

Q: Recently, the annual Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) was released. Consider the following statement:

1. According to the report, 100 million people were forced to flee their homes in 2021 due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine.
2. There were 23.7 million new internal displacements globally due to disasters.
3. The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria.

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:

- Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency highlighted that **globally 100 million people were forced to flee their homes** in 2021 due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine and other emergencies from Africa to Afghanistan.
- According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), in 2021, there were **23.7 million new internal displacements globally due to disasters** (these are in addition to those internally displaced due to conflict and violence). This represented a decrease of seven million, or 23 per cent, compared to the previous year.
- The **largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021** occurred in **China** (6.0 million), the **Philippines** (5.7 million) and **India** (4.9 million). Most disaster displacements during the year were temporary.
- The majority of the internally displaced persons returned to their home areas, but 5.9 million people worldwide remained displaced at the end of the year due to disasters.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The border operation called “Solidarity-2023” will be organised by India.
2. India has supported an initiative by China to conduct a “joint border operation” in 2023.

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: b

Explanation:

- India has supported an initiative by China to conduct a “joint border operation” in 2023 of all member countries of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation).
- The border operation called “**Solidarity-2023**” will be organised by China.
- SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region and was created in 2001.

Q: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled the Payments Vision 2025 document. Consider the following statement and choose the incorrect option:

- a) It has proposed enabling of geotagging of digital payment infrastructure.
- b) It also proposed a framework for regulation of all significant intermediaries in payments ecosystem.
- c) End to Cheque Truncation System (CTS).
- d) Creating payment system for processing online merchant payments using internet and mobile banking

Ans: c

Explanation:

- It has proposed enabling of geotagging of digital payment infrastructure and transactions and revisiting guidelines for prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), including closed system PPIs.
- It also proposed a framework for regulation of all significant intermediaries in payments ecosystem and link credit cards and credit components of banking products to UPI.
- Other proposals include bringing in enhancements to Cheque Truncation System (CTS), including One Nation One Grid clearing and settlement perspective, and creating payment system for processing online merchant payments using internet and mobile banking.
- It also proposed regulation of BigTechs and FinTechs in the payments space.

Q: Recently, the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) concluded at WTO. Consider the following statement:

1. The WTO finalised a proposal to not restrict supplies of food grains to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).
2. It was also agreed to find a final solution to the issue of continuation of moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmission of goods.
3. The package adopted by members included a ministerial declaration on the emergency response to food insecurity.

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 WTO finalised a proposal to not restrict supplies of food grains to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). However, these supplies would be subjected to the domestic requirements.
- It includes agreements on curbing harmful fishing subsidies and temporary patent waiver for production of COVID-19 vaccines.
- It was also agreed to find a final solution to the issue of continuation of moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmission of goods by the next ministerial conference of the WTO or not later than March 2024.
- The package adopted by members included a ministerial declaration on the emergency response to food insecurity; a ministerial decision on World Food Programme (WFP) food purchases exemptions from export prohibitions or restrictions;
- A declaration on the WTO response to the COVID-19 pandemic and preparedness for future pandemics; and a decision on the agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- Besides, the ministers adopted two decisions: on the work programme on small economies and on the TRIPS non-violation and situation complaints.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Starquakes can be likened to tsunamis or massive vibrations on the surface of stars.
2. Quasars are extraordinarily active and bright cores of galaxies powered by supermassive black holes.

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:

- One of the most surprising discoveries was that of more than 100,000 'starquakes' - which can be likened to tsunamis or massive vibrations on the surface of stars that can change their shape.

- Such starquakes were also detected on the surface of stars that should not have any such large-scale vibrations as per existing astronomical theories.
- Quasars are extraordinarily active and bright cores of galaxies powered by supermassive black holes. These are the most luminous objects in the universe and are visible along its distant edges.
- The new Gaia data has revealed the measurements of over a million confirmed quasars and data related to 6.6 million quasar candidates.
- The discovery of new quasars is significant as it helps to measure the most distant stretches of our universe.