



## UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs 12-03-2024

Q1:

Consider the following statements regarding the PM-SURAJ Portal, recently seen in news:

1. It is a national online platform, launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. Its aim is to promote entrepreneurship and self-reliance among advantaged communities.
3. It also facilitates the distribution of Ayushman health cards and Personal Protective Equipment kits.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A: Only one  
B: Only two  
C: All three  
D: None

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the PM-SURAJ portal for credit support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections of society. The PM-SURAJ (Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan Evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan) Portal is a national online platform unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The portal serves as a platform to extend credit assistance to one lakh entrepreneurs belonging to disadvantaged communities, aiming to promote entrepreneurship and self-reliance among them. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**



With a specific focus on Scheduled Castes, backward classes and Safai Mitras, the PM-SURAJ portal ensures the inclusive participation of these groups in economic development initiatives. Apart from credit support, the portal facilitates the distribution of Ayushman health cards and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to Safai Mitras, enhancing their access to healthcare services and ensuring safety at work. The launch of PM-SURAJ underscores the government's unwavering commitment to "Vanchiton Ko Variyata," demonstrating prioritization of historically underserved communities for targeted development efforts. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Q2:**

**Recently, the Supreme Court has intervened by freezing the Assam government's decision to withdraw a notification that established the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. This Sanctuary is a wildlife reserve in the Morigaon district of Assam, located on the southern bank of the which of the following rivers?**

**A:** Lohit

**B:** Brahmaputra

**C:** Manas

**D:** Dhansiri

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

Recently, the Supreme Court has intervened by freezing the Assam government's decision to withdraw a notification that established the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife reserve in the Morigaon district of Assam, located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River. It is also known as "Mini Kaziranga" because of its similar landscape and vegetation. It was declared a reserve forest in 1971 and a wildlife sanctuary in 1987. The sanctuary is known for its great Indian One-horned rhinoceros population, which is one of the largest in Assam. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**



**Q3:**

**With reference to the PM SVANidhi Scheme, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a micro-credit scheme that provides a affordable working capital loans to Self Help Groups (SHGs).**
- 2. The scheme is only available to beneficiaries from states and union territories that have notified rules and schemes under the Street Vendors Act, 2019.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A: 1 only**
- B: 2 only**
- C: Both 1 and 2**
- D: Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will address PM SVANidhi Beneficiaries at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi today (March 14, 2024). The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a micro-credit scheme started by the central government that provides a affordable working capital loans to street vendors. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the scheme on June 1, 2020 to support marginalized street vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic. To be eligible for the scheme, street vendors must have been operating their business for at least one year before March 24, 2020 and have valid ID proof. The scheme is only available to beneficiaries from states and union territories that have notified rules and schemes under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**



**Q4:**

**Consider the following statements in respect of the mathematical constant Pi:**

- 1. It was founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw.**
- 2. Pi Day has designated in 40th General Conference of UNESCO.**
- 3. It is a rational number commonly approximated as 3.14 or 22/7.**
- 4. It is not crucial in the field of architecture and cosmology.**

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A:** Only one  
**B:** Only two  
**C:** Only three  
**D:** All four

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

March 14, known as 3/14 in the American convention, is globally celebrated as Pi Day, commemorating the famous approximation (3.14) of the mathematical constant Pi. Physicist Larry Shaw of the Exploratorium museum in San Francisco initiated the tradition of Pi Day in 1988 to celebrate the mathematical constant Pi ( $\pi$ ). Pi Day has since gained global popularity as an occasion for raising awareness about mathematics among the general public. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

In 2019, UNESCO's 40th General Conference designated Pi Day as the International Day of Mathematics, highlighting its significance on a global scale. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

It is an irrational number with an infinite decimal expansion, commonly approximated as 3.14 or expressed as the fraction 22/7. The constant Pi is fundamental in geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and various fields of science and engineering. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

French mathematician Thomas Fantet de Lagny achieved a calculation of Pi up to 112 decimal places by 1719. Today, supercomputers and advanced algorithms have pushed the limits of Pi computation, with calculations extending to



trillions of decimal places. Pi is crucial in various fields such as architecture, engineering, physics, and cosmology. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**

**Q5:**

**Consider the following statements:**

**1. According to the latest estimates by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, global child deaths reached a historic low in 2000.**

**2. Children living in rural areas face a higher risk of death before age 5 compared to urban area.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A: 1 only**

**B: 2 only**

**C: Both 1 and 2**

**D: Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

A UN report discovered that nearly 5 million children passed away before reaching their fifth birthday in 2022. In 2022, global child deaths reached a historic low, according to the latest estimates by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. The annual number of global under-five deaths in 2022 declined by more than half from the 2000 estimate, dropping from 9.9 million to 4.9 million. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

Prematurity, pneumonia, trauma, malaria, and diarrhea are among the leading causes of death for newborns and children, all preventable causes. Child survival is influenced by factors such as place of birth, income level of the country, and within-country inequities. Children living in rural areas face a higher risk of death before age 5 compared to their urban counterparts. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**