

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The GCC is currently India's largest trading partner bloc.
2. Investments from the GCC in India are currently valued at over USD 18 billion.
3. GCC countries contribute almost 70% of India's oil imports.

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 GCC is currently India's largest trading partner bloc with bilateral trade in FY 2021-22 valued at over USD 154 billion with exports valued at approximately USD 44 billion and imports of around USD 110 billion (non-oil exports of USD 33.8 Billion and non-oil imports of USD 37.2 Billion).
- Bilateral trade in services between India and the GCC was valued at around USD 14 billion in FY 2021-22, with exports valued at USD 5.5 Billion and imports at USD 8.3 Billion.
- GCC countries contribute almost 35% of India's oil imports and 70% of gas imports.
- India's overall crude oil imports from the GCC in 2021-22 were about \$48 billion, while LNG and LPG imports in 2021-22 were about \$21 billion.
- Investments from the GCC in India are currently valued at over USD 18 billion.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC):

1. Recently, Japan won the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Vice Presidency for 2023-25.
2. Standardization Management Board (SMB) is an apex governance body of IEC.
3. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is an international standard setting body that publishes international Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

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:

- Recently, India won the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Vice Presidency and Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair for the 2023-25 term.
- The General Meeting of IEC was held recently in San Francisco, USA.
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is an international standard setting body that publishes international Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.
- Standardization Management Board (SMB) is an apex governance body of IEC responsible for technical policy matters.
- Vimal Mahendru will be the IEC Vice President representing India.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Europa Mission:

1. Europa is a moon around Jupiter.
2. Scientists believe Europa harbors a vast internal ocean.

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:

- Europa is a moon around Jupiter is believed to harbour more water than oceans on Earth.
- The Europa Clipper Mission will arrive at the Jupiter system in 2030 after its 2024 launch to explore the frozen world.
- Scientists believe Europa harbors a vast internal ocean that may have conditions suitable for supporting life.
- The spacecraft will gather data on the moon's atmosphere, surface, and interior, information that will help scientists learn more about the ocean, the ice crust, and potential plumes that may be venting subsurface water into space.

Q: Which of the following committee had been tasked to study the various factors behind demand for MGNREGA work?

- a) Abid Hussain Committee
- b) Chakravarty Committee
- c) G V Ramakrishna Committee
- d) Amarjeet Sinha Committee

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The committee, headed by former Rural Development secretary Amarjeet Sinha, had its first meeting recently and has been given three months to submit its suggestions.
- The Sinha committee has now been tasked to study the various factors behind demand for MGNREGA work, expenditure trends and inter-State variations, and the composition of work.
- It will suggest what changes in focus and governance structures are required to make MGNREGA more effective.

Q: The eminent artists of Akademi Puraskar cover the entire gamut of the performing arts

- a) Hindustani and Carnatic vocal music
- b) Hindustani and Carnatic instrumental music
- c) Major forms of Indian dance
- d) All the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

The eminent artists of Akademi Puraskar cover the entire gamut of the performing arts such as

- a) Hindustani and Carnatic vocal music,
- b) Hindustani and Carnatic instrumental music, Sugam Sangeet as well as Harikatha;
- c) The major forms of Indian dance.