

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Bharat Ratna Awards:**

1. It is the highest civilian award in the country instituted in the year 1954 that was originally limited only to arts, literature, science and public services.
2. In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award can be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.
3. Tamil Nadu has maximum number of Bharat Ratna recipients.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award in the country instituted in the year 1954.
- The award is conferred "in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour ", without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex.
- The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science, and public services but the government expanded the criteria to include "any field of human endeavour" in December 2011.
- The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna were politician C. Rajagopalachari, philosopher Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and scientist C. V. Raman, who were honoured in 1954.
- It is also not mandatory that Bharat Ratna be awarded every year.
- In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.
- Maharashtra has maximum number of Bharat Ratna recipients.
- It is followed by Uttar Pradesh (8 recipients) and Tamil Nadu (7 recipients).

**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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The growth rate for taxes was recorded at 17.79 % in 2022-23, higher than 15.11 % nominal GDP growth.

**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:

- 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.
- 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.
- The operation flushed out terrorists and brought peace to the area that lasted until 2017-18, even as terrorist incidents continued to take place in the valley.

**Q: The Supreme Court can entertain a curative petition under which of the following grounds?**

- a) Violation of principles of natural justice
- b) Question of bias against the presiding judge
- c) Abuse of the process of the court
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Curative jurisdiction is a rare remedy evolved by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in 2002 in the Ashok Hurra Vs Rupa Hurra case.
- It is a final remedy to reconsider dismissed review petitions.
- The Supreme Court could entertain a curative petition under the following grounds:
  - Violation of principles of natural justice
  - Question of bias against the presiding judge
  - Abuse of the process of the court
- These grounds were not exhaustive. However, the Court should consider such petitions only in rare circumstances to prevent frivolous litigation.

**Q: The member countries of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) includes which of the following:**

1. Belgium
2. Italy
3. Sweden
4. Iceland
5. Slovakia
6. Germany

Choose the correct codes

- a) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6
- b) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
- c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

- It was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside of the Western Hemisphere.
- For a new country to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), all the existing members have to approve it.
- Once a country is a NATO member, an attack on its territory is considered an attack on the US-led alliance, and all 31 members are obliged to defend each other.
- Sweden is officially not part of the NATO.
- But Sweden will soon officially become the member of NATO