

**TRADE & INVESTMENT**

**CONTEXT: Economic pact between India and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states.**

**IN NEWS: High-level delegates from the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states — Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland — and India met in New Delhi “to discuss the prospects of resuming their negotiations towards a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)”**

- A joint statement issued at the end of the talks reflects the parties’ common decision to “continue their efforts to resolve all issues outstanding and work towards deepening and strengthening the economic partnership, while contributing to a more inclusive global trading system”, a message of a shared desire to conclude a mutually beneficial TEPA at the earliest — for good reasons.
- The EFTA states may be small, but their economies stand tall with imports and exports of goods and services close to \$1.3 trillion in 2021, making them the 10th largest merchandise traders and eighth largest services traders worldwide.
- These small mountainous countries developed their labour force into highly skilled individuals due to topographic conditions that did not allow heavy industries.
- Today, the four nations rank among the highest in the world in innovation, competitiveness, wealth creation per inhabitant, life expectancy, and quality of life.
- EFTA companies are world leaders in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, machinery manufacturing, R&D-driven technology products, geothermal-related technologies, marine technology, energy-related services, financial services, banking and insurance.
- EFTA has a track record of negotiating mutually beneficial trade agreements, which to date cover an extensive network of 29 free trade agreements (FTAs) with 40 partner countries. Nearly 22 per cent of EFTA states’ imports come from these FTA partners. In Asia, agreements are in place with Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, and Singapore, and negotiations are ongoing with Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. A TEPA between Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, and India will be, and must be, a win-win for all parties.
- **Benefits of Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between INDIA-EFTA States :-**
  - India’s impressive economic growth and its leadership in the development of green technologies are an inspiration, which EFTA states can complement and support by strengthening trade and investment ties. A trade agreement would benefit both sides by way of enhancing trade, promoting technology and knowledge transfer, facilitating R&D and innovation, and encouraging business collaboration. Furthermore, improved market access for goods will boost India’s export potential to EFTA markets, where the latter’s export products frequently serve as inputs in Indian export industries.
  - EFTA states are partners in India’s growth story. They have contributed by way of significant investments of over \$35 billion in India. These investments span sectors such as machinery, electrical engineering and metals, pharmaceuticals, banking, financial services and insurance, construction and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). A trade pact is estimated to increase investments in India significantly.
  - EFTA and India have a mutually beneficial relationship when it comes to skilled labour. The EFTA states gain from the highly skilled Indian workforce, notably in the services sector, while India benefits from over 400 companies established by EFTA states, generating more than 150,000 jobs. Indeed, EFTA states benefit from Indian service providers, with around 20,000 professionals contributing to Norway’s high-tech industry alone.
  - Similarly, India consistently ranks first in terms of work permits issued to non-EU citizens in Switzerland. This contributes to the economic growth and welfare of both countries, supporting their important bilateral trade relationship. A trade agreement between EFTA and India would increase predictability in the services sector, creating more business opportunities for skilled Indian service providers.
  - EFTA states and India can collaborate on green growth. India aims to meet 50 per cent of its energy needs with renewables by 2030, with potential for scaling up projects and cooperation in solar, wind, hydro and geothermal power. With their cutting-edge technologies, EFTA states can contribute to India’s green growth aspirations.
- The potential benefits of a TEPA between India and EFTA states are significant. The agreement will foster a strong partnership and increase trade between trusted democratic partners that share values such as promoting sustainable development and gender equality. EFTA is committed to making these trade talks our priority and aims for a swift process towards a balanced agreement with strong political involvement and guidance.

**About The European Free Trade Association(EFTA):**

- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental organisation set up for the promotion of free trade and economic integration to the benefit of its four Member States – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – and the benefit of their trading partners around the globe.
- EFTA was founded by the Stockholm Convention in 1960. Relations with the EEC, later the European Community (EC) and the European Union (EU), have been at the core of EFTA activities from the beginning. Since the beginning of the 1990s, EFTA has actively pursued trade relations with third countries in and beyond Europe.
- The four EFTA States are open, developed economies with trade figures that are substantially higher than might be expected from a total of less than 14 million people. EFTA is the ninth largest trader in the world in merchandise trade and the fifth largest in trade in services. EFTA is the third most important trading partner in goods for the EU and the second most important when it comes to services.

➤ **The main tasks of the Association:**

- Maintaining and developing the *EFTA Convention*, which regulates economic relations between the four EFTA States;
- Managing the *Agreement on the European Economic Area* (EEA Agreement), which brings together the Member States of the European Union and three of the EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – in a single market, also referred to as the “Internal Market”.
- Developing EFTA’s worldwide network of *free trade agreements*.

**GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

**CONTEXT: Government revises nutritional standards in its food safety schemes for kids**

**IN NEWS: A decade after the National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted, the Centre has revised the nutritional standards of meals at schools and anganwadis, augmenting the proportion of calories and protein, while also mandating the inclusion of micronutrients in them.**

- The amendment has been done on the recommendations of an inter-ministerial committee, which, in its draft report, had also recommended that the serving of eggs as part of government food safety programmes be also made mandatory. However, that proposal has been shelved for now.
- However, there are no restrictions on states and Union Territories to add eggs and other items on the menu of food safety programmes such as midday meals (now known as PM Poshan) at schools, or the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme at anganwadis that covers pre-school children, along with pregnant and lactating mothers.
- According to Central Government Official - Even if states are hesitant to add eggs, they will have to revise the menu and add more items including pulses and green leafy vegetables to meet the new standards. For now, eggs are part of the midday meal in 14 states and UTs.
- In its draft report, the inter-ministerial team had recommended “urgent action”, citing the possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in worsening the “silent crisis” of undernutrition.
- The amended NFSA schedule II, which was notified in January 2023, fixes nutritional standards for nine groups, starting from children aged six months to one year and those in upper primary classes (VI-VIII). Three new categories have been created for undernourished children aged between six months to six years.
- The nutritional standards for some existing categories such as lower primary classes, and upper primary classes have been revised. For instance, under the previous norms, every child in lower primary classes was entitled to get 450 kilocalories (kcal) and 12 gm protein with midday meals. Now, the protein quantity has been hiked to 15-20 gms, while fat (18-21 gms) and carbohydrates (70 gms) are part of the mix as well. Standards for micronutrients have also been fixed: calcium 170 mg, zinc 2 mg; iron 3.5 mg; dietary folate 50 micrograms, Vitamin A 100 micrograms; Vitamin B6 0.43 micrograms; Vitamin B12 0.66 micrograms.

**About National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013:**

- The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System. About two thirds of the population therefore is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidized foodgrains.
- As a step towards women empowerment, the eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is mandated to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards under the Act.
- The Act is being **implemented in all the States/UTs**, and on an all India basis, out of maximum coverage of **81.34 crore persons**, around 80 crore persons have been covered under NFSA at present for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains.
- The responsibility of identification of beneficiaries lies with States/Union Territories.
- One of the guiding principles of the Act is its **life-cycle approach** wherein special provisions have been made for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years, by entitling them to receive nutritious meal free of cost through a widespread network of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres, called Anganwadi Centres under ICDS scheme and also through schools under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme. Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are further entitled to receive cash maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to partly compensate for the wage loss during the period of pregnancy and also to supplement nutrition.
- In case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of foodgrains or meals to entitled persons under NFSA, such persons shall be entitled to receive such food security allowance from the concerned State Government to be paid to each person, within such time and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
- NFSA defines the joint responsibility of the **Centre and State/UT Government**. While the Centre is responsible for allocation of required foodgrains to States/UTs, transportation of foodgrains up to designated depots in each State/UT and providing central assistance to States/UTs for delivery of foodgrains from designated FCI godowns to the doorstep of the FPSs, the States/UTs are responsible for effective implementation of the Act.
- NFSA covers upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population under underAntyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households. While AAY households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, priority households are entitled to 5 kg per person per month.

**AVIATION SECTOR**

**IN NEWS:** India recently announced that it will start participating in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.

- This was announced at a meeting of the Parliament's Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation held in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia.
- The ICAO has been tasked to reduce carbon emissions from international civil aviation as one of its focus areas. In order to mitigate carbon emissions from aviation and its impact on climate change, the global body has adopted several key aspirational goals.
- Among them are a two per cent annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, carbon neutral growth and net zero by 2050. The ICAO has clubbed them under CORSA and LTAG.
- The former is to be implemented in three phases. As the rationale for joining the ICAO's climate action measures from 2027, the Indian Ministry said "this will enable airlines of developing countries like India to get time to grow more so that they do not face any adverse financial consequences due to CORSA."
- Financial implications due to offsetting have to be borne by individual airlines, depending upon their international operations. CORSA is applicable only to flights originating from one country to another.
- India committed to net zero by 2070 at the 26th Conference of Parties.

**What is Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA)?**

- It is a global market-based measure designed to offset international aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in order to stabilize the levels of such emissions.
- Offsetting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be achieved through the acquisition and cancellation of emissions units from the global carbon market by aeroplane operators.
- It does not apply to domestic aviation. Under it, aircraft operators will begin monitoring their emissions from international flights and begin acquiring offsets for their emissions growth.

**About International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO):**

- ICAO is an intergovernmental specialized agency associated with the United Nations (UN).
- It was established in 1947 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) known as Chicago Convention.
- Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- Functions:
  - ICAO is dedicated to developing safe and efficient international air transport for peaceful purposes and ensuring a reasonable opportunity for every state to operate international airlines.
  - It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security and facilitation, efficiency, and economic development of air transport as well as to improve the environmental performance of aviation.
  - It also serves as a clearinghouse for cooperation and discussion on civil aviation issues among its 193 member states.
  - It also promotes regional and international agreements aimed at liberalizing aviation markets.
  - It helps to establish legal standards to ensure that the growth of aviation does not compromise safety, and encourages the development of other aspects of international aviation law.

**PRELIMS**

**1. All India Radio network expansion**

- All India Radio, formally known as Akashvani since 1957, is India's national public radio broadcaster and a branch of PrasarBharati. It was founded in 1936 and is the sister service of Doordarshan, an Indian television broadcaster owned by PrasarBharati.
- All India Radio (AIR) is the country's most well-known public service radio station. It is run by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Its slogan is 'BahujanHitaya: BahujanSukhaya,' which translates to 'serving, educating, and entertaining the public.' Prime Minister virtually inaugurated Low Power FM Transmitters of capacity of 100 Watt at 91 locations across the country, thus adding 2 crore listeners to All India Radio network.
- Aspirational Districts, Left Wing Extremism hit areas and border areas of the country have been given priority for the installation of the new transmitters.
- The transmitters will act as a conduit to carry information about the programmes and policies of the government as well as entertainment related content to the corners of the country.
- The inauguration of the 91 FM transmitters is expected to benefit underprivileged individuals who have previously lacked access to this facility. This will strengthen cultural connectivity as well as intellectual connectivity.
- It will give a push to digital entrepreneurship in villages. Digital India has not only given new listeners to the radio but a new thought process as well. This could be linked to the strength of the country and the collective power of the duty among the countrymen.

- The radio has come to the fore in innovative ways through podcasts and online FM.As India continues to enhance its FM connectivity, the government remains committed to democratizing technology and promoting social connectivity. The addition of these new transmitters will ensure more people can access vital information, entertainment, and cultural content, ultimately strengthening the nation through continuous dialogue.

## 2. Operation Kaveri

- **About Operation Kaveri:** Under Operation Kaveri, India has been rescuing its citizens in buses from conflict zones in Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to Jeddah in Indian Air Force's transport aircraft and Indian Navy's ships.
- **About Sudan's conflict:** Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's army and a paramilitary group that has reportedly left around 400 people dead.
- India has set up separate control rooms in Jeddah and Port Sudan and the India embassy in Khartoum has been coordinating with them and the MEA's headquarters in Delhi.
- **Indian diaspora in Sudan:** As per official estimates, the total number of Indians in Sudan is around 3,400 with around 1,000 PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin) who have been residing in Sudan for generations.
- **Challenges:** Many Indians working for the oil and gas industry stay in distant places and it is not easy to find out about them in the given circumstances. This is likely to be a more challenging part of the operation as many are caught up in places like El Fashir in Darfur which is highly volatile at the moment. The focus of Operation Kaveri is now shifting to those groups of Indians who live in distant parts of Sudan away from Khartoum.

### More about the Conflict in Sudan

- **Background:** The roots of the ongoing conflict go back to April 2019, when Sudan's long-serving authoritarian President Omar al-Bashir was overthrown by military generals following a countrywide uprising against him. Despite Bashir's ouster, civilians continued their demonstrations seeking democratic elections.
- It led to an agreement between the military and the protesters under which it was decided to constitute the Sovereignty Council, a power-sharing body of military officers and civilians, and elections at the end of 2023.
- But, the new arrangement was short-lived as the military overthrew the government in October 2021, and Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan became de-facto leader of the country. Burhan announced that the military would hold power until elections are held in July 2023.
- Over the past few weeks, the RSF (Para-military which was formed in 2013) was redeployed around the country, which the army saw as a provocation and threat.
- With both sides on edge, a ferocious battle broke out.
- **Reason of recent crisis:** Clashes erupted after heightened tensions between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo - also known as Hemedti — and the military, headed by Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

## 3. 'Blue bugging'

- **In news:** Andhra Pradesh police cautions smart phone users.
- **About** It is a form of hacking that lets the attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection, listen to calls, read and send messages, and steal and modify contacts, says Prakasam Superintendent of Police Malika Garg.
- Concerned over an increase in instances of cybercrime, Prakasam district Superintendent of Police Malika Garg has asked the people to be wary of "blue bugging."
- "Once a device, or phone, is blue bugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages, and steal and modify contacts," she explained.
- "Many smart phones have their Bluetooth settings on discovery mode, making it easy for the hackers to access the phones when they are within 10 metres from the device.
- **'Turn off Bluetooth when not in use'**
- Mobile phone users were now more vulnerable to cyber attacks by the hackers, as even the most secure smart phones were no longer safe, so that the Bluetooth connection should be turned off when not in use. "It is necessary to make Bluetooth devices undiscoverable from Bluetooth settings so that they are invisible to the hackers attempting to pair with the device
- It was imperative for the smart phone users to avoid using Wi-Fi facility in public places as they were more prone to hacking by the cyber criminals.
- She also cautioned people against accepting request for Bluetooth pairing by strangers. Hackers could install malware in the compromised device to gain unauthorized access to it.

### ANSWER WRITTING

**Q. Describe the key components of the 2010 Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Do you believe the latest Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment, 2020 is having a negative impact on NGOs' ability to do their work? Give your viewpoint.**

#### Introduction

The "Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act" (FCRA) regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security. First enacted in 1976, it was amended in 2010 in which a slew

of new measures was adopted to regulate foreign donations. The FCRA act is implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Under the new rules notified by MHA in 2015, NGOs are required to give an undertaking that the **acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India** or impact friendly relations with any foreign state and does not disrupt communal harmony.

#### **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 (FCRA)**

FCRA 2010 is a consolidating act passed by the Government of India in the year 2010. It seeks to regulate foreign contributions or donations and hospitality (air travel, hotel accommodation etc) to Indian organizations and individuals and to stop such contributions which might damage the national interest. It is an act passed for regulating and prohibiting the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by companies, associations or individuals for such activities that could prove to be detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith.

The act aims at keeping a check on foreigners influencing the Indian electoral politics, journalists, public servants etc. for wrong purposes or activities detrimental to the public interest. Those violating the provisions of FCRA can be jailed up to a term of 5 years.

#### **Major provisions of FCRA 2010**

- A provision was made for the cancellation of registrations of NGOs if the Home Ministry believes that the organisation is political and not neutral.
- The registration certificate granted to the NGOs under the 2010 act came with five-year validity.
- A provision was inserted stating that the assets of the person who has become defunct needs to be disposed of in a manner stated by the government.
- A separate account needs to be maintained by the organisations to deposit the Foreign Contributions received and no other funds except for Foreign Contributions shall be deposited in that account.
- Every bank would be obligated to report to the prescribed authority, the amount of foreign remittances received and other related details such as the source, manner of receipt etc.

#### **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment, 2020:**

- It seeks to prohibit ‘public servants’ from receiving any foreign funding.
- It proposes to reduce the use of foreign funds to meet administrative costs by NGOs from the existing 50 per cent to 20 per cent.
- It seeks to “prohibit any transfer of foreign contribution to any association/person”.
- It proposes to make Aadhaar cards a mandatory identification document for all office-bearers, directors and other key functionaries of NGOs or associations eligible to receive foreign donations.
- It seeks to allow for the central government to hold a summary inquiry to direct bodies with FCRA approval to “not utilise the unutilised foreign contribution or receive the remaining portion of foreign contribution”.
- And to limit the use of foreign funds for administrative purposes. This would impact research and advocacy organisations which use the funding to meet their administrative costs.

#### **Government Guidelines for NGO’s and issues**

- The amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) enacted last year that among others made it compulsory for **NGOs to open a bank account in Delhi has crippled** the work of many organisations who are unable to receive foreign funds.
- The amendments have made the FCRA, 2010 more **stringent**, with prohibition of transfer of funds from one NGO to another, **decrease of administrative expenses** through foreign funds **from 50 per cent to 20 per cent**, making Aadhaar mandatory for registration, and giving the **government powers to stop utilisation of foreign funds through a “summary enquiry”**.
- Registered NGOs can receive foreign contribution for five purposes — social, educational, religious, economic and cultural. An FCRA registration is mandatory for NGOs to receive foreign funds. There are 22,591 FCRA registered NGOs.
- The petitioner argued that it applied to open the account before the March 31 deadline but the administrative delays on the part of the bank and the Ministry severely restricted its activities including providing COVID-19 related relief and paying of urgent salaries of staff and also affected its charitable and educational activities.
- Any organisation seeking registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) must have **operated for at least three years and spent “a minimum amount of Rs 15 lakh** on its core activities for the benefit of society during the last three financial years”.
- Any organisation seeking prior permission for receiving a “specific amount from a specific donor for carrying out specific activities or projects” shall **“submit a specific commitment letter from the donor** indicating the amount of foreign contribution and the purpose for which it is proposed to be given”.
- The Centre has said that if the value of foreign contribution is over Rs 1 crore, it may be given in instalments “provided that the second and subsequent instalment shall be released after submission of proof of utilisation of 75 per cent of the foreign contribution received in the previous instalment and after field inquiry of the utilisation of foreign contribution.”

- In the newly notified rules, the Centre has made an insertion in Rule 9 – which deals with obtaining registration or prior permission to receive foreign funds – which makes the process more cumbersome for NGOs.

**Conclusion**

The legislation will have far-reaching consequences on the fields of education, health, people’s livelihoods, gender justice and indeed democracy in India. There is no denying the fact that there are black sheep in the sector. But sincere adherence to the existing framework could easily weed them out. The new laws will overload the NGOs with new bureaucratic tasks and open the floodgates for arbitrary action by the authorities.

**MCQs**

- Consider the following statements regarding National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013:
  - The constitution of India does have explicit provision regarding right to food.
  - The eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is mandated to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards under the Act.
  - One of the guiding principles of the Act is its **life – cycle approach** where special provisions have been made for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years.
 Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
  - 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1 only**
  - None
- With reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) consider the following statements.
  - It is a statutory body set up by the government of India under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
  - TRAI is completely Independent telecom regulator.
  - TRAI is founded and funded by the Central Government.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 3 only**
  - 1 and 3 only
- Consider the following statements regarding Kondh tribe in Odisha’s:
  - Kondh Tribe is not listed under particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Odisha.
  - They have several sub tribes, for instance The Dongria, Kovi, Languli, Penga and Jharia.
  - These tribal people speak languages called **Kuj** and **Kavi** which belong to the Dravidian language family.
  - The language of this tribe has script of its own.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - 1 and 2
  - 3 and 4
  - 1, 2 and 3**
  - all of the above
- Recently India announced that it will start participating in the International Civil Aviation organisation’s (ICAO) carbon of-setting and reduction Scheme with reference to this for International Aviation (CORSA). Consider the following statements.
  - ICAO is an intergovernmental specialized agency associated with the United Nations (UN)
  - It was established in 1947 under Chicago Convention.
  - CORSA Scheme does not apply to domestic aviation.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 2 only**
- ‘BlueBugging’ , recently seen in news, which of the following terms is related to ‘Blue bugging’.
  - It is a form of hacking
  - It is a form of disease in Indigo Crop.
  - It is a Malware
  - It is a term used in Blockchain technology
  - 2 only
  - 1 only
  - 3 and 1 only**
  - 4 and 2 only
- Consider the following statements regarding Carnitine:
  - Carnitine is derived from an amino acid.
  - It helps the body turn fat into energy.
  - Human body produces it in the liver and kidney and stores it in the skeletal muscles, heart and brain.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - 1 only
  - 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - all of the above**
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?
  - The Red corridor Area contains the regions of India from Central, Southern and Eastern Parts, covering about 11 states.
  - The Red Corridor region is demarcated by the State government to notify the districts which are affected by left wing extension.
 Select the correct answer using the code given below.
  - 1 only**
  - 2 only
  - both 1 and 2
  - neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements:
  - Shilabhattarika , a celebrated Sanskrit poetess of ancient India was from Chalukyan emperor.
  - Ravashekharawas the court poet of the Gujara–Pratiharas ruler.
  - TochChandrama Nabat* (It is the same moon in the sky) is one of most iconic songs written by Ravashekhara.
 Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
  - 2 only
  - 1 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 3 only**
- The Andi Khad Bridge is India’s first cable stayed railway bridge. The bridge is in which state?
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand
  - Jammu and Kashmir**
  - Arunachal Pradesh
- How many of the following statements with reference to Hemis festival is/are correct?
  - It marks the birth of Naropa, the founding father of the Kagyu – line age of the Himalayan Esoteric Buddhism.
  - The Thangka is a Tibetan Buddhist painting on cotton usually depicting a Buddhist deity.
  - Cham dance has a religious meaning; therefore, only monks and lamps can perform.
  - Only 1
  - only 2
  - only 3**
  - none of the above