

**Q: Recently Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), 2020 was released. Consider the following statement:**

1. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Telangana are among the seven states categorised as top achievers.
2. The Aspires category too includes seven states, including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Kerala.
3. The Ministry of Finance has this time changed the system of ranking by making it category-based.

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:

- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Telangana are among the seven states categorised as top achievers in the ranking of states and Union Territories based on the implementation of the business reform action plan 2020.
- Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab and Tamil Nadu are the other states on the list of top achievers.
- The Aspires category too includes seven states, including Assam, Kerala and Goa.
- Other states in this section are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal.
- The Commerce and Industry Ministry has this time changed the system of ranking by making it category-based - top achievers, achievers, aspires, and emerging business ecosystems - against the earlier practice of announcing ranks.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Snake Island:**

1. It is close to Sea border with Sweden.
2. It has strategic value for the control of the northwestern Black Sea.
3. It is located to the east of the mouth of the Danube and roughly southwest of Odessa.

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:

- Snake or Serpent Island, called Zmiinyi in Ukrainian, is a rocky outcrop that extends less than 700 metres from end to end, and is often described as being “X-shaped”.
- It is located 35 km from the coast, to the east of the mouth of the Danube and roughly southwest of Odessa.
- It sits near the Danube Delta and **close to the sea border with Romania, a NATO member**.
- It has **strategic value for the control of the northwestern Black Sea, its coastal cities**, and shipping routes that form part of the world’s grain supply chain.
- Russia’s withdrawal from the island may ease its blockade on Ukrainian exports that feed some of the world’s poorest countries.

**Q: Recently, the ISRO launched three satellites for Singapore. Consider the following statement:**

1. The SCOOB-I is the first satellite in the Student Satellite Series (S3-I)
2. ISRO is attempting a new experiment with the four-stage rocket to perform PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) activity

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 PSLV-C53 mission deployed the three satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- The **SCOOB-I is the first satellite in the Student Satellite Series (S3-I)**, a hands-on student training program from the Satellite Research Centre (SaRC) at Singapore's NTU School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.
- ISRO is attempting a new experiment with the four-stage rocket and use the fourth stage (PS4) to perform **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) activity**.
- Under this, the team will perform in-orbit scientific experiments using the spent PS4 stage as an orbital platform.
- POEM carries **six payloads**, including **two from Indian Space Start-ups** M/s Digantara and M/s Dhruva Aerospace, enabled through IN-SPACE and NSIL.

**Q: Gale Crater is the important features of**

- a) Newly discovered Meteorites
- b) Moon
- c) Venus
- d) Mars

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The gale crater in Mars, apart from being the site of an ancient lake also has organic carbon that was part of this material and got incorporated into the mudstone.
- Besides liquid water and organic carbon, Gale crater had other conditions conducive to life, such as chemical energy sources, low acidity, and other elements essential for biology, such as oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP):**

1. Project cost of manufacturing sectors increased to 50 lakhs.
2. Transgender category to avail subsidy is removed from this category.

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: a

Explanation:

- Prime Minister launched new features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP).
- These include an increase in the maximum project cost to Rs 50 lakh (from Rs 25 lakh) for the manufacturing sector and Rs 20 lakh (from Rs 10 lakh) in the service sector and the inclusion of applicants from aspirational districts and transgenders in the Special Category applicants for availing higher subsidies.
- Also, handholding support is being provided to applicants/entrepreneurs through the engagement of banking, technical and marketing experts.