

Q: Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous body, is under which of the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (d) Ministry of Science and Technology

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO).
- ESSO-INCOIS was established in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is located in Hyderabad.
- Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) is also housed in the INCOIS.
- Mandate: To provide the ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and scientific community through sustained ocean observations and systematic and focussed research.

Q: With reference to the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint project between ISRO and NASA.
2. It consists of the two telescopes at radio-quiet sites in South Africa and Australia.
3. India will contribute in the development and operation of the Telescope Manager element, the “neural network”.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Square Kilometre Array Observatory is an intergovernmental organization bringing together 14 countries; Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The observatory consists of the two telescopes at radio-quiet sites in South Africa and Australia, and associated facilities to support the operations of the telescopes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India, through the Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) has been involved in the development of SKA since its inception in the 1990s.
- India’s main contribution is in the development, and operation, of the Telescope Manager element, the “neural network” or the software that will make the telescope work.

Q: Consider the following Indian states:

1. Mizoram
2. Tripura
3. Manipur
4. Arunachal Pradesh
5. Nagaland

Which of the above share the border with Myanmar?

- a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: b

Explanation:

- India shares a 1,643 km-long border with Myanmar, which passes through the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).
- Both countries share a heritage of religious, linguistic and ethnic ties. Myanmar has a substantial population of Indian origin.
- Myanmar is our gateway to Southeast Asia and ASEAN with which we are seeking greater economic integration through India's 'Look East' and 'Act East' Policy.

Q: Which of the following statements is correct regarding Reverse Flipping?

- It describes the trend of overseas start-ups shifting their domicile.
- It is used for efforts to reduce the share of public spending in GDP.
- It is a gradual reduction in the value of an asset over time.
- It refers to direct swap of goods and services without the use of money.

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Reverse flipping' is used in business circles. It is a term used to describe the trend of overseas start-ups shifting their domicile to India and listing on Indian stock exchanges.
- Here, start-ups that once relocated their holding companies outside India are now considering a strategic move back to India,
- The Economic Survey of 2022-23 acknowledged the concept of reverse flipping and has listed possible measures such as simplifying the processes for tax holidays, taxation of ESOPs, capital flows and reducing layers of tax to accelerate the reverse flipping process.

Q: Which among the following countries have joined Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) as new full members in 2023?

- Argentina
- Turkey
- Ethiopia
- Egypt
- Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 3, 4 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as new full members.
- It was done as per the decision adopted by the 15th BRICS Summit in 2022.
- A proposal to admit six countries, including Argentina, into the bloc with effect from January 1.
- Argentina's new President announced withdrawing his country from becoming a member of the BRICS.