

Q: Which among the following countries was largest importer of Indian broken rice in FY 2021-22?

- a) China
- b) Ukraine
- c) Russia
- d) Turkey

Ans: a

Explanation:

- In financial year 2021-22, China emerged as the top buyer of Indian broken rice.
- China emerged as the top buyer of Indian rice during the pandemic, with the neighbouring country importing 16.34 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) or 7.7 per cent of India's total rice export of 212.10 LMT in financial year 2021-22.
- The analysis shows that out of China's total rice import from India of 16.34 LMT, nearly 97 per cent, or 15.76 LMT, was broken rice, which has seen a spike in demand from that country.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding PARIVESH 2.0:

1. It is a web-based, role-based workflow application.
2. It automates the entire tracking of proposals.
3. The system has an efficient technology-driven workflow.

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:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change has instituted the mechanism for a faster and more transparent environmental clearance regime for developmental and industrial activities.
- PARIVESH 2.0 is a web-based, role-based workflow application that has been developed for online submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted for seeking environment, forest, wildlife, and Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) clearances from central, state, and district authorities.
- It automates the entire tracking of proposals, which includes online submission of a new proposal, editing/updating the details of proposals and displaying their status at each stage of the workflow.
- The system has an efficient technology-driven workflow that minimises redundancies, a robust appraisal process, a reliable and validated database that encourages accountability and ease of doing business.
- The average time for granting environmental clearances (ECs) has reduced significantly from more than 150 days in 2019 to less than 90 days, and in some of the sectors, even within 60 days. These efforts to streamline the tedious process of environmental clearances through digital intervention and transparent mechanism have been well received by the industry.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Rank of Namibia in HDI in 2021 is 130.
2. Rank of Namibia in World Economic Forum's Global Gender Index 2021 is at the bottom of the list.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Namibia, a Sub-Saharan country ranked sixth in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Index 2021 report, followed by Rwanda, making them the only two African countries to have made to the list of top 10 countries.
- Although India ranks 131 in HDI (Human Development Index) and Namibia at 130, Namibia has 91.7 percent of legal frameworks that promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality under the SDG indicator as compared to 83.3 percent in India.

Q: The Ministry of Defence has recently approved the ambitious Tour of Duty (ToD) scheme. Consider the following statement:

1. Conscription does not refer to the mandatory of youth in the national armed forces.
2. Countries that follow the practice of conscription include Israel, Norway, North Korea, and Sweden.
3. 'Agnepath', is a scheme under which the forces will recruit soldiers on a short-term and long-term basis to serve the country.

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:

- Conscription refers to the mandatory of youth in the national armed forces. In some countries, youth must serve a minimum number of years in the armed forces. Countries that follow the practice of conscription include Israel, Norway, North Korea, and Sweden.
- Not to be military conscription like in Israel, the Army has branded ToD as an opportunity for India's youth to experience military life without having to join the armed forces; Army, Navy, and the Air Force on a long-term basis.
- Already adopted in several other countries, the Tour of Duty, or 'Agnepath', is a scheme under which the forces will recruit soldiers on a short-term and long-term basis to serve the country.

Q: Recently Scientists have for the first time created "time crystals". Consider the following statement:

1. It is a macroscopic quantum system in periodic motion in its ground state.
2. Nobel Laureate Frank Wilczek was the first to theorize time crystals.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Scientists have for the first time created a two-body system in an experiment that could bend the laws of physics.
- Being called time crystals, this new phase of matter has been created after scientists witnessed their first interaction and were long believed to be impossible.
- A time crystal is a macroscopic quantum system in periodic motion in its ground state.
- They have now proved that this new phase of matter can not only be created but can also be used for useful purposes, including in quantum computing.
- Time crystals are different from standard crystal-like metals or rocks, which are composed of atoms arranged in a regularly repeating pattern in space.
- Nobel Laureate Frank Wilczek was the first to theorize time crystals in 2012 and identified them in 2016 as exhibiting the bizarre property of being in constant, repeating motion in time despite no external input.
- The atoms in time crystal are constantly oscillating, spinning, or moving first in one direction, and then the other.