

Q: Recently Union Cabinet approved MoA by establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF).

Consider the following statement:

1. Databank of technologies available in BIMSTEC Countries.
2. The TTF shall facilitate transfer of technologies among the BIMSTEC Member States.
3. 5th BIMSTEC Summit was held at Bangladesh in 2022.

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 Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Association (MoA) by India for establishment of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Technology Transfer Facility (TTF).
- The MoA was signed by the BIMSTEC member countries at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held at Colombo, Sri Lanka in March, 2022.
- The TTF shall facilitate transfer of technologies among the BIMSTEC Member States, amongst other things, in the following priority areas Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, Space technology applications etc.
- The expected outcomes of the BIMSTEC TTF are Databank of technologies available in BIMSTEC Countries.

Q: Recently, the Western Ghats of Maharashtra have yielded a carnivorous land snail. Consider the following statement:

1. This species is Vulnerable to Mamdapur Conservation Reserve.
2. The new species also has a unique genital anatomy

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: b

Explanation:

- The 'Sahyadri snail' is distinguished from other Indian and Southeast Asia's Haploptychius in having a sub-oblique helical shell, low spire and presence of a strong parietal lamella.
- The new species also has a unique genital anatomy; it has a long penis with a penial sheath and hooks, atrium and vagina with longitudinal ridges and irregular transverse ridges but without any hooks.
- The species was placed in the genus Haploptychius based on the shell morphology and genital characters.
- This species is endemic to Vishalgad Conservation Reserve in Shahuwadi tehsil of Maharashtra's Kolhapur.
- It is named after the type locality of the species in the northern part of the Western Ghats, which is Sahyadri in Sanskrit.

Q: Recently, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2020-21 was released. Consider the following statement and choose the incorrect option:

- a) The unemployment rate saw a decrease of 4.2% in 2020-21.
- b) Rural areas recorded an unemployment rate of 3.3%.
- c) Urban areas recorded an unemployment rate of 6.7%.
- d) The Labour Force Participation Rate increased to 39.8%.

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The unemployment rate saw a decrease of 0.6% and fell to 4.2% in 2020-21, compared with 4.8% in 2019-20.
- This means that only 4.2% of adults who looked for jobs could not get any work in rural and urban areas of the country in 2020-21.
- Rural areas recorded an unemployment rate of 3.3% and urban areas recorded an unemployment rate of 6.7%.
- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), the percentage of persons in the labour force (that is, working or seeking work or available for work) in the population was 41.6% during 2020-21. It was 40.1% in the previous year.
- The WPR was 39.8%, an increase from 38.2% of the previous year. WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

Q: Recently, the four holy Kapilvastu relics of Lord Buddha were placed for exposition by India in

- a) Mongolia
- b) Japan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Cambodia

Ans: a

- The four holy Kapilvastu relics of Lord Buddha were placed with great reverence for exposition in the Battsagaan temple Assembly Hall of the Gandan Monastery in Mongolia.
- The four relics come from among 22 Buddha relics, currently housed at Delhi's National Museum.
- Together, they are known as the 'Kapilvastu Relics' since they are from a site in Bihar believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu. The site was discovered in 1898.

Q: Recently, Turkey has warned Greece to demilitarize the Aegean Islands. Consider the following Statement:

1. Lausanne Treaty of 1923 defined the boundaries of Turkey and Greece.
2. According to Paris Peace Treaties of 1947, the Dodecanese Islands were given to Turkey.
3. Greece and Turkey are regional adversaries on the issues concerning the Aegean Sea.

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: c

Explanation:

- The Aegean Sea, spanning over two lakh square kilometres, is an arm of the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is located in the East Mediterranean Basin with the Greek peninsula to its west and Anatolia (consisting of the Asian side of Turkey) to its east.
- Greece and Turkey have been regional adversaries on a host of issues concerning the Aegean sea since the 1970s, both asserting rival claims over their borders in the Sea.
- The Lausanne Treaty of 1923 was signed at the end of the First World War to settle the conflict between Turkey (the successor of the Ottoman Empire) and the Allied Powers including Greece. The Treaty defined the boundaries of Turkey and Greece, and several islands, islets and other major territories in the Aegean Sea beyond three miles from the Turkish coast were ceded to Greece, with the exception of three groups of islands.
- At the end of the Second World War, as part of the Paris Peace Treaties of 1947, the Dodecanese Islands (a group of 12 islands in the Aegean Sea) were given to Greece, again with the obligation of permanent and total demilitarisation. They had been ceded to Italy in 1923.