

**Q: Recently Supreme Court gave Judgement to object frivolous petitions and gave some direction. Consider the following statement:**

1. Verifying the credentials of the petitioner before entertaining the plea.
2. Checking the correctness of the contents.
3. Ensuring the petition involves issues of larger public interest, gravity and urgency.

Choose the correct decision given by Supreme Court:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

The Supreme Court had also issued eight directions in its Balwant Singh Chauhal judgment to help constitutional courts separate genuine PIL petitions from the barmy ones.

It had asked every High Court to frame its own rules to encourage bona fide PIL petitions and curb the motivated ones. Some of these directions included

- a) verifying the credentials of the petitioner before entertaining the plea;
- b) checking the correctness of the contents;
- c) ensuring the petition involves issues of “larger public interest, gravity and urgency” which requires priority;
- d) ensuring there is no personal gain, or oblique motive behind the PIL;
- e) ensuring that it is aimed at redressal of genuine public harm or public injury.

**Q: Recently IIM-Ahmedabad has joined hands with an e-marketplace to bring out agricultural land price index. Choose the incorrect option from the statement given below:**

- a) The index has been designed to record and present the “quality-controlled” data on prices of agricultural land.
- b) The index will track the price movements in the marketplace.
- c) The index will be updated once in a year.
- d) The index will not have any correlation with circle rates

Ans: c

Explanation:

- In a unique initiative, IIM-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has joined hands with an e-marketplace for agricultural land, SFarms India, to develop a **farm land price index based on the sales and purchases** done on the platform.
- The index has been designed to record and present the “quality-controlled” data on prices of agricultural land in the country.
- The Misra Centre for Financial Markets and Economy at IIM-A, under which this index is being launched, will host this on its official website and it will be called IIM-Ahmedabad SFarmsIndia Land Price Index (ISALPI).
- The index will track the price movements in the marketplace (SfarmsIndia) and come up with a composite pricing mechanism on a monthly basis, which **will be updated twice a year**.
- The index **will not have any correlation with circle rates** but will use the prices quoted in the online market place as their base value for research.

**Q: Recently, the Supreme Court gave direction for national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Consider the following statement:**

1. It will have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.
2. Permanent structure will be allowed within the ESZ.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both

d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a **mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km** starting from their demarcated boundaries.
- No permanent structure will be allowed within the ESZ.
- It also directed the Chief Conservator of Forests of all states and UTs to prepare a list of existing structures within the ESZs and submit a report to it within a period of three months.
- For this purpose, such authorities can take assistance from governmental agencies for satellite imaging or photography using drones.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding the “SHRESHTA” Scheme:**

1. The scheme was launched by Ministry of Education.
2. The scheme provide quality education and opportunities for even the poorest Scheduled Caste students.
3. The students, belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in class 8th and 10th are eligible for the benefits of scheme.

Choose the correct decision given by Supreme Court:

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Union Minister of social Justice and empowerment launched “SHRESHTA”-Scheme for residential education for students in High school in Targeted Areas.
- The **Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)** has been formulated with the objective to provide **quality education and opportunities for even the poorest Scheduled Caste students**, as per the Constitutional mandate.
- Accordingly, the Department as a new initiative has introduced the scheme **for providing quality education in top class private Residential Schools** to the meritorious SC students who cannot afford the fee of such schools.
- The students, belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible for availing the benefits of scheme are selected through a transparent mechanism through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS), which is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission in class 9th and 11th. Students belonging to marginalized income group within the SC community, whose parental annual income is upto Rs.2.5 Lakh are eligible.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding the launched of two mission to Moon by NASA:**

1. Lunar-VISE will provide biological research on the Moon which cannot be simulated or replicated with high fidelity on the Earth.
2. LEIA will explore the summit of one of the Gruithuisen Domes.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- NASA has selected two new missions to launch to the Moon that will decode the lunar surface and the mysterious Gruithuisen Domes.
- The Lunar Vulkan Imaging and Spectroscopy Explorer (Lunar-VISE) mission over a course of 10 days will explore the summit of one of the Gruithuisen Domes that are suspected to have been formed by a sticky magma rich in silica, similar in composition to granite.
- The Lunar Explorer Instrument for space biology Applications (LEIA) is a small CubeSat-based device that will provide biological research on the Moon which cannot be simulated or replicated with high fidelity on the Earth or International Space Station by delivering the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to the lunar surface and studying its response to radiation and lunar gravity.