

General Awareness Section is one of the king sections in NABARD Grade A Prelims. 20 Questions of 20 Marks each are asked in preliminary examination to test the General Knowledge for FREE. Get the 20 most probable questions on General Awareness Section download for FREE PDF.

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1. Choose the correct option that accurately summarizes statements A, B, and C and refers to the name of the report.
- (I) It is an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with the Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative among others.
- (II) It was first published in 2019.
- (III) Only Kerala could achieve case clearance rates of 100 percent and more at both the High Court and subordinate court levels in the 2022 report.
- a) The Justice Capacity Report
b) The Judicial Performance Index
c) The State Justice Ranking Assessment
d) The India Justice Report
e) The National Justice Capacity Evaluation

Ans.: d

Solution:

Statements A, B, and C accurately summarize the **“India Justice Report”**.

The India Justice Report is an initiative led by Tata Trusts in collaboration with organizations such as Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, among others. It aims to assess and rank the capacity of states in delivering justice across various parameters.

The report was first published in 2019, indicating its establishment and periodic nature. Since then, it has been providing comprehensive analysis and insights into the justice system of India.

In the 2022 edition of The India Justice Report,

- It is highlighted that only Kerala managed to achieve case clearance rates of 100 percent and more at both the High Court and subordinate court levels. This achievement reflects Kerala's efficiency in handling and resolving cases within the judicial system.
- Sikkim has topped among smaller states (states with a population up to 1 crore). It is followed by Arunachal Pradesh (2nd), and Tripura (3rd).
- Goa is at rank 7th which is the lowest.
- Only Arunachal Pradesh reports having CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) cameras in all 14 spots (as directed by the Supreme Court) in all its 24 police stations.

2. Identify the correct statements about the core investment company.

- A. A core investment company is a banking financial organisation.
B. It holds at least 50% of its net assets in the form of equity shares, preference shares, bonds, etc.
C. It is engaged in any financial activity covered by Sections 45I(c) and 45I(f) of the RBI Act of 1934.

- a) Only A and B
b) Only B and C
c) Only A and C
d) Only B
e) None of the above

Ans.: e

Solution:

The Reserve Bank has undertaken a comprehensive review of the system of processing of applications for registration as Core Investment Companies (CICs) to make the registration process smoother and hassle free. Accordingly, the application form has been revamped to make it structured and aligned with the extant CIC regulations. Also, the number of documents to be furnished along with the application form has been reduced to 18 from the existing set of 52 documents to make the registration process user friendly.

A core investment company is a non-banking financial organisation that:

- (i) It has assets of at least Rs 100 crore.
- (ii) Engages in the business of acquiring shares and securities and meets the requirements listed below as of the date of the most recent audited balance sheet: -
- (iii) It holds at least 90% of its net assets in the form of equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt, or loans in group companies.
- (iv) Its investments in equity shares (including instruments compulsorily convertible into equity shares within a period of not more than ten years from the date of issue) in group companies account for at least 60% of its net assets, as mentioned.
- (v) It does not engage in any other financial activity covered by Sections 45I(c) and 45I(f) of the RBI Act of 1934, with the exception of investing in bank deposits, money market instruments, government securities, loans to and investments in debt issuances of group companies, or issuing guarantees on behalf of group companies.
- (vi) It does not trade in its investments in shares, bonds, debentures, debt, or loans in group companies except through block sale for the purpose of dilution.
- (vii) It accepts public funding.

3. What are the key components and benefits provided by the PM SVANidhi scheme?

- a) Interest subsidy, cashback on digital transactions, and eligibility for enhanced loans.
- b) Loan extensions, training and skill development programs, and access to marketing platforms.
- c) Microcredits, financial literacy programs, and government-backed insurance coverage.
- d) Mobile app for loan applications, Udyam registration facility, and fiscal year budget.
- e) Working capital loans, mentorship programs, and provision of vending zones.

Ans.: b

Solution:

The PM SVANidhi scheme offers various components and benefits to street vendors. Option B accurately reflects the key elements of the scheme:

Loan extensions: Street vendors can benefit from extended loan repayment periods, providing them with more flexibility in managing their finances and repayments.

Training and skill development programs: The scheme emphasizes the importance of skill enhancement and offers training programs to street vendors to improve their entrepreneurial skills, product quality, and business management.

Access to marketing platforms: The scheme facilitates street vendors' access to marketplaces and platforms where they can showcase and sell their products. This exposure helps expand their customer base and enhance their business prospects.

It's important to note that while aspects such as interest subsidy, cashback on digital transactions, financial literacy programs, mobile app for loan applications, Udyam registration facility, fiscal year budget, mentorship programs, and provision of vending zones may be associated with other initiatives or programs, they are not the central components and benefits provided by the PM SVANidhi scheme.

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4. Which of the following statements about Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) is correct?

- a) SSCs are established by the National Occupational Standard.
- b) SSCs are government-appointed bodies responsible for skill development in India.
- c) SSCs operate as independent entities and can be registered as a Section 8 Company or a Society.
- d) SSCs are not supported by employer bodies such as FICCI and CII to improve workforce skills.
- e) SSCs focus on creating employment opportunities for ST/SC, differently-abled, and minority groups.

Ans.: c

Solution.:

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) demonstrated its unwavering commitment to make vocational education and skill training aspirational for Indian youth through strengthening the public-private partnership. MSDE conducted a workshop to discuss the critical role of SSCs in making the skill ecosystem more agile and response to industry needs by reimagining and redesigning their roles making them more effective and impactful. The workshop saw discussions on the need for industry driven skill training programs for various job roles in different sectors to cater to the industry needs. Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) are autonomous bodies and can be registered as a Section 8 Company or a Society. SSCs pay particular attention to the skilling needs of ST/SC, differently-abled, and minority groups, but this is not the main focus of their functions.

5. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched Nandi - NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System portal. Which of the following statements about the Nandi portal and its impact is correct?

- a) The Nandi portal aims to streamline the regulatory approval process for veterinary products and ensure transparency.
- b) The Nandi portal will primarily benefit livestock rearers by providing logistical facilities and increasing drug consumption.
- c) The Nandi portal is a research initiative focused on improving the long-term success of India's livestock sector.
- d) The Nandi portal integrates with the SUGAM portal of the Ministry of Agriculture to assess and examine waste product proposals.
- e) The Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH) oversees the functioning of the Nandi portal for drug approval.

Ans.: a

Solution:

Nandi portal, launched by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, aims to facilitate the regulatory approval process for veterinary products with transparency.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched Nandi - NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System portal. With this portal, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) will facilitate the regulatory approval process with transparency to assess and examine veterinary product proposals will be more streamlined through seamless integration with the SUGAM portal of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization. This initiative would also provide valuable support to researchers and industries from a commercial perspective. By raising awareness among livestock rearers and improving logistical facilities, there would be an increase in the consumption of drugs. DAHD has been working towards improving the regulatory process through setting up empowered committees such as Empowered Committee for Animal Health (ECAH), chaired by Principal Scientific Adviser (GoI), which is working towards creating resilient, farmer-centric animal health systems in India and bringing forth changes to ensure the long-term success of India's livestock sector. Under ECAH, Regulatory Subcommittee, consisting of various veterinary experts from industry and academia, has been set up with the goal to comprehensively deliberate, efficiently take action, and provide recommendation/policy inputs on submissions of veterinary vaccine/biologicals/drugs in the Department for its opinion.

6. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has moved a step forward by centralising the strike off process of companies with the establishment of the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE). What is the purpose of establishing the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)?

- To expedite the registration process for new companies.
- To facilitate the voluntary winding up of companies within a shorter timeframe.
- To enhance the availability of employees to stakeholders and keep the registry clean.
- To improve the ease of doing business for companies in Haryana.
- To streamline the process of striking off company names from the public records.

Ans.: b

Solution:

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has moved a step forward by centralising the strike off process of companies with the establishment of the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE). The establishment of the C-PACE will help to reduce the stress on the Registry along with keeping the registry clean besides availability of more meaningful data to the stakeholders. The C-PACE will also benefit the stakeholders by providing a hassle-free filing, timely and process-bound striking off their company's names from the Register.

The setting up of the C-PACE is part of the several measures taken by MCA in the recent past towards Ease of Doing Business and ease of exit for the Companies. The C-PACE office will work under the supervision/administration of Director General of Corporate Affairs. (DGCoA), New Delhi. To establish the C-PACE, the Ministry amended the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2023 which has come in effect from 1st May, 2023.

The Office of C-PACE was inaugurated on 1st May 2023 by Shri R.K. Dalmia, Director, Inspection & Investigation, MCA. Shri Harihara Sahoo, ICLS, has been appointed as first Registrar of the office of C-PACE. The C-PACE office will work under the supervision/administration of Director General of Corporate Affairs. (DGCoA), New Delhi.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the establishment of a Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) in the Union Budget 2022-23. This will implement an expedited corporate exit process in 2022-23 fiscal.

C-PACE has been established as part of several measures taken to further improve the ease of doing business and ease of exit for companies. The C-PACE institution, established under sub-section (1) of section 396, shall be in operation through the Registrar of Companies (RoC) for the purposes of exercising functional jurisdiction of processing and disposal of applications. C-PACE will help to reduce the stress on the Registry along with keeping the registry clean besides availability of more meaningful data to the stakeholders. The C-PACE will also benefit the stakeholders by providing hassle-free filing, timely and process-bound striking off their company's names from the register.

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7. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, AH and Dairying acts promptly to address concerns of livestock farmers of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal in May 2023. What is the primary mode of transmission for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle?

- Direct contact with infected person
- Consumption of contaminated feed
- Airborne transmission through respiratory droplets
- Transmission through blood-feeding insects
- Vertical transmission from mother to offspring

Ans.: d

Solution:

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle is transmitted by blood-feeding insects such as certain species of flies, mosquitoes, or ticks. It does not have direct contact with infected person, consumption of contaminated feed or water, airborne transmission through respiratory droplets, or vertical transmission from mother to offspring as the primary mode of transmission.

Level: 0

8. The 2nd edition of "National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers", a joint study by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and, _____.

- a) UNICEF
- b) UNESCO
- c) UNIDO
- d) UN
- e) OPEC

Ans.: c

Solution:

The 2nd edition of "National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers", a joint study by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in the India has been released by Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar, Secretary, DST, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST).

The survey states that Karnataka is the most "innovative" state with index score of 33.41, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

Apart from North-eastern states except Assam (19.69), low-performing states include Bihar (21.32), Jharkhand (22.78), and Odisha (23.05).

Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18% ,39.10% and 31.90%, respectively, with Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reporting the lowest share of such firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.

Uttarakhand (31.72) has the highest score among the hill states, while DNH&DD has the highest score among the UTs.

Level: 0

9. This year, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is organising the second edition 'World Food India 2023' from 3rd–5th November, 2023 at New Delhi. In which year was the first edition of World Food India launched?

- a) 2013
- b) 2014
- c) 2015
- d) 2016
- e) 2017

Ans.: e

Solution:

World Food India-2023 an investor roundtable interaction was co-chaired by the Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and the Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries with agri-food processing companies in New Delhi. Recognising the potential of food processing sector in transforming India as the food basket of the world, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India has adopted measures to channelise investments in food processing subsegments. This includes backward linkages, food processing equipment, processing related R&D, cold chain storage solutions, start-ups, logistic & retail chains, encompassing the entire food processing value chain.

With the objective of introducing the world to rich Indian food culture as well as promoting investments in the diverse food processing sector of the country, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched the **first edition of World Food India in 2017**. In view of celebrating 2023 as the International Year of Millets and to bring global food processing industry together, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is organising the second edition 'World Food India 2023' from 3rd-5th November, 2023 at New Delhi.

Level: 0

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10. Which of the following is another name for Bastille Day that is celebrated on 14th July?

- a) French Independence Day
- b) National Revolution Day
- c) Paris Liberation Day
- d) Fête Nationale Française
- e) Day of Freedom and Unity

Ans.: d

Solution:

14 July is celebrated as the Fête Nationale Française, or the National Day in France.

It is also known as the Bastille Day as this day is the anniversary of Storming of the Bastille in 1789 during the French Revolution. This year, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has been invited as the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in France.

The parade will witness a 269 member tri-services contingent of the Indian Armed Forces marching alongside their French counterparts.

11. Consider the following statements:

- (I) It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- (II) The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.
- (III) The scheme provide LPG connections to poor households.

The above characteristics are associated with which of the following schemes?

- a) PM KUSUM
- b) PM Garib Kalyan Yojna
- c) PM Ujjwala

d) PM AASHA

e) PM Vaya Vandana

Ans.: c

Solution:

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has recently observed 1st May 2023 as Ujjwala Diwas to celebrate the achievements of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). The day was first observed in 2022.

'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY):

- It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh with a target of releasing 8 crore connections by March 2020.
- This target was achieved in August 2019, seven months ahead of the target date.
- The scheme aims to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.
- Ujjwala 2.0 was launched in August 2021 at Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh making a provision for the release of additional one crore connections.

12. With respect to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), consider the following points:

(I) It was first setup in August 1948.

(II) Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy is the ex-officio Chairman of AEC.

(III) Homi J. Bhabha was the 1st Chairman of AEC.

Which of the above is/are correct?

a) Only I

b) Both I & II

c) Only III

d) Both II & III

e) All I, II, & III

Ans.: e

Solution:

Ajit Kumar Mohanty, who is a well-known physicist and also serves as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), has been appointed as the new chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.

- He has succeeded **K N Vyas** to the posts.
- He has been appointed to a tenure up to the age of 66 years i.e. till 10th October 2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC):

AEC was first setup in August 1948 in the Department of Scientific Research. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was setup on August 3, 1954 under the direct charge of the Prime Minister. Subsequently, in accordance with a Government Resolution dated March 1, 1958, AEC was established in DAE.

Composition:

- The Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy is ex-officio Chairman of the Commission.
- The other Members of the AEC are appointed on the recommendation of the Chairman, AEC and after approval by the Prime Minister.

Note: Dr. Homi Bhabha was appointed as the first chairman of the AEC.

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13. Match the following:

List-I (Category)	List-II (Winners of 2023 Pulitzer Prize)
(I) Drama	1) Demon Copperhead
(II) Memoir	2) Stay True
(III) Fiction	3) English

a) I-3, II-2, III-1

b) I-1, II-2, III-3

c) I-2, II-1, III-3

d) I-1, II-3, III-2

e) I-2, II-3, III-1

Ans.: a

Solution:

The winners of the **2023 Pulitzer Prize** in Journalism; Books; Drama, and Music; and Special Citations have been announced.

- The Pulitzer Prize, the most prestigious prize in US journalism, was first awarded in 1917.

- The prize recognises the work in 22 categories, i.e. 15 journalism categories; seven arts categories and one special citation.

Category	2023 Pulitzer Prize (Books, Drama, & Music)
Fiction	"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper)
Drama	"Trust" by Hernan Diaz (Riverhead Books)
History	"English" by Sanaz Toossi
Biography	"Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power" by Jefferson Cowie (Basic Books)
Memoir or Autobiography	"G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century" by Beverly Gage (Viking)
Poetry	"Stay True" by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)
General Nonfiction	"Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020" by Carl Phillips (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
Music	"His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice" by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa (Viking) (Moved by the Board from the Biography category.)
	"Omar" by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels

14. Choose the incorrect statements regarding the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP):

- (I) It is a statutory body established in 1991.
- (II) It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce.
- (III) It is based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) Only I
- b) Both I & II
- c) Only II
- d) Both II & III
- e) Only III

Ans.: a

Solution:

The **Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)** has observed its **57th Foundation Day** at Hotel the Lalit, Andheri, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

During the occasion, IIP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various prestigious institutions, universities & government bodies including The Bihar Agriculture University, Bhagalpur, Bihar, The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Sonapat, Haryana, The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Thanjavur, The Tamilnadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) and The North East Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation (NHDC), Guwahati.

Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP):

IIP is an **autonomous body** working under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce. It was set up in **1966**. It is based in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** and its centres are located at Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai.

- Director:** Rakesh Mishra

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15. The report titled as '*Trade in services for development*' states that India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4 percent in 2022 from 2 percent in 2005.

The above report is jointly published by _____.

- (I) World Trade Organization
- (II) World Bank
- (III) Asian Development Bank

Select the code:

- a) Both I & II
- b) Only I
- c) Both II & III

- d) Only II
e) All I, II and III

Ans.: a

Solution:

The **World Bank** and the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** have jointly published a report titled as '**Trade in services for development: Fostering sustainable growth and economic diversification.**'

- The report states that India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4 percent in 2022 from 2 percent in 2005.
- The report has stated that China has also doubled its share of global commercial services exports from 2005 to 2022, from 3% to 5.4%.
- China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and India are top exporters and importers of services, driving the trade performance of developing economies.
- Services value-added accounted for 51% of India's total exports in 2018, reflecting reforms to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).
- Global commercial services exports almost tripled from 2005 to 2022, fueled by Information & Communications Technologies (ICT) advancements.
- Digitally delivered services exports has reached USD 3.82 trillion in 2022, representing 54% of total global services exports.

16. Based on the recently released report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22 by the Ministry of Education (MoE), which of the following statement (s) is/are correct?

- (I) None of the states/UTs has attained the highest grade 'Daksh'.
(II) Punjab and Chandigarh have only attained Grade Prachesta -2.
(III) Kerala has attained a score of 609.7 under Grade Prachesta -3.

Select the correct code:

- a) Both I & II
b) Only III
c) Both II & III
d) Only II
e) All I, II, & III

Ans.: e

Solution:

The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** has released a report on **Performance Grading Index 2.0** for States and Union Territories (UTs) for the year 2021-22 to assess the performance of the school education system at the state/UT level.

- The PGI 2.0 structure comprises of 1000 points across 73 indicators grouped into 2 categories viz., Outcomes, Governance Management (GM).
- These categories are further divided into 6 domains, Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E), Governance Process (GP) & Teachers Education and Training (TE&T).
- PGI 2.0 for 2021-22 classified the States/UTs into ten grades viz., highest achievable Grade is **Daksh**, which is for State/UT scoring more than 940 points out of total of 1000 points.
- The lowest grade is **Akanshi-3** which is for score up to 460.

Note: PGI was first released for the year 2017-18.

Key highlights of PGI 2.0:

- None of the states/UTs has attained the highest grade 'Daksh'.
- Only two states/UTs, namely **Punjab (647.4 score) and Chandigarh (659.0 score)** have attained Grade Prachesta -2 (score 641-700);
- Six states/UTs joined Grade Prachesta - 3 (score 581-640);
- 13 states/UTs joined Grade Akanshi -1 (score 521-580);
- 12 states/UTs attained Grade Akanshi - 2 (score 461-520);
- 3 states, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Mizoram have attained Grade Akanshi - 3.
- **Kerala** attained a score of **609.7**, Gujarat (599.0 score), Puducherry (592.7 score), Tamil Nadu (590.4 score), and Maharashtra (583.2 score) under Grade: PRACHESTA-3.
- Haryana attained a score of 577.9, and Rajasthan attained a score of 577.5 under Grade: AKANSHI-1.

17. Which command of the Indian Army has recently (May 2023) conducted the exercise 'Sudarshan Shakti 2023'?

- a) Central Command
b) Eastern Command
c) South Western Command
d) Army Training Command
e) Northern Command

Ans.: c

Solution:

South Western (Sapta Shakti) Command of the Indian Army has recently conducted the exercise '**Sudarshan Shakti 2023**' along the western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab.

The exercise aims to start the transformation of the forces into a modern, lean, and agile fighting combination capable of leveraging new-age technologies.

The exercise is designed to validate operational plans in a network-centric environment with elements of combat power, combat support and logistic support.

Level: 1

18. With respect to the recently (June 2023) launched 'Sagar Samridhhi', consider the following statements:

- (I) It is an online dredging monitoring system.
- (II) The system will accelerate the 'Waste to Wealth' initiative.
- (III) It has been launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

How many of the above are correct?

- a) Both I & II
- b) Only III
- c) Both II & III
- d) Only I
- e) All I, II, & III

Ans.: a

Solution:

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has recently launched an online dredging monitoring system called "**Sagar Samridhhi**".

- The system aims to tighten the monitoring regime for dredging contracts and also focus on monetising dredged material.
- It is part of the government's efforts to expedite the '**Waste to Wealth**' initiative.
- This system has been developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) the technological arm of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)**.
- The new technology brings in marked improvement against the old system of Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system.
- Presently, **Cochin Port** and **Mumbai Port** have adopted the system.

Note: Dredging is the act of removing silt and other material from the bottom of bodies of water.

19. Which state of India has been honoured for achieving the highest wind capacity addition during FY 2022-23?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Gujarat
- d) Maharashtra
- e) Uttar Pradesh

Ans.: b

Solution:

Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MoNRE), has felicitated Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu for being the top achiever in Wind Energy Adoption during FY 2022-23.

- **Rajasthan** has been honoured for achieving the highest wind capacity addition.
- **Gujarat** has been honoured for achieving the highest wind capacity addition through open access.
- **Tamil Nadu** has been honoured for initiating the repowering of wind turbines.

Note: India ranks fourth in wind power capacity in the world.

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20. Consider the following statements:

- (I) Ambubachi Mela is observed annually in Assam.
- (II) The fair is an occasion to promote menstrual hygiene.
- (III) The fair is organized on Ambaji Temple.

Which of the above is/are NOT true?

- a) Only I
- b) Both I & II

- c) Only II
- d) Both I & III
- e) Only III

Ans.: e

Solution:

Ambubachi Mela, an annual Hindu festival, is observed at the **Kamakhya Temple** in **Guwahati, Assam**. The festival marks the annual menstruation of the presiding Goddess in the Kamakhya Temple. The fair is an occasion to promote menstrual hygiene among visitors through the use of sanitary pads.

In 2023, the fair has been organized for four days (23 to 26 June).

Kamakhya Temple:

- Kamakhya is one of 51 Shakti peethas or holy sites for the followers of the Shakti cult, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's companion.
- The temple's sanctum sanctorum houses the yoni (female genital) symbolised by a rock.
- The temple is situated on the Nilachal Hills, whose northern face slopes down to the Brahmaputra River.
- According to the legends, it was built by the demon king Narakasura but records are available only from 1565 when Koch king Naranarayana rebuilt the temple.

Note: The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called *Tuloni Biya*, meaning small wedding.

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