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Q.1) 'Cher Chera festival' is associated with

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Odisha
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Telangana

Q.1) Solution (a)

The local tribals of Bastar, which is in the Chhota Nagpur region of Chhattisgarh, celebrate the Sankranti Festival as Cher Chera festival. It is a harvest festival, a thanks giving to the sun, the field and the cattle that helped in bringing forth the harvest. In some parts, it is also called the Cherta festival, Cherta meaning "to give, to part with."

Q.2) Which of the following are recognised 'Sikh takhts'?

- 1. Akal Takht (Amritsar)
- 2. Takht Hazur Sahib (Nanded)
- 3. Takht Patna Sahib (Bihar)

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3



Q.2) Solution (d)

Takht is a Persian word that means imperial throne. At present Sikhs recognise five places as takhts. Three are in Punjab —Akal Takht (Amritsar); Takht Keshgarh Sahib (Anandpur Sahib); Takht Damdama Sahib (Talwandi Sabo) — and the other two are Takht Patna Sahib (Bihar) and Takht Hazur Sahib (Nanded, Maharashtra).

Akal Takht (Throne of the Timeless One) is the oldest of the takhts, and considered supreme among the five. It was set up in 1606 by Guru Hargobind, whose succession as the sixth Guru after the execution of his father, Guru Arjan Dev, is considered a turning point in Sikh history. The Akal Takht, a raised platform that he built in front of the causeway leading to the sanctum sanctorum of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), symbolised the coming

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together of the temporal authority and the political sovereignty of the Sikh community (miri) with the spiritual authority (piri). It is seen as the first marker of Sikh nationalism. The Akal Takht is a five-storey building today; the first storey houses the Guru Granth Sahib.

The other four takhts are linked to Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru. It was at Keshgarh Sahib that Guru Gobind Singh raised Khalsa, the initiated Sikh warriors, in 1699. Patna Sahib is his birthplace, and he spent several months in Damdama Sahib and his final days in Hazur Sahib, where he was cremated in 1708.

Takhts are known to issue hukumnamas from time to time on issues that concern the community. Akal Takht is supreme because it is the oldest and was created by a Sikh guru himself, say Sikh historians and scholars. Any edict or order concerning the entire community is issued only from Akal Takht. Also, it is from Akal Takht that Sikhs found to be violating the Sikh doctrine and code of conduct are awarded religious punishment (declared tankhaiya) and even excommunicated, depending on the degree of violation and failure of adherence to directives of the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

Q.3) Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) is often in news in the context of India and

- a) USA
- b) Israel
- c) Japan
- d) France



Q.3) Solution (a)

The DTTI aims to:

- Transform the bilateral defence relationship into one that is limited only by independent strategic decisions, rather than bureaucratic obstacles or inefficient procedures
- Strengthen India's defence industrial base by moving away from the traditional "buyer-seller" dynamic toward a more collaborative approach
- Explore new areas of technological collaboration from science and technology cooperation through co-development and co-production
- Expand U.S.-Indian business ties

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Q.4) Consider the following statements about Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

1. It was developed and sites are identified by BirdLife International
2. IBAs are places of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity
3. A site can be listed as an IBA only if it holds a population of a species categorized by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2 and 3

Q.4) Solution (b)

An Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) is an area identified using an internationally agreed set of criteria as being globally important for the conservation of bird populations.

IBA was developed and sites are identified by BirdLife International.

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) are:

- Places of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity
- Recognised world-wide as practical tools for conservation
- Distinct areas amenable to practical conservation action
- Identified using robust, standardised criteria
- Sites that together form part of a wider integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment

To be listed as an IBA, a site must satisfy at least one of the following rating criteria

Globally threatened species

- The site qualifies if it is known, estimated or thought to hold a population of a species categorized by the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable. In general, the regular presence of a Critical or Endangered species, irrespective of population size, at a site may be sufficient for a site to qualify as an IBA. For Vulnerable species, the presence of more than threshold numbers at a site is necessary to trigger selection.

Restricted-range species

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- The site forms one of a set selected to ensure that all restricted-range species of an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or a Secondary Area (SA) are present in significant numbers in at least one site and preferably more.

Biome-restricted species

- The site forms one of a set selected to ensure adequate representation of all species restricted to a given biome, both across the biome as a whole and for all of its species in each range state.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)

1. Executive Council is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary
2. Political Council is chaired by the Prime Minister
3. The directives of the NCA are to be operationalised by the Strategic Forces Command under the control of a Commander-in-Chief of the rank of Air Marshal

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

Q.5) Solution (b)

NCA is responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme. Organisational structure of NCA includes Political Council and Executive Council. Executive Council is headed by National Security Advisor and Political Council is headed by Prime Minister. The Executive Council gives its opinion to the Political Council, which authorises a nuclear attack when deemed necessary. Strategic Forces Command is a part of Nuclear Command Authority, responsible to operationalize the directives of NCA and for the management and administration of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile. SFC is headed by Commander-in-chief of the rank of Air Marshal. It will have the sole responsibility of initiating the process of delivering nuclear weapons and warheads, after acquiring explicit approval from the NCA.