

**Q: Consider the following statements:**

1. The NB8 is a regional cooperation format that brings together the Nordic countries and the Baltic nations.
2. All Nordic countries are members of the European Union.

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The NB8 is a regional cooperation format that brings together the Nordic countries and the Baltic nations. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden (Nordic countries), Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (**Baltic States**).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Nordic countries are members of the European Union but Norway and Iceland have rejected EU membership but belong to the EFTA (which has free trade with the EU) and the Schengen area.

**Q: With reference to Organic farming in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. India occupies first place at global level in organic farming.
2. Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under organic certification in India.

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:

- India occupies fifth place globally with a total area of 2.66 million hectares in organic farming.
- Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under organic certification followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka.
- Sikkim is India's first fully organic state, with implementing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land.
- In 2022-23, India produced around 2.9 million metric tonnes of certified organic products like oil seeds, cereals and millets, cotton, pulses among others.
- The exports of India's organic products stood at \$708 million in 2022-23 and considering the global market size of around \$138 billion, there is a tremendous scope to increase the organic exports in the near future.

**Q: With reference to the Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), consider the following statements:**

1. They are stronger than the solar wind.
2. They can travel in any random direction.
3. They are capable of driving the Space Weather in near-Earth space.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs): They are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic fields(frozen in flux) from the Sun's corona. These are stronger than the background solar wind interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) strength.
- They can travel in any random direction and cut through solar winds, and they are sometimes associated with flares but can occur independently.
- CMEs are capable of driving the Space Weather in near-Earth space. If CMEs are Earth-directed, they can cause severe implications.

**Q: "Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara", recently seen in the news, is related to:**

- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Kerala
- Telangana

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara is a festival of honouring the goddesses celebrated in the state of Telangana, India. This Jatara is known for witnessing one of the largest gatherings of people in the world.
- People offer Bangarm (jaggery).
- The rituals related to the Goddesses are entirely conducted by Koya tribe priests, in accordance with Koya customs and traditions.
- It is believed that after Kumbha Mela, the Medaram jatara attracts the largest number of devotees in the country.

**Q: Consider the following statements with reference to Raisina Dialogue:**

1. It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics which is hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. The theme of the 2024 edition is "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the international community.
- The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. This effort is supported by a number of institutions, organisations and individuals, who are committed to the mission of the conference.
- The theme of the 2024 edition is "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create".