

Q: Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved to restore Interest Subvention on short-term agriculture loans. Consider the following statement regarding the benefit of increased Interest Subvention:

1. It will ensure sustainability of credit flow in the agriculture sector.
2. Banks will be able to absorb increase in cost of funds.
3. It will have no effect on employment generation.

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:

- Increase in Interest Subvention will ensure sustainability of credit flow in the agriculture sector as well as ensure financial health and viability of the lending institutions especially Regional Rural Banks & Cooperative Banks, ensuring adequate agriculture credit in rural economy.
- Banks will be able to absorb increase in cost of funds and will be encouraged to grant loans to farmers for short term agriculture requirements and enable more farmers to get the benefit of agriculture credit.
- This will also lead to generation of employment since short term agri-loans are provided for all activities including Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Poultry, fisheries.
- Farmers will continue to avail short term agriculture credit at interest rate of 4% per annum while repaying the loan in time.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding flagship program, Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN:

1. It was launched in 2014.
2. UDAN has significantly increased the regional air-connectivity in the country.
3. Because of the UDAN scheme, the operational airport number has increased to 141 by now.

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:

- Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation's flagship program Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik) has completed 5 years of success since the launch of its first flight by Prime Minister on 27th April 2017.
- The scheme was initiated on 21st October 2016 with the objective to fulfil the aspirations of the common citizen by following the vision of 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik', with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and tier III cities.
- In the last five years, UDAN has significantly increased the regional air-connectivity in the country.
- There were 74 operational airports in 2014. Because of the UDAN scheme this number has increased to 141 by now.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. RCS-UDAN was formulated based on the review of The National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016.
2. RCS-UDAN was awarded Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration under Innovation Category for the year 2020.

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:

- RCS-UDAN was formulated based on the review of The National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016 and it was planned to remain in force for a period of 10 years. It has a self-financing mechanism with the development of Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF).
- RCS-UDAN was awarded Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration under Innovation Category for the year 2020.
- Republic Day Tableau for 26th January 2022 on UDAN was adjudged as the Best Tableau by the Ministry of Defence.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the recent report, 'Air Quality and Health in Cities', released by U.S.-based Health Effects Institute:

1. Two Indian cities appeared in the list of top 10 polluted cities when NO₂ levels were compared.
2. Moscow and Beijing top the list when PM_{2.5} levels were compared.

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: d

Explanation:

- The recent report, 'Air Quality and Health in Cities', released by U.S.-based Health Effects Institute analyses pollution and global health effects for more than 7,000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the most harmful pollutants - fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- A global analysis of air quality found that Indian cities, while recording particulate matter emissions (PM_{2.5}) that are among the highest in the world, do relatively better on nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emissions.
- Delhi and Kolkata were ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM_{2.5} levels were compared, with Delhi and Kolkata reporting an average annual exposure of (relative to population) of 110 ug/m³ and 84 ug/m³ respectively.
- However, no Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 – or even top 20 - polluted cities when NO₂ levels were compared. This list saw Shanghai at the top with an average annual exposure of 41 ug/m³. Average NO₂ levels for Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai ranged from 20-30 ug/m³.
- Other cities with high NO₂ population levels included Moscow, Beijing, Paris, Istanbul and Seoul.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Hayabusa-2 mission:

1. The mission was launched in 2014.
2. The mission was sent to study outer atmosphere of Mars.

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: a

Explanation:

- The Hayabusa-2 mission was launched in December 2014 when the spacecraft was sent on a six- year voyage to study the asteroid Ryugu. The spacecraft, which was approximately the size of a refrigerator, traveled more than 5 billion kilometers during its journey.

- The spacecraft arrived at the asteroid in mid-2018 after which it deployed two rovers and a small lander onto the surface.
- In 2019, the spacecraft fired an impactor into the asteroid's surface to create an artificial crater with a diameter of a little more than 10 metres, which allowed it to collect the samples.