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1) Which of the following bodies are headed by a person with the rank of a Minister of State?

1. National Commission for Scheduled Castes
2. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)
3. National Commission for Women
4. Delimitation Commission

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer**

(c) 2 only

**Explanation**

The **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** is the only body among the given options whose Chairperson is accorded the rank of a **Minister of State**. This status is provided to ensure

administrative authority and facilitate coordination with ministries dealing with sanitation workers, labour welfare and social justice issues.

The **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** has a Chairperson who enjoys the rank of a **Cabinet Minister**, whereas the Vice-Chairperson enjoys the rank of a Minister of State. Therefore, Statement 1 is incorrect.

Similarly, the **National Commission for Women (NCW)** is headed by a Chairperson who holds the rank of a **Cabinet Minister**, not Minister of State, making Statement 3 incorrect.

The **Delimitation Commission** is an independent statutory body generally chaired by a retired Supreme Court judge and functions in a quasi-judicial capacity. Its Chairperson does not possess ministerial rank, thereby making Statement 4 incorrect.

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2) Which of the following describes the term “**Startup Runway**”?

- (a) A new runway being built at the Jewar Airport for cargo startups.
- (b) A dedicated storefront on the GeM platform for startups to sell to government buyers.
- (c) A Ministry of Civil Aviation scheme to provide cheap flights to tech entrepreneurs.
- (d) A physical incubation centre located in 100 low-productivity districts.

**Answer**

- (b) A dedicated storefront on the GeM platform for startups to sell to government buyers.

**Explanation**

The term “**Startup Runway**” refers to a dedicated storefront and facilitation mechanism available on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** platform specifically designed to enable startups to directly sell goods and services to government buyers.

The initiative seeks to reduce traditional barriers that often prevent startups from participating in government procurement systems, such as:

- Prior turnover requirements
- Previous experience conditions

- Complex tender procedures
- Limited market visibility

Through curated visibility, relaxed procurement norms and handholding support, Startup Runway helps startups:

- Pilot innovative products and services
- Scale technologies and business models
- Integrate into public procurement supply chains

The initiative strengthens the public procurement ecosystem and supports programmes such as **Startup India**, innovation-led governance and Ease of Doing Business.

Startup Runway is neither an aviation project nor a physical incubation initiative.

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3) Consider the following pairs:

<b>River/Wetland</b>	<b>Associated State</b>
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Morand River	Madhya Pradesh
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Pataura Jheel	Jharkhand
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Khecheopalri Lake	Sikkim
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Sakkarakottai Wetland	Tamil Nadu
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How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

## Answer

(d) All four

## Explanation

All four pairs are correctly matched.

The **Morand River**, along with the Ganjal River, forms an important tributary system of the Narmada basin in **Madhya Pradesh**. The river recently came into focus due to irrigation projects affecting ecological regions linked with the Satpura and Melghat landscapes.

**Pataura Jheel**, together with Brahma Jamalpur Jheel, forms part of the **Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary**, which recently became **Jharkhand's first Ramsar Site**.

The sacred **Khecheopalri Lake** is located in **Sikkim** and is popularly known as the "wish-fulfilling lake." It recently contributed to Sikkim's entry into the Ramsar list.

The **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary** is located in **Tamil Nadu**, a state presently having the highest number of Ramsar Sites in India.

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4) Consider the following statements regarding the Teesta River:

1. It originates from the Tso Lhamo Lake in the Himalayas of Sikkim.
2. The river flows through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.
3. It is a major left-bank tributary of the Ganga River.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## Answer

(a) 1 and 2 only

### Explanation

Statement 1 is correct. The **Teesta River** originates from **Tso Lhamo Lake** at an elevation of more than 5,000 metres and is fed by glaciers in North Sikkim.

Statement 2 is also correct. The river follows a steep mountainous course through **Sikkim**, descends into **West Bengal**, and later enters **Bangladesh**.

Statement 3 is incorrect because Teesta is not a tributary of the Ganga. It is an important tributary of the **Brahmaputra River**, known as the Jamuna in Bangladesh.

Historically, Teesta was believed to flow into the Ganga system, but the major flood of **1787** altered its course eastward.

The river is often described as the lifeline of Sikkim and North Bengal and supports several hydropower projects including Teesta-III.

The river is highly vulnerable to **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**, as observed during the 2023 disaster. Water sharing between India and Bangladesh also remains an important bilateral issue.

Important tributaries include the **Rangit River** and Dik Chhu.

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5) With reference to the Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) launched by IN-SPACe, consider the following statements:

1. It provides financial support to non-government entities for commercialization of early-stage space technologies.
2. The fund covers up to 100% project cost for startups and MSMEs.
3. The initiative seeks to reduce India's dependence on imported space technologies and promote domestic innovation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

**Answer**

(b) Only two

**Explanation**

The Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) introduced by **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre** aims to bridge the gap between a working prototype and a commercially deployable product.

Statement 1 is correct. The initiative supports **Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs)** including startups, MSMEs and private industries in commercialising technologies such as propulsion systems and satellite technologies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme does not provide full financial coverage.

Funding support includes:

- Up to **60%** of project cost for startups and MSMEs
- Up to **40%** for larger industries

Maximum support is capped at **₹25 crore per project**.

Statement 3 is correct. The initiative seeks to strengthen domestic capabilities, reduce import dependence and build an indigenous space ecosystem.

IN-SPACE also acts as an interface between ISRO and private players by enabling access to ISRO infrastructure and testing facilities.

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6) Regarding the Reserve Bank of India's '**bank.in**' domain initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is a mandatory internet domain for registered Indian banks to enhance cybersecurity.
2. The domain is intended to replace NEFT and RTGS systems.
3. It helps customers identify legitimate banking websites and distinguish them from phishing sites.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer**

- (a) Only one

**Explanation**

The **Reserve Bank of India** introduced the **bank.in** initiative to strengthen cybersecurity in India's financial sector.

Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

The initiative provides a verified domain exclusively for banks. Customers can identify genuine banking portals because authentic websites would operate under the **bank.in** domain structure, thereby reducing vulnerability to phishing attacks.

Statement 2 is incorrect because **bank.in** is a domain name system initiative and not a payment mechanism.

Payment systems such as:

- NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer)
- RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement)

continue to handle fund transfers.

The initiative forms part of RBI's broader cybersecurity framework including proposals such as **fin.in**, stronger Additional Factor Authentication mechanisms and improved cyber response systems.

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7) Consider the following statements regarding Einstein Rings:

**Statement I:** Einstein Rings are manifestations of gravitational lensing where light from a distant object bends into a circular shape.

**Statement II:** This occurs when a massive foreground object is perfectly aligned with the observer and the background source.

**Statement III:** Einstein Rings are commonly observed and occur in more than 50% of galaxies identified by Euclid telescope.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) Both Statement II and III are correct and explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and III are correct but only one explains Statement I
- (c) Only Statement II is correct and explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor III is correct

**Answer**

- (c) Only Statement II is correct and explains Statement I

**Explanation**

**Einstein Ring** represents one of the observational confirmations of **Theory of Relativity**.

Statement I is correct because gravitational lensing occurs when gravity bends light due to the curvature of spacetime.

Statement II is also correct and explains Statement I. Perfect alignment between:

- Observer
- Foreground lensing object
- Background source

produces a circular image known as an Einstein Ring.

If alignment is imperfect, arcs or Einstein Crosses may be observed instead.

Statement III is incorrect because Einstein Rings are extremely rare. Less than **1% of galaxies** exhibit this phenomenon due to the requirement of precise cosmic alignment.

These rings are important because they help scientists study dark matter distributions and distant galaxies.

8) Match the following:

Column A	Column B	Column C
Cardamom	Bhagwa	Exported to Australia via sea
Cotton	Gossypium barbadense	Extra-Long Staple
Pomegranate	Elettaria tulipifera	Identified in Agasthyamalai hills

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1-(i)-P, 2-(ii)-Q, 3-(iii)-R
- (b) 1-(ii)-P, 2-(i)-Q, 3-(iii)-R
- (c) 1-(i)-Q, 2-(ii)-P, 3-(iii)-R
- (d) 1-(iii)-R, 2-(ii)-Q, 3-(i)-P

**Answer**

- (d) 1-(iii)-R, 2-(ii)-Q, 3-(i)-P

**Explanation**

**Cardamom**, known as the “Queen of Spices,” recently witnessed the identification of **Elettaria tulipifera** in the **Agasthyamalai Hills** and Munnar regions.

This discovery enriches knowledge regarding the Elettaria genus and highlights biodiversity richness in the Western Ghats.

Extra-Long Staple Cotton is derived from **Gossypium barbadense**. ELS cotton possesses fibres exceeding 30 mm and is used in premium textiles.

India imports nearly 90% of its ELS cotton requirement, leading to policy initiatives aimed at increasing domestic production.

The **Bhagwa Pomegranate** recently gained attention due to its first commercial sea shipment to **Australia**.

The export demonstrated India's horticultural competitiveness and quality compliance.

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9) Consider the following statements regarding NavIC:

1. It consists of seven satellites all located in GEO orbit.
2. Restricted Service (RS) is an encrypted signal meant for strategic users.
3. Coverage extends only within India's boundaries.

Which statements are correct?

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

**Answer**

- (c) 2 only

**Explanation**

**Navigation with Indian Constellation**, developed by ISRO, is India's regional navigation system.

Statement 1 is incorrect because the constellation consists of:

- Three satellites in GEO
- Four satellites in GSO

Statement 2 is correct. NavIC provides:

- Standard Positioning Service (civilian use)
- Restricted Service (encrypted strategic service)

The Restricted Service supports defence and strategic applications.

Statement 3 is incorrect because NavIC coverage extends up to **1,500 km beyond India's borders**, covering neighbouring regions and parts of the Indian Ocean.

Recent upgrades include L1-band integration for smartphone compatibility.

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10) ISRO recently developed a **10-tonne Vertical Planetary Mixer**. What is its primary purpose?

- (a) Mixing biological samples for Gaganyaan experiments
- (b) Uniform blending of hazardous solid propellant ingredients for rocket motors
- (c) Mixing lunar soil simulants for Chandrayaan missions
- (d) Waste management at Sriharikota launch site

**Answer**

- (b) Uniform blending of hazardous solid propellant ingredients for rocket motors

**Explanation**

The **Vertical Planetary Mixer** developed by **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in collaboration with **Central Manufacturing Technology Institute** is an important industrial infrastructure for solid rocket motor production.

Solid propellants contain hazardous and highly sensitive ingredients that require extremely uniform mixing.

Any air bubble or uneven distribution may lead to unstable combustion or catastrophic failure during launch.

The mixer uses multiple hydrostatic agitators moving in planetary motion to ensure homogeneous blending.

Since the propellants are hazardous, the process is remotely controlled using:

- PLC systems

- SCADA mechanisms

The development enhances India's capacity for heavy launch vehicle manufacturing including **LVM3** and supports Atmanirbhar Bharat in the space sector.

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