

**Q: Recently Union Cabinet approved the revival package of BSNL. Consider the following statement:**

1. It aims to reinfuse fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services and allocating spectrum.
2. BSNL will be allotted Spectrum in 900/1800 MHz band.
3. BSNL will be merged with MTNL for wider utilization of infrastructure.

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:

- Revival measures approved by the Cabinet focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet, and augmenting its fiber network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL.
- To improve existing services and provide 4G services, BSNL will be allotted Spectrum in 900/1800 MHz band administratively at the cost of Rs 44,993 Cr through equity infusion. With this spectrum, BSNL will be able to compete in the market and provide high speed data using their vast network including in rural areas.
- To further improve the balance sheet, AGR dues of BSNL amounting to Rs 33,404 Cr will be settled by conversion into equity. Government will provide funds to BSNL for settling the AGR/GST dues.
- To facilitate wider utilization of infrastructure laid under BharatNet, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) will be merged with BSNL.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) mission:**

1. NASA is developing this mission.
2. Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa are large ocean-bearing moons of Jupiter.
3. The spacecraft will use remote sensing, geophysical, and in situ instruments in exploring Jupiter's complex environment.

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:

- The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) mission, being developed by the European Space Agency, will launch in April 2023 on an Ariane-5 rocket from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.
- The spacecraft, which is equipped with 85 square meter solar wings, will make detailed observations of the giant gas planet and its three large ocean-bearing moons Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.
- The spacecraft will use remote sensing, geophysical, and in situ instruments to characterise these moons as both planetary objects and possible habitats while also exploring Jupiter's complex environment in-depth, and studying the wider Jupiter system as an archetype for gas giants across the Universe.
- The Galilean Moons, four large moons of Jupiter Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto, have long been speculated to have conditions that could one day support life. The Juice mission will provide measurements to determine the positions of the Galilean moons with unprecedented accuracy.

**Q: India has slammed China and Pakistan for their efforts to encourage third countries to join CPEC projects. Consider the following statement:**

1. The CPEC is part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. CPEC connect Karachi Port with Sichuan province of China.
3. China has previously outlined plans to extend CPEC to Afghanistan.

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: c

Explanation:

- Pakistan and China at a meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination, Pakistan and China decided to welcome interested third countries to join the flagship CPEC initiative.
- The CPEC is part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which China described as a 'transcontinental long-term policy and investment programme which aims at infrastructure development and acceleration of the economic integration of countries along the route of the historic Silk Road'.
- The \$60 billion CPEC was launched in 2013 to improve Pakistan's road, rail and energy transportation infrastructure besides connecting its deep-sea port of Gwadar with China's Xinjiang province.
- China has previously outlined plans to extend CPEC to Afghanistan under its tripartite diplomatic initiative.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Google Street:**

1. It provides Street View imagery of locations.
2. It was first launched in 2005 in United Kingdom.

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: d

Explanation:

- First launched in 2007 in several cities in the United States, Google Street View is a technology featured in Google Maps and Google Earth that provides three-dimensional interactive panoramas of locations along many streets in the world.
- Since its launch, the service has expanded to include cities and rural areas worldwide.
- The panoramas are created by stitched VR photographs that are taken using a car, but sometimes other vehicles as well.

**Q: Recently, the Supreme Court upheld the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Consider the following statement:**

1. The court held that generating black money is also money laundering.
2. ED does not have the discretionary powers to attach property of the accused.

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:

**Key provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA):**

- **Section 3:** States the offence of money laundering. The court held that generating black money is also money laundering, even without proof of actually laundering it or converting it to white money.
- **Section 5 and 8(4):** Under this, the ED has discretionary powers to attach property of the accused. The bench rejected the argument and held that there are enough safeguards to protect the accused.

- **Section 17:** This section gives ED powers to enter and search suspected property without judicial permission. The SC rejected this argument and upheld the provision.
- **Section 19:** This section gives the ED powers of arrest. The court upheld its constitutionality.