

Q.1) Consider the following statements

1. Karnataka is the first state to roll out an Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy
2. FAME India scheme is part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

Karnataka is the first state to roll out an Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy that looks not only at boosting sales of EVs, but also setting up charging infrastructure and special manufacturing zones.

The state estimates that it will be able to create employment for 55,000 individuals over the next few years through the EV industry

One of the top mandates for Karnataka's policy is to set up EV manufacturing zones along with facilities for testing that can be used even by start-ups.

With an aim to promote eco-friendly vehicles, the government had launched the FAME India scheme in 2015 offering incentives on electric and hybrid vehicles of up to Rs 29,000 for bikes and Rs 1.38 lakh for cars.

FAME India is part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP). It is being administered by the Heavy Industries Ministry.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/karnataka-wants-to-become-the-electric-vehicle-capital-of-india-117091301226_1.html

Q.2) SHAKTI Scheme is concerned with

- a) Coal Allocation
- b) Breast feeding
- c) Micro loans
- d) Maternity benefit

Q.2) Solution (a)

Shakti or the Scheme to Harness and Allocate Koyla (Coal) Transparently in India, will give long-term contracts to power companies.

Power to All

What is Shakti?

Scheme to Harness & Allocate Koyla (Coal) Transparently in India

- It will give long-term contracts to power cos
- Was passed by Cabinet in June
- Would be held for first time this week
- Mock auctions completed last Thursday & Friday

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/power-producers-to-reduce-power-tariff-by-4-paise-under-shakti/articleshow/60496534.cms>

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Q.3) Consider the following statements about AISHE

1. It covers all the Institutions in the country engaged in imparting of higher education
2. It is a Microsoft initiative to give impetus to the National Mission of Education through ICT (NMEICT) of MHRD

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

To portray the status of higher education in the country, Ministry of Human Resource Development has endeavoured to conduct an annual web-based All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since 2010-11. The survey covers all the Institutions in the country engaged in imparting of higher education. Data is being collected on several parameters such as teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance, and infrastructure. Indicators of educational development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Per Student Expenditure will also be calculated from the data collected through AISHE. These are useful in making informed policy decisions and research for development of education sector.

Read More - <http://aishe.nic.in/aishe/viewDocument?documentId=6>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/all-set-for-nirf-ranking-exercise-next-year/article19679857.ece>

Q.4) Consider the following statements

1. Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus
2. Home Ministry cleared the citizenship for over one lakh Chakma-Hajongs, but they will not have any land ownership rights in Arunachal Pradesh and will have to apply for Inner Line Permits to reside in the State

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Centre will grant citizenship to all Chakma and Hajong refugees living in the Northeast.

The ethnic groups from Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, where they faced religious persecution, had fled to India in the 1960s.

In 2015, the Centre was directed by the Supreme Court to confer citizenship to these refugees.

The government now wants to find a "middle ground" so the Supreme Court order to grant citizenship to Chakma-Hajong refugees could be honoured without diluting the rights of the local population.

The stateless groups have lived in Arunachal Pradesh for over 50 years. Many fled when their land was submerged by the Kaptai Dam in the 1960s. They entered India through the Mizoram in the 1960s.

The Chakmas are Buddhists while the Hajongs are Hindus.

While some of them stayed back, the government moved a majority of the refugees to Arunachal Pradesh later on.

Initially treated as refugees, the Indian government decided to grant them citizenship under Section 5(i)(a) of the Citizenship Act following a joint statement by the PMs of India and Bangladesh in 1972.

Based in Arunachal for over 50 years, there are over 1 lakh people from these ethnic groups today - up from around 5,000 in 1964-69.

The refugees will not be given rights, including land ownership, enjoyed by scheduled tribes in Arunachal Pradesh.

However, they may be given Inner Line permits required for non-locals in Arunachal Pradesh to travel and work.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Forest-PLUS Programme

1. It is a bilateral program between India and the U.S. to develop solutions for sustainable forest land use in India
2. It prepares India to implement successfully Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
3. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) are part of the programme

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (d)

USAID Forest-PLUS is a bilateral program between India and the U.S. to develop solutions for sustainable forest land use in India. The program, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), prepares India to implement successfully Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), an international mechanism for climate change mitigation, livelihoods improvement, and biodiversity protection.

Forests in India are an integral part of the cultural life of its people, deliver many of the ecosystem services at the foundation of India's economy, and support India's status as one of the world's mega-biodiversity countries. Almost 300 million Indians depend on forest resources for their livelihoods, including 87 million tribal people. Deforestation has stabilized, but past conversion has reduced India's forest area and unsustainable use has degraded their ecology. India's forests have half the forest biomass they once had.

India's central government sets national forest policies guiding forest management. As two examples, India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) includes a National Mission for a Green India (GIM) that would "enhance carbon sinks in sustainably managed forests and other ecosystems". The MoEFCC 2014 National Working Plan Code defines standards for forest management that include "conservation of forests and reducing forest degradation, maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services . . . , increasing the growing stock and carbon sequestration potential, [and] people's involvement in planning and management of forests fulfilling socio-economic and livelihood needs". State Forest Departments (SFDs) use these policies to develop and implement management prescriptions for each forest division.

Forest-PLUS brings together Indian and American expertise to develop technologies, tools, and methods of forest management to meet the technical challenges of managing forests for ecosystem health, carbon stocks, biodiversity, and livelihoods. Forest-PLUS collaborates with Indian forestry institutions and local communities to pilot these solutions in landscapes of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim. These landscapes represent tropical moist deciduous, tropical dry deciduous, moist temperate, and subtropical broadleaf forest types.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/dr-harshvardhan-inaugurates-conference-on-sustainable-landscapes-forest-ecosystems-theory-117091200734_1.html