

Q: Recently, the Central government approved the Indian Space Policy 2023. Consider the following statement:

1. It seeks to institutionalise private sector participation in the space sector.
2. Private sectors participation would enable the ISRO to focus on research and development of advanced space technologies.
3. The policy will not allow the private sector to take part in end-to-end space activities.

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 policy seeks to institutionalise private sector participation in the space sector.
- The policy will allow the private sector to take part in end-to-end space activities that include building satellites, rockets and launch vehicles, data collection and dissemination.
- The entry of the private sector in the space sector would enable the ISRO to channelise its focus on research and development of advanced space technologies.

Q: According to a recent study, North India accounts for 95 per cent of the country's groundwater depletion. Consider the following statement:

1. Excessive pumping cannot be the cause of ground water depletion.
2. The decline in precipitation and the rapid increase in tube wells.
3. Irrigation of rice and wheat crops during the pre and post-monsoon seasons.

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:

- The researchers also found that groundwater depletion in India will continue until excessive pumping is limited, leading to water sustainability issues in the future.
- The decline in precipitation and the rapid increase in tube wells for groundwater abstraction has resulted in excessive pumping of groundwater, leading to a severe depletion of groundwater resources in North India.
- In North and Central India, groundwater is mainly used for irrigation of rice and wheat crops during the pre and post-monsoon seasons.
- Nonrenewable (unsustainable) pumping has the dominant influence on groundwater storage, causing the water table to drop.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. West Bengal was the worst performer among large and mid-size States with vacancies for the post of constables.
2. Bihar has the highest percentage of vacancies as against the sanctioned strength.

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:

- In the case of police constables, as of January 2022, while West Bengal was the worst performer among large and mid-size States with vacancies amounting to 44.1% of the sanctioned strength, Kerala was at the top with constable vacancies making up 4.6% of the sanctioned strength.
- As for police officers (in civil as well as District Armed Reserve police), Bihar has the highest percentage of vacancies at 53.8% as against the sanctioned strength.

Q: Recently, the Ministry of Education released a “pre-draft” version of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education. Consider the following statement regarding the focus on Pramanas:

1. Pratyaksa
2. Upamana
3. Anupalabdhi

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:

- A key part of the document is inclusion of values and its “rootedness” in India.
- The document further says that it leans towards making students acquainted with true sources of knowledge, which have been a philosophical preoccupation of ancient Indians. **These sources focus on six pramanas:**
 - a) **pratyaksa**, interpreted as perception through five senses;
 - b) anumana, which uses inferences to come to new conclusions;
 - c) **upamana**, which is knowing through analogy and comparison;
 - d) **arthapatti**, which involves knowing through circumstantial implication,
 - e) **anupalabdhi**, which includes perception of non-existence, and
 - f) **sabda**, which the document explains is “something an individual can only directly know a fraction of all reality through direct experience and inference but must rely on other experts was acknowledged thousands of years ago”.

Q: Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India notified amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Consider the following statement:

1. Verified Publishing
2. Self-regulatory body
3. Online games doesnot involve real money

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:

- These amendments have been drafted after holding widespread consultations with multiple stakeholders including parents, school teachers, academics, students, gamers and gaming industry associations, child rights bodies, etc.
- As per the amended rules, it has been made obligatory on the part of intermediaries to make reasonable effort to not host, publish or share any online game that can cause the user harm, or that has not been verified as a permissible online game by an online gaming self-regulatory body/bodies designated by the Central Government.
- The self-regulatory body will have the authority to inquire and satisfy itself that the online game does not involve wagering on any outcome, that the online gaming intermediary and the game complies with the rules, the requirements under law for being competent to enter into a contract (currently at 18 years).
- The amended rules also cast additional obligations on online gaming intermediaries in relation to online games involving real money.
- These include the displaying of a mark of verification by the self-regulatory body on such games; informing their users of the policy for withdrawal or refund of deposit, manner of determination and distribution of winnings, fees and other charges payable; obtaining the KYC details of the users; and not giving credit or enabling financing by third parties to the users.