

Q.1) Recently elections to upper house of parliament were in news. Consider the following statements with respect to Rajyasabha.

1. The fourth Schedule of the constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the RajyaSabha to the states and union territories.
2. The representatives of states in the Rajyasabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assembly's and municipalities.
3. The president nominates 15 members to the RajyaSabha from the people who have special knowledge in the field of art, literature, science etc.
4. Elections to the members of Rajya Sabha are held by proportional representation by means of List system.

Select the incorrect option

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3, and 4 only
- c) 1, 3, and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Q.1) Solution (b)

- The fourth schedule of the constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the RajyaSabha to the states and union territories. The representatives of states in the Rajyasabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assembly's only. The president nominates 12 members to the RajyaSabha from the people who have special knowledge in the field of art, literature, science etc. Elections to the members of Rajya Sabha are held by proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and not by list system.

Q.2) Recently "Superbugs" are in news. Consider the following statements with respect to Super bugs.

1. A Superbug is also referred to as an Antibiotic resistant organism.
2. Smartphone's, ATM's, Door handles etc are some of the common places where superbugs are found.
3. Recently a group of scientists have proposed a transparent coating for everyday items as potential solution to protect against Superbugs.

Select the correct option.

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

Q.2) Solution (a)

- A Superbug is also referred to as an Antibiotic resistant organism. It can be a bacteria, protozoa, etc. Smartphone's, ATM's, Door handles, public places like swimming pools, TVs,

handrails, lifts, urinals, toilet seats, fridges, microwaves and ceramic floor or wall tiles, etc are some of the common places where superbugs are found.

- Recently researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have developed a transparent coating for everyday items such as smart phones and door handles that may protect people against deadly antibiotic-resistant bacteria, including MRSA and E coli.
- Click [here](#) to read the news

Q.3) Recently India ratified Trade Facilitation Agreement of WTO. Consider the following statements with respect to Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

1. TFA will bring simplification and enhanced transparency in cross border trade in goods.
2. TFA was concluded in recent WTO's 2015 Nairobi ministerial conference.

Select the correct option

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Q.3) Solution (a)

- India has formally ratified the WTO's trade facilitation agreement, which aims at easing customs procedures to boost commerce. Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in Geneva last night that the move will supplement India's ongoing reforms to bring in simplification and enhanced transparency in cross border trade in goods.
- Ratifying the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) will help India further boost economic growth by reducing trade costs and supporting its integration into the global economy.
- TFA was concluded in WTO's 2013 Bali ministerial conference.
- Click [here](#) to read the news.

Q.4) Recently the Participatory notes investment climbed new heights. Consider the following statements with respect to P-notes.

1. P – Notes also known as Equity linked notes are derivative instruments issued by SEBI registered FII to foreign investors.
2. P – Note holder enjoys partial voting rights in relation to security / shares referenced the FII.
3. P – Notes are highly safe and lucrative route to invest the unaccounted or even illegal money in to Indian security market for huge profits.

Select the correct option

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

- A Participatory Note (PN or P-Note) in the Indian context, in essence, is a derivative instrument issued in foreign jurisdictions, by a SEBI registered Foreign Institutional Investor (FII), against Indian securities – the Indian security instrument may be equity, debt, derivatives or may even be an index. PNs are also known as Overseas Derivative Instruments, Equity Linked Notes, Capped Return Notes, and Participating Return Notes, etc.

Reasons for the popularity of PNs

- Restrictions on foreign investments.
- The off-shore derivative market allows investors to gain exposure to the local shares without incurring the time and costs involved in investing directly.
- PNs also provide customized tools to manage risk, lower financing costs and enhance portfolio yields.
- PNs also offer an important hedging tool to a foreign investor already registered as an FII.
- Potential investors, who would like to take direct Indian exposure in future, may make initial investments through the PN route so as to get a flavor of future anticipated returns.
- Further, trading in ODI/PNs gives an opportunity to offshore entities to have a commission based business model.
- And lastly, it was a highly 'safe and lucrative route' to invest the 'unaccounted', 'even illegal' money into the Indian security market for huge profits (during the booming market).
- Experts even imagined that it may be allowing the 'black money' of India (stashed away from India through 'hawala' kind of illegal channels and deposited in the tax havens of the world in 'Swiss Bank' kind of financial institutions) to get invested back in the market! Again, 'terrorist organisations' might have been using this route, too.
- Click [here](#) to read the news.

Q.5) 102 villages have been electrified across the country during last week (from 18th to 24th April 2016) under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY). Consider the following statements with respect to DDUGJY

1. The scheme aims to electrify all unelectrified villages within 1000 days from the launch of the programme.
2. The scheme is implemented by Ministry of power in close coordination with Ministry of Rural development.

Select the correct option

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Q.5) Solution (a)

- In view of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's address to nation, on Independence Day, Government of India has decided to electrify remaining 18,452 unelectrified villages within 1000 days i.e. by 01st May, 2018.

- The project has been taken on mission mode and strategy for electrification consists of squeezing the implementation schedule to 12 months and also dividing village electrification process in 12 Stage milestones with defined timelines for monitoring.
- In order to expedite the progress further, a close monitoring is being done through Gram Vidyut Abhiyanta (GVA).
- The scheme is implemented by Ministry of power.
- Click [here](#) to read the news.

The scheme highlights

- To provide electrification to all villages.
- Feeder separation to ensure sufficient power to farmers and regular supply to other consumers.
- Improvement of Sub-transmission and distribution network to improve the quality and reliability of the supply.
- Metering to reduce the losses.