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Q.1) Which is the first State to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU)?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Bihar
- d) Rajasthan

Q.1) Solution (b)

Kerala has become the first State to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU). It is to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-sets-up-drug-price-monitor/article26164821.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Asian Infrastructure Finance 2019 report'

1. I was published by [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#) (AIIB)
2. It notes that the trade frictions and market volatility have increased uncertainty around project pipelines
3. It highlights that rising geopolitical tensions and a busy election cycle will increase investor caution

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (d)

The Asian Infrastructure Finance report identifies significant infrastructure opportunities that can bring about trade and development that supports income growth:

- Increased regional rail connectivity in Central Asia has the potential to bring about more Europe-China trade and integrate Central Asia with other regions.

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- Falling renewable energy generation cost, coupled with greater awareness on climate change issues, will lead to increased investments but must be complemented by infrastructure to enhance cross-border renewable energy trade.
- Information and communications technology is a key enabler to facilitate trade and integration, but some countries will require greater support from the international community.

Stakeholders in the infrastructure sector will face a very difficult situation in the next few years:

- Interest rate hikes due to central banks' policy normalization will drive a flight to quality.
- Trade frictions and market volatility have increased uncertainty around project pipelines.
- Rising geopolitical tensions and a busy election cycle will increase investor caution.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/indias-infra-financing-cost-likely-to-increase-aiib/article26122741.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Hindu Kush' Range

1. Tirich Mir is the highest mountain of the Hindu Kush range
2. It stretches from central Afghanistan to northern Pakistan

Select the correct code:

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

The Hindu Kush) is an 800-kilometre-long (500 mi) mountain range that stretches near the Afghan-Pakistan border, from central Afghanistan to northern Pakistan.

It forms the western section of the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region (HKH). It divides the valley of the Amu Darya (the ancient Oxus) to the north from the Indus River valley to the south.

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The Hindu Kush range has numerous high snow-capped peaks, with the highest point in the Hindu Kush being Tirich Mir or Terichmir at 7,708 metres (25,289 ft) in the Chitral District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/study-warns-a-third-of-hindu-kush-himalaya-glaciers-will-melt-by-2100-5569164/>

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana'

1. It is implemented through National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)
2. Under this scheme Government provides microfinance to women entrepreneur belonging to the backward classes

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Government of India has introduced Mahila Samridhi Yojana for providing loan to women entrepreneur. Under this scheme Government provides microfinance to women entrepreneur belonging to the target group (backward classes).

In order to cater the Micro Finance needs of small entrepreneurs belonging to the target group, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides loans through self help groups (SHGs) by State Channelising Agency (SCA) under Micro Finance Scheme.

Loans under MSY are provided through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Nationalized Banks to the target group (backward classes).

MSY loan is provided to Safai Karamchari and Scavenger and their dependants for projects with a maximum project cost up to Rs.60000 for small and petty business and sundry income generating activities.

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Loan will be provided up to 95% and balance 5% provided by the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) or Beneficiary contribution. Utilization Period is 4 months from the date of disbursement of the loan.

Eligibility for Mahila Samridhi Yojana

- Women entrepreneur belonging to backward classes only can apply for this scheme.
- Age of the woman should be 18 years
- Members of Backward Classes living below double the poverty line are eligible.
- Annual income of the women should be less than Rs.3 Lakhs per annum

Note: The SCAs/Banks will release up to 50% of total funding to women with annual income up to Rs.1.50 Lakh.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana is implemented through National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) wherein skill development training is imparted to group of women in women friendly trades. Training period is of maximum six months and raw material cost of upto Rs.1,500/- per trainee and stipend @ Rs.1000/- per trainee is provided.

Q.5) 'Bhagoria Haat Festival' is celebrated in which state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Odisha
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

Q.5) Solution (c)

Bhagoria Fest is a festival celebrated by the tribal people of the Indian state Madhya Pradesh (originally known as 'Malwa'). Also known as Bhagoria Haat Festival, during this festival, young boys and girls are allowed to elope after choosing their partners. The Bhagoria Haat Festival belongs to the local tribes called Bhils and Bhilalas.