

Q1. Recently, Tribes India E-Marketplace initiative is launched by which of following?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- (c) TRIFED
- (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Answer: C

Explanation:

**In News-** Union Minister for Tribal Affairs virtually launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com) on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti

**Option C is correct:** TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs showcased the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country and help them market their produce/products directly under the Tribes India E-Marketplace initiative. The E-Marketplace will help us in onboarding large number of Tribals and Artisans and give them the immediate benefits of online trade. It will also facilitate B2B trade connecting tribals dependent on Minor Forest Produces and Medicinal plants to large buyers /manufacturers.

Q2. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)?

- 1. It is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in all the major cities of India.
- 2. It was constituted in 1998 under Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

**In News-** Recently, the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) said that it is not advisable to give Rs 100 per quintal incentive to farmers for not burning stubble.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR). Its mandate is to protect and improve the quality of the environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in the NCR.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It was notified in 1998 by the Environment Ministry under Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Q3. Eriocaulon parvicephalum and Eriocaulon karaavalense were in the news recently, they are:

- (a) Newly discovered bacterias
- (b) Ancient sites discovered in Iran
- (c) Newly discovered species of Arthropod
- (d) Species of wetland plant

Answer: D

Explanation:

**In News-** Two new species of wetland plant discovered from the Western Ghats.

**Option D is correct:** Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) have discovered two new species of pipeworts, a type of wetland plant, from areas along the Western Ghats in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Q4. Which among the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)?

1. It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the NATO allies and the Russian Federation.

2. The treaty calls for measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
3. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague.

Choose the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The number of strategic nuclear missile launchers will be reduced by half.

**Statement 3 is correct:** It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification entered into force on 5 February 2011. New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was due to expire in December 2012.

Q5. With reference to the Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative for the empowering of potters' community in the remotest of locations in the country.
2. It is launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
3. The KVIC is an executive body formed under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Which of the statement given above are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:** Recently, the Union Home Minister distributed 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans under Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) for the empowerment of the potters' community in the remotest of locations in the country.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC)

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The KVIC is a statutory body formed in April 1957 under the 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India. It seeks to plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas.