

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. India is hosting a ministerial meeting of the G4 Countries.
2. G4 countries are Brazil, India, Germany and Japan.
3. The L.69 group's vast membership spread over Asia and Africa only.

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:

- Consistent with the changing times, India's call for reform of the UNSC has grown in the past few years. In this regard, India's hosting of a ministerial meeting of the G4 (Brazil, India, Germany and Japan) holds special significance.
- Another high-level meeting of the Indian delegation with the L.69 Group, on "Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council", will be critical in the planning of the next steps.
- The L.69 group's vast membership spread over Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Small Island Developing States could bring about a wider global consensus on the issue of the UNSC reforms.

**Q: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has come up with a host of changes in the rules on playing conditions of cricket. Consider the following statement:**

1. Banning of the use of saliva to polish the ball is now removed.
2. The time to take strike has been reduced, for Tests and ODIs.
3. The practice known as 'mankading', as been rmoved from the section on Unfair Play to the one on Run Out.

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:

- The practice known as 'mankading', a batter being run out by the bowler while backing up too far from the non-striking end has been destigmatised. It has been rmoved from the section on Unfair Play to the one on Run Out.
- 'Mankading' became a topic of discussion after R. Ashwin ran Jos Buttler out in such a manner during an IPL match at Jaipur three years ago.
- 'Mankading' is once again dividing opinions after India's Deepti Sharma ran England's Charlie Dean out in the third Womens One Day Internationals (ODI) at Lord's.
- Other changes include the banning of the use of saliva to polish the ball. The ban had already been in place, as a temporary measure, following the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The new batter will also have a little less time to reach the middle.
- The time to take strike has been reduced, for Tests and ODIs, to two minutes, from three. The 90-second deadline stands for T20 Internationals, though.
- A penalty of five runs will be awarded to the batting side for an unfair and deliberate movement while the bowler is running in to bowl. Besides, that ball will be called a 'dead ball'.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. A virus uses the spike protein to enter and infect the human cells.
2. Both Khosta-2 and S- CoV-2 belong to the same sub-category of coronaviruses.

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:

- A team led by researchers at Washington State University (WSU), US, found spike proteins from the bat virus, named Khosta-2, can infect human cells and is resistant to both the antibody therapies and blood serum from people vaccinated for S-CoV-2.
- A virus uses the spike protein to enter and infect the human cells.
- Both Khosta-2 and S-CoV-2 belong to the same sub-category of coronaviruses known as sarbecoviruses.

**Q: Neurodiversity in the workplace refers to including people with neurodivergent conditions such**

- a) Hyperactivity disorder
- b) Dyslexia
- c) Dyspraxia
- d) All the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Neurodiversity in the workplace refers to including people with neurodivergent conditions such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorders, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Asperger's Syndrome.
- Neurodiversity is a notion that every person interacts and experiences their surroundings differently; there is no right way of thinking, learning, or/and behaving. These differences should not be construed as defects or disorders.
- It is, therefore, unjust that even with all the necessary skill sets and degrees, these persons are denied a job because they may react to situations differently from non-neurodiverse persons. While part of the problem could be lack of awareness about neurodivergent conditions, it is time organisations created a more accommodating environment.
- According to a recent report, nearly 2 million people in India suffer from this neurological and developmental disorder and are therefore identified as autistic.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding India-UN Development Partnership Fund:**

1. It is the first-ever single-country South-South cooperation initiative at the UN.
2. Launched in June 2017.
3. World Bank manages the dedicated facility.

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 India-UN Development Partnership Fund is the first-ever single-country South-South cooperation initiative at the UN.
- Launched in June 2017, this USD 150 million Fund supports South-owned and South-led demand-driven sustainable development projects with a focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
- The dedicated facility is managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). In the last five years, the Fund has accumulated a portfolio of 66 projects in 51 countries.