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**Q.1) Ministry of Water resources has approved setting up of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad. Consider the following statements**

1. It will be set up under Namami Gange Programme
2. It would include development of River Biodiversity Park at confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Mythical Saraswati

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

In order to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures, development of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad along with a River Biodiversity Park at Sangam have been approved under Namami Gange programme.

The project at an estimated cost of Rs 1.34 crore would include development of River Biodiversity Park at Sangam (confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati), establishment of a Turtle Rearing Centre (Permanent nursery at Triveni Pushp and makeshift annual hatcheries) and awareness about the importance of river Ganga and imperativeness of its conservation has been approved.

The sustenance of more than 2000 aquatic species including threatened gharials, dolphins and turtles in river Ganga exemplifies the rich biodiversity of this lifeline to over 40 per cent of the country's population. Rivers Ganga and Yamuna at Allahabad are home to some of the most endangered fauna like turtles (Batagur kachuga, Batagur dhongoka, Nilssonia gangetica, Chitra indica, Hardella thurjii etc.), the National Aquatic Animal - Gangetic dolphin (Platanista gangetica), the Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) and numerous migratory and resident birds.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/ganga-mission-plans-turtle-sanctuary-in-allahabad/article19798932.ece>

**Q.2) Which of the following statements about INS Chakra is/are correct?**

1. It is a Shardul class amphibious warship
2. It is on a 10-year lease period from Russia

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### Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.2) Solution (b)

Inducted in April 2012, INS Chakra is a modernised Russian Akula-II class submarine, known as one of the stealthiest in the world after American vessels of similar class. While the submarine is nuclear powered, it does not carry nuclear-tipped missiles on board and is designed to be a silent killer — it lurks underwater to sink enemy ships and take out land-based targets.

Originally named the Nerpa, the submarine was launched in 1991 but was mothballed after the collapse of the Soviet Union. India later took it on a 10-year lease for close to \$1 billion.

India is now moving ahead with its plans to lease another nuclear attack submarine from its old ally Russia for an estimated \$2.5 billion that will include the refit of the boat at a Cold War era shipyard, followed by a 10-year deployment with the Navy. The new ship is likely to be inducted after the completion of the lease period of Chakra.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/accident-on-board-ins-chakra/article19793626.ece>

### Q.3) Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) mobile app was launched by

- a) National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)
- b) Ministry of Coal
- c) Department of Public Enterprises
- d) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

### Q.3) Solution (a)

A project monitoring information system (PMIS) mobile App that will facilitate close, in-house monitoring of NHAI projects on a mobile phone was launched.

To ensure timely delivery of its projects, NHAI is digitally monitoring them through the PMIS, which has been developed in-house along with The Boston Consulting Group.

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“For project directors, the App is a project monitoring tool. They can visit a site, check into the App from there — the App will capture their geo-location — then they can take three pictures and upload them. This will also ensure that the actual physical progress of a site can be seen. The kilometre completed also can be seen from the App.

PMIS has a comprehensive database with over 180 data fields being tracked for each project, and a further 500 fields specifically for complex PPP projects, covering all key progress metrics such as design, contracting, construction, land acquisition, compensation disbursement, toll and traffic information and concession, contract information.

An in-built algorithm automatically highlights focus projects with key pending issues so that focused interventions for these projects can be discussed during these reviews.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/nhai-launches-app-to-track-projects/article9885650.ece>

**Q.4) Which of the following statements about BIRAC is/are correct?**

- a) It is under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- b) The National Biopharma Mission will be implemented by BIRAC
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

BIRAC is a new industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives, be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive. In its three years of existence, BIRAC has initiated several schemes, networks and platforms that help to bridge the existing gaps in the industry-academia Innovation research and facilitate novel, high quality affordable products development through cutting edge technologies. BIRAC has initiated partnerships with several national and global partners to collaborate and deliver the salient features of its mandate.

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### Vision

- “To Stimulate, foster and enhance the strategic research and innovation capabilities of the Indian biotech industry, particularly start-ups and SME’s, for creation of affordable products addressing the needs of the largest section of society”

### Key Strategies

- Foster innovation and entrepreneurship
- Promote affordable innovation in key social sectors
- Empowerment of start-ups & small and medium enterprises
- Contribute through partners for capability enhancement and diffusion of innovation
- Enable commercialization of discovery
- Ensure global competitiveness of Indian enterprises

BIRAC’s aim is to play a transformative and catalytic role in building a US\$ 100 billion Indian bio economy. We believe that the agents of change for building the Indian bio economy would be biotech start-ups & SMEs & hence our focus is on raising their capabilities.

### National Biopharma Mission

The National Biopharma Mission has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology on 30th June 2017 in New Delhi. This is an Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India that has been approved by the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 17th May, 2017. Further, as per the Cabinet approval, this Mission for Accelerating Discovery Research to Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals – “Innovate in India (i3)” Empowering biotech entrepreneurs & accelerating inclusive innovation will be implemented at a total cost of Rs. 1500 crore for a period of five years and 50% of the grant will be arranged through the World Bank loan.

### The following are the objectives of the Mission:

- Development of products from leads that are at advanced stages in the product development lifecycle and relevant to the public health.
- Strengthening and establishing shared infrastructure facilities for both product discovery validation and manufacturing.
- Developing human capital by providing specific training to address the critical skills gaps in researchers, nascent biotech companies across the product development value chain, including in business plan development and market penetration.
- Creating and enhancing technology transfer and intellectual property management capacities and capabilities in public and private sector.

## IASbaba's Daily Quiz

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The Mission Programme of Department of Biotechnology will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department. BIRAC as an umbrella Product Development Partnership (PDP) would facilitate this program by bringing together partners through existing frameworks for specific program goals and would facilitate this program by involving established organizations with relevant expertise in product development.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/6th-birac-innovators-meet-inaugurated-by-dr-harsh-varadhan-in-new-delhi-117092300280\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/6th-birac-innovators-meet-inaugurated-by-dr-harsh-varadhan-in-new-delhi-117092300280_1.html)

**Q.5) India's Million Death Study' is associated with**

- a) Bhopal gas tragedy
- b) Female foeticide
- c) Extrajudicial execution
- d) None of the above

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

India has avoided about 1 million (10 lakh) deaths of children under age five since 2005, owing to the significant reductions in mortality from pneumonia, diarrhoea, neonatal infections and birth asphyxia/trauma, measles and tetanus, according to study published in the latest issue of The Lancet. The 'India's Million Death Study', implemented by the Registrar General of India, is the first study to directly quantify changes in cause-specific child deaths in India, nationally and sub-nationally, from 2000-15 among randomly selected homes.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171341>

