

July 11, 2018

Q.1) 'Price Stabilization Fund' scheme is administered by which of the following Ministries?

- a) Food Processing Industries
- b) Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- c) Finance
- d) Agriculture

Q.1) Solution (b)

Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) refers to any fund constituted for the purpose of containing extreme volatility in prices of selected commodities. The amount in the fund is generally utilised for activities aimed at bringing down/up the high/low prices say for instance, procurement of such products and distribution of the same as and when required, so that prices remain in a range.

India first created a price stabilisation fund for some export oriented plantation crops in 2003, and this ceased to exist in 2013. Another fund was created in 2015 for perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities, but initially limited to support potato and onion prices only.

Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) was shifted to Consumer Affairs Ministry from Agriculture Ministry for effective control of price rise in essential commodities and provide relief to the consumers.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/nGMpB2Yz5sltLJQuRabY9J/Higher-MSPs-do-not-truly-benefit-farmers.html>

Q.2) Panmunjom Declaration is associated with

- a) Korean Peninsula
- b) Iberian Peninsula
- c) Yucatan Peninsula
- d) Scandinavian Peninsula

Q.2) Solution (a)

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The Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula was adopted between leaders of North Korea and South Korea on April 27, 2018, during the 2018 inter-Korean Summit.

Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/india/narendra-modi-and-moon-jae-in-talks-leaders-make-right-noises-but-not-enough-meat-in-pacts-to-elevate-bilateral-ties-4709091.html>

Q.3) Consider the following statements

1. Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code criminalises homosexuality
2. Suresh Kumar Koushal vs. Naz Foundation Judgement is associated with Section 377 of the IPC

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

Section 377 of the IPC states: "Whoever voluntarily has carnal inter-course against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine." This archaic British law dates back to 1861 and criminalises sexual activities against the order of nature and the ambit of this law extends to any sexual union involving penile insertion.

Suresh Kumar Koushal and another v NAZ Foundation and others is a 2013 case by the Supreme Court of India which overturned the Delhi High Court case Naz Foundation v. Govt. of NCT of Delhi and reinstated Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.

In January 2018, a three-member SC bench heard a petition filed by five people asking the SC to revisit the Naz Foundation judgment. The case was referred to a larger bench and help was sought from the Union government. On 10 July 2018, a five-member constitutional bench of the SC commenced hearing of the pleas challenging the constitutionality of section 377.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/section-377-partner-can-be-from-the-same-sex-says-justice-chandrachud/article24382220.ece>

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Q.4) UMANG app is associated with

- a) Filing RTI online
- b) Access to the pan-India e-Gov services from the Central, State, Local Bodies, and Agencies of government
- c) Tourism
- d) Citizen engagement platform for direct citizen participation in governance

Q.4) Solution (b)

UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is envisaged to make e-governance 'mobile first'. It is developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

The UMANG app is a platform designed for Indians with an aim to offer them access to the pan India e-Gov services. It includes the central, state, local bodies, and agencies of government on app, web, SMS, as well as IVR channels.

Key Features

- **Unified Platform:** It brings together all government departments and their services on a single platform to provide better and easier services to citizens.
- **Mobile First Strategy:** It aligns all government services with the mobile first strategy to leverage mobile adoption trends.
- **Integration with Digital India Services:** It provides seamless integration with other Digital India Services like Aadhaar, DigiLocker, and PayGov. Any new such service will automatically be integrated with the platform.
- **Uniform Experience:** It is designed to enable citizens to discover, download, access, and use all government services easily.
- **Secure and Scalable:** It supports Aadhaar-based and other authentication mechanisms for service access. The sensitive profile data is saved in an encrypted format and no one can view this information.

Key Services

- UMANG provides easy access to a plethora of Indian government services ranging from – Healthcare, Finance, Education, Housing, Energy, Agriculture, Transport to even Utility and Employment and Skills.

Key Benefits for Citizens

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- Single-Point Ubiquitous Access: All government services are available for citizens on a unified platform for easy access through multiple online and offline channels (SMS, email, app, and web).
- More for Less: Only a single mobile app needs to be installed instead of each app of each department.
- Convenience: Citizens do not even need to install or update the app again to avail government services if more services are added to the platform.
- Saving of Time and Money: Citizens can anytime and anywhere avail these services through their mobile phones, desktops, and laptops without any need for visiting the department office and standing in queues.
- Uniform Experience: All the government services including payment-based transactions provide secure and uniform experience.

Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/centres-umang-mobile-app-launched-in-tamil-nadu-2666161.html>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Bitcoin regulations in India

1. It is considered as a commodity derivative
2. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulatory body for cryptocurrencies

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (d)

RBI said, "The creation, trading or usage of VCs including Bitcoins, as a medium for payment are not authorised by any central bank or monetary authority. No regulatory approvals, registration or authorisation is stated to have been obtained by the entities concerned for carrying on such activities."

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/business/dealing-in-bitcoins-other-cryptocurrencies-turns-illegal-as-rbi-deadline-ends-today-1878392>