

Q: Recently, Bihar Cabinet approved a proposal to carry out a caste-based ‘count’ in the State. Consider the following statement regarding the benefit of caste count:

1. Proper implementation of Social equality programmes and welfare measures.
2. A count of every category of citizens is necessary so that they can get the benefit of all welfare measures.
3. In the absence of such data, there is no proper estimate for the population of OBC and EBC

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: d

Explanation:

- Social equality programmes and welfare measures cannot be successfully implemented without comprehensive data and for this a caste count is necessary in a State known to be fragmented into several castes, sub-castes, groups and communities.
- In a modern state, a count of every category of citizens is necessary so that they can get the benefit of all welfare measures.
- In the absence of such data, there is no proper estimate for the population of other backward classes (OBC)s, extremely backward classes (EBCs) and several other groups within them.
- A caste-based count goes a long way in bringing a measure of objectivity to the debate on reservations.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the Pacific Island countries:

1. The Pacific Island Countries are located in the temperate zone of the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The islands are divided into three distinct parts of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.

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: b

Explanation:

- The Pacific Island Countries are a **cluster of 14 states** which are **located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean** between Asia, Australia and the Americas.
- They include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- The islands are divided on the basis of physical and human geography into three distinct parts — **Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.**

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed the setting up of appellate committees.
2. Under the IT Rules, social media companies may appoint India-based resident grievance officers.

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 **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has **proposed the setting up of government-appointed appellate committees** that will be **empowered to review and possibly reverse content moderation decisions taken by social media** companies like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- Under the IT Rules, released in February 2021, **social media companies** like Facebook and Twitter are **mandated to appoint India-based resident grievance officers** as part of their due diligence as ‘intermediaries’ who enjoy legal immunity from third-party content on their platform.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the judgement of Supreme Court on power of GST Council:

1. Court omitted GST Disputes Settlement Authority.
2. Recommendations of the GST Council had only a persuasive value.

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:

- The Supreme Court ruled that a **draft Article 279B**, which **provided for a GST Disputes Settlement Authority, was omitted** because it would have effectively overridden the sovereignty of Parliament and the state legislatures, and diminished the fiscal autonomy of the states.
- Democracy and federalism are interdependent for their survival. If the states had been conferred less power, they could still resist the mandate of the Union by using different forms of political contestation as permitted by constitutional design. Such contestation is valuable as part of “uncooperative federalism”.
- Putting to rest any controversy, the court held that the **recommendations of the GST Council had only a persuasive value**. To regard them as binding edicts would disrupt fiscal federalism because both the Union and states were conferred equal power to legislate on GST.

Q: Recently, a first-of-its kind Daily Food Price Index (DFPI) to track inflation in retail and wholesale food markets on a real time basis has been developed by

- a) Delhi University
- b) Bharathidasan University
- c) Ashoka University
- d) Vikrama Simhapuri University

Ans: c

- Ashoka University has developed a first-of-its kind Daily Food Price Index (DFPI) to track inflation in retail and wholesale food markets on a real time basis.
- The existing Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are released on a monthly and yearly basis.