

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) Bill:

1. The bill overhaul the existing Special Economic Zone law of 2005.
2. SEZs will be revamped and renamed Development Hubs.
3. The new law will allow units to produce only domestic markets.

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:

- The new Bill will overhaul the existing Special Economic Zone law of 2005, aiming to revive interest in SEZs and develop more inclusive economic hubs.
- The new law will allow units to produce both for domestic and international markets. Evaluation based on net foreign exchange and direct tax incentives have been done away with in order to comply with WTO rules.
- According to the DESH Bill, net positive growth criteria will be used to judge performance.
- SEZs will be revamped and renamed Development Hubs. They will be free from several laws that currently restrict them. These hubs will facilitate both export-oriented and domestic investment.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the shortcoming of SEZ act:

1. According to WTO, India's export related scheme was consistent with WTO rules.
2. SEZ Act was implemented to create export hubs and boost manufacturing in the country.
3. India's export-related schemes prohibited subsidies under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

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:

- According to the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement panel, India's export-related schemes, including the SEZ Scheme, were inconsistent with WTO rules since they directly linked tax benefits to exports.
- The SEZ Act was implemented in 2006 in a bid to create export hubs and boost manufacturing in the country.
- However, these zones started losing their sheen after the imposition of a minimum alternate tax and the introduction of a sunset clause for the removal of tax incentives.
- The dispute settlement panel of Geneva-based WTO in its report on October 31, 2019, ruled that India's export-related schemes (including SEZ Scheme) were in the nature of prohibited subsidies under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and were inconsistent with WTO norms. India has appealed against this order.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding National Sports Development Code of India:

1. It was introduced in 2011.
2. It aimed at good governance practices in the management of sports at the national level without interfering in the autonomy of the national sports bodies.

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:

- The Sports Code, or National Sports Development Code of India to be precise, was introduced in 2011 by the Central government, which wanted good governance practices in the management of sports at the national level without interfering in the autonomy of the national sports bodies.
- It was widely accepted that such a sports code was needed as it was felt that most of the sports federations had become personal fiefdoms of certain individuals as they continued to remain in power for long periods.
- The National Sports Code laid down restrictions regarding age and tenure.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The Arctic is warming three to four times faster than the globe.
2. Warmer oceans contribute to heat domes.
3. The main cause of heat domes is a strong change in ocean temperatures from west to east in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

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 Arctic is warming three to four times faster than the globe as a whole, meaning there is ever less difference between northern temperatures and those closer to the equator.
- That is resulting in swings in the North Atlantic jet stream, which in turn leads to extreme weather events like heat waves and floods.
- Warmer oceans contribute to heat domes, which trap heat over large geographical areas.
- Scientists have found the main cause of heat domes is a strong change in ocean temperatures from west to east in the tropical Pacific Ocean during the preceding winter

Q: Recent the Zoological Survey of India released a study about the pattern of snow leopard and its prey species in the fragile ecosystem of Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh. Consider the following statement:

1. The study reveal a strong link between habitat use by Snow Leopard and its prey species Siberian ibex and blue sheep.
2. Snow Leopard is classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN Red list.

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: a

Explanation:

- The study under National Mission on Himalayan Studies revealed a strong link between habitat use by Snow Leopard and its prey species Siberian ibex and blue sheep.
- Classified as 'Vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list and listed in Schedule-I species of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, snow leopards are elusive mountain cats whose survival depends on depends primarily on wild ungulates.