

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Operation Samudra Setu:

1. It was launched as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. It was launched along with Vande Bharat Mission (VBM).
3. Only Indian Naval Ships Magar participated in this operation.

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:

- Operation Samudra Setu was launched in May 2020 as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It was launched along with Vande Bharat Mission (VBM).
- VBM is the biggest civilian evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions.
- Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Airavat, Shardul and Magar participated in this operation.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Global Land Outlook report:

1. The report is published by UNFCCC.
2. According to this report, breaches are directly linked to human-induced desertification, land degradation, and drought.
3. Land is the operative link between biodiversity loss and climate change.

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:

- Humans have breached four out of nine planetary boundaries, the second edition of the **Global Land Outlook report**, published recently has reported.
- It was prepared by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its partners and draws attention to the depletion of finite land resources and the need to urgently restore the world's land.
- According to the Global Land Outlook report, these breaches are directly linked to human-induced desertification, land degradation, and drought.
- Land is the operative link between biodiversity loss and climate change, which means restoring land is crucial to solving interconnected crises.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Co-lending:

1. It is an arrangement where the loan origination is by one entity but the risk is shared by two entities
2. It enforces accountability on the NBFC.

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:

- Co-lending is an arrangement where the loan origination is by one entity but the risk is shared by two entities.
- A non-banking financial company (NBFC) is the originator while a bank is where the major portion of the loan rests.
- One can call co-lending a blend of the co-origination and securitisation models.
- The loan product could range from housing, including affordable housing, gold, commercial vehicles, passenger vehicles or even microfinance loans (everything retail).
- An NBFC can partner with multiple banks and a bank can partner with multiple NBFCs.
- There is no requirement for exclusivity.
- At this stage it may seem very similar to securitisation contracts, but where co-lending differs is that each bank and NBFC, based on their internal practices and risk management framework, formulates its own policy on co-lending.
- The most binding aspect of this structure is the risk-sharing code, 80% of the loan risk is borne by the bank and the rest by the NBFC.
- Therefore, it enforces accountability on the NBFC, unlike in a securitisation contract where the NBFC's role is more like a collection agent.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project:

1. It is joint initiative between India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
2. The project will connect the Kolkata Port with Myanmar's Sittwe Port through the Dawki land port in Bangladesh.

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: d

Explanation:

- Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project is a joint initiative of India and Myanmar.
- It connects the Kolkata Port of India with the Sittwe Port of Myanmar by sea, Sittwe to Paletwa via River Kaladan, Paletwa to the border of India, and Myanmar via road and further ahead to Lawngtlai, Mizoram by road.
- The project was launched under the "Look East Policy" in 1991.
- Currently, the government undertook this as "Act East" remodelled policy.
- It is named a multimodal project as it uses a wide range of infrastructures like roads, bridges, and floating barrages.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Genetically Modified (GM) and Gene Editing (GE) techniques:

1. In Gene editing methods the genetic material derived from other organism is introduced to the parent organism.
2. CRISPR is a common method, or tool, of gene editing

Choose the incorrect option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- To create genetically modified crops and animals, scientists will typically remove the preferred gene from one organism and randomly introduce it into another organism.

- A well-known genetically modified type of crop is Bt corn and cotton, where a bacterial gene was introduced that produces insecticidal toxins into the part of the plant where the insect eats, causing death to the insect.
- In simple terms, gene editing is a small, controlled tweak to a living organism's existing DNA versus the introduction of a new, foreign gene.
- It is nearly impossible to detect whether an organism's DNA has been edited or not because the changes are indistinguishable from naturally occurring mutations.
- CRISPR is a common method, or tool, of gene editing.
- The science behind CRISPR is detailed and complex, but it is a naturally occurring enzyme in bacteria that allows scientists to edit DNA with precision.