

**Q: SARATHI App, recently seen in the news is an initiative of which of the following ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Rural Development
- b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- c) Ministry of Culture
- d) Ministry of Tourism

Ans: a

Explanation:

- SARATHI App aims to serve as a national tech solution to facilitate strategic interventions for the benefit of marginalized communities.
- It is an initiative of Ministry of Rural Development in partnership with the Nudge Institute.
- It is a significant move towards leveraging technology for the welfare of the most vulnerable.
- It marks a significant step towards utilizing technology to address the needs of the most vulnerable, ensuring efficient implementation of developmental programs for rural development.
- It will be immediately deployed in 6 states where special projects, funded by DAY-NRLM's Innovation, are underway for 24,000 of the most vulnerable households.

**Q: Consider the following statements**

1. The 'Declaration of the Independence of India' was promulgated by the Indian National Congress on 26 January 1930 to fight for Purna Swaraj.
2. On January 26, 1930, the tricolour of India was hoisted by Jawaharlal Nehru on the banks of the Ravi River in Lahore.
3. The theme for the 75th Republic Day is 'Viksit Bharat' & 'Bharat-Loktantra ki Matruka'.

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:

- Republic Day marks the adoption of India's constitution and the country's transition to a republic.
- January 26 was chosen as the official enactment date as a nod to the Purna Swaraj (complete self-rule) declaration of independence by the Indian National Congress in 1930.
- The Purna Swaraj resolution or Declaration of the Independence of India was promulgated by the then Indian National Congress on 26 January 1930 to fight for Purna Swaraj, or complete self-rule independent of the British Empire.
- On this day, ceremonious parades take place at the Kartavya Path, which is performed as a tribute to India.
- 75th Republic Day theme is 'Viksit Bharat' & 'Bharat-Loktantra ki Matruka'.
- The flag of India was hoisted by Congress President Jawaharlal Nehru on December 31, 1929, on the banks of the Ravi River in Lahore, modern-day Pakistan.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**

1. MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960.
2. The MCC comes into force from the date the election schedule is announced until the date that results are out.
3. It has no statutory backing and it is voluntary.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- The election commission recently responded to the law panel by stating that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is necessary and a not a disruption to the current ongoing policies and programmes.
- The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a code containing some general precepts for model behaviour during elections conducted by Election Commission (EC).
- It is a vital instrumentality that provides a level playing field to everyone.
- It is integral to the design of conducting free and fair elections and credible electoral outcomes.
- It has 8 chapters, with one dedicated to what the party in power can and cannot do once elections are announced by the EC.
- The code's purpose, emphasising it only prohibits new projects, programmes, financial grants or promises that could influence the electorate in favour of the ruling party.
- The ongoing projects remain unaffected.
- The MCC restrictions are solely applicable to states undergoing elections.
- It forbids use of official machinery and personnel for the political gains of the party in power.
- The spirit of MCC also requires the bureaucracy or any public servant to not engage or appear to engage in an activity that could work to the advantage of the party in power.
- MCC evolved as part of the ECI's drive to ensure free and fair elections, and was the result of a consensus among major political parties.
- It has no statutory backing. Simply put, this means anybody breaching the MCC can't be proceeded against under any clause of the Code. Everything is voluntary.
- A version of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to OTOF Gene**

1. It encodes the otoferlin protein.
2. OTOF mutations can cause both profound hearing loss and a type of hearing loss called auditory neuropathy.

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

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The OTOF gene manufactures a protein that plays an important role in transmitting signals from the ear to the brain.
- The OTOF gene encodes the protein otoferlin, which is necessary for the hair cells in the inner ear to transmit information to the nerve that takes the signal to the brain.
- Otoferlin is a critical protein at the synapse of auditory sensory cells, the inner hair cells (IHCs).
- In the absence of otoferlin, signal transmission of IHCs fails.
- Gene therapies use a virus to insert the OTOF gene into the children's inner ear so that the hair cells there can sense sound and transmit it to the brain.
- OTOF mutations can cause both profound hearing loss and a type of hearing loss called auditory neuropathy.
- The OTOF gene mutation the children had is an attractive target for gene therapy because it is a relatively simple condition caused by a single mutation.
- It also involves no physical damage to the cochlear cells.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Maasir-i-Alamgiri**

1. It is an account of Emperor Shah Jahan's reign.
2. It is written in Persian language.
3. It was written by Muhammad Hashim.

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:

- Maasir-i-Alamgiri is an account of Emperor Aurangzeb's (1620-1707) reign.
- It was composed by Saqi Mustaid Khan at the behest of Inayetullah Khan Kashmiri, the emperor's last secretary after the death of the Aurangzeb.
- It is a Persian-language chronicle.
- The chronicle is abridged in comparison to Alamgirnamah.
- The printed Persian text was edited by Maulvi Agha Ahmad Ali and published by Bibliotheca Indica, Asiatic Society of Bengal.
- The chronicle was translated into English by Sir Jadunath Sarkar and published in 1947.
- Muhammad Hashim, better known by his title Khafi Khan, was an Indo-Persian historian of Mughal India.
- He was historian during the Shah Jahan' reign.