

Q: Operation Prahhaar and Operation Shakthi, sometimes seen in the news recently, was conducted by which of the following organisation(s)?

- a) Central Bureau of Narcotics
- b) Indian Coast Guard
- c) Financial Intelligence Unit
- d) Central Bureau of Investigation

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Operation PRAHAAR & Operation Shakthi are the destruction operation of illicit opium poppy crop by Central Bureau of Narcotics in India.

Q: Consider the following pairs of the terms in news and their relevance:

Terms in news	Relevance
1. Ugram	- Scheme for building pucca house
2. Drishti 10 Starliner	- India's first cruise in the Western Coast
3. VINBAX	- Military exercise between India-Vietnam

How many of the above pair(s) is/are matched incorrectly?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Explanation:

- **Ugram:** It is an indigenous assault rifle also named the fierce one. It is a 7 to 15 mm assault rifle that was developed within 100 days for both the Indian Army and paramilitary forces.
- **Drishti 10 Starliner:** It is the first indigenously manufactured Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), by Adani Defence and Aerospace. Adani Aerospace Park is the country's first final assembly line in the private sector for military-grade unmanned systems. The Drishti 10 Starliner is an advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours of endurance and a 450 kg payload capacity.
- **VINBAX Exercise:** It is initiated in 2018, is an annual training event that alternates between India and Vietnam. The first edition took place in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, and the most recent edition occurred at Chandimandir Military Station in August 2022.

Q: Which of the following countries are part of the Sahel Region?

1. Algeria
2. Libya
3. Algeria
4. Mauritania

Choose the correct code.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Africa's Sahel, a region running across the breadth of the continent, between the Sahara in the north and the Sudanian Savanna in the south.
- It is a largely semi-arid belt of barren, sandy and rock-strewn land.

- Sahel marks the physical and cultural transition between the continent's more fertile tropical regions to the south and its desert in the north.
- The Sahel stretches from Senegal on the Atlantic coast, through parts of Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Sudan to Eritrea on the Red Sea coast.
- Culturally and historically, the Sahel is a shoreline between the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)

1. It provides grant up to 50 lakhs for start-ups in technical textiles field.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.
3. It is part of the Multiplier Grants Scheme (MGS).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Textiles is all set to organize a hackathon on “Fostering Innovations in Technical Textiles”, in the event the ministry will announce the top 3 winners of the GREAT initiative.
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles.
- Under GREAT, Ministry of Textiles shall provide grant-in-aid of normally up to INR 50 Lakhs for a period of 18 months.
- GREAT believes in utilizing the in exhaustive talent pool and expertise of India in Technical Textiles sector to bring innovative products/technologies to the market to:
- It has evolved under the Research, Development and Innovation Component of National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) and not a part of the Multiplier Grants Scheme (MGS).

Q: Panspermia, sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) A natural pathogenic fungi to help save eucalyptus forests from devastating pest.
- b) A Greece hypothesis that attributes the origin of life on one planet to a different planet.
- c) A type of sustainable fuel that is produced from the whiskey.
- d) A new class of antibiotics that can kill drug-resistant bacteria.

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Panspermia is a hypothesis that simply attributes the origin of life on one planet to a different planet, it doesn't actually explain how life came to be.
- The hypothesis has prevailed since ancient Greece.
- It was first posited by the Greek philosopher Anaxagoras (500-428 BC), who coined the term and first articulated life's potential to travel as 'seeds' between planets.
- Modern version – The idea of panspermia advances 3 stages:
 - ❖ Escape from a planet
 - ❖ Transit through interplanetary space
 - ❖ Landing on another planet
- It has also become the seed of many controversies, including one suggesting the interstellar object ?Oumuamua was an alien object engaged in panspermia.