

INDIAN ECONOMY**Bitcoins**

Recently, Bitcoin, the cryptocurrency, has crossed 20,000 US dollars in value.

- Bitcoin's price has always been volatile, and there is no clear explanation for its current rise.
- Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques.
- Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies.

Key Points**Introduction:**

- Bitcoin is a type of digital currency that enables instant payments to anyone. Bitcoin was introduced in 2009. Bitcoin is based on an open-source protocol and is not issued by any central authority.

History:

- The origin of Bitcoin is unclear, as is who founded it. A person, or a group of people, who went by the identity of Satoshi Nakamoto are said to have conceptualised an accounting system in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis.

Use:

- Originally, Bitcoin was intended to provide an alternative to fiat money and become a universally accepted medium of exchange directly between two involved parties.
- Fiat money is a government-issued currency that is not backed by a commodity such as gold.
- It gives central banks greater control over the economy because they can control how much money is printed.
- Most modern paper currencies, such as the US dollar and Indian Rupee are fiat currencies.

Record of Bitcoins (Blockchain):

- All the transactions ever made are contained in a publicly available, open ledger, although in an anonymous and an encrypted form called a blockchain.
- Transactions can be denominated in sub-units of a Bitcoin.
- Satoshi is the smallest fraction of a Bitcoin.
- Blockchain is a shared, immutable ledger that facilitates the process of recording transactions and tracking assets in a business network.
- An asset can be tangible (a house, car, cash, land) or intangible (intellectual property, patents, copyrights, branding).
- Virtually anything of value can be tracked and traded on a blockchain network, reducing risk and cutting costs for all involved.
- A simple analogy for understanding blockchain technology is a Google Doc.
- When one creates a document and shares it with a group of people, the document is distributed instead of copied or transferred.
- This creates a decentralized distribution chain that gives everyone access to the document at the same time.
- It needs to be noted that other usage and applications of Blockchain technology have emerged in the last few years.
- The government of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have put the land records on the blockchain technology owing to its easy traceability feature.
- Election Commission (EC) officials are exploring the potential of using blockchain technology to enable remote voting.

Acquiring Bitcoins:

- One can either mine a new Bitcoin if they have the computing capacity, purchase them via exchanges, or acquire them in over-the-counter, person-to-person transactions.
- Miners are the people who validate a Bitcoin transaction and secure the network with their hardware.
- The Bitcoin protocol is designed in such a way that new Bitcoins are created at a fixed rate.
- No developer has the power to manipulate the system to increase their profits.
- One unique aspect of Bitcoin is that only 21 million units will ever be created.
- A Bitcoin exchange functions like a bank where a person buys and sells Bitcoins with traditional currency. Depending on the demand and supply, the price of a Bitcoin keeps fluctuating.

Bitcoin Regulation:

- The supply of bitcoins is regulated by software and the agreement of users of the system and cannot be manipulated by any government, bank, organisation or individual.
- Bitcoin was intended to come across as a global decentralised currency, any central authority regulating it would effectively defeat that purpose.
- It needs to be noted that multiple governments across the world are investing in developing Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), which are digital versions of national currencies.
- Legitimacy of Bitcoins (or cryptocurrencies) in India:
- In the 2018-19 budget speech, the Finance Minister announced that the government does not consider cryptocurrencies as legal tender and will take all measures to eliminate their use in financing illegitimate activities or as a part of the payment system.
- In April 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified that entities regulated by it should not deal in virtual currencies or provide services for facilitating any person or entity in dealing with or settling virtual currencies.
- However, the Supreme Court struck down the ban on trading of virtual currencies (VC) in India, which was imposed by the RBI.
- The Supreme Court has held that cryptocurrencies are in the nature of commodities and hence they can not be banned.

Possible Reasons for the Rise in the Value of the Bitcoin:

- Increased acceptance during the pandemic.
- Global legitimacy from large players like payments firm PayPal, and Indian lenders like State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Yes Bank.
- Some pension funds and insurance funds are investing in Bitcoins.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**India-Bangladesh Virtual Summit**

Recently, India and Bangladesh have held a virtual summit covering comprehensive discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues.



- Bangladesh also invited India for the celebration of 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence in 1971 and 50 years of India-Bangladesh diplomatic relations, to be held in March 2021.

Key Points**Signing of Bilateral Documents and Inauguration of Projects:**

- Sealed seven agreements to expand cooperation in diverse areas viz. hydrocarbons, elephant conservation, sanitation, and agriculture, and restored a cross-border rail link which was in operation till 1965.
- Inaugurated a digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi and Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman.

Cooperation in Health Sector:

- Reiterating the highest priority India attaches to Bangladesh under India's Neighbourhood First policy, India assured that vaccines for Covid-19 would be made available to Bangladesh as and when produced in India.
- India also offered collaboration in therapeutics and partnership in vaccine production.
- Bangladesh appreciated India's conducting capacity building courses for medical professionals in Bangla language.

Cultural Cooperation:

- Jointly unveiled a commemorative postal stamp issued by the Government of India on the occasion of birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- India thanked Bangladesh for issuing a stamp in honour of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary celebrations.
- Bangladesh requested India to consider Bangladesh's proposal to name the historic road from Mujib Nagar to Nodia on Bangladesh-India border as "Shadhinota Shorok" commemorating the historic significance of the road during Bangladesh's Liberation War.

Border Management and Security Cooperation:

- Agreed to hold an early meeting of the Joint Boundary Conference to prepare a new set of strip maps with a view to finalizing the delineation of the boundaries.
- It was agreed to carry out necessary work to convert the International Boundary along Kuhsiyara river into a fixed boundary.
- Kuhsiyara river (known as Barak river in India) is one of the transboundary rivers between India-Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh reiterated the request for 1.3 km Innocent Passage through river route along River Padma (main channel of Ganga in Bangladesh) near Rajshahi district (Bangladesh). India assured to consider the request.
- Stressed on the full implementation of the ongoing Coordinated Border Management Plan.
- Expressed satisfaction on efforts against smuggling of arms, narcotics and fake currency and to prevent trafficking, particularly of women and children.
- Directed officials to expeditiously conclude the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the area of disaster management cooperation as both countries are prone to frequent natural disasters.
- Bangladesh requested for early implementation of India's commitment to remove remaining restrictions on entry/exit from land ports in India for Bangladeshis travelling on valid documents in a phased manner.

Trade Partnership for Growth:

- Bangladesh has appreciated the Duty-Free and Quota Free access given to Bangladeshi exports to India under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) since 2011.
- Emphasized on addressing issues of non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation including port restrictions, procedural bottlenecks and quarantine restrictions so that both countries can take full advantage of SAFTA flexibility.
- Directed the officials to expeditiously conclude the ongoing joint study on the prospects of entering into a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- Welcomed the first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Textile Industry Forum and directed the officials to conclude the ongoing negotiations on various MoUs on increased linkages and collaboration in the textile sector.

Connectivity for Prosperity:

- Jointly inaugurated the newly restored railway link between Haldibari (India) and Chilahati (Bangladesh) and noted that this rail link will further strengthen trade and people to people ties between the two sides.
- Welcomed the signing of the second addendum to the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT).
- Agreed to an early operationalization of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) initiative Motor Vehicles Agreement through the expeditious signing of the Enabling MoU for Bangladesh, India and Nepal to commence the movement of goods and passengers, with provision for Bhutan to join at a later date.
- Bangladesh expressed keen interest in the ongoing India Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway project and sought the support of India for enabling Bangladesh to connect with this project.
- Satisfaction on commencement of a temporary Air Travel Bubble to facilitate the urgent requirements of travellers on both sides.

Cooperation in Water Resources, Power and Energy:

- Bangladesh highlighted the need for early signing of an interim agreement for sharing of the Teesta waters, as agreed upon by both the governments in 2011.

- Underscored the need for early conclusion of Framework of Interim Agreement on sharing of waters of six joint rivers, namely, Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar.
- Recalled the positive contribution of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) and looked forward to the next round of Secretarial level JRC meeting at the earliest.
- Agreed to expedite implementation of projects including India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, Maitree Super Thermal Power Project as well as other projects.
- Welcomed the signing of the Framework of Understanding on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector which would further augment energy linkages by streamlining investments, technology transfer, joint studies, training and promoting hydrocarbon connectivity.
- Agreed to enhance cooperation in energy efficiency and clean energy, including in biofuels.

Forcibly Displaced Persons from the Rakhine State of Myanmar (Rohingya):

- India appreciated the generosity of Bangladesh in sheltering and providing humanitarian assistance to the 1.1 million forcibly displaced persons from the Rakhine State of Myanmar, in the Rohingya Crisis.

Partners in the Region and the World:

- India thanked Bangladesh for supporting India in its election to the United Nations Security Council.
- Both countries agreed to continue working together towards achieving early reforms of the UN Security Council, combating climate change, attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and protection of the rights of migrants.
- Highlighted that regional organisations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) have an important role to play.
- Bangladesh thanked India for convening the SAARC leaders Video Conference in March 2020 and for creation of the SAARC Emergency Response Fund to counter effects of the global pandemic in the South Asian region.
- Bangladesh will assume chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in 2021 and requested the support of India for working towards greater maritime safety and security.
- Bangladesh appreciated the work of the New Development Bank and thanked India for inviting Bangladesh to join the institution.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO's Satellite Launch: CMS-01

Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a communications satellite, CMS-01, on board its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV - C50) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh.

- Previously in November 2020, ISRO launched India's Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-01, and nine other customer satellites.

Key Points

- CMS-01 is a communications satellite envisaged for providing services in extended C Band frequency spectrum.
- The C band is a designation for a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum in the microwave range of frequencies ranging from 4.0 to 8.0 gigahertz (GHz).
- Its coverage will include the Indian mainland, and the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.
- The satellite is expected to have a life of more than seven years.
- The satellite was injected precisely into its predefined sub- Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Eventually, it will be placed into its specified slot in the Geo-Synchronous Orbit after a series of manoeuvres.

CMS-01 will replace and enhance the services of GSAT-12.

- GSAT-12, a communication satellite built by ISRO, provides facilities for various communication services like Tele-education, Tele-medicine and for Village Resource Centres (VRC).
- To provide the space based services directly to the rural areas, ISRO has launched the Village Resource Centres (VRCs) programme in association with NGOs/Trusts and state/central agencies.

Next Launch of ISRO (PSLV-C51):

- PSLV-C51, will be the next special mission for ISRO, as it will be carrying the country's first satellite under the space reforms programme announced by the Indian government.

- The government had announced the opening up of the space sector to private players with the inception of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).
- The IN-SPACe is expected to hand-hold, promote and guide the private industries in space activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment.

Satellites to be on board PSLV-C51:

Pixxel India named ‘Anand’, ‘Satish Sat’ from Space Kidz India, ‘Unity Sat’ from a consortium of universities.

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

- India’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the third generation launch vehicle.
- PSLV is the first launch vehicle which is equipped with liquid stages.
- PSLV’s first successful launch was in October 1994. PSLV was used for two of the most important missions. These are Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013.
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark II and GSLV MkIII are other two launch vehicles.
- GSLV Mk II is the largest launch vehicle developed by India, which is currently in operation. This fourth generation launch vehicle is a three stage vehicle with four liquid strap-ons. The indigenously developed cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), which is flight proven, forms the third stage of GSLV Mk II.
- GSLV MkIII, chosen to launch Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft, is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO. The vehicle has two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage.
- GSLV Mk III is designed to carry a 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is about twice the capability of the GSLV Mk II.

Geo-Synchronous Orbit

- A geo-synchronous orbit is a high Earth orbit that allows satellites to match Earth's rotation. Located at 22,236 miles above Earth's equator, this position is a valuable spot for monitoring weather, communications and surveillance.

Geo -synchronous Transfer Orbit

- To attain geosynchronous (and also geostationary) Earth orbits, a spacecraft is first launched into an elliptical orbit. This is called a Geo -synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- A GTO is highly elliptic. Its perigee (closest point to Earth) is typically as high as low Earth orbit (LEO), while its apogee (furthest point from Earth) is as high as geostationary (or equally, a geosynchronous) orbit.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

E20 Fuel

Recently, the Indian government has invited public comments for introducing adoption of E20 fuel to promote green fuel like ethanol.

Key Points

- Composition: E20 fuel is a blend of 20% of ethanol with gasoline.
- The current permissible level of blending is 10% of ethanol, though India reached only 5.6% of blending in 2019.

Significance:

- It will help in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, etc.
- It will help reduce the oil import bill, thereby saving foreign exchange and boosting energy security.
- Compatibility of Vehicles: As per the government, the compatibility of the vehicle to the percentage of ethanol in the blend of ethanol and gasoline shall be defined by the vehicle manufacturer and the same shall be displayed on the vehicle by putting a clearly visible sticker.
- **Green Fuel**
- Green fuel, also known as biofuel, is a type of fuel distilled from plants and animal materials, believed by some to be more environmentally friendly than the widely-used fossil fuels that power most of the world.

Types:

Bioethanol

- It is derived from corn and sugarcane using the fermentation process.

- A litre of ethanol contains approximately two thirds of the energy provided by a litre of petrol.
- When mixed with petrol, it improves the combustion performance and lowers the emissions of carbon monoxide and sulphur oxide.

Biodiesel

- It is derived from vegetable oils like soybean oil or palm oil, vegetable waste oils, and animal fats by a biochemical process called "Transesterification."
- It produces very less or no amount of harmful gases as compared to diesel.

Biogas

- It is produced by anaerobic decomposition of organic matter like sewage from animals and humans.
- Major proportion of biogas is methane and carbon dioxide, though it also has small proportions of hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen, carbon monoxide and siloxanes.
- It is commonly used for heating, electricity and for automobiles.

Biobutanol

- It is produced in the same way as bioethanol i.e. through the fermentation of starch.
- The energy content in butanol is the highest among the other gasoline alternatives. It can be added to diesel to reduce emissions.
- It serves as a solvent in the textile industry and is also used as a base in perfumes.

Biohydrogen

- Biohydrogen, like biogas, can be produced using a number of processes such as pyrolysis, gasification or biological fermentation.
- It can be the perfect alternative for fossil fuel.

Initiatives to Promote Biofuels:

- **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme:** To extract the fuel from surplus quantities of food grains such as maize, jawar, bajra fruit and vegetable waste.
- **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, 2019:** The objective of the scheme is to create an ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and to boost research and development in the 2G Ethanol sector.
- **GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) DHAN scheme, 2018:** It focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG, thus keeping villages clean and increasing the income of rural households.
- It was launched under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- **Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO):** It was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and aims for an ecosystem that will enable the collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018:

The Policy categorises biofuels as "Basic Biofuels" to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under three categories:

- First Generation (1G) ethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels".
- Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels.
- Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.

It expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sugar beet, sweet sorghum, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, rotten potatoes, unfit for human consumption, for ethanol production.

- The Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs. 5000 crore in 6 years in addition to additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels.

Way Forward

- India being a large agricultural economy, there is a large amount of agricultural residues available, therefore the scope of producing biofuels is immense in the country. Biofuels can help in rural and agricultural development in the form of new cash crops.

- Efforts for producing sustainable biofuels should be made by ensuring use of wastelands and municipal wastes that get generated in cities. A properly designed and implemented biofuel solution can provide both food and energy.
- A community-based biodiesel distribution programme that benefits local economies, from the farmers growing the feedstock to local businesses producing and distributing the fuel to the end consumer, will be a welcome step.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**Systems Handed Over to Defence Services**

Recently, the Defence Minister has handed over the Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS), ASTRA Mk-I and Border Surveillance System (BOSS) to the Navy, Air Force and Army respectively.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories have indigenously developed these three systems which will lead to higher self-reliance in defence technologies.
- The Defence Minister has also given away awards to DRDO scientists for outstanding contributions in various categories.

Key Points**Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS):**

- It is a state-of-the-art and high performance intelligent software system that provides Global Maritime Situational Picture, marine planning tools and analytical capabilities to Indian Navy.
- It also provides Maritime Operational Picture from naval headquarters to each individual ship in sea to enable naval command and control.
- Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), Bengaluru and Indian Navy has jointly conceptualised and developed the product and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bengaluru has implemented it.

ASTRA Mk-I:

- It is the indigenously developed first Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missile, which can be launched from Sukhoi-30, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Mig-29 and Mig-29K.
- Globally, very few countries have expertise and capabilities to design and produce this class of weapon system.
- The missile is designed to engage and destroy highly manoeuvring supersonic aircraft. The missile has all weather day and night capability.
- Successful development of ASTRA weapon system by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) Hyderabad and production by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Hyderabad is a major contribution towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Border Surveillance System (BOSS):

- It is an all-weather electronic surveillance system successfully designed and developed by Instruments Research and Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun.
- The system has been deployed at Ladakh border area for day and night surveillance and facilitates monitoring and surveillance by automatically detecting the intrusions in harsh high-altitude sub-zero temperature areas with remote operation capability.

Awards for Outstanding Contributions:**DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award, 2018:**

- Awarded to N V Kadam for his contributions for developing control and guidance schemes for missiles.
- Excellence awards were given to academia and industry for technology absorption.
- Besides, individual awards, team awards, technology spin-off awards, techno managerial awards and awards in other categories were also given.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns Do you think that the pattern of Indian monsoon has changed in past decade? Discuss how it impacts various facets of our lives. (150 words)

Ans:

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. It can be over a short or long distance, be short-term or permanent, voluntary or forced, intranational or international.

According to Economic Survey 2016-17 in the last five years from 2011 to 2016, an average of nine million people migrated between states within India every year for either education or work.

Push and pull factors

A pull factor is a feature or event that attracts a person to move to another area.

Pull factors include things like better opportunities in that area like educational, job prospects, higher quality of life, security, freedom etc. The core pull factors of migration are employment and marriage

Push factors are those that drive people away from that place such as war, famine, natural hazards such as earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes, threat to life, repressive state, no job or educational facilities, difficult and harsh living conditions etc.

Insurgency, Naxalism, terrorism and militant groups in modern times force people to move out of their home.

Benefits of migration

- The areas of destinations benefit due to the reduction in the cost of production, availability of the human resource, rising productivity, size of consumer and capital market.
- At the same time, areas of origin also benefit through the flow of remittances, information, and innovations influencing the households and people left behind.

Issues related to migration

- Low quality jobs: Migrants mostly dominate the low-paying, hazardous and informal market jobs in key sectors in urban destinations, such as construction, hotel, textile, manufacturing, transportation, services, domestic work etc.
- Access to employment: Certain states have introduced domicile requirements with regard to employment. This puts migrants at a disadvantage.
- Housing and sanitation: One of the key issues with regard to housing is poor supply, for both ownership and rental. Short-term migrants do not have access to short-duration accommodation. So migrants live in overcrowded colonies in unhygienic conditions.
- Exploitation and intimidation: Usually migrants are exploited at the behest of majoritarian native population, they are target of social profiling, stereotyping, abuse and are made to work under exploitative conditions with no social security cover. For ex: Gujarat migrant crisis.

Need for national migration policy

- To address the issues related to migration it is necessary to have a national policy on migration.
- A national policy will help in addressing the issues related to the working condition of the migrants, their wages.
- It will help ensure social protection and medical benefits to migrants workers in the place they migrated to.
- It will help in addressing the issue of access to benefits such as PDS under legal and social entitlements (such as PDS) at their source location.
- National Policy will help in addressing not only the housing problem which migrants face. But also access to basic services water supply, electricity, and sanitation.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements regarding Biofuels:

1. The energy content of bioethanol is the highest among other gasoline alternatives.
2. Bioethanol, biobutanol and biohydrogen are produced through the fermentation process.
3. The E20 Fuel is a blend of 20% of ethanol with gasoline.

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) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), consider the following statements:

1. A Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit is a circular orbit like a geo-stationary earth orbit.
2. A spacecraft is first launched into GTO before attaining geosynchronous earth orbits.

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. Consider the following statement with reference to the Cryptocurrency?

1. It is a decentralised virtual currency protected by cryptographic encryption techniques.

2. It is a government-issued currency that is not backed by any commodity.
3. Trading of virtual currencies (VC) is banned in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to Article 356 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The President's rule is imposed by the President on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers only.
2. A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within six months from the date of its issue.

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 Minorities in India, consider the following statements:

1. Religious and linguistic minorities are recognised under the constitution of India.
2. The National Commission for Minorities is a statutory body.
3. Muslim, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist, Parsis and Jain are indentified as religious minorities under the Indian constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



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