

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the allocation of budget for minorities in 2023-24:

1. There has been a reduction of 38% in funds for the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. Maulana Azad National Fellowships for higher education had been scrapped.
3. The Nai Udaan Scheme for conservation of minorities' culture and heritage had been given boost.

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:

- Recently, the Union Budget for 2023-24 came with a reduction of 38% in funds for the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- The fund crunch is likely to impact spheres of madrasas besides general school education, higher research and local development in areas of minority concentration.
- The latest Budgetary setback comes on the heels of the scrapping the Maulana Azad National Fellowships for higher education.
- The Nai Udaan Scheme meant to help minority students prepare for the Union Public Service Commission examinations was grounded. It was argued that the scheme overlaps with other similar affirmative plans of the government.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. National Career Service (NCS) portal is for skilled workers only.
2. The Udyam, e-Shram and NCS portals have been interlinked.
3. The ASEEM portal acts as a directory that matches supply of the skilled workforce with the market demand.

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:

- Recently, the Centre has decided that the National Career Service (NCS) portal will now be the primary government portal for both skilled and unskilled workers.
- The Udyam, e-Shram and NCS portals have been interlinked and the process of linking ASEEM with the other portals is ongoing.
- According to a document titled 'Implementation of Budget Announcements 2022-23', at a meeting under the joint chairmanship of skill and labour ministers in October 2022, it was also decided to subsume the Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal under the Skill India portal.
- The ASEEM portal acts as a directory that matches supply of the skilled workforce with the market demand.
- On the other hand, the Skill India portal accumulates the skills data of various central ministries, state governments, private training providers and corporates on a single platform.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organisation consisting of 13 major oil-exporting countries.
2. OPEC+ consisting of the 13 OPEC members and 10 other non-OPEC members.

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 Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent intergovernmental organisation consisting of 13 major oil-exporting countries.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria, where the OPEC Secretariat, the executive organ, carries out the day-to-day business.
- OPEC+ is a group of oil-producing nations consisting of the 13 OPEC members and 10 other non-OPEC members.
- The OPEC+ was set up in 2017 to coordinate oil production among the countries in order to stabilise prices.

Q: Consider the following:

1. Nai Manzil
2. USTTAD
3. Padho Pardesh

Which among the following scheme is related to skill development?

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The worst sufferer was the Skill Development Initiative among minorities. It received ₹235 crore in 2022-23 but is now down to merely ₹10 lakh.
- The funds for Nai Manzil, an integrated educational and livelihood scheme, were brought to just ₹10 lakh from the earlier ₹46 crore.
- For the Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development scheme (USTTAD), the monetary allocation was slashed to ₹10 lakh in comparison to the ₹47 crore in 2022-23.
- The loan subsidy to minorities to study abroad under the Padho Pardesh Scheme also stood withdrawn.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding CAR T-cell therapies:

1. In this therapy, patient's blood is drawn to harvest T-cells which are immune cells that play a major role in destroying tumour cells.
2. Presently it has been approved for leukaemias and lymphomas.
3. This therapy does not use patient's own cell.

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:

- CAR T-cell therapies use a patient's own cells. They are modified in the laboratory to activate T-cells, a component of immune cells, to attack tumours.
- As of today, CAR T-cell therapy has been approved for leukaemias (cancers arising from the cells that produce white blood cells) and lymphomas (arising from the lymphatic system).
- In CAR T-cell therapy, the patient's blood is drawn to harvest T-cells which are immune cells that play a major role in destroying tumour cells.