

GOVERNANCE**ECI Committee on Expenditure Limit**

Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has constituted a committee to examine the issues concerning the expenditure limit for a candidate.

Key Points**About the Committee:**

It has been tasked with assessing the change in the number of electors across states/UTs and the change in the Cost Inflation Index (CII) and their bearing on expenditure pattern of candidates in recent elections.

Background:

Political parties in the feedback to the Commission had asked for an increase in the expenditure of Bihar assembly elections to meet the increased digital campaign expenses amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Law and Justice notified an amendment in Rule 90 of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, which enhanced the existing expenditure limit by 10%, applicable with immediate effect.

Earlier Revisions:

The expenditure limit was last revised in 2014 while the same was done for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2018, following their bifurcation in 2014.

After that, the limit has not been increased despite an increase in the electorate from 834 million in 2014 to 921 million in 2020 and an increase in the Cost Inflation Index from 220 in 2014 to 301 in 2020.

Expenditure Limit

- It is the amount an election candidate can legally spend for their election campaign and has to account for, which includes expenses on public meetings, rallies, advertisements, posters, banners vehicles and advertisements.
- These limits range from Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 28 lakh for assembly elections and from Rs. 54 lakh to Rs. 70 lakh for Lok Sabha elections.
- Under Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, every candidate shall keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure incurred between the date on which they have been nominated and the date of declaration of the result.
- All candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the ECI within 30 days of the completion of the elections.
- An incorrect account or expenditure beyond the cap can lead to disqualification of the candidate by the ECI for up to three years, under Section 10A of RPA, 1951.
- The limit prescribed by the ECI is meant for legitimate expenditure because a lot of money in elections is spent for illegitimate purposes.
- It has often been argued that these limits are unrealistic as the actual expenditure incurred by the candidate is much higher.
- In December 2019, a private member's bill was introduced in the Parliament which intended to do away with the cap on election spending by candidates.
- The move was taken on the ground that the ceiling on election expenses ends up being counterproductive by encouraging candidates to under-report their expenditure.
- There is no cap on a political party's expenditure, which is often exploited by candidates of the party.
- However, all registered political parties have to submit a statement of their election expenditure to the ECI within 90 days of the completion of the elections.

State Funding of Elections:

- In this system, the states bear the election expenditure of political parties contesting the Election.
- This can bring transparency in the funding process as public finance can limit the influence of interested donors' money and thereby help curb corruption.

Recommendations on State Funding:

Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998): It suggested that state funding would ensure a level playing field for poorer political parties and argued that such a move would be in public interest.

It also recommended that state funds should only be given to recognised national and State parties and funding should be given in the form of free facilities provided to these parties and their candidates.

Law Commission Report (1999): It stated that a state funding of elections is 'desirable' provided that political parties are prohibited from taking funds from other sources.

National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000): It did not support the idea but mentioned that an appropriate framework for the regulation of political parties needs to be implemented before state funding is considered.

The ECI is not in favour of state funding of elections on the grounds that it would not be able to prohibit or check candidates' and other expenditures over and above what is provided for by the state.

Cost Inflation Index

- It is used to estimate the increase in the prices of goods and assets year-by-year due to inflation.
- It is calculated to match the prices to the inflation rate. In simple words, an increase in the inflation rate over time will lead to a rise in the prices.
- Cost Inflation Index = 75% of the average rise in the Consumer Price Index (urban) for the immediately preceding year.
- Consumer Price Index compares the current price of a basket of goods and services (which represent the economy) with the cost of the same basket of goods and services in the previous year to calculate the increase in prices.
- The Central Government specifies CII by notifying in the official gazette.

Integrated Theatre Command

As part of defence reforms after the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the government is working on the formation of integrated theatre commands.

Key Points

Current Situation:

- The Indian armed forces currently have 17 commands. There are 7 commands each of the Army and the Air Force. The Navy has 3 commands.
- Each command is headed by a 4-star rank military officer.
- There is one joint command in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It is the first Tri-Service theatre command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India.
- It was created in 2001 to safeguard India's strategic interests in Southeast Asia and the Strait of Malacca by increasing rapid deployment of military assets in the islands.
- The other tri-service command, the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), looks after the delivery and operational control of the country's nuclear assets.
- Recent Developments: The appointment of the CDS and the creation of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) are momentous steps towards the integration and advancement of defence forces.
- CDS: It is the single-point military adviser to the government as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999.
- CDS oversees and coordinates the working of the three Services.
- As the head of DMA, CDS is vested with the authority in prioritising inter-service procurement decisions.

Department of Military Affairs:

- The DMA is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- Work exclusively pertaining to military matters will fall within the purview of the DMA. Earlier, these functions were the mandate of the Department of Defence (DoD).
- The next logical step in the process of defence reforms is the formation of Integrated Theatre Commands to synergize the capabilities and combat potential of the three Services during war and peace.
- Teams headed by the Vice Chiefs of the three Services have been constituted to study and submit recommendations on the formation of various integrated commands.
- The study on the air defence command is in an advanced stage of completion.

Integrated Theatre Command:

- An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern.

- The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal — from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy — with seamless efficacy.
- The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services.
- Integration and jointness of the three forces will avoid duplication of resources. The resources available under each service will be available to other services too.
- The services will get to know one another better, strengthening cohesion in the defence establishment.
- The Shekatkar committee has recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands — northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border, and southern for the maritime role.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COVIRAP : A Quick and Cheap COVID-19 Test

Recently, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a new low-cost Covid-19 diagnostic method named COVIRAP, developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.

Key Points

Working of COVIRAP:

- COVIRAP has an automated pre-programmable temperature control unit, a special detection unit on genomic analysis, and a customised smartphone app for results.
- The machine has an isothermal nucleic acid amplification method, which did away with the need for a thermocycler.
- Isothermal amplification of nucleic acids is a process that rapidly and efficiently accumulates nucleic acid sequences at constant temperature. The Isothermal Amplification Techniques have been developed as alternatives to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).
- Thermocyclers are instruments used to amplify DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and RNA (ribonucleic acid) samples by the polymerase chain reaction.
- Once the sample is processed in the machine after being mixed with solutions developed by the IIT team, treated paper strips (similar to the pregnancy strips) are dipped into it, and the emergence of coloured lines will depict the presence of the virus.

Benefit of COVIRAP Process:

Economic: It is a cheaper process, its machine costs less than Rs. 5,000 and the test kits would each cost about Rs. 500.

Quicker: The test is completed within an hour while RT-PCR test (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) takes 3-4 hours for testing the sample.

Simpler to Handle: The portable test unit that can be handled by unskilled operators outside the lab environment.

It is also better than the FELUDA test because the FELUDA employs a gene editing technology called CRISPR-cas9, which requires a lab testing environment.

Reusable: The same unit can be used for a large number of tests on replacement of the paper cartridge after each test.

Efficient: This assay (testing) holds the capability of detecting extremely low levels of viral loads compared to any other method based on similar principles of testing.

This means that very early stages of infection can be detected, thereby isolating the patient and arresting the uncontrolled spread of infection in the community via asymptomatic patients.

High Accuracy: It correctly detected 108 out of the 115 positive samples identified by an RT-PCR machine, and 83 out of 85 negative samples, meaning that it has a 94% sensitivity and 98% specificity in comparison to RT-PCR (i.e lower than RT-PCR).

Other Usage: The COVIRAP testing machine can also perform tests other than Covid-19. It can be used in influenza, malaria, dengue, Japanese encephalitis, TB etc, which are under the category of isothermal nucleic acid-based tests.

RT-PCR Test

- **Kary Mullis**, the American biochemist invented the PCR technique. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993.
- Under this, copies of a segment of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) are created using an enzyme called Polymerase.
- The 'chain reaction' signifies how the DNA fragments are copied, exponentially — one is copied into two, the two are copied into four, and so on.

- A fluorescent DNA binding dye called the “probe” is added to DNA, which shows the presence of the virus on a fluorometer.
- Since coronavirus is made of RNA (ribonucleic acid), therefore to detect coronavirus, RNA is converted into DNA using a technique called reverse transcription.
- A ‘reverse transcriptase’ enzyme converts the RNA into DNA.
- Copies of the DNA are then made and amplified.

INDIAN ECONOMY

FDI Inflow

During April to August, 2020, total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of USD 35.73 billion was received. It is the highest ever for the first 5 months of a financial year.

- FDI inflow has increased despite Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth contracted 23.9% in the first quarter (April-June 2020).

Key Points

Recent Increase in FDI Inflows:

- FDI (USD 35.73 billion) received in the first 5 months of 2020-21 is 13% higher as compared to the first five months of 2019-20 (USD 31.60 billion).
- Total FDI inflow grew by 55%, i.e. from USD 231.37 billion in 2008-14 to USD 358.29 billion in 2014-20.
- FDI equity inflow (one of the three components of FDI) received during April to August, 2020 was USD 27.10 billion. It is also the highest ever for the first 5 months of a financial year and 16% more compared to the first five months of 2019-20 (USD 23.35 billion).
- Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country.
- According to the World Investment Report 2020 by the UNCTAD, India was the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019.

Government Measures to increase FDI:

- In 2020, schemes like production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for electronics manufacturing, have been notified to attract foreign investments.
- In 2019, the Central Government amended FDI Policy 2017, to permit 100% FDI under automatic route in coal mining activities.
- Further, the government permitted 26% FDI in digital sectors. The sector has particularly high return capabilities in India as favourable demographics, substantial mobile and internet penetration, massive consumption along with technology uptake provides great market opportunity for a foreign investor.
- FDI in manufacturing was already under the 100% automatic route, however in 2019, the government clarified that investments in Indian entities engaged in contract manufacturing is also permitted under the 100% automatic route provided it is undertaken through a legitimate contract.
- **Contract Manufacturing:** Production of goods by one firm, under the label or brand of another firm.
- Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP) is the online single point interface of the Government of India with investors to facilitate FDI. It is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Increase in FDI Inflows is further Expected:

As foreign investors have indicated interest in the government’s moves to allow private train operations and bid out airports.

In March 2020, Government permitted non-resident Indians (NRIs) to acquire up to 100% stake in Air India.

Valuable sectors such as defence manufacturing where the government enhanced the FDI limit under the automatic route from 49% to 74% in May 2020, could also attract large investments going forward.

Foreign Direct Investment

- FDI is the process whereby residents of one country (the home country) acquire ownership of assets for the purpose of controlling the production, distribution and other activities of a firm in another country (the host country).
- It is different from Foreign Portfolio Investment where the foreign entity merely buys stocks and bonds of a company. FPI does not provide the investor with control over the business.

- Flows of FDI comprise capital provided (either directly or through other related enterprises) by a foreign direct investor to an enterprise.
- FDI has three components, viz., equity capital, reinvested earnings and intra-company loans.
- Equity capital is the foreign direct investor's purchase of shares of an enterprise in a country other than its own.
- Reinvested earnings comprise the direct investors' share (in proportion to direct equity participation) of earnings not distributed as dividends by affiliates, or earnings not remitted to the direct investor. Such retained profits by affiliates are reinvested.
- Intra-company loans or intra-company debt transactions refer to short- or long-term borrowing and lending of funds between direct investors (or enterprises) and affiliate enterprises.

Routes through which India gets FDI:

- Automatic Route: In this, the foreign entity does not require the prior approval of the government or the RBI.
- Government route: In this, the foreign entity has to take the approval of the government.
- The Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP) facilitates the single window clearance of applications which are through approval route.

Way Forward

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a major driver of economic growth and an important source of non-debt finance for the economic development of India. A robust and easily accessible FDI regime, thus, should be ensured.

Economic growth in the post-pandemic period and India's large market shall continue to attract market-seeking investments to the country.

ENVIRONMENT AND DIVERSITY**State of Global Air 2020 Report**

Recently, a global study, State of Global Air 2020 (SoGA 2020) has been released by the Health Effects Institute (HEI).

- It highlights that air pollution is the largest risk factor for death among all health risks and it is the first-ever comprehensive analysis of air pollution's global impact on newborns.
- HEI is an independent, nonprofit research institute funded jointly by the USA's Environmental Protection Agency and others.

Key Points

- India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal are among the top ten countries with the highest PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) exposures in 2019 and all of these countries experienced increases in outdoor PM_{2.5} levels between 2010 and 2019.
- India is also among the top ten countries with highest ozone (O₃) exposure in 2019. Also, among the 20 most populous countries, India recorded the highest increase (17%) in O₃ concentrations in the past ten years.
- Long-term exposure to outdoor and household (indoor) air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases, and neonatal diseases, in India in 2019.

Important Government Initiatives:

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (Household LPG programme).
- National Clean Air Programme.
- Introduction of BS-VI emission standards.
- Implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

Infant Related Data:

- High PM contributed to the deaths of more than 1,16,000 Indian infants who did not survive their first month.
- Infants in the first month of life are already at a vulnerable stage and a growing body of scientific evidence-supported studies in India indicates that particulate air pollution exposure during pregnancy is linked to low birth weight and preterm birth.
- More than half of these deaths were associated with outdoor PM_{2.5} and others were linked to the use of solid fuels such as charcoal, wood, and animal dung for cooking.
- Although there has been a slow and steady reduction in household reliance on poor-quality fuels, the air pollution from these fuels continues to be a key factor in the deaths of these youngest infants.

Significance of the Study:

- Addressing impacts of air pollution on adverse pregnancy outcomes and newborn health is important for low- and middle-income countries, not only because of the high prevalence of low birth weight, preterm birth, and child growth deficits but because it allows the design of strategic interventions that can be directed at these vulnerable groups.
- Air Pollution and Covid-19:
- Although the link between air pollution and Covid-19 is not completely established, there is clear evidence linking air pollution and increased heart and lung disease.
- Also, there is growing concern that exposure to high levels of air pollution during winter months in South Asian countries and East Asia could exacerbate the effects of Covid-19.

Current Pollution Status:

- Average pollution levels in India are declining over the past three years but these have been marginal, particularly in the Indo-Gangetic plains which see extremely high PM pollution especially during winter.
- After a decline in pollution due to the nationwide lockdowns after March, pollution levels are again rising and air quality is dipping to the ‘very poor’ category in several cities.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

One China Principle

Recently, China has objected to any official exchanges between India and Taiwan.

Key Points

- **Chinese Concern:** The statement from China came in response to reports that India and Taiwan were considering going forward with talks on a trade deal.
- China believes the ‘One-China principle’ is a universal consensus of the international community, including India.
- China also objected to the recent campaign (posters and social media) in India wishing Taiwan “**Happy National Day**” (October 10) and referring to it as a “country” or a “nation”.
- China is also opposing inclusion of Australia in the upcoming Malabar naval exercise with India, Japan and the United States.

India-Taiwan Relations

- India and Taiwan do not maintain formal diplomatic relations. The areas of cooperation between India and Taiwan have been limited due to negligible political relations.
- From 1995 to 2014, the bilateral trade turnover has grown manifold from just \$934 million to \$5.91 billion.
- **Technology:** In the field of science and technology, there are more than thirty ongoing government-funded joint research projects.
- In August 2015, the Taiwan-based Foxconn, one of the largest hardware manufacturers in the world, announced an investment of \$5 billion in India.
- India and Taiwan in 2018 signed a bilateral investment agreement. India-Taiwan trade ties have been expanded and Taiwanese firms are prominent investors in India,
- Taiwan has for long been a world leader in high-tech hardware manufacturing, and can contribute much to the “Make in India”, “Digital India” and “Smart Cities” campaigns.
- Taiwan’s agro-technology and food processing technology can also be very beneficial for India’s agriculture sector.
- Both sides have also expanded educational exchanges after a mutual degree recognition agreement in higher education was signed in 2010.

Challenges:

- **One China policy:** India finds it difficult to realise the full potential of its bilateral relationship with Taiwan. At present, about 16 countries worldwide continue to recognise Taiwan as an independent state. India is not among the sixteen countries.
- **Trade & Investment:** The economic exchange is still relatively insignificant. Taiwan’s share of trade with India is around 1% of its global trade.

Taiwan

- Taiwan - the Republic of China (ROC), home to twenty-three million people, is an island off the southern coast of China that has been governed independently from mainland China since 1949.
- Its neighbours include China (officially the People’s Republic of China, PRC) to the west, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south.

- Taiwan is the most populous state that is not a member of the United Nations and the largest economy outside the UN.
- Taiwan is Asia's 5th largest economy.
- It is a global leader in chip manufacture and the second-largest manufacturer of IT hardware, etc.
- **China's Claim:** The People's Republic of China (PRC) views the island as a province, while in Taiwan—a territory with its own democratically elected government—leading political voices have differing views on the island's status and relations with the mainland.
- China and Taiwan maintain a fragile relationship, which has improved during the past seven years but is periodically tested.

Way Forward

- Taiwan has invested heavily on China studies. India should take advantage of this fact. Resource rich India can benefit from Taiwan's technology. For instance, India has abundant natural bamboo resources while Taiwan owns the world-class bamboo charcoal technology. With this sort of technology, India can make use of its bamboo resources to produce high value-added goods.
- With the recent appointment of a senior diplomat to serve as the new envoy to Taiwan, India has signalled a shift in its One-China policy (although not officially abandoned) a clear indication of taking forward the diplomatic relationship with Taiwan.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Nazca Line: Peru

Recently, a giant cat geoglyph was discovered on a hill at the famous Nazca Lines site in Peru.

Key Points

The Nazca Lines:

- These are a group of geoglyphs known for the depictions of larger-than-life animals, plants and imaginary beings.
- Geoglyphs are the large designs made on the ground by creators using elements of the landscape such as stones, gravel, dirt or lumber.
- These are believed to be the greatest known archaeological enigma, owing to their size, continuity, nature and quality.
- The site is around 450 km away from capital Lima.
- Drawn more than 2 millennia ago on the surface of southern Peru's arid Pampa Colorada, the geoglyphs feature different subjects, but mainly plants and animals.
- The figures include pelicans (the largest ones sized around 935 feet long), Andean Condors (443 feet), monkeys (360 feet), etc.
- Variety of geometric shapes such as triangles, trapezoids and spirals, and some have been associated with astronomical functions.



Discovery and Heritage Site: The Lines were first discovered in 1927, and were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.

The Cat Geoglyph:

Cultural Linkage: It dates from 500 BC – 200 AD (Paracas age). The cat geoglyph is believed to be older than the ones previously found at Nazca.

The Paracas culture was an Andean society existing between approximately 800 BCE and 100 BCE, with an extensive knowledge of irrigation and water management. It was in present day Peru in the Paracas Desert region.

Representations of felines of this type are frequent in the iconography of ceramics and textiles of the Paracas society.

Indian International Science Festival

The 6th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held virtually in 2020.

- The 5th edition was held in Kolkata in 2019.

Key Points

IISF: It is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.

- It was launched in 2015 to promote Science and Technology and demonstrate how science could lead India towards a developed nation within a short span of time.
- Aim: To engage the public with science and celebrate the joy of science and show the ways how science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) provide solutions to improve people's lives.
- Organising Agencies: Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) organise IISF every year.
- IISF 2020: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will spearhead the IISF 2020 with support of all other concerned ministries and departments.
- CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Vijnana Bharati

- Swadeshi Science Movement was started in Indian Institute of Science- Bengaluru by a few eminent scientists under the guidance of Prof. K I Vasu.
- This movement gradually gained momentum and emerged as an organization with national presence.
- In 1991, it was decided to launch the Swadeshi Science Movement at all India Level and named it Vijnana Bharati.
- It's one of the objectives is to motivate young scientists towards greater creativity and originality.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Genetic engineering is a double-edged sword. The only solution is to accelerate the good side of these technologies. Discuss. (250 words)

Ans.

Genetic engineering is the process of using recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology to alter the genetic makeup of an organism. Traditionally, humans have manipulated genomes indirectly by controlling breeding and selecting offspring with desired traits.

Genetic engineering involves the direct manipulation of one or more genes. Most often, a gene from another species is added to an organism's genome to give it a desired phenotype.

Through genetic engineering, scientists are able to move desirable genes from one plant or animal to another or from a plant to an animal or vice versa. In essence, genetic engineering is a technology wherein a specific gene can be selected and implanted into the recipient organism.

Advantages of Genetic Engineering

- Genetically Modified (GM) Crops: Genetic engineering made it possible to create crop varieties regarded as "more beneficial" terms of coming up with crops with the desired traits.
- Examples of genetically-engineered plants (Bt Cotton) with more desirable traits are drought-resistant plants, disease-resistant crops, plants that grow faster, and plants fortified with more nutrients.
- Treatment of Genetic Disorders and Other Diseases: Through genetic engineering, genetic disorders may also be fixed by replacing the faulty gene with a functional gene.
- Disease-carrying insects, such as mosquitoes, may be engineered into becoming sterile insects. This will help in curbing the spread of certain diseases, e.g. malaria and dengue fever.
- Therapeutic Cloning: It is a process whereby embryonic cells are cloned to obtain biological organs for transplantation.

Challenges of Genetic Engineering

- While genetic engineering is beneficial in many ways, it is also implicated in certain eventualities deemed as “unpleasant” or disadvantageous.
- Irreversible Changes: Nature is an extremely complex interrelated chain. Some scientists believe that introducing genetically-modified genes may have an irreversible effect with consequences yet unknown.
- GMO that can cause harmful genetic effects, and genes moving from one species to another that is not genetically engineered.
- Health Issues Related with GMO Crops: There are concerns over the inadvertent effects, such as the creation of food that can cause an allergic reaction.
- Bioethics: Genetic engineering borderlines on many moral and ethical issues. One of the major questions raised is if humans have the right to manipulate the laws and course of nature.

Way Forward

- As there have been no checks or balances, and it is too late to stop the global spread of these technologies. The only solution, now, is to accelerate the good side of these technologies and build defences.
- Representatives of academic and scientific bodies must look at participation and informed consent as the two most important tools. By shaping communication about genetic science around the core pillars of consent, transparency, accountability, sustainability and awareness, we can create a circle of trust.
- With Artificial Intelligence (AI) and genomic data, scientists will decipher the complex relationships between DNA and biological processes and find treatments for diseases.
- The scientific community can address people’s concerns, explain the benefits of genetic science and adopt suggestions from the public to make this area of science more accessible and acceptable.

Conclusion

Genetic engineering can revolutionise nutrition and public health. The scientific community needs to reach out to all stakeholders to allay any concerns. We must also remember that when it comes to genetic engineering, no matter how important the end goal may be, it is equally important that we achieve it with justifiable means.

DAILY QUIZ

1. With reference to Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an outcome and output oriented scheme.
2. This scheme incentivises only the sunrise sectors.

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

2. Consider the following statements about the OSIRIS-REx Mission:

1. The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has recently touched down the surface of Mars to collect the rock samples.
2. Launched in 2016, the mission is a ten-year-long voyage and will return back to Earth in 2026.

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

3. Which of the following are the components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana?

1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)
2. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
3. On-Farm Water Management (OFWM)
4. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

4. With reference to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India except in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 2. The Act empowers the Directorate of Military Intelligence to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property.

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**

5. With reference to Theatre Command in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a unified command of the three armed services.
- 2. India's first theatre command was established at Andaman and Nicobar Island.
- 3. There are three integrated theatre commands in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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