

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding PM SHRI Schools:**

1. It will be a new centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020.
3. Pedagogy is excluded from the curriculum list.

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:

- On the occasion of National Teachers' Day, the Prime Minister announced a new initiative - PM SHRI Schools (PM ScHools for Rising India).
- This will be a new centrally sponsored scheme for upgradation and development of more than 14500 Schools across the country by strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- PM SHRI Schools will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020 and act as exemplar schools and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.
- The aim of these schools will not only be qualitative teaching, learning and cognitive development, but also creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills.
- Pedagogy adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based (particularly, in the foundational years) inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding India's first night sky sanctuary:**

1. It will be established in Manali.
2. The Department of Science and Technology will set up the proposed Dark Sky Reserve as part of the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.
3. The facility will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.

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:

- India's first night sky sanctuary will be established in Ladakh in a bid to boost Astro tourism in the country and attract foreign researchers to work with high-altitude telescopes in the region.
- The Department of Science and Technology will set up the proposed Dark Sky Reserve at Ladakh's Hanle as part of the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Hanle is located in Ladakh's cold desert region, away from any form of human disturbance with clear sky conditions and dry weather conditions that exist throughout the year
- The facility will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.
- The facility will also have activities aimed at boosting local tourism and the economy.

**Q: Nepal does not share border with which among the following Indian States?**

- a) Sikkim
- b) West Bengal
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttarakhand

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding India's need for second indigenous aircraft carrier:**

1. Sea control is the central concept around which the Indian Navy is structured.
2. India aspires to be a security provider.
3. The balance of power is shifting to the Indo-Pacific.

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:

- Sea control is the central concept around which the Indian Navy is structured and considers an aircraft carrier as a primary asset. Sea control is the ability of the navy to act freely in an area of operation. Those who control the sea deny it to the adversary by default.
- India relies heavily on the seas for trade and energy. As a major regional power, India aspires to be a security provider. The United States, which has been policing the oceans, is becoming increasingly stretched.
- The balance of power is shifting to the Indo-Pacific, and the rules-based order that has kept the peace since World War II is being challenged by China's rise.
- The Indian Navy's primary area of responsibility is the Indian Ocean Region. But with its rapidly growing economy, interests and stature, India seeks to expand its influence. The Indian Navy is deployed from the Pacific to the Atlantic. The distinction between primary and secondary areas of operation will likely get erased in the future.

**Q: Recently, NITI Aayog and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) held the inaugural NITI-BMZ Dialogue of Development Cooperation via video conferencing. Consider the key area of focus:**

1. Climate action
2. Energy transition
3. Defence Cooperation

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 NITI-BMZ Dialogue focused on **five core areas of cooperation**:
  - ❖ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
  - ❖ Climate action,
  - ❖ Energy transition,
  - ❖ Emerging technologies and
  - ❖ Agro-ecology.

