

DEFENCE

❖ **‘Vikrant’ to be re-incarnated**

❖ **CONTEXT:** The nation’s first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) will be commissioned on September 2, the Indian Navy has announced. The commissioning of the warship, which will be christened ‘Vikrant’, will mark a “historical milestone of realisation of Nation’s commitment towards AatmaNirbharta” (self-reliance).

- Vikrant is the largest warship to have ever been built in India, and the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy. It puts India in an elite club of nations that have the capability to design and build these giant, powerful warships.
- The Navy took delivery of the warship, designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB), its in-house organisation, from the manufacturer, Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL), a public sector shipyard under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, ahead of schedule on July 28. The ship had successfully completed its fourth and final phase of sea trials three weeks previously.

❖ **Why is it important for India to have an aircraft carrier?**

- An aircraft carrier is one of the most potent marine assets for any nation, which enhances a Navy’s capability to travel far from its home shores to carry out air domination operations.
- Many experts consider having an aircraft carrier as essential to be considered a “blue water” navy — that is, a navy that has the capacity to project a nation’s strength and power across the high seas.
- An aircraft carrier generally leads as the capital ship of a carrier strike/ battle group. As the aircraft carrier is a prized and sometimes vulnerable target, it is usually escorted in the group by destroyers, missile cruisers, frigates, submarines, and supply ships.

❖ **Why is it a big deal that this warship has been Made in India?**

- Only five or six nations currently have the capability of manufacturing an aircraft carrier, and India has joined this prestigious club now. India has demonstrated the capacity and self-reliance to build what is considered to be one of the most advanced and complex battleships in the world.
- India has had aircraft carriers earlier too — but those were built either by the British or the Russians. The ‘INS Vikramaditya’, which was commissioned in 2013 and which is currently the Navy’s only aircraft carrier, started out as the Soviet-Russian warship ‘Admiral Gorshkov’.
- India’s two earlier carriers, the ‘INS Vikrant’ and the ‘INS Viraat’, were originally the British-built ‘HMS Hercules’ and ‘HMS Hermes’. These two warships were commissioned into the Navy in 1961 and 1987 respectively.



❖ **Why will the new warship IAC-1 be named ‘INS Vikrant’?**

- The name ‘INS Vikrant’ originally belonged to India’s much-loved first aircraft carrier, a source of immense national pride over several decades of service before it was decommissioned in 1997.
- The original ‘Vikrant’, a Majestic-class 19,500-tonne warship, which was acquired from the UK in 1961, played a stellar role in the 1971 War with Pakistan. India deployed the ‘Vikrant’ in the Bay of Bengal, and its two air squadrons of Sea Hawk fighter jets and Alize surveillance aircraft were used in strikes on ports, merchant ships, and other targets, and to prevent Pakistani forces from escaping through maritime routes.
- In 2021, as the IAC-1 started her first sea trial, the Navy hailed the “proud and historic day for India as the reincarnated ‘Vikrant’ sails for her maiden sea trials, in the 50th year of her illustrious predecessor’s key role in victory in the 1971 war”.

❖ **What indigenous components does the new ‘Vikrant’ have?**

- The warship-grade steel required for the construction of the IAC-1 was indigenised through Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in collaboration with Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL) and the Indian Navy. A major spin-off of building the indigenous aircraft carrier has been that the India has become self-sufficient with respect to warship steel.
- The indigenous content of the project is approximately 76%. This includes 23,000 tonnes of steel, 2,500 km of electric cables, 150 km of pipes, and 2,000 valves, and a wide range of finished products including rigid hull boats, galley equipment, air-conditioning and refrigeration plants, and steering gear.

- According to the official release, major Indian industrial houses, viz., BEL, BHEL, GRSE, Keltron, Kirloskar, L&T, Wartsila India, etc., as well as over 100 MSMEs were involved in building of the indigenous equipment and machinery on board.
- The indigenisation efforts led to the development of ancillary industries, and generated employment opportunities for 2,000 CSL personnel and about 13,000 employees in ancillary industries, thus bolstering the plough-back effect on the nation's economy.
- Earlier that more than 50 Indian manufacturers were directly involved in the project, and about 2,000 Indians received direct employment on board IAC-1 every day. Over 40,000 others were employed indirectly.
- About 80-85 per cent of the project cost of approximately Rs 23,000 crore had been ploughed back into the Indian economy.
- ❖ **What weapons and equipment will the new 'Vikrant' have?**
- The new warship is comparable to India's existing carrier 'INS Vikramaditya', which is a 44,500-tonne vessel and can carry up to 34 aircraft, including both fighter jets and helicopters. Once commissioned, IAC-1 will be "the most potent sea-based asset".
- The ship will be capable of operating 30 aircraft including MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, MH-60R Seahawk multi-role helicopters, as well as the Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) built by Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, and the indigenously manufactured Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy).
- Using a novel aircraft-operation mode known as Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR), the IAC is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of three 'arrestor wires' for their recovery onboard.
- The MiG-29K and Kamov-31 aircraft are already in use on the 'Vikramaditya'. The MH-60R Seahawks are manufactured by the American aerospace and defence company Lockheed Martin.
- According to the Navy, the new warship will offer an "incomparable military instrument with its ability to project Air Power over long distances, including Air Interdiction, Anti-Surface Warfare, offensive and defensive Counter-Air, Airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare and Airborne Early Warning".
- ❖ **What else will be there on the new 'Vikrant'?**
- The 262 m long and 62 m wide 'Vikrant' displaces approximately 43,000 tonnes when fully loaded, and has a maximum designed speed of 28 knots (about 52 km/h) with an endurance of 7500 NM.
- The ship has around 2,200 compartments designed for a crew of around 1,600, including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers and sailors. The carrier is designed with a very high degree of automation for machinery operations, ship navigation and survivability.
- The carrier is equipped with the latest state of the art equipment and systems. It boasts a fully-fledged state of the art medical complex with the latest medical equipment facilities including major modular OT, emergency modular OT, physiotherapy clinic, ICU, laboratories, CT scanner, X-Ray machines, dental complex, isolation ward and telemedicine facilities.
- ❖ **Now that India has shown the capability, will it build more carriers?**
- Since 2015, the Navy has been seeking approval to build a third aircraft carrier for the country, which, if approved, will become India's second Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-2). This proposed carrier, to be named 'INS Vishal', is intended to be a giant 65,000-tonne vessel, much bigger than both IAC-1 and the 'INS Vikramaditya'.
- The Navy has been trying to convince the government of the "operational necessity" of having a third carrier. Former Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh had said that the Navy could not remain a "tethered force".
- Navy officials have argued that to project power, it is essential that India is able to venture far out on the oceans, which can be done best with an aircraft carrier.
- The former Chief of Defence Staff had spoken against investing in another aircraft carrier, and had suggested that the Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar islands could instead be developed as "unsinkable" naval assets.
- But Navy argued that to defend the vast Indian Ocean Region, persistent air power is required day and night. A third carrier will provide the Navy with surge capability, which will be essential in the future, they have argued.
- Also, it is argued that now that India has developed the capability to build such vessels, it should not be whittled away. The expertise gained by the Navy and the country over the past 60 years in the "art of maritime aviation" should not be wasted either.
- While the United States Navy has 11 aircraft carriers, China too is moving ahead aggressively with its aircraft carrier programme. It has two carriers now, a third is in the making, and another two are likely to be commissioned within a decade.
- Navy officials point out that even if India gives the IAC-2 project the go-ahead now, it will be over 10 years before the warship is commissioned.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ **Why Nepal postponed Gorkhas' recruitment under the Agnipath scheme**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: Nepal has postponed the recruitment rallies which were to be held in that country to recruit Gorkha soldiers for the Indian Army under the Agnipath scheme. We explain the reservations that the Nepalese government has about the new scheme of recruitment, and the current socio-economic impact of the historic military ties between the two countries.**
- ❖ **Why has Nepal postponed Agnipath recruitment rallies?**
- The decision to postpone these rallies has been taken by the Nepalese government as it is of the opinion that this new form of entry into the Indian military is not covered under the Tripartite Agreement signed between Nepal, Indian and UK governments in 1947, soon after Indian independence.

- According to reports from Nepal, the government feels that the Agnipath scheme must be approved by it and for that political consultations with all parties in Nepal must take place. Till the time these consultations are held and their result is known, the Nepalese government has requested that the Indian Army should not conduct recruitment rallies in Nepal which were scheduled to begin on August 25.
- ❖ **What was the Tripartite Agreement between India, Nepal and UK?**
- Soon after Indian Independence on August 15, 1947, an agreement was reached by the governments of India, Nepal and the UK regarding the future of the Gorkha soldiers who were serving in the Indian Army.
- As per the terms of this agreement four regiments of Gorkha soldiers – 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th – were transferred to the British Army while the rest – 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th – remained with the Indian Army. A new Gorkha Regiment, the 11th Gorkha Rifles, was raised by India soon after Independence. The agreement also provides for the terms and conditions of the Nepal-domiciled Gorkha soldiers in the Indian Army and for their post-retirement benefits and pensions.
- An interesting historical aspect of Gorkha troops is that Pakistan, at the time of Independence, and China, soon after the 1962 war, had also requested Nepal for Gorkha soldiers in their respective armies, a request which was turned down by the Nepal government.
- The largest body of Gorkha troops serves in the Indian Army while in the UK their presence has been reduced from four regiments to just two – 1 Royal Gurkha Rifles and 2 Royal Gurkha Rifles (British Army uses the term ‘Gurkha’ while the Indian Army uses ‘Gorkha’).
- ❖ **Can Nepalese Gorkhas in foreign Armies be called mercenaries?**
- Mercenaries are understood as fighters who take part in a conflict for financial gain and usually are not parties to that conflict. As per the definition of the 1949 Geneva Convention, which gives the officially agreed definition of a mercenary, soldiers serving in sovereign armies are not considered mercenaries, and Gorkha soldiers cannot be called mercenaries.
- In addition, Gorkha soldiers from Nepal serve side-by-side with Gorkha soldiers who are born and brought up in India.
- ❖ **Have any changes been made in Gorkha unit recruitments over the years?**
- There have been attempts to reduce the dependence on Nepal for the Gorkha soldiers in the Indian Army, and to this effect, the composition has increasingly been attempted to be balanced between Indian and Nepal-domiciled troops. Also, a pure Indian Gorkha battalion was raised in 2016.
- This unit, 6th Battalion of the 1st Gorkha Rifles (6/1 GR), was raised in Subathu, in Himachal Pradesh. Otherwise, the ratio of Nepalese-domiciled soldiers and Indian-domiciled soldiers in a Gorkha battalion ranges from 60:40 to 70:30, though this will change further in future. A change was made in the recruitment rules for Gorkha Rifles recently when the Army decided that soldiers hailing from the Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Uttarakhand will also be eligible for serving in Gorkha Rifles.
- ❖ **What is the socio-economic impact on Nepal of Gorkha soldiers serving in the Indian Army?**
- A major economic and social impact is felt in Nepal due to the Nepal-domiciled Gorkha soldiers serving in the Indian Army and much of it has to do with the remittances that they send home.
- A research paper titled ‘The Gurkha Recruitment, Remittances and Development’ written by Dr Ratna Mani Nepal, states that Nepal receives a sustainable source of remittances from Gorkhas working in foreign armies.
- The research paper notes that these remittances have “significantly contributed to social modernization in the isolated villages, while the financial remittances spurred entrepreneurship development thereby contributing to regional development”.
- Another aspect is the presence of ex-servicemen of the Indian Army in Nepal. Senior retired Gorkha Rifles Generals have pointed out that retired personnel form an important link of goodwill between India and Nepal, especially in the far-flung areas in which they live.

PRELIMS

- ❖ **World Water Week**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: World Water Week is celebrated from August 24 till September 1. It is an annual event organised by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development. This year the theme is- “Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water”.**
- ❖ **When is World Water Day celebrated?**
- World Water Day is celebrated on March 22 every year to highlight the importance of water.
- The day aims to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- It inspires people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference.
- Theme of 2022 “Groundwater: making the invisible visible.”
- The theme was decided by UN-water at its 30th meeting in Rome. It was proposed by the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC).
- It inspires people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference.
- ❖ **What is UN World Water Development Report 2022?**
- The 2022 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR 2022) entitled ‘Groundwater: Making the invisible visible’ describes the challenges and opportunities associated with the development, management and governance of groundwater across the world.
- **The highlights of the report are**
- Groundwater accounts for 99 per cent of all liquid freshwater. It has the potential to provide societies with tremendous social, economic and environmental benefits and opportunities.

- The groundwater already provides almost half of the total water used for domestic purposes including drinking water. However, this natural resource is often poorly understood, and consequently undervalued, mismanaged and even abused.
- Groundwater is central to the fight against poverty and achieving food and water security and even the creation of jobs and socio-economic development.
- The Asia-Pacific region is the largest groundwater abstractor in the world, containing seven out of the ten countries that extract most groundwater.
- The present dependence on groundwater will only increase due to increasing water demand by all sectors and increasing disruption in rainfall patterns.
- The report states that it all starts with making the invisible visible and the action would require strong and concerted efforts to manage and use it sustainably.
- Unlocking the full potential of groundwater will require strong and concerted efforts to manage and use it sustainably, and it all starts by making the invisible, visible.
- ❖ **What are government of India's initiatives related to water issues?**
- The former President of India, presented the third National Water Awards and launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022 on March 29, 2022.
- To make water everyone's business and to make the Jal Andolan a Jan Andolan — a mass movement, the Government of India in 2019 launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan'. In the same year, 'Jal Jeevan Mission' was also launched.
- In 2021 on 'World Water Day', the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign was launched by the Prime Minister which was taken up in all districts in rural as well as urban areas of the country during the pre-monsoon and monsoon period.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, with focus on community participation, demand side interventions and convergence of ongoing schemes for sustainable ground water management is being implemented.
- The approach of Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal) is broadly based on the success stories and verified field initiatives by non-government and civil society organizations in community led ground water management in various parts of the country.
- National Water Mission, in a bid to draw attention to critical aspects of water, and to promote dialogue and information sharing among participants on variety of water related topics, has initiated a monthly seminar series – "Water Talk" on March 22, 2019, the World Water Day.
- Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has instituted National Water Awards and "Water Heroes – Share your stories" contest to incentivise good practices in water conservation and ground water recharge.
- Under Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) component of PMKSY, Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme was launched which aims to revive irrigation potential by improvement and restoration of water bodies by enhancing the tank storage capacity, along with other multiple objectives such as ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement of catchment of tank commands etc.
- The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) focuses on the development of basic urban infrastructure in the Mission cities in the sectors of water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, green spaces and parks and non-motorised urban transport.
- The Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal, which aims at providing potable water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long term basis to every rural household including tribal areas of the country through tap water connection by 2024.
- ❖ **What does Fifteenth Finance Commission say about water?**
- Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in its report for 2021-26, has earmarked 60 per cent for national priorities like drinking water supply and rainwater harvesting and sanitation, out of the total grants earmarked for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI).
- The FFC report also emphasises on sustainable and efficient water use and has suggested three ways to reduce and rationalise water use in agriculture:
 - by replacing free or subsidised power supply for agriculture with direct benefit transfers (DBT),
 - encouraging use of new technologies such as drip, sprinkler, sensor-based irrigation to get more crop per drop, and
 - by conserving and rainwater harvesting to increase the availability of surface as well as of groundwater. FFC has recommended incentive-based grants to States that maintain and augment groundwater stock and maintain a check on any fall in the water table.
- ❖ **What is Namami Gange ?**
- Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014.
- It aims to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.
- It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The programme is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- The major areas of the programme are: Sewage Treatment Infrastructure, River-Front Development, River-Surface Cleaning, Biodiversity, Afforestation, Public Awareness, Industrial Effluent Monitoring, Ganga Gram.

- ❖ **Army speeds up procurement of light tank ‘Zorawar’ for LAC**
- ❖ **Context: The Indian Army is prioritising the procurement of the indigenous Indian light tank named ‘Zorawar’, for deployment in the mountains.**

These tanks to be procured under ‘Project Zorawar’ — named after legendary Zorawar Singh, a military general who served under Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu, will have equal firepower as the current ones.

- ❖ Features:
 - missile-firing capability
 - counter-drone apparatus
 - warning system
 - a power-to-weight ratio
- ❖ Significance:
 - The light tanks will help the Army overcome the limitations of medium battle tanks and equip the force for all contingencies in high altitude area, marginal terrain and island territories besides its utilisation in the plains, semi-deserts and deserts.
 - It is also being examined if they can be made amphibious so it can be deployed even in the Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh
 - The biggest advantage of light tanks is that they are air portable and thus in consonance with the strategic lift capability from Leh in eastern Ladakh
 - In addition to the light tank, the Army will induct niche technologies such as:
 - loitering munitions
 - anti-drone capabilities
 - next generation Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities

❖ **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022**

❖ **CONTEXT: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India published the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 on 24th August, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries.**

- New rules will replace Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.
- The rules cover all types of batteries, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries.
- The rules function based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers (including importers) of batteries are responsible for collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries and use of recovered materials from wastes into new batteries.
- EPR mandates that all waste batteries to be collected and sent for recycling/refurbishment, and its prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration. To meet the EPR obligations, producers may engage themselves or authorise any other entity for collection, recycling or refurbishment of waste batteries.
- The rules will enable setting up a mechanism and centralized online portal for exchange of EPR certificates between producers and recyclers/refurbishers to fulfil the obligations of producers.
- The rules promote setting up of new industries and entrepreneurship in collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries.
- Mandating the minimum percentage of recovery of materials from waste batteries under the rules will bring new technologies and investment in recycling and refurbishment industry and create new business opportunities.
- Prescribing the use of certain amount of recycled materials in making of new batteries will reduce the dependency on new raw materials and save natural resources.
- Online registration & reporting, auditing, and committee for monitoring the implementation of rules and to take measures required for removal of difficulties are salient features of rules for ensuring effective implementation and compliance.
- On the principle of Polluter Pays Principle, environmental compensation will be imposed for non-fulfilment of Extended Producer Responsibility targets, responsibilities and obligations set out in the rules. The funds collected under environmental compensation shall be utilised in collection and refurbishing or recycling of uncollected and non-recycled waste batteries.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. “Religion is a personal matter which should have no place in politics”. Elaborate

Introduction:

Sociologist Emile Durkheim defined religion as a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things, while Max Weber defines politics as the activity of striving to share power or striving to influence the distribution of power, either among states or among groups within a state.

The resurgence of religion, as well as politics, has become key to world affairs. Initially few sociologists like Max Weber believed that modernity would eventually lead to a general decline of religious faith and the role of religion in the public/political sphere. However, the word ‘twin tolerations’ has been used often to define the relationship between religion and politics. Modern states brought the concept of secularism to avoid the influence of religion in politics. Arguments in favor of the separation of politics and religion are as follows:

- The idea of religion concerns the private sphere what pertains to individual faith and believe, in contrast politics in the public sphere pertains to a wider community e.g. nation at large.

- The intrusion of religion into politics can monopolize some specific ideology which in turn will cause a rift in the society. E.g. the foundation of partition was laid on the name of religion itself.
- Religious ideologies when perpetuates deeper into the political sphere may turn into mass hysteria leading to the indoctrination of the people. For e.g. Anti Semitism of Nazi in Germany prior to the second world war for jews
- In politics it promotes vote bank politics on the name of religion and diminishes the ideals of secularism.
- Intermixing of religion with politics may promote favoritism for a particular community.

Conclusion

Religion in politics needs to be value-oriented not power-oriented as we can learn from the legacy of Ashoka policy of dhamma and Akbar's Din-e-Ilahi. Further, In India secularism was defined in a comprehensive manner which meant the separation of religion from politics and the state, the treatment of religion as a private matter for the individual, state neutrality towards or equal respect for all religions, absence of discrimination between followers of different religions, and active opposition to communalism.

MCQs

1. With reference to India's aircraft carriers, consider the following statements
 1. INS Vikrant is India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier.
 2. The motto of the INS Vikrant is Jayema sam yudhi sprdha.
 3. Presently, the Indian Navy operates a single aircraft carrier, INS Vishal, bought from Russia.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 a) **1 and 2 only** b) 2 and 3 only c) 1 and 3 only d) All of the above
2. Consider the following statements regarding DRDO's SMART System:
 1. It is a missile-assisted release of a lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System.
 2. Varunastra is the first indigenous heavyweight ship launched anti-submarine electric torpedo.
 Which of the given statements is/are correct?
 a) 1 only b) 2 only c) **Both 1 and 2** d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. In the context of security, 'zorawar' is the name of—
 - a) **An indigenous light tank**
 - b) An indigenous surface to air missile
 - c) An Iranian missile defence system
 - d) A joint military exercise of India and Iran
4. Consider the following statements:
 1. The Central Ganga Authority was constituted under National Mission for Clean Ganga to guide and oversee the implementation of a programme for restoring the water quality of the river Ganga.
 2. The authority under the Chairmanship of the President reviews the overall progress of the Ganga Action Plan at regular intervals and provides guidance.
 Which of the statement/s is/are correct?
 a) 1 only b) 2 only c) Both 1 and 2 d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
5. What is the theme of World Water Day 2022?
 a) **Groundwater - Making the invisible visible"**
 b) Valuing water
 c) 'Leaving No One Behind'
 d) 'Nature for Water',
6. Consider the following statements:
 1. 36% of India's districts are classified as "overexploited" or "critical" by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
 2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
 3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 a) 1 and 2 only b) **2 and 3 only** c) 1 and 3 only d) All of the above
7. Under Aashwasan campaign Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conduct door-to-door screening of which of the following disease?
 a) HIV b) Polio c) **Tuberculosis** d) Malaria
8. Malvinas Islands recently mentioned in news are situated in which of the following ocean?
 a) South pacific b) North pacific c) **South Atlantic** d) North Atlantic
9. In India, 'extended producer responsibility' was introduced as an important feature in which of the following?
 a) The Bio-medical waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998
 b) The Recycled Plastic (Manufacturing and Usage) Rules, 1999
 c) The e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011
 d) **The Food safety and Standard Regulations, 2011**
10. Who among the following is the Ex-Officio chairman of National Ganga Council?
 a) President of India
 b) **Prime minister**
 c) Minister of Environment and climate change
 d) Minister of Jal shakti