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Q.1) Consider the following statements about Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary

- 1. It is being developed by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)
- 2. The dictionary is being developed in both print and video formats
- 3. ISLRTC is under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.1) Solution (d)

Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) is set up as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

It is under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

The Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary, which is being developed by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), has so far compiled 6,032 Hindi and English words and corresponding graphic representations of signs. The dictionary is being developed in both print and video formats.

It will contain graphic representations of popular signs used by the hearing impaired and will also include regional variations. Apart from that, it will have legal, technical and medical terms.

Read More - http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=127079

In News - http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/sign-language-dictionary-to-release-in-india-soon/article17548183.ece

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

 It is a non-profit Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

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2. It is mandated to foster and promote innovation research in biotech industries specially start-ups and SMEs.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) 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.

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".

The Theme of the Foundation Day is "BIRAC@5: Impacting the Biotech Ecosystem".

In News - http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159516

Q.3) Consider the following statements about NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED

1. It is a Maharatna organisation under the Ministry of Urban Development

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2. It does not undertake overseas projects

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

NBCC (India) Limited (formerly National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited), a Navratna organisation under category I, is a Central Public Sector Undertaking which trades publicly in the market and is largely owned by Government of India. It engages in the Real Estate Development & Construction business, and also provides Project Management Consultancy.

Headquartered in New Delhi, NBCC has 10 regional/zonal offices across India. The projects undertaken by the company are spread across 23 states and 1 Union Territory in India. In addition, NBCC has also undertaken overseas projects in countries like Iraq, Libya, Nepal, Mauritius, Turkey, Botswana, Republic of Maldives, Republic of Yemen et al.

NBCC is also designated as the implementing agency for executing projects under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), Solid Waste Management (SWM) and developmental work in North Eastern Region.

A number of Central Government Ministries and various State Governments are utilising the services of NBCC as their extended engineering arm.

In News - http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/nbcc-to-execute-social-housing-project-in-mauritius-mou-signed-in-117032001022 1.html

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct concerning Human Development for Everyone' report?

- 1. It is released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 2. The world's top three countries in HDI are Norway, Australia and Switzerland

Select the correct statements

a) Only 1

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Both the statements are correct

The report, released annually by the United Nations Development Programme, said India's rank of 131 puts it in the "medium human development" bracket, which also includes nations like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Kenya, Myanmar and Nepal.

In News - http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-third-largest-asian-economy-ranked-lowly-131-out-of-188-on-human-development-index-un-report/story-zyyhz4QWHMMPQCzfL0m3lL.html

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Majuli is the largest river island in the world
- b) The project, SACReD, Majuli has been initiated to combat climate change and ensure reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.5) Solution (c)

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today launched initiative to develop Majuli, the world's largest river island, as the country's first carbon neutral district and a biodiversity heritage site.

"Majuli is facing existential crisis and therefore initiatives like designating carbon neutral district and biodiversity heritage site are needs of the hour to preserve its rich heritage and legacy.

Sustainable Actions for Climate Resilient Development (SaCReD) Initiative would ensure that infrastructure in Majuli had less carbon.

The chief minister also launched "Forests are Lives" campaign to underline the importance of Assam's rich forest and biodiversity and urged all to take a pledge to conserve its biodiversity to make the state pollution free.

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In News - http://www.ptinews.com/news/8525689 Sonowal-launches-intiative-to-make-Majuli-carbon-neutral.html