possible to attain liberation from the cycle of rebirths and deaths (samsara) through spiritual and ethical disciplines.
- They differ in some core doctrines such as those on asceticism, Middle Way versus Anekantavada, and self versus not-self (jiva, atta, anatta).
- Jains believe in the existence of an eternal Jiva (soul), whereas Buddhism denies the concept of self (jiva) or soul (atman), proposing the concept of no-self (anatta) instead.

Minority Status:

- In 2014, the Government of India awarded the National Minority status to the Jain community, under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.
- · With this, Jains became the sixth community to be designated

according to make a corr consus.

- Wealth: Moreover, the vast majority of Jains fall into India's top wealth quintiles, according to India's National Family and Health Survey.
- Caste: Wealth and education in India are inextricably linked with caste. Jains are the only religious group in India where a majority say they are members of a higher General Category caste.

Culture:

- Jain canonical scriptures are called Agamas.
- Ancient Jain monuments include the Udaigiri Hills near Bhelsa (Vidisha) and Pataini temple in Madhya Pradesh, the Ellora in Maharashtra, the Palitana temples in Gujarat, and the Jain temples at Dilwara Temples near Mount Abu, Rajasthan.
- The most important annual Jain festival is called the Paryushana by Svetambaras and Dasa lakshana parva by the Digambaras.

Source: April 2023 Magazine, Page - 35



SET-A

In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught the international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them?

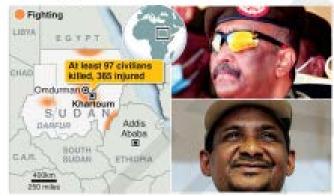
- (a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements
- b) Establishment of Chinese military bases
- (c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert
- (d) Successful coups

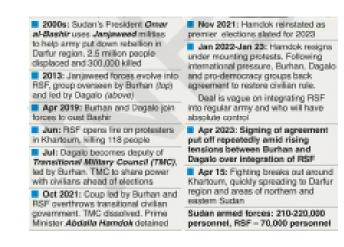
CONFLICT IN SUDAN

Recently, flerce fighting broke out in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, between the country's army and paramilitary forces.

About:

- Clashes erupted after heightened tensions between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo — also known as Hemedti — and the military, headed by Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.
- The two generals disagree over the proposed transition to civilian rule in Sudan.
- The roots of the ongoing conflict go back to 2019, when Sudan's long-serving authoritarian President Omar al-Bashir was overthrown by military generals following a countrywide uprising against him.





Sudan:

 Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It is bordered with the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west, Egypt to the north, Eritrea to the northeast, Ethiopia to the



Source: April 2023 Magazine, Page - 76



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India, despite having uranium deposits, depends on coal for most of its electricity production.

Statement-II: Uranium, enriched to the extent of at least 60%, is required for the production of electricity.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct



- For nuclear Weapons
 - o Highly Enriched Uranium or weapons-grade uranium
 - For which enrichment is required up to 90% or more.
- For Nuclear Reactor
 - · Low Enriched Uranium or reactor-grade uranium
 - Enrichment is required upto 3-4% only.

Statement 2 is not correct

Source: https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/06-11-2021/iran-and-enriched-uranium (DCA)





- (a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (b) The United Nations Environment Programme
- (c) The United Nations World Commission for Environment and Development
- (d) The World Wide Fund for Nature

SET-A

What is IUCN doing to address IAS?

• Assess

- The IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) aims to reduce threats to ecosystems and their native species by increasing awareness of ways to prevent, control or eradicate IAS.
- o IUCN has developed knowledge platforms:
 - The Global Invasive Species Database (GISD);
 - The Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS)
- IUCN is working on new platforms to track and reduce the spread of invasive species:
 - Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species Database;
 - IAS Pathways Management Resource;
 - Classifying the environmental impact of different IAS

• Plan:

- IUCN, with the ISSG, provides technical and scientific advice to work towards achieving Aichi Target 9.
- The ISSG provides technical and scientific advice to national and regional agencies when developing policies and strategies to manage the risk of IAS.

Source: https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/01-11-2021/movement-against-biological-invasion-mabi



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

- . In a seismograph, P waves are recorded earlier than S waves.
- In P waves, the individual particles vibrate to and fro in the direction of wave propagation whereas in S waves, the particles vibrate up and down at right angles to the direction of wave propagation.

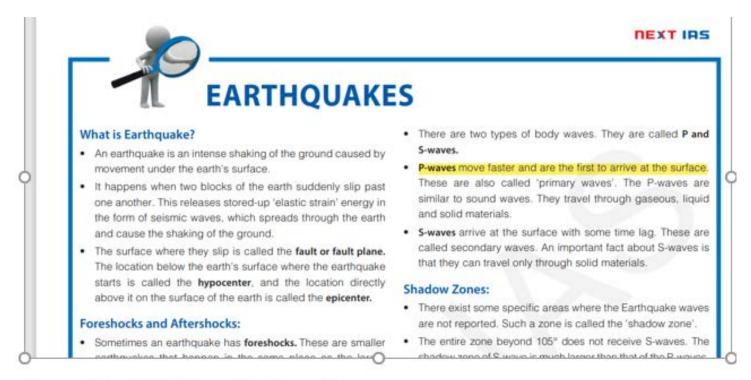
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2



Source: March 2023 Magazine, Page - 8



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Self-Help Group (SHG) programme was originally initiated by the State Bank of India by providing microcredit to the financially deprived.
- 2. In an SHG, all members of a group take responsibility for a loan that an individual member takes.
- 3. The Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Commercial Banks support SHGs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) only one

(b) only two

(c) all three

(d) none

enextias.com
and betterment of these vulnerable
sections.

- SHGs are voluntary associations of the economically poor, usually drawn from the same socio-economic background and who resolve to come together for a common purpose of solving their issues and problems through self-help and community action.
- · Introduction of SHGs in India:
- In 1984, the concept of social mobilisation through organising of SHGs was introduced based on Prof. Yunus's Grameen Bank model.
- Initially, NABARD along with empanelled NGOs designed and developed the promotional ecosystem, including the SHGs-Bank linkage programme.
- In the year 1990, the RBI recognised





SET-A

Consider the following statements:

- In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees are key to the realization of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
- 2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access and benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2



People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

- The People's Biodiversity Register serves as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity, including the conservation of habitats, preservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and micro-organisms.
- As per the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) are
 created for "promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity"
 by local bodies across the country.
- BMCs have been constituted by the local bodies in the States and Union Territories and are entrusted with preparation of the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), in consultation with local communities.



SET-A

Consider the following statements in respect of election to the President of India:

- 1. The members nominated to either House of the Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies of States are also eligible to be included in the Electoral College.
- 2. Higher the number of elective Assembly seats, higher is the value of vote of each MLA of that State.
- 3. The value of vote of each MLA of Madhya Pradesh is greater than that of Kerala.
- 4. The value of vote of each MLA of Puducherry is higher than that of Arunanchal Pradesh because the ratio of total population to total number of elective seats in Puducherry is greater as compared to Arunachal Pradesh.

How many of the above statements are correct?

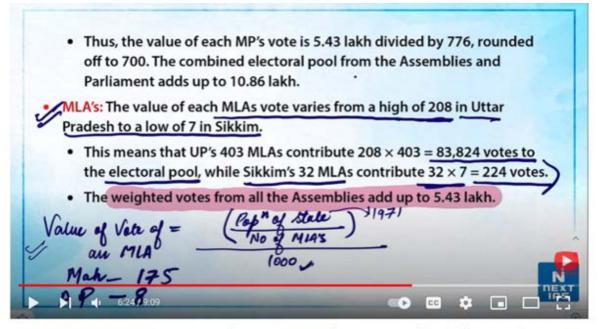
(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four





Process of Electing President of India | Topic of the Day | Latest Update | UPSC | NEXT IAS



SET-A

Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Carbon markets are likely to be one of the most widespread tools in the fight against climate change.

Statement-II: Carbon markets transfer resources from the private sector to the State.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

CARBON MARKETS

The Parliament passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to empower the Government to establish carbon markets in India.

Carbon Markets:

- Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought.
- One tradable carbon credit equals one tonne of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced, sequestered or avoided.

CARBON OFFSETS vs CARBON CREDITS

- Carbon offsets and carbon credits are two terms that are often used in the same discussion, but in actuality they are different ways to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change.
- Carbon offsets are investments in environmental projects that reduce carbon emissions elsewhere to compensate

Benefits / Need of Carbon Markets:

- In order to keep global warming within 2°C, ideally no more than 1.5°C, Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions need to be reduced by 25% to 50% over this decade.
- Nearly 170 countries have submitted their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement. NDCs are climate commitments by countries setting targets to achieve net-zero emissions.
- Effective action will require concerted and sufficient investment. Developing countries will need up to US\$6 trillion by 2030 to finance not even half of their climate action goals (as listed in their NDCs).
- The latest IPCC report finds all countries are falling way short, with financial flows three to six times lower than levels needed



SET-A

With reference to green hydrogen, consider the following statements:

- It can be used directly as a fuel for internal combustion.
- 2. It can be blended with natural gas and used as fuel for heat or power generation.
- 3. It can be used in the hydrogen fuel call to run vehicles.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

the electricity rule mix, the greener the hydrogen produced).

Benefits of Green Hydrogen:

- It is a clean burning element that can decarbonise a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation. Hydrogen can be stored for long periods of time which can be used to produce electricity using fuel cells.
- At present, hydrogen produced from natural gas is widely utilized for production of nitrogenous fertilizers, and petrochemicals. Substituting this with green hydrogen could allow use of renewable energy in these important sectors and reduce import dependence.

Challenges of Green Hydrogen:

- · The current process of extracting it is energy intensive.
- India currently lacks the required electrolysers and needs cheaper renewable energy.

NGHM: Targets and Expected Benefits

The Mission will result in the following likely outcomes by 2030:

- It will lead to development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country.
- Nearly 50 MMT per annum of CO2 emissions are expected to be averted.
- Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore are expected.
- Other benefits include development of cutting-edge technologies and indigenous manufacturing capabilities.
- These targets, if met by 2030, are likely to bring in over Rs. 8 lakh crore investments and create over 6 lakh jobs.



Statement 3 - Source: April 2023 Magazine, Page - 46



SET-A

Consider the following heavy industries:

- Fertilizer plants
- 2. Oil refineries
- 3. Steel plants

Green hydrogen is expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing how many of the above industries?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Colours of Hydrogen:

- Grey Hydrogen: It is produced via coal or lignite gasification (black or brown), or via a process called Steam Methane Reformation (SMR) of natural gas or methane (grey). These tend to be mostly carbon-intensive processes.
- Blue Hydrogen: It is produced via natural gas or coal gasification combined with Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) or Carbon Capture Use (CCU) technologies to reduce carbon emissions.
- Green Hydrogen: It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy. The carbon intensity ultimately depends on the carbon neutrality of the source of electricity (i.e., the more renewable energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the "greener" the hydrogen produced).

Benefits of Green Hydrogen:

- It is a clean burning element that can decarbonise a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation. Hydrogen can be stored for long periods of time which can be used to produce electricity using fuel cells.
- At present, hydrogen produced from natural gas is widely utilized for production of nitrogenous fertilizers, and petrochemicals. Substituting this with green hydrogen could allow use of renewable energy in these important sectors and reduce import dependence.

Challenges of Green Hydrogen:

- The current process of extracting it is energy intensive.
- India currently lacks the required electrolysers and needs cheaper renewable energy.



All three statements are directly/Indirectly covered. Source: April 2023 Magazine, Page - 46



SET-A

With reference to Central Bank digital currencies, consider the following statements:

- It is possible to make payments in a digital currency without using US dollar or SWIFT system.
- 2. A digital currency can be distributed with a condition programmed into it such as a time-frame for spending it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

DIGITAL RUPEE

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rolled out the Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC), or e₹ (digital rupee) for the wholesale segment on 1st of November as part of its first pilot test programme.

Timeline in India:

- During Union Budget 2022, Ministry of Finance announced roll out of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC), or e₹ (digital rupee) from 2023.
- In October 2022, RBI floated a concept note listing the benefits and risks of issuing digital rupee in India.
- Accordingly, the first pilot in the Digital Rupee Wholesale segment (e₹-W) commenced on November 1, 2022. Nine banks have been identified for participation in the pilot.
- The use case for this pilot is settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities.
- The first pilot in Digital Rupee Retail segment (e₹-R) is planned for launch within a month.

Meaning and Features:

- RBI defines Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) as the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. CBDCs would appear as liability on a central bank's balance sheet.
- It is akin to sovereign paper currency but takes a different form, exchangeable at par with the existing currency and shall be accepted as a medium of payment and a safe store of value.

Types of CBDCs:

Source: November 2022 Magazine, Page - 48

Global Scenario:

- Currently, as many as 105 nations are exploring the potential of using CBDCs. While 10 countries have already launched their CBDCs, another 17 countries, including China and South Korea, have already launched pilot schemes.
- In October 2020, the Central Bank of the Bahamas introduced the "Sand Dollar" as the first digital legal currency in the world.

Benefits:

- The proposed benefits include reducing costs associated with physical cash management and introducing a more resilient and innovative payments system.
- It would be a fungible legal tender for which holders need not have a bank account – hence, strengthening the cause of financial inclusion.
- More importantly, being a sovereign currency, it would provide an alternative to unregulated cryptocurrencies and their associated risks.
- A major attribute of the CBDC is its offline features that would make it possible to use it in remote locations and even when electrical power or mobile networks are not available.

Concerns:



SET-A

Consider the following statements with reference to India:

- 1. According to the 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006, the 'medium enterprises' are those with investments in plant and machinery between Rs 15 crore and Rs 25 crore.
- 2. All bank loans to the Micro, Small and medium Enterprises qualify under the priority sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/29-06-2021/un-msmes-day

https://www.nextias.com/current-affairs/14-03-2022/micro-small-and-medium-enterprisesmsmes-sector

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