

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act:

1. The new bill regulates mining in maritime zones of India.
2. The Bill also allows the administering authority to grant a composite licence or production lease to the government or a government company.
3. It does not seeks to provide for the grant of production lease to the private sector.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Bill amends the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002.
- The new bill regulates mining in maritime zones of India.
- It allows the government to reserve offshore areas that are not held under any operating rights.
- The Bill also allows the administering authority to grant a composite licence or production lease to the government or a government company.
- It proposes to remove the provision for renewal of production lease and provide a fixed period of fifty years for production lease similar to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957.
- It also seeks to provide for the grant of production lease to the private sector only through auction by competitive bidding.
- It also provides for grant of operating rights without competitive bidding to a government or a government company, or a corporation in the mineral-bearing areas reserved by the central government.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Yudh Ahyas:

1. Exercise Ajeya Warrior is a joint exercise between India and USA.
2. Yudh Abhyas is a joint military exercise conducted annually between the armies of India and USA.
3. Cope India and Red Flag exercise is conducted between India and USA.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Yudh Abhyas is a joint military exercise conducted annually between the armies of India and USA.
- It has been ongoing since 2004.
- It is designed to promote cooperation between the two militaries while sharing training, cultural exchanges, and building joint operating skills.
- List of Exercises between India and USA:
 - ❖ Army: Yudh Abhyas and Vajra Prahar
 - ❖ Navy: MALABAR (Multilateral)
 - ❖ Air Force: Cope India, Red Flag (Multilateral)

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Infrastructure investment trust:

1. Infrastructure investment trust is Collective Investment Scheme similar to a mutual fund.
2. NHAI InvIT is the infrastructure investment by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to support the government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only

- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above:

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) is Collective Investment Scheme similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects
- These are like mutual funds in structure which can be established as a trust and registered with Sebi.
- NHAI InvIT is the infrastructure investment trust sponsored by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to support the government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).
- It is a Trust established by NHAI under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and SEBI (Security and Exchange Board of India) regulations.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding PM SVANidhi Scheme:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. To provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods.
3. It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan with low rates of interest for a period of one year.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.
- To provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan of Rs 10,000 with low rates of interest (below 12%) for a period of one year, aiding the vendors in getting back on their feet financially.
- The duration of the scheme initially was until March 2022. It has been extended till December 2024, with a focus on enhanced collateral-free affordable loan corpus, increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socio-economic development of the Street Vendors and their families.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Himalayan vulture:

1. It is a typical vulture which has a bald white head.
2. It is native to the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau.
3. It is critically endangered species.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) or Himalayan griffon vulture is an Old World vulture.
- It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors.
- It is a typical vulture which has a bald white head, wings that are very wide and short tail feathers.

- Distribution: It is native to the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau and also found in the Central Asian mountains.
- These are diurnal and mostly solitary species.
- IUCN has listed this species as Near Threatened