

Q: Consider the following statement regarding SATHI Portal:

1. It is a Centralized Online System for seed traceability.
2. There will be a QR code under this system, through which the seeds can be traced.
3. It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture only.

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:

- Recently, the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister launched the **SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal** and Mobile App.
- It is a Centralized Online System for seed traceability, authentication and inventory designed to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification and seed certification.
- It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the theme of '**Uttam Beej – Samridh Kisan**'.
- The first phase of SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic) portal has just been launched.
- Efforts should be made to increase awareness so that the farmers get full benefit from it. There will be a QR code under this system, through which the seeds can be traced.
- Training should be imparted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Governments.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Parvatmala Pariyojana scheme:

1. The scheme will not cover the congested urban area.
2. The scheme will be taken up on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode.
3. The scheme is being presently started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North Eastern 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:

- Parvatmala Pariyojana scheme will be taken up on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode, which will be a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.
- The idea is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.
- This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.
- The scheme is being presently started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North Eastern states.
- The Finance Minister announced that contracts for 8 ropeway projects for a length of 60 km would be awarded in 2022-23.

Q: Recently, the United Nations released the State of World Population Report, 2023 of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). Consider the following statement:

1. Just eight countries will account for half the projected growth in global population by 2050.
2. Global experience showed that family planning targets can lead to gender-based discrimination.

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:

- India is set to overtake China to become the world's most populous country by the middle of 2023.

- India's population is pegged to reach 142.86 crore against China's 142.57 crore. This shows India will have 29 lakh more people than its Asian neighbour.
- The United States is a distant third, with an estimated population of 34 crore.
- Just eight countries will account for half the projected growth in global population by 2050: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania; while two-thirds of people now live in a country where lifetime fertility corresponds with zero growth.
- Global experience showed that family planning targets can lead to gender-based discrimination and harmful practices such as prenatal sex determination leading to sex-selective abortion.
- Imposition of such targets can lead to imbalanced sex ratios, preferential health and nutrition for male children, denial of the paternity of girl children, violence against women for giving birth to girl children, and coercion of women to have fewer or greater numbers of children.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Web3:

1. It is a centralized web owned and controlled by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
2. It allows for the creation and exchange of digital assets.
3. It allows peer-to-peer transactions and interactions.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Web3 is known as the decentralized web, network of computers that are owned and controlled by the users themselves.
- It is built on top of existing Internet infrastructure and not in competition with previous versions of the web platform.
- It allows for the creation and exchange of digital assets, decentralized applications and smart contracts in the blockchain system.
- It is designed to securely store data in a way where hacking and compromising is not easy.
- It is best known for its use in cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum.
- It is used to store and transfer digital currencies in a secure and transparent way.
- It allows for peer-to-peer transactions and interactions, which means that users are in control of their data and can choose whom they share it with.
- Users can trust the network itself to keep their data and transactions secure.
- Web3 is more secure, as there is no single point of failure that can be exploited by hackers.

Q: PLOS Climate pointed out that the Indian government made a much lower estimate with National Climate Vulnerability Index. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Climate Vulnerability Index:

1. It identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk.
2. It is released by the Department of Science and Technology.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Explanation:

- National Climate Vulnerability Index identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk and key drivers of vulnerability.
- It is a composite index that uses various indicators to evaluate climate impact on India's socio-economic features and livelihood, biophysical, institutional and infrastructural characteristics.
- State-level vulnerability indices developed in this report vary over a small range: 0.42-0.67.
- This means all states must deal with concerns related to vulnerability.
- The report shows that the eastern part of the country, requiring prioritization of adaptation interventions.
- District-level vulnerability indices are also within a small range: 0.34 - 0.75.
- Vulnerability indices are relative measures.
- This means, all districts or states are vulnerable, but some are relatively more vulnerable than others, requiring prioritized adaptation interventions.