

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding recent forecast of World Bank on economic growth rate for India:**

1. The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.4% in FY 2024-25.
2. Female labour participation declined.
3. Informal sectors were less productive and more shrinking.

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 World Bank has forecast a 6.3% economic growth rate for India in the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2024, a downgrade of 0.7 percentage points since its October forecast.
- The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.4% in FY 2024-25, an upgrade of 0.3 percentage points from the previous forecast.
- The primary reasons for this are high borrowing costs and slower income growth causing weaker consumption, as well as the government tightening fiscal expenditure.
- The South Asia region as a whole is expected to grow at 5.6% this calendar year.
- While India fared better than the rest of the South Asian region, two major concerns were the female labour participation rate, which had dropped to below 20% and the informal sector neither becoming more productive nor shrinking.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding recently released Indian Justice Report 2022:**

1. Kerala is the only state where Case Clearance Rate in district courts remained above 100%.
2. At High Court level, Uttar Pradesh has the highest average pendency cases.
3. The lowest average High Court pendency is in Tripura.

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:

- According to the latest, India Justice Report (IJR), 2022, Indian courts are jammed with cases and are seeing pendency increase by the day.
- At the same time, they are also functioning with fewer judges than the sanctioned number.
- At High Court level, Uttar Pradesh has the highest average pendency; cases remain pending for an average of 11.34 years, and in West Bengal for 9.9 years. The lowest average High Court pendency is in Tripura (1 year), Sikkim (1.9 years) and Meghalaya (2.1 years).
- The Case Clearance Rate (CCR), or the number of cases disposed of in a year measured against the number filed in that year, is a common metric used to determine the rate at which cases are disposed of.
- At the same period, Tripura is the only State where the CCR in district courts remained above 100%, with the exception of 2020 — the year of the pandemic.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding UN Water Conference:**

1. The last conference was held in 1977.
2. A \$50-billion commitment from India to improve rural drinking water services under the Jal Jeevan Mission in United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

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:

- The last UN Water Conference, held in 1977, was groundbreaking as it resulted in the first global 'Action Plan' recognising that "all peoples, whatever their stage of development and social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs."

- The conference resulted in 713 voluntary commitments by philanthropic donors, governments, corporations and NGOs.
- This included a \$50-billion commitment from India to improve rural drinking water services under the Jal Jeevan Mission. On the technology front, apart from specific innovations in wastewater treatment, there were several proposals for incubation platforms focusing on water management.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. There are more women judges at the district court level than at the High Court level.
2. Goa has the highest percentage of women judges at subordinate courts.
3. Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand continued to have no women judges in their High Courts.

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:

- There are more women judges at the district court level than at the High Court level, with 35% of the total number of judges at the district court level and only 13% of judges in the High Courts across the country being women, the India Justice Report (IJR), 2022 has revealed.
- While the share of women judges remains uneven across the States, Goa, with 70%, has the highest percentage of women judges at subordinate courts, followed by Meghalaya and Nagaland at 63% each.
- The IJR stated that the representation of women judges is steadily rising in subordinate courts, but in the High Courts, the share of women judges remains low.
- Among the High Courts, Sikkim, with a total strength of just three judges, has the highest national average at 33.3% of women judges.
- Meanwhile, Bihar, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Uttarakhand continued to have no women judges in their High Courts.

**Q: Consider the following:**

1. SLINEX
2. MITRA SHAKTI
3. Ex SAMPRITI-X

Which among the following exercise is conducted between India and Sri Lanka?

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The 10th edition of India- Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 is scheduled at Colombo from 03 - 08 April 2023.
- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted in Visakhapatnam in 2022.
- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI (Military Exercise) and Dosti Trilateral Exercise (Coast guard India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) are other exercises between India and Sri Lanka.