

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Operation Sarvashakti:

1. The operation is carried out by the Indian army to neutralise terrorist threats in Pir Panjal range.
2. It is similar to the Operation Sarpvinash.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Operation Sarvashakti is an initiative of Indian army to neutralise terrorist threats in Pir Panjal range. As part of the operation at least three brigades of additional troops are being deployed in the sector from various reserve and strike corps formations in order to increase the density of troops.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is similar to the Operation Sarpvinash. In 2003, Indian forces launched Operation Sarpvinash to flush out terrorists who had infiltrated from across the border and set up camps in the thick forests south of the Pir Panjal range, especially in the Hilkaka area in Poonch.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Tax-GDP Ratio:

1. It reflects the share of taxes in the overall output generated in the country.
2. It has steadily increased in the recent years.
3. For the year 2022-23, the growth rate for taxes is higher than the nominal GDP growth.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Explanation:

The tax-to-GDP ratio is the measure of a nation's tax revenue relative to the size of its economy. It's calculated by dividing a period's tax revenue by its GDP.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to the World Bank, tax revenues above 15% of a country's gross domestic product (GDP) are a key ingredient for economic growth and poverty reduction. It reflects the share of taxes in the overall output generated in the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It has not steadily increased in the recent years. For the year 2020-21, the direct tax decreased in relative to the previous year (2019-20). The direct tax rate has peaked in the year 2022-23.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The growth rate for taxes was recorded at 17.79 % in 2022-23, higher than 15.11 % nominal GDP growth. In the overall tax collections by the government, direct tax collections accounted for 54.62 % share in financial year 2022-23, a four-year high.

Q: The Belfast Agreement, sometime appeared in the news, is in the context of:

- a) Russia Ukraine negotiation
- b) British-Irish Peace Process
- c) Sudanese peace process
- d) Turkey-NATO negotiation

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The US President was in Belfast to mark 25 years of the Good Friday Agreement, the deal that ended 3 decades of bloodshed.
- It was signed on April 10, 1998 at Belfast, the capital city and principal port of Northern Ireland, which was a significant milestone in the history of Ireland.

- It is also known as the Belfast Agreement.
- It ended more than three decades of bloody conflict, known as the ‘Troubles’.
- The agreement had two parts:
 - ❖ A ‘multi-party agreement’ between Northern Ireland’s major parties, and;
 - ❖ An agreement between the governments of the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
 - ❖ The economic integration and soft borders between the two Irelands were one of the key aspects.

Q: With reference to Dengue, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Dengue is an infection caused by bacteria of the Flaviviridae family.
2. The virus is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Dengue is a viral infection caused by the dengue virus (DENV), transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. It is more common in tropical and subtropical climates.
- DENV is an RNA virus of the Flaviviridae family with four serotypes (DENV-1 to 4). Infection with one serotype provides lifelong immunity to that type, but subsequent infections with different serotypes can lead to severe, life-threatening forms of the disease.
- The virus is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the Aedes Aegypti mosquito.
- Human-to-mosquito transmission: After feeding on a DENV-infected person, the virus replicates in the mosquito midgut before disseminating to secondary tissues, including the salivary glands.

Q: With reference to the World Trade Organisation, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only international organisation dealing with the global rules of trade.
2. The General Council is the highest-level decision-making body of the WTO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: a

Explanation:

The WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference with the aim to take place from 26 to 29 in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates).

- **Statement 1 is correct:** World Trade Organisation: It is the only international organization that regulates global trade and settles trade disputes among its member countries. It was established in 1995 as a successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The WTO’s main functions are to facilitate trade negotiations, monitor trade policies, provide technical assistance and training, and cooperate with other international bodies.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ministerial Conference is the top-level decision-making body of WTO which usually meets every two years. General Council: It is normally composed of officials like ambassadors and heads of delegation in Geneva. It meets several times a year at the WTO’s headquarters in Geneva. It also meets as the Trade Policy Review Body and the Dispute Settlement Body. Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council: It is for the Goods, Services, and Intellectual Property, and it reports to the General Council.