

Q: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Bangladesh on sharing of the waters of the Kushiya River. Consider the following statement:

1. As per MoU signed, Bangladesh will be able to withdraw 153 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water.
2. It will benefiting the farmers involved in Boro rice in Bangladesh.
3. Kushiya River is the distributary of Teesta River.

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:

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on sharing of the waters of the Kushiya river, a distributary of the Barak river which flows through Assam, and then on to Bangladesh.
- The agreement comes in a year when both lower Assam in India and Sylhet in Bangladesh have witnessed deadly floods highlighting the requirement for greater cooperation on flood control and irrigation-related issues between the two countries.
- Under this MoU, Bangladesh will be able to withdraw 153 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the Kushiya out of the approximately 2,500 cusecs of water that is there in the river during the winter season.
- Under the agreement, Bangladesh will be able to withdraw 153 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the Kushiya that will solve the water crisis for farmers of Sylhet.
- There are various estimates about the area that will benefit from this supply but it is generally understood that approximately 10,000 hectares of land and millions of people will benefit from the water that will flow through a network of canals in Sylhet benefiting the farmers involved in Boro rice, which is basically the rice cultivated during the dry season of December to February and harvested in early summer.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The water of Kushiya will be channelled through Ganges-Kobadak Canal project.
2. India objected Upper Surma Kushiya Project of Bangladesh.
3. Kushiya agreement did not require a nod from any of the Indian States.

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 water of Kushiya will be channelled through the Rahimpur Canal project in Sylhet.
- Bangladesh had carried out the Upper Surma Kushiya Project which included clearing and dredging of the canal and other connected channels of water; but the channels could not be of much use to Bangladesh because India objected to the move and claimed that the dyke and other infrastructure interfered in border security as Kushiya itself forms part of the border between the two sides.
- The Kushiya agreement did not require a nod from any of the States like Assam from which the Barak emerges and branches into Kushiya and Surma.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Rabies:

1. It is caused by lyssaviruses.
2. The virus targets the central nervous system.

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:

- Rabies is a disease that is caused by a family of viruses called the lyssaviruses and found in a range of mammals.
- The virus targets the central nervous system and is nearly 100% fatal to the host animal if it succeeds in infecting it.
- Though many animals from cats to crocodiles can be transmitters of the virus, it is most likely to spread to people from the bite of an infected dog or a cat as they are the most common pets.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

1. The aim of the scheme is to bring about Blue Revolution through the sustainable development of the fisheries sector.
2. Under this scheme, Aquaculture promotion will be undertaken in the saline and alkaline areas of Northern India.
3. Aquatic health management is the key concern under this programme.

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:

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched on 10th September 2020.
- The aim of the scheme is to bring about Blue Revolution through the sustainable development of the fisheries sector over a period of five years (2020-2025.) PMMSY was announced in the union budget 2019-20.
- In this scheme, **Aquaculture promotion will be undertaken especially in the saline** and alkaline areas of Northern India.
- Another key concern is Aquatic health management and focus is laid on the address of diseases, anti-biotic and residue issues which will be supported by an integrated laboratory network.

Q: India has opted out of one among the four pillars of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF):

- a) Trade
- b) Supply chains
- c) Clean economy
- d) Fair economy

Ans: a

Explanation:

- India has as of now opted out of the trade pillar of the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).
- India would continue to engage with the trade track in the IPEF and will wait for the final contours to be decided on the trade pillar before it formally joins that pillar.
- All the other 13 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for prosperity countries have joined the four pillars; trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy.
- On one pillar which deals primarily with trade, the contours of the framework particularly, any commitments required on environment, labour, the digital trade, public procurement are certain areas in which a broader consensus has yet to emerge amongst all the nations.

