

GOVERNANCE**World Tribal Day, 2021**

World Tribal Day or International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9th August every year. It is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the world's indigenous population and to acknowledge the contributions that indigenous people make towards world issues such as environmental protection.

Key Points**Background:**

- The day recognizes the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982. It has been celebrated every year since 1994, in accordance with the declaration by the United Nations. To date, numerous indigenous peoples experience extreme poverty, marginalization, and other human rights violations.

Theme 2021: "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract."

Indigenous Peoples:

- Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live.
- There are over 476 million indigenous peoples living in 90 countries across the world, accounting for 6.2% of the global population.

Significance:**Protecting Critical Ecosystem:**

1. Around 80% of the world's biodiversity is inhabited and protected by indigenous populations.
2. Their innate, diverse knowledge about lands, nature, and its development are extremely crucial to ensure the protection of the critical ecosystem, natural resources.

- **Preserving Languages:** With 370-500 million indigenous peoples representing the majority of the world's cultural diversity, they speak the greater share of almost 7000 languages in the world.

Contributing to Zero Hunger Goal:

1. The crops grown by indigenous people are highly adaptable. They can survive drought, altitude, flooding, and any kind of extremes of temperature. As a result, these crops help create resilient farms.
2. Also, quinoa, moringa, and oca are some of the native crops that have the ability to expand and diversify our food base. These would contribute to the goal to attain Zero Hunger.

Other Global Efforts:

- **Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032):** It aims to conserve Indigenous languages, which helps preserve their cultures, world views and visions, as well as expressions of self-determination.
- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):** It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.
- **Permanent UN Forum on Indigenous Issues:** It was established with the mandate to deal with indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. It is an advisory body to the UN Economic and Social Council.

Tribes in India**Data Analysis:**

- India hosts around 104 million (that is almost 8.6% of the country's population).
- Though there are 705 ethnic groups that have been formally identified, out of which around 75 are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The Gond comprise the largest tribal group of India.
- The largest number of tribal communities (62) are found in Odisha.
- The central tribal belt which comprises the Northeastern states of India (including the region ranging from Rajasthan to West Bengal) boasts of the maximum concentration of indigenous population.

Major Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 342 (1)-** The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, specify the tribes or

tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory.

- Article 15- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth only.
- Article 16- Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
- Article 46- Promotion of educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes and other weaker sections.
- Article 335- Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts.
- As per Article 338-A of the Constitution of India, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been set-up.
- 5th and 6th Schedule- Administration and control of Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

Legal Provisions:

- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 against Untouchability.
- Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against the members of the SC and ST.
- Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Initiatives:

- TRIFED is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is involved in schemes such as MSP for MFP and TRIFOOD.
- Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana: A market-linked tribal entrepreneurship development program for forming clusters of tribal Self Help Groups (SHGs) and strengthening them into Tribal Producer Companies.
- Capacity Building Initiative: Empowering tribal Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI).
- 1000 Springs Initiative & Online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas: Harnessing Springs, which are natural resources of groundwater discharge.
- Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools: In the first phase, 250 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have been adopted by Microsoft, out of which 50 EMRS schools will be given intensive training and 500 master trainers would be trained.

Committees Related to Tribal Communities:

- Xaxa Committee (2013)
- Bhuria Commission (2002-2004)
- Lokur Committee (1965)

AGRICULTURE

PM-KISAN

Recently, the Prime Minister released the 9th instalment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). Further, the Prime Minister also interacted with farmer beneficiaries during the event.

Key Points

PM-KISAN:

- **About:** Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings. It was launched in February 2019.
- **Funding and Implementation:** It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Identification of Beneficiaries:** The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State/UT Governments.
- **Objectives:** To supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle. To protect them from falling in the

clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.

Highlights of the Prime Minister's Address:

- The Prime Minister launched a National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) as a pledge for achieving self-reliance in edible oil.
- For the first time, India has reached among the top-10 countries of the world in terms of agricultural exports.
- Biggest ever purchase from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP), Rs 1,70,000 crore have reached directly into the accounts of rice farmers and about Rs. 85,000 crore to wheat farmers.
- Small farmers are now being given utmost priority in the agricultural policies of the country.
- 1. Initiatives like Food Parks, Kisan Rails and Kisan Infrastructure Fund will help small farmers.
- 2. These steps increase the small farmer's access to market and his bargaining power through Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs).
- The Prime Minister touched upon initiatives like Mission Honey-Bee and making saffron from Jammu & Kashmir in the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) shops.
- Indian agriculture and farmers have a big role in determining the condition of India in 2047, when the country completes 100 years of independence.

Other Initiatives for Farmers:

1. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
2. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
3. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
4. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Programme
5. Rashtriya Gokul Mission
6. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
7. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

2. Government e-Marketplace

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) system has resulted in a 10% savings in public procurement costs in five years, but has still tapped only 5% of India's total government purchases of about Rs 20 lakh crore a year. 56% of the order value processed through the GeM portal has been delivered by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), with seven lakh small firms on board.

Key Points**About:**

- GeM is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments/Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM.
- It also provides the tools of e-bidding and reverse e-auction to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money.
- At present, GeM has more than 30 lakh products, over Rs. 10 lakh crore worth of transactions have happened so far at the portal.

Launch: It was launched in 2016 to bring transparency and efficiency in the government buying process.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Recent Updates:

- Bamboo Market Window (The Green Gold Collection).
- Country of Origin Mandatory: GeM has made it mandatory for sellers to enter the Country of Origin while registering all new products on GeM. This has been enabled on the portal so that the buyers can choose to buy only those products that meet the minimum 50% local content criteria.

Significance:

- **Transparent and Cost-effective Procurement:** GeM is enabling quick, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement, especially when government organizations require products and services urgently to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Promotion of Atmanirbhar Bharat:** GeM has been promoting the Atmanirbhar Bharat policy, introduced in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, meant to encourage self-reliance and boost small Indian manufacturers.

- **Entry of Small Local Sellers:** The Marketplace has facilitated entry of small local sellers in Public Procurement, while implementing 'Make in India' and MSME Purchase Preference Policies of the Government in the true sense.
- **Multiple Entities at One Place:** The online marketplace can aggregate demand from multiple entities for similar products, and build on the preferences provided by State governments to small enterprises.

Challenges:

Multiple Portals: There are multiple portals in Central government departments, such as the defence procurement portal, and the Indian Railways e-Procurement System, which could limit GeM's effort to achieve its mandate as the National Public Procurement Portal and provide the benefit of economies of scale and efficiency.

- **Lack of Compliance:** It also faces a bit of a challenge in getting all Central organisations to comply with Rule 149 of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, which mandates that all common-use goods and services that are available on the GeM portal should necessarily be procured on the platform.

Way Forward

GeM has ambitions to grow in size and become a one-stop shop for both buyers and sellers. It has gotten off to a great start, and is gradually building an efficient and reliable marketplace ecosystem.

If it can effectively overcome the challenges that limit its growth, it could go on to be as precious as the shiny mineral crystals that are invoked by its mere name.

ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

Climate Change 2021 Report: IPCC

Recently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first part of its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) titled Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. It is prepared by the scientists of Working Group-I. The two remaining parts would be released in 2022. It noted that global net-zero by 2050 was the minimum required to keep the temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius. It sets the stage for the Conference of Parties (CoP) 26 conference in November 2021.

Key Points

Average Surface Temperature:

- The average surface temperature of the Earth will cross 1.5 °C over pre-industrial levels in the next 20 years (By 2040) and 2°C by the middle of the century without sharp reduction of emissions. In 2018, the IPCC's Special Report Global Warming of 1.5°C had estimated that two-fifths of the global population lived in regions with warming above 1.5°C.
- The last decade was hotter than any period of time in the past 1,25,000 years. Global surface temperature was 1.09°C higher in the decade between 2011-2020 than between 1850-1900.
- This is the first time that the IPCC has said that the 1.5°C warming was inevitable even in the best case scenario.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) Concentrations:

- They are the highest in at least two million years. Humans have emitted 2,400 billion tonnes of CO₂ since the late 1800s.
- Most of this can be attributed to human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels. The effect of human activities has warmed the climate at a rate unprecedented in 2,000 years.
- The world has already depleted 86% of its available carbon budget.

Impact of Global Warming:

- **Sea- Level Rise:**
 1. Sea-level rise has tripled compared with 1901-1971. The Arctic Sea ice is the lowest it has been in 1,000 years.
 2. Coastal areas will see continued sea-level rise throughout the 21st century, resulting in coastal erosion and more frequent and severe flooding in low-lying areas.
 3. About 50% of the sea level rise is due to thermal expansion (when water heats up, it expands, thus warmer oceans simply occupy more space).
- **Precipitation & Drought:** Every additional 0.5 °C of warming will increase hot extremes, extreme precipitation and drought. Additional warming will also weaken the Earth's carbon sinks present in plants, soils, and the ocean.
- **Heat Extremes:** Heat extremes have increased while cold extremes have decreased, and these trends will continue over the coming decades over Asia.

● **Receding Snowline & Melting Glaciers:**

1. Global Warming will have a serious impact on mountain ranges across the world, including the Himalayas.
2. The freezing level of mountains are likely to change and snowlines will retreat over the coming decades.
3. Retreating snowlines and melting glaciers is a cause for alarm as this can cause a change in the water cycle, the precipitation patterns, increased floods as well as an increased scarcity of water in the future in the states across the Himalayas.
4. The level of temperature rise in the mountains and glacial melt is unprecedented in 2,000 years. The retreat of glaciers is now attributed to anthropogenic factors and human influence.

Indian Sub-continent Specific Findings:

- **Heatwaves:** Heatwaves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent during the 21st century over South Asia.
- **Monsoon:** Changes in monsoon precipitation are also expected, with both annual and summer monsoon precipitation projected to increase. The South West Monsoon has declined over the past few decades because of the increase of aerosols, but once this reduces, we will experience heavy monsoon rainfall.
- **Sea Temperature:** The Indian Ocean, which includes the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, has warmed faster than the global average.
 1. The sea surface temperature over Indian ocean is likely to increase by 1 to 2 °C when there is 1.5°C to 2°C global warming.
 2. In the Indian Ocean, the sea temperature is heating at a higher rate than other areas, and therefore may influence other regions.

Net- Zero Emissions:

About:

- It means that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures, thus reducing the Earth's net climate balance, after removal via natural and artificial sink, to zero.
- This way humankind would be carbon neutral and global temperature would stabilise.

Current Situation:

- Several countries, more than 100, have already announced their intentions to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. These include major emitters like the United States, China and the European Union.
- India, the third largest emitter in the world, has been holding out, arguing that it was already doing much more than it was required to do, performing better, in relative terms, than other countries. Any further burden would jeopardise its continuing efforts to pull its millions out of poverty.
- IPCC has informed that a global net-zero by 2050 was the minimum required to keep the temperature rise to 1.5°C. Without India, this would not be possible. Even China, the world's biggest emitter, has a net-zero goal for 2060.

Way Forward

- Climate change is described by many as a far greater threat to humanity than Covid-19, because of its irreversible impacts. Many of the impacts such as sea level rise and melting of glaciers will continue for many years.
- There is a need for a drastic and immediate cut in carbon emissions, given that the changes to the climate already made are not reversible.
- All nations, especially the G20 and other major emitters, need to join the net-zero emissions coalition and reinforce their commitments with credible, concrete and enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions and policies before COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

2. India Plastics Pact

The India Plastics Pact, the first in Asia, will be launched in September in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Recently, a report published on closing the plastic circular Gap, suggested that there is a dire need to make large scale global interventions to manage plastic waste.

Key Points

About:

- The India Plastics Pact is an ambitious, collaborative initiative that aims to bring together businesses, governments and NGOs across the whole value chain to set time-bound commitments to reduce plastics from their value chains.
- While the India Plastics Pact will be active in India, it will link globally with other Plastics Pacts.
- The Pact will develop a road map for guidance, form action groups composed of members, and initiate innovation projects. Members' accountability is ensured through ambitious targets and annual data reporting.
- The vision, targets and ambition of the India Plastics Pact are aligned with the circular economy principles of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy.

Aim:

- The Pact aims to transform the current linear plastics system into a circular plastics economy that will:
 1. Reduce the use of problematic plastics,
 2. Retain valuable materials in the economy for use in other products,
 3. Generate jobs, investment and opportunities in the plastics system in India.
- It aims to promote public-private collaborations that enable solutions to eliminate the plastics we do not need, bring innovation to packaging design, and to capture the value of the plastics we use.

Need for Plastic Pacts:

- **Indian Scenario:**

1. India generates 9.46 million tonnes of plastic waste annually.
2. 40% plastic waste goes uncollected.
3. 43% of all plastics produced in India are used for packaging, majority of them being single-use.
4. However, viewed from the angle of livelihoods, post-consumer segregation, collection and disposal of plastics make up about half of the income of 1.5- 4 million waste-pickers in India.

- **Global Scenario:**

1. Mismanagement of more than 7.7 billion metric tonnes of plastic waste globally over the next 20 years is expected, which is equivalent to 16-times the weight of the human population. Among the many applications of plastic, plastic packaging is the largest.
2. A 2019 report by the Center for International Environmental Law suggests that by 2050, greenhouse gas emissions from plastic could reach over 56 gigatonnes, 10-13% of the remaining carbon budget.

Expected Outcome:

- It can be expected to boost demand for recycled content, investments in recycling infrastructure, jobs in the waste sector, and beyond.
- The Pact will support the Extended Producer Responsibility framework of the government and improve solid waste management as envisioned in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- Integral to the Pact's framework is the involvement of the informal waste sector crucial to post-consumer segregation, collection and processing of plastic waste.
- Apart from benefits to society and economy, delivering the targets will drive circularity of plastics and help tackle pollution.
- They will lead to significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM
Faceless Assessment Scheme: Income Tax

Recently, the Income Tax (I-T) Department notified three official email IDs to register grievances, under the Faceless or e-Assessment Scheme. The Prime Minister in August 2020 announced three key structural tax reforms under the 'Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest' platform - faceless assessment, faceless appeal and taxpayers' charter to reduce tax disputes.

Key Points
Faceless or e-Assessment Scheme:

- **About:** Under the faceless assessment system, a taxpayer or an assessee is not required to visit an I-T department office or meet a department official for income tax-related businesses.
- **Launch:** The faceless assessment scheme was launched in 2019.
- **Objectives:** To promote an efficient and effective tax administration, minimizing physical interface, increasing accountability and introduction of team-based assessments.

- **Mechanism:**Faceless assessment is administered through separate units within the tax department each of which has a specific and important role in the process, viz assessment units, verification units, technical units and review units. All these units work closely with the National e-assessment Centre (NeAC) and Regional e-assessment Centre (ReAC).
- **Advantage:**The scheme brings greater flexibility for taxpayers and professionals representing before tax authorities. It has resulted in substantial time savings on account of travel to the tax office, waiting time over there, etc.

Related Recent Initiatives:

- **Dispute Resolution Committee:**
 1. In Budget 2021, the Minister of Finance has proposed the formation of a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) in order to provide quicker relief to taxpayers in tax disputes.
 2. The DRC will cater to small taxpayers having a taxable income of up to Rs. 50 lakh and a disputed income of up to Rs. 10 lakh.
- **Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme:**The scheme provides for settlement of disputed tax, disputed interest, disputed penalty or disputed fees in relation to an assessment or reassessment order on payment of 100% of the disputed tax and 25% of the disputed penalty or interest or fee.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. A long-term strategy of water management cooperation between India and Nepal is the need of the hour to end the crisis of flooding every year. Discuss.(250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

- People in North Bihar (Mithilanchal region) and Uttar Pradesh face perennial flooding almost every year despite the efforts of government. Floods lead to deluge of many districts, causing havoc, snapping communication lines and claiming several lives. This chronic issue is making over five crore people in north Bihar and Terai in Nepal vulnerable. But it does not seem to get attention by policymakers in both the countries.
- According to Flood Management Improvement Support Centre (FMISC), Department of Water Resources, 76% of the population in north Bihar faces recurring threat of flood devastation. In Bihar about 73.06% of the land area is flood affected.

Body:

Factors causing floods:

- **Natural factors:**
 1. High discharge and sediment load of Himalayan river system:
 2. A large part of north Bihar is prone to flood because it is drained by a number of rivers with their catchments in Himalayas.
 3. Rivers like Kosi, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla Balan, Mahananda etc originate in Nepal.
 4. Thus, they are having high discharge and sediment load causing havoc in the plains of Nepal's Terai and Bihar.
 5. 65% of the catchment area of stated rivers falls in Nepal or Tibet while 35% area lies in Bihar.
- **Shifting of river course:**
 1. As the river comes from a high slope to a flat plain, its velocity decreases suddenly and this results in the river unloading the sediment
 2. The silt causes the level of riverbed to rise. As a result, the natural longitudinal (straight) course of the river is disturbed. Therefore, the river searches for a lateral path (left or right).
 3. As a result, it changes its course and breaches the embankments on the new path it has created. The breach of embankments causes floods.
 4. Between the mid-18th and mid-20th centuries, the Kosi is said to have shifted over 100 kilometres westward, resulting in large-scale human displacements.
- **More than average rainfall:**India's northern states have received above-average rainfall on account of sustained low-pressure conditions.

Anthropogenic factors:

- The man-made factors — habitation, deforestation, population growth in catchment areas, encroachment of river banks and wetlands, lack of drainage, unplanned urban growth, hill

cutting — which lead to higher sedimentation. For example, the sediment deposition itself creates temporary sandbars or river islands.

- The dams that are being built and the mismanagement in dam operations during rains are further creating disasters.
- The wetlands forests and local water bodies are being systematically destroyed which in turn is adding to the disaster vulnerability of the area.
- The infrastructural interventions such as building embankments and re-routing streams have disturbed the conventional pattern of slow water flow.

Evaluation of previous co-operation measures between India and Nepal:

- The Kosi Treaty of 1954, under which the embankments in Nepal were established and maintained, was not futuristic and did not make enough provisions for the maintenance of embankments and the rivers changing their course.
- When work on the Kosi embankments started in January 1955, a group of retired Nepali soldiers came over voluntarily to join hands with Indian volunteers and start the work.
- Such a progressive government-citizen interface could not sustain itself and water cooperation between the two countries for a common cause waned.
- Consequently, not much has happened barring the use of water resources for hydroelectric generation.

Measures undertaken so far:

- First ever disaster management plan came into Bihar state with the efforts of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- Bihar's Disaster Management Department released two documents titled: "Pre-Flood Preparedness" and "Flood Control Order 2021".
- During his tenure in 2005-2010, he made a few noticeable structural changes such as renewed approaches in infrastructure of dams and reservoirs, detention basins, embankments as well as channel improvement.
- Non-structural measures such as floodplain management, flood forecasting & warning, flood insurance and financial compensation are also being taken in the state.

Measures needed for flood management:

- The dire need is for watershed-based master planning and development legislated guidelines for each major river basin, especially those that impact densely populated settlements.
- There must be a demarcation of ecologically sensitive zones using existing village survey maps and public participation.
- There must be clear land use plan for these zones specifying flood plains, protected forest areas, agricultural and plantation zones, with details of the types of crops, building usages permitted and the density of buildings permitted.
- To compensate owners in non-buildable areas, there must be strategies such as Transfer of Development Rights to buildable zones in cities.
- The master plan should focus on permitting only ecologically sensitive building strategies for these areas by proposing new construction techniques.
- Controlled development can be proposed using building height rules, floor area ratio control, and restrictions on cutting and filling natural land.
- Strategies to make sure that all infrastructure projects are carried out in a scientific manner with strict scrutiny must be specified.
- This should include roads built on difficult terrain and all public infrastructure projects in wetlands and the High Ranges.
- Copenhagen in Denmark, which faces a similar problem of repeated flooding, has come up with active cloudburst responsive planning as a process to develop the city in line with climate change needs.

Way forward:

- Course correction is needed to re-establish water cooperation as a common cause and draw inspiration for joint action from the 1950s between India and Nepal.
- There is a need for greater sensitisation on climatic imbalances and sustainable development.
- In the mainstream political and policy establishments, greater attention needs to be given to this annual calamity and its devastating effects on lives and livelihoods.

- India and Nepal need to be in dialogue to end the crisis of flooding every year.
- With a long-term strategy of water management cooperation between India and Nepal, the matter should be looked into.

Conclusion:

A solution to the issue of chronic flooding lies in revisiting the old plans and arrangements between India and Nepal. This is because flood control in Bihar is just not possible till a dedicated intergovernmental panel is formed through a bilateral mechanism between India and Nepal, that in turn can study, assess and offer solutions to this shared crisis.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881.
2. The responsibility of conducting the Census rests with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. **1 only**
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Mekedatu project:

1. It is a multipurpose (drinking and power) project.
2. It involves building a balancing reservoir at the confluence of the rivers Cauvery and Arkavathi River.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. **Both 1 and 2**
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Kaveri River :

1. It originates at a place called Ambutheertha in the state of Karnataka.
2. It is dammed at Mettur, Tamil Nadu.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. **2 only**
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. Which of the following is/are the major objectives of the Samagra Shiksha scheme?

1. Bridging social and gender gaps in school education
2. Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education
3. Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009
4. Strengthening and up-gradation of SCERTs/State Institutes of Education and DIET as a nodal agencies for teacher training

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Q5. Consider the following statements:

1. Diego Garcia is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom.
2. It is situated just north of the equator in the central Indian Ocean.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. **1 only**
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2