

Q: Consider the following statement regarding PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search spectrograph (PARAS):

1. It is a collaboration of scientists from India, Germany, Switzerland, and the USA.
2. It is used to measure the mass of the exoplanet.
3. It is located in Ladakh.

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 team, including scientists from India, Germany, Switzerland, and the USA, used the indigenous PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search spectrograph (PARAS) at the Gurushikhar Observatory in Mt. Abu to measure the mass of the planet precisely. The exoplanet has a mass of 14 g/cm³.
- The newly discovered planet orbits a star called TOI4603 or HD 245134, and NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) had initially declared the star as a possible candidate to host a secondary body of unknown nature.
- The body has now been confirmed to be a planet and has been named TOI 4603b or HD 245134b.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding MONUSCO:

1. It is the second largest UN Peace keeping mission.
2. It is deployed in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
3. India has also deployed Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in MONUSCO.

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 United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, better known by its French acronym MONUSCO, is the biggest and the most expensive UN peacekeeping mission in the world today.
- Stationed in the highly volatile Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Central Africa, the Mission's ineffectiveness was once again revealed in the face of a recent uprising of a few hundred soldiers from the Congolese national army, Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC).
- Interestingly, the UN Security Council resolution 1925, which authorised MONUSCO, is set to expire on June 30 this year.
- In keeping with the need for women peacekeepers in conflict areas under UN mandate, India has deployed Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in MONUSCO and UNISFA (the second largest women contingent after Liberia).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding hysterectomy:

1. It is a surgery to remove the uterus.
2. According to NFHS-5 data, highest percentage of hysterectomies were to treat excessive menstrual bleeding.

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 hysterectomy is a surgery to remove the uterus. After a hysterectomy, one will not menstruate (have periods) or be able to get pregnant.
- According to NFHS-5 data, highest percentage of hysterectomies were to treat excessive menstrual bleeding or pain (51.8%); 24.94% for fibroids; 24.94% for cysts and 11.08% for uterine disorder or rupture. A majority of these cases were reported among socially and economically disadvantaged women.

Q: Consider the following:

1. Food and Agriculture Organization

2. International Atomic Energy Agency
3. Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

CAG is currently the external auditor of which among the above organisation?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Explanation:

- This is the second major international audit assignment for the CAG this year following his selection for the post of external auditor (2024-2027) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva in March 2023.
- Besides WHO, the CAG is currently the external auditor of the Food and Agriculture Organization (2020-2025), the International Atomic Energy Agency (2022-2027) and the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (2021-2023).
- CAG is a Member of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors. He is also a member of the Governing Boards of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and ASOSAI.
- CAG chairs the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee, its Working Group on IT Audit, and the Compliance Audit Sub-Committee.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding “Hunger Hotspot”:

1. Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen remain at the highest concern level.
2. This report is released by World Food Programme.

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:

- Recently, new United Nations report titled, ‘Hunger Hotspots – FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity’ was released.
- It has found Pakistan, Afghanistan and Myanmar among the hunger hotspots in the world, warning of increasing acute food insecurity in several parts of the world.
- Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen remain at the highest concern level. Haiti, the Sahel (Burkina Faso and Mali) and Sudan have been elevated to the highest concern levels.