

HEALTH

❖ **New Alzheimer's drug:**

❖ **CONTEXT:** Within a year, a second drug has been found effective in checking cognitive decline in people with early Alzheimer's. Developed by the pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly, **Donanemab** was found to slow down cognitive decline by 35% when compared with a placebo in a phase III trial.

- The two recent drugs don't stop or reverse Alzheimer's. Their results have still excited neurologists, because over the years, despite heavy investments, trial after trial for Alzheimer's medications has failed.
- Over an 18-month period, the trial met the primary endpoint of slowing cognitive decline in those with early Alzheimer's. Along with a 35% slower cognitive decline in those who received the drug, it noted a 40% less decline in people's ability to do day-to-day tasks.
- The study found that there was no cognitive decline in 47% of the people who received the drug as compared with 29% of those who received a placebo.

➤ **How does the drug work?**

- Donanemab is a monoclonal antibody that targets the abnormal plaques of amyloid beta protein characteristically seen in brain images of those with Alzheimer's. Its mechanism of action is similar to Lecanemab, the drug developed by Japanese and American companies Eisai and Biogen that received a fast-track approval from the FDA earlier this year.
- Another drug by Eisai and Biogen called Aducanumab, which was the first Alzheimer's drug to receive approval in 2021 after decades, also has a similar mechanism of action.
- All three of them are linked to similar side effects – temporary swelling and tiny bleeds in the brain, called amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA). Researchers believe this class of monoclonal antibodies weaken blood vessels as they attack the amyloid plaques, resulting in the side-effects.
- According to the head of the neurosciences centre at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), "The side-effects were more with Aducanumab and there weren't any functional benefits. Lecanemab has fewer side-effects and has shown functional improvement to offset the risks. The results announced for the new drug show it has a similar safety profile."

➤ **How do the two drugs compare with each other?**

- Although there is no head-to-head trial to compare the results of **Donanemab** with its predecessor **Lecanemab**, both have used similar scales to measure the impact of the medicines.
- The 35% slower cognitive decline is measured using a scale called integrated Alzheimer's Disease Rating Scale (iADRS). This equates to 37% on the Clinical Dementia Rating-Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB), the scale used by Lecanemab. In the case of Lecanemab, a phase III trial on 1,795 participants had found cognitive decline slowed by 27%.
- The scales assess performances of the patient in six areas — memory, orientation, judgment and problem solving, community affairs, home and hobbies, and personal care.
- Another difference in the two drugs is the dosage. Lecanemab is given once every two weeks intravenously. Donanemab, on the other hand, is administered once a month and is stopped once patients reach a certain threshold for amyloid levels.

➤ **Significance of the Finding:**

- While the cases of Alzheimer's are on the rise – an estimate suggests that India's burden of dementia, of which Alzheimer's is a part, will increase to 14 million by 2050.
- Now, the consecutive success of three therapies in two years in slowing cognitive decline in patients with early Alzheimer's establishes more firmly the theory that one of the main causes of the disease are the abnormal clumps of amyloid beta protein around brain cells.

➤ **About Alzheimer's Disease:**

- Alzheimer's disease is the most common **type of dementia**. Dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that are severe enough to interfere with daily life.
- Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia.
- It is a progressive disease beginning with mild memory loss and possibly leading to loss of the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to the environment.
- Alzheimer's disease involves parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language.
- It can seriously affect a person's ability to carry out daily activities.
- Scientists do not yet fully understand what causes Alzheimer's disease. There likely is not a single cause but rather several factors that can affect each person differently.
- Age is the best known risk factor for Alzheimer's disease.

➤ **Prevalence of Alzheimer's Disease:**

- Currently more than 55 million people have dementia worldwide, over 60% of whom live in low-and middle-income countries.

- Every year, there are nearly 10 million new cases.
- Younger people may get Alzheimer's disease, but it is less common.
- The number of people living with the disease doubles every 5 years beyond age 65.
- Symptoms of the disease can first appear after age 60, and the risk increases with age.
- **Prevalence of Dementia in India –**
 - ✓ The estimated dementia prevalence for adults ages 60+ in India is 7.4%.
 - ✓ About 8 million Indians older than 60 years live with dementia.
 - ✓ Dementia is more prevalent among females than males and in rural than urban areas.

➤ **Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease:**

- There is currently no known cure for Alzheimer’s disease.
- Treatment addresses several areas – Helping people maintain brain health, Managing behavioural symptoms and Slowing or delaying symptoms of the disease.
- Doctors prescribe a healthy diet, exercising regularly, sleeping well, and reducing the risk of diabetes and heart disease.
- Other than that, doctors suggest that people, especially the elderly and those with family history, should keep their brains active and engaged. Solving puzzles, learning new languages or new skills, and going out and making friends can all help.

CLIMATE

❖ **Why late onset of monsoon isn’t the worry**

❖ **CONTEXT:** The arrival of monsoon over the Kerala coast will likely be delayed by a few days, the India Meteorological Department said on Tuesday.

➤ Instead of its normal date of June 1, the monsoon is expected to arrive by June 4. The IMD said its forecast had an error margin of four days, so a further delay was possible.

➤ The IMD forecast is likely to fuel apprehensions of a bad monsoon, but the two events are not connected. The timing of the onset of monsoon over Kerala has no bearing on the quantity of rainfall during the season.

➤ **Onset of Monsoon:**

- The onset of monsoon over the Kerala coast is just a marker of the official beginning of the four-month monsoon season (**South-West Monsoon**) that brings more than 75 per cent of India’s **annual rainfall.**

- An early or delayed onset over Kerala does not in any way dictate monsoon performance over the rest of the season. In fact, the onset over the Kerala coast is not even the start of the monsoon rains over India.

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands start getting the rains at least two weeks before Kerala does. Sometimes, even parts of Kerala get rains for a few days before the onset is officially announced.

- The onset is just a declaration that a set of criteria defined by the IMD to identify the arrival of the monsoon over the Indian mainland has been met. For this purpose, the IMD tracks rains at **14 selected meteorological stations on the Kerala coast.**

- If at least 60 per cent of these stations, that is at least nine of them, get at least 2.5 mm rainfall for two consecutive days anytime after May 10, the onset is said to have occurred. There are a few other accompanying criteria, relating to wind speed and pressure, which need to be satisfied.

- The monsoon then moves northwards, the speed of its movement dictated by local atmospheric conditions and the development of low-pressure areas. The normal arrival dates at different locations in the country are known, but the progression of monsoon does not always follow these dates. Late arrival over Kerala sometimes delays the arrival at some other locations as well, but not always.

THE ARRIVAL AND PROGRESS OF THE RAINS

Year	Date of onset of monsoon over Kerala coast	Monsoon rainfall (actual, in mm)	Monsoon rainfall (per cent of normal)
2012	5-June	823.6	92.86%
2013	1-June	937.4	105.69%
2014	6-June	781.7	88.14%
2015	5-June	765.8	86.35%
2016	8-June	864.4	97.46%
2017	30-May	845.9	95.38%
2018	29-May	804.1	90.66%
2019	8-June	971.8	109.57%
2020	1-June	961.4	108.40%
2021	3-June	874.5	98.60%
2022	29-May	925	106.32%

➤ **Onset and rainfall quantity:**

- In the past five years, only once has the onset over Kerala happened on the normal date, in 2020. In the past 11 years, it has happened once more. On other occasions, the onset was either a few days earlier or later. But this has no correlation with the amount of rainfall during the monsoon season.
- In 2016, for example, the onset happened on June 8, the most delayed in the past 12 years. The rainfall that year was normal, 97.5 per cent of the long period average (see table). In 2018, the monsoon arrived early, on May 29. Rainfall was deficient that year — only 90 per cent of the long period average.

➤ **Prospects of El Nino:**

- While the four-day delay in the onset of the monsoon is not of concern, the real worry is the unfolding situation in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Recent forecasts suggest that El Nino, the warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean that impacts weather events worldwide, is likely to develop earlier than expected. El Nino has the effect of suppressing the Indian monsoon rainfall.
- The IMD, in its first forecast for this year’s monsoon last month, predicted normal rainfall for the season. But since then, the situation in the Pacific has changed considerably. Latest forecasts predict the development of El Nino in the May-July period itself. In an alert on May 11, the Climate Prediction Centre (CPC) of the National Weather Service in the United States said El Nino was expected to develop “in the next couple of months”, and that there was “a greater than 90 per cent chance” that it would persist through the rest of the year.
- The CPC analysis said there was a 10 per cent probability of this developing into a strong El Nino in the June to August period. This probability rises to about 50 per cent for the September to November period.
- Some other scientists have been warning of the possibility of a very strong El Nino this year, which also means that global temperatures could be expected to rise.
- The IMD is expected to update its forecast for the monsoon later this month, and that would include an assessment of the kind of impact the El Nino is likely to have on the season’s rainfall.

➤ **Increasing variability**

- The performance of the monsoon is usually measured by one indicator — the amount of rainfall the country as a whole received in the entire season as a percentage of long period average (the average of 1961 to 2010).
- A deviation of 4 per cent, in either direction, is categorised as normal. That means that since 2009, there have been only three years when monsoon rainfall has been below normal — in 2014, 2015 and 2018. In the other 10, the rainfall has been normal or excess.
- But that single indicator hides an increasing variability in rainfall over the country, both in spatial and temporal terms. Within the season, the number of rainy days is getting concentrated — fewer days accounting for a larger proportion of seasonal rainfall — while the dry spells have been increasing in length.
- Simultaneously, different regions have been receiving very different rainfall. So, while India as a whole had below normal rainfall on only three occasions since 2009, northeastern India had it on nine occasions while northwestern India had it five times.
- Floods and droughts have been happening at the same time. Extreme rainfall events have been on an increase, and under the impact of climate change, such patterns are expected to get exacerbated.
- That is why it is largely immaterial whether the country as a whole receives normal rainfall or not. The regional variations in rainfall and extreme rainfall events are more effective indicators to gauge how normal the monsoon season is.

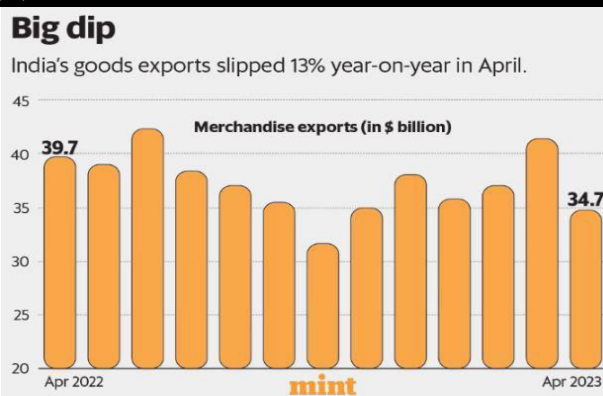
FOREIGN TRADE

❖ **India’s Goods Exports Plunges Most in 3 years**

❖ **CONTEXT:** India’s goods exports fell 12.7% to \$34.66 billion in April, the steepest slide in three years. This persistent decline has major implications for India’s growth story and, by extension, for job creation. The Merchandise imports have also fell by 14% to \$49.90 billion from \$58.06 billion a year earlier.

➤ **What does the slide mean for GDP growth?**

- Shrinking goods exports could dent the manufacturing sector and slow India’s growth momentum at a time when private



investments— another key growth driver—is yet to take off in a big way. This could put pressure on the government to explore more ways of boosting domestic demand with any eye on gross domestic product.

- A downturn in developed markets and the consequent dip in demand is seen by many as a downside risk to India's projected 6.5% GDP growth rate in FY24, along with other risks like the impact of El Nino on farm output and a spillover of the banking sector stress in the US and EU.
- **Is there any bright spot at all?**
- Merchandise exports declined in five out of the last seven months, which is distressing for major labour-intensive sectors such as textile, leather, gems and jewellery as well as engineering goods. But services exports have continued to grow.
- According to a Morgan Stanley report, India's services output has outperformed that of the US, Europe and China since late 2022. It has helped India narrow its current account deficit to 2.2% of GDP in the third quarter of the last fiscal from 3.7% in Q2.
- Strong services exports and moderating oil imports could lift the current account into a surplus of 0.4% of GDP in Q4 of FY23.
- **Reason behind the fall in goods exports**
- A key driver of exports in FY23 was petroleum products as refineries scooped up cheap Russian oil. However, global crude prices have softened and so has the value of Indian petroleum exports. The export decline in April was broad-based as non-oil exports also saw a y-o-y fall of 11.49% compared to a 17.64% fall in petro products due to slowing global demand.
- **How can India fix the problem?**
 - Exporters said there is a need to provide marketing support for Indian products and services globally, and granting GST exemption on freight. Trade experts said diversifying exports destinations would help deal with the uncertainty in global trade.
 - Despite 25 years of diversification, 40% of India's export orders come from just seven countries.
 - Rising interest rates globally resulted in higher cost of funds for small exporters. A long-standing demand from such exporters has been to lower the cost of funds.
- **Will things improve this financial year?**
 - Exports are likely to remain under pressure for the next two to three months as demand in Europe and the US remains weak due to high inflation.
 - However, China's economic revival comes as a breather. China over the years, has also become an important export destination for India. **It was India's fourth largest export destination in April.**
 - A Sakthivel, president, Federation of Indian Export Organization, said exports could revive starting July this year with fresh orders for the festival season up to the new year.

PRELIMS

1. **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**

- **IN NEWS:** The central government has named Ravneet Kaur as chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
 - Ravneet Kaur, the first woman to hold the position, has been appointed for five years or till she reaches 65.
 - **About Competition Commission Of India (CCI):**
 - Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a **statutory body** of the Government of India responsible for **enforcing the Competition Act, 2002**, it was duly constituted in March 2009.
 - The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee.
 - **Composition:** The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six Members who shall be appointed by the Central Government.
 - The commission is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases. The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
 - **Eligibility criteria of members of CCI:** The Chairperson and every other Member shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing and who, has been, or is qualified to be a judge of a High Court, or, has special knowledge of, and professional experience of not less than fifteen years in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs, administration or in any other matter which, in the opinion of the Central Government, may be useful to the Commission.
- ### 2. **Jal Jeevan Mission**
- **IN NEWS:** Under Azadi ka Amrit Kaal, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) celebrates a new milestone of ensuring safe and clean drinking water through taps to more than 12 Crore rural households of the country.

- At the time of announcement of launch of JJM by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2019, only 3.23 Crore (16.64%) households in villages had access to piped water connection.
- As on date, 5 States (Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab) and 3 UTs (Puducherry, D&D and D&NH and A&N Islands), have reported 100% coverage. Himachal Pradesh at 98.35%, followed by Bihar at 96.05%, are also poised to achieve saturation in the near future.
- Goa, Haryana, Punjab, A&N Islands, Puducherry, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu are 'Har Ghar Jal certified States/ UTs i.e., in these states/ UTs, the villagers have confirmed through Gram Sabhas that 'all households and public institutions' in the village are getting adequate, safe and regular supply of water.

➤ **About Jal Jeevan Mission:**

- Launched in 2019, it envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.
- The mission ensures functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
- It also ensures conjunctive use of conserved water; drinking water source augmentation, drinking water supply system, grey water treatment and its reuse.
- Under JJM, the fund sharing pattern between Centre and States/ UTs is 100% for Union Territories without legislature, 90:10 for North Eastern & Himalayan States and UTs with legislature and 50:50 for rest of the States.

3. India-Russia Trade

➤ **IN NEWS:** Russia becomes India's biggest Crude oil Supplier by Volume.

- Amidst the Ukraine crisis and the western sanctions imposed on Russia, the price of oil was volatile throughout the last financial year, ranging from \$75 to as high as \$130 per barrel.
- However according to the data from ministry of commerce and industry, Russia has emerged as the largest exporter of oil to India in the last financial year with 50.84 million tonnes of crude supplies.
- However due to the \$60 per barrel price cap imposed by the US and its allies, Russia was pipped by Iran on the value of imports.

• In terms of value the **top 5 oil suppliers to India** for the last financial year were: **Iraq > Russia > Saudi Arabia > United Arab Emirates > US.**

- Russia surged to the top of the table as a major oil supplier to India in just a year on the back of the discounted oil it was forced to offer.
- In FY22, Russian oil accounted for only 2% of India's total oil imports.
- India imports around 85 percent of its total energy requirement.
- In last financial year India imported 235 million tonnes of oil out of which one-fourth was supplied by Russia.
- India's total oil import rose by 11 percent.
- Increase in the Russian supplies came at the expense of a decline in Iraq's share, which has been traditionally the largest supplier to India, followed by Saudi Arabia.

Crude share

Russia surged to the top of the table as a major oil supplier to India in just a year.

Top oil suppliers to India in FY23



Source: Ministry of commerce & industry

4. Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

➤ **IN NEWS:** The Indian Railways is planning to overhaul the signage system at railway stations for better traveling comfort of passengers, on the basis of fresh design principles. Up to 1,275 stations have been selected under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.**

- The uniform signages at all stations across the country, will ensure a consistent and easy-to-understand system for passengers (including elderly, women, children, divyangjan).
- Indian Railways has the largest number of stations in the world than any other rail network. It is important that every passenger should have easy access to facilities by having standard signage. The current system of signages is inconsistent and inadequate.

➤ **About Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:**

- The Ministry of Railways has formulated a new policy for modernisation of stations named 'Amrit Bharat Station' scheme.
- Three railway stations viz. Rani Kamalapati, Gandhinagar Capital, & Sir M.Visvesvaraya Terminal have been commissioned.
- Building upon the experience of these three stations, 1275 stations selected under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme include stations located in major cities and places of tourist and pilgrimage importance.
- The scheme will primarily focus on providing safe, comfortable and clean railway premises.
- The plan's objective is to create master plans for railroad stations and implement them gradually to improve the facilities.
- Key Features Proposed:
 - ✓ provisions for roof top plazas,
 - ✓ longer platforms,
 - ✓ ballast less tracks,
 - ✓ 5G connectivity.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Discuss the important provisions of India's Space Policy 2023. How is the new space policy different from previous efforts taken by the government for the promotion of the space sector?

The Indian Space Policy 2023 was recently released with a vision to enable, encourage and develop a flourishing commercial presence in space. It aims to increase India's share in the global space economy from less than 2% to 10%. The policy also defines its role in India's socio-economic development and security, protection of environment and lives, pursuing peaceful exploration of outer space, stimulation of public awareness and the scientific quest.

Important provisions of Indian Space Policy 2023 are as follows:

Policy delineates the roles and responsibilities of three important entities in the Indian space sector.

- **Role of ISRO:** The premier space agency of India, will focus its energies on developing new technologies, systems, and research and development. The operational aspect of ISRO's missions will be handled by NSIL which will work in a demand-driven mode to cater to the needs of the industry.
- **Role of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL):** NSIL will be responsible for strategic activities related to the space sector. The objective of NSIL is to augment private industry participation in the space economy and create a self-reliant space industry in India.
- **Role of Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe):** According to the policy IN-SPACe shall function as an autonomous government organization, mandated to promote, hand-hold, guide and authorize space activities in the country. The policy also clearly defines the role of IN-SPACe, as a single-window agency for the authorisation of space activities by government entities as well as Non-Government Entities (NGEs).
- **Role of Non-Government Entities (NGEs):** The policy allows NGEs to undertake end-to-end activities in the space sector through the establishment and operation of space objects, ground-based assets and related services, such as communication, remote sensing, navigation, etc.
- The Department of Space (DOS) will oversee the implementation of the Indian Space Policy-2023, ensuring that stakeholders are suitably empowered to carry out their respective functions.

Inherent drawbacks with respect to earlier policy measures:

- **Issues with satellite communication policy:** The first satellite communication policy was introduced in 1997, with guidelines for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the satellite industry that were further liberalised but never generated much enthusiasm. Today, more than half the transponders beaming TV signals into Indian homes are hosted on foreign satellites, resulting in an annual outflow of over half a billion dollars.
- **Issues with remote sensing policy:** A remote sensing data policy was introduced in 2001 and in 2016, it was replaced by a National Geospatial Policy that has been further liberalised in 2022. However Indian users including the security and defence agencies spend nearly a billion dollars annually to procure earth observation data and imagery from foreign sources.
- **Lapse of draft Space Activities Bill:** To streamline the space sector a draft Space Activities Bill was brought out in 2017 however it lapsed in 2019.

New space policy stands out when compared to previous measures taken by the government in the following ways:

- **Redefines ISRO's focus areas:** After the newly defined role of ISRO in the policy, it can now use its biggest asset, its qualified and talented manpower, to concentrate on cutting-edge research and development and long-term projects such as Chandrayan and Gaganyaan.

- Opening up of the space sector for private players: With the new policy, the entire gamut of space activities is now open to the private sector. It addresses the earlier problem of the absence of a framework for the private sector. This is particularly important as a number of startups such as Dhruva Space, Agnikul Cosmos etc are coming up in the space sector in the last few years.
- Ensuring competitiveness in the space sector: India has over 400 private space companies and ranks fifth globally in terms of the number of space companies. Therefore, the role of the private sector becomes important for ensuring the competitiveness of the sector.
- Industrial Collaboration and International Partnerships: The Indian Space Policy 2023 encourages fostering collaborations and partnerships with industry and academia, both national and international, to pursue research and development in space science, technology, and applications. This approach will help accelerate India's progress in the space sector and contribute to the global scientific community.

The Space Policy 2023 is a forward-looking document and marks an ambitious new chapter for India's space program. Through a combination of research and development, collaboration and innovation, the country can solidify its position as a global space leader.

MCQs

1. This week Indian PM will attend G7 meet on the invitation of this year's Host Countries. With reference to the G-7, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?
 1. It is an informal forum of leading industrialised nations.
 2. India is the founding member of G-7.
 3. Japan holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2. "Matabari Port" was in the news recently. It is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) India
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Bangladesh**
- (d) Myanmar

3. Spratly, Paracel, and Scarborough Shoal were recently in the news corresponding to which of the following?

- (a) Islands of the Atlantic Ocean
- (b) Islands of the western Pacific Ocean
- (c) Islands in the Indian Ocean
- (d) Islands in the South China Sea**

4. Which of the following statement is true regarding Exercise Jal Rahat?

- (a) Exercise by Indian Army to rescue people from riot hit area of Manipur
- (b) Exercise launched by Indian navy to offer assistance to cyclone hit Myanmar
- (c) Anti Piracy Operation by Indian Navy in Indian Ocean
- (d) Flood Relief Rescue conducted by Indian Army in Assam.**

5. Recently Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) was in news. Consider the following statement regarding C-PACE.

1. It is established by The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)
2. It aims to ensure a clean registry, provides hassle-free filing and timely, process-bound striking off of company names from the Register.
3. Its Headquarter is at the office of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) in Gurgaon.

Select the correct statements using the codes below

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

6. Recently the beneficiary of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) touched a new milestone of 12 crore. Consider the following statements regarding JJM.

1. Launched in 2019, it aims to supply 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
2. The funding of the scheme is fully provided by the Central Government.
3. "Clean water and sanitation for all" comes under Sustainable Development Goal-6.

Select the correct statements using the codes below

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) **1 and 3 only**
(d) 1, 2 and 3
7. Recently Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) recently reached a milestone with the signing of the 250th contract, the first one under the Mission DefSpace. Consider the following statements regarding iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence):
1. It is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to achieve self-reliance and technological development in the Defence and Aerospace sector.
 2. iDEX will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO).
- 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
8. The Central government recently issued a warning to doctors at the government-run hospitals and CGHS wellness centres to follow the prescribed rules for issuing generic medicines. Consider the following statements regarding Generic Drug:
1. It is a medication that has exactly the same active ingredient as the brand-name drug
 2. It also has the same risks and benefits as their brand-name counterparts.
- 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
9. Recently, The Central Consumer Protection Authority has issued order against five e-commerce platforms for selling seat belt alarm stopper clips. With reference to the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), consider the following statements:
1. It has been established in 2020 under section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 that replaced Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
 2. The nodal Ministry is Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 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
10. The government plans to introduce a new mechanism whereby companies and individuals accused of economic offences will be assigned a unique code called the 'Unique Economic Offender Code'. Consider the following statements regarding National Economic Offence Records (NEOR):
1. It is a central repository of all economic offences that will share data with all central and state intelligence and enforcement agencies.
 2. The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has been given the task of coordinating and completing the NEOR project.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 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