

Q: Consider the following statement regarding “NAMASTE Scheme”:

1. It is a self-employment scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
3. It does not provide for capital subsidies to sewer cleaners on the purchase of sanitation machinery.

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 NAMASTE scheme was launched in 2022, subsuming the already existing Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).
- Since manual scavenging (humans collecting human waste by hand) was no longer practised in India, the next goal was to eliminate hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- As part of the NAMASTE scheme, the guidelines for which are close to being finalised, the Social Justice Ministry intends to first enumerate the number of people engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks across 500 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) cities and then proceed with its plans.
- The NAMASTE scheme, among other things, provides for capital subsidies to sewer cleaners on the purchase of sanitation machinery, training of workers, and loan subsidies on sanitation equipment.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding hydrogen train:

1. The trains will be introduced in all the metropolitan cities of India by 2025.
2. The train will use hydrogen as fuel.
3. The first train will run between Kalka and Shimla.

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:

- New projects for FY 2023-24 would also include the indigenously built hydrogen trains (which use hydrogen as fuel). These trains will be introduced in heritage circuits, with the first such train to run between Kalka and Shimla from December.
- The double lines would be laid over 2,800 km, gauge conversion would be carried out over 150 km and new lines over 600 km would be constructed.

Q: The 2023 Union Budget shines special attention on laboratory-grown diamonds (LGD). Consider the following statement:

1. LGDs are mostly manufactured through high pressure, high temperature (HPHT) method or Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) method.
2. The duty on seeds for rough LGDs will be reduced from 5% to nil.

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:

- LGDs are mostly manufactured through two processes – high pressure, high temperature (HPHT) method or Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) method.
- The 2023 Union Budget promises to reduce the basic customs duty on seeds used in the manufacture of lab-grown diamonds in a bid to popularise their production in India, the duty on seeds for rough LGDs will be reduced from 5% to nil. The change will come into effect starting February 2, 2023.

Q: Consider the following:

1. Unleashing the Potential
2. Green Growth
3. Youth Power

Which among the following is included in Union Budget 2023-24 as seven priorities?

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

Union Budget 2023-24 listed seven priorities and said that they complement each other and act as the ‘Saptarishi’ guiding through the Amrit Kaal. They are as follows:

1. Inclusive Development
2. Reaching the Last Mile
3. Infrastructure and Investment
4. Unleashing the Potential
5. Green Growth
6. Youth Power
7. Financial Sector

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Dodo:

1. The last sighting of the bird was reported on the island of Mauritius.
2. The bird used to reproduce by laying just one egg a year.
3. It was a vulnerable species.

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 last sighting of the bird was reported on the island of Mauritius, which is east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. While the bird was endemic to the region, it went extinct after humans arrived in the region in the mid-17th century.
- While humans encroached on their environment, they were also hunted by other species including monkeys, and rats and the threat of rising sea levels also contributed.
- They plan to study the DNA difference between the Dodo and its close relative the Nicobar pigeon to better understand what the genes are that really make a dodo.
- The birds would feed on rocks along with fruit, nuts, seeds, bulbs, shellfish, and the occasional crab.
- The bird used to reproduce by laying just one egg a year due to a stress-free environment.