

SOCIAL ISSUE

WHO report on tobacco control

In Context: World Health Organisation’s report on tobacco control was released recently.

Key details:

Measures by WHO:

Fifteen years ago, WHO had developed the **MPOWER measures** –

- monitor tobacco use and prevention policies;
- protect people from tobacco smoke;
- offer help to quit tobacco; warn about dangers of tobacco;
- enforce bans on tobacco advertising; and
- raise taxes on tobacco products.

Key findings of the report

✓ **Global findings on progress:**

- Across the world, there are 300 million fewer smokers today, with the prevalence of smoking declining from 22.8% in 2007 to 17% in 2021.
- In the 15 years since the MPOWER measures were first introduced, 5.6 billion people in the world – or 71% of the entire population – remain protected by at least one of the measures.
- This has increased from just 5% of the population in 2008.
- The number of countries implementing at least one MPOWER measure has increased from 44 countries in 2008 to 151 in 2022.
- At least four countries – Brazil, Turkiye, Netherlands, and Mauritius have implemented all the measures.
- Almost 40% countries now have completely smoke-free indoor public spaces.

✓ **Global findings on non-implementation:**

- There are at least 44 countries in the world that still do not implement any MPOWER measure.
- There are 53 countries that do not completely ban smoking in healthcare facilities.
- Only half of the countries have smoke-free workplaces and restaurants.

✓ **Significance of the report:**

- The report focuses on controlling second-hand smoking (being in the presence of someone who is smoking) by creating smoke-free public areas and also de-normalising the act of smoking in the society.
- Of the estimated 8.7 million tobacco-related deaths each year, 1.3 million are of non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke.

About Secondhand Smoking

- It refers to involuntary smoking by nonsmokers because of the fumes that are emitted when smokers use cigarettes, pipes, cigars and other tobacco products.
- It is also called side-stream smoke, environmental smoke, passive smoke and involuntary smoke.
- While direct smoking(First Hand smoking) is worse, secondhand smoking has similar adverse health effects.
 - Second-hand smoke has been linked to:
 - almost 400,000 deaths due to heart disease,
 - over 250,000 deaths due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,
 - over 150,000 deaths due to stroke and lower respiratory disease each, and
 - over 100,000 deaths due to diabetes.



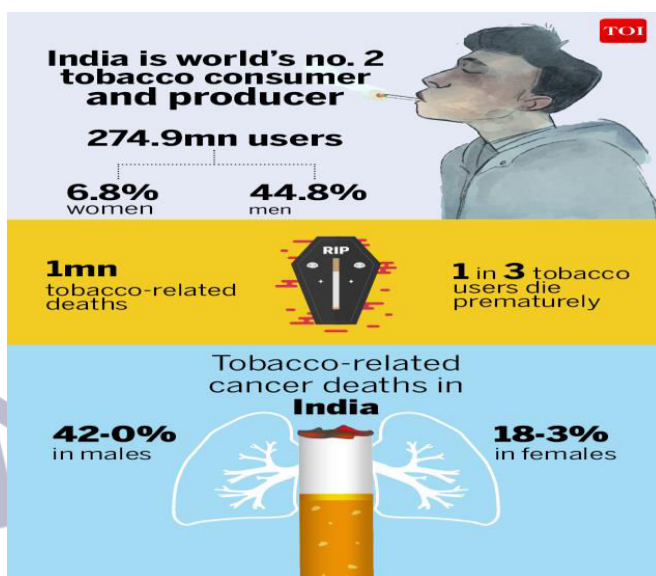
- Severe asthma, respiratory tract infections, and sudden infant death syndrome are more common among children exposed to second-hand smoke.

Why is it important to curb second-hand smoke?

- Of the estimated 8.7 million tobacco-related deaths each year, 1.3 million are of non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke, the report says quoting the Global Burden of Disease 2019.
- The report adds that severe asthma, respiratory tract infections, and sudden infant death syndrome are more common among children exposed to second-hand smoke.
- The report focuses on controlling second-hand smoking by creating smoke-free public areas and also de-normalising the act of smoking in the society.

✓ **India Specific Findings:**

- The report states that the country has the highest level of achievement when it comes to putting health warning labels on tobacco products and providing tobacco dependence treatment.
- With 85% of cigarette packs carrying health warnings both on the front and back, India figures among the top 10 countries in terms of the size of health warnings.
- The cigarette packets in the country also carry a toll-free number for a quit-line.
- India has also banned the sale of e-cigarettes, and banned smoking in healthcare facilities and educational institutions.
- One of the biggest steps in the works is implementing warnings on OTT platform content when actors are seen using tobacco products.



✓ **Bengaluru specific findings:**

- Bengaluru finds special mention in a World Health Organisation (WHO) report on tobacco control measures.
- Various awareness drives resulted in a 27% reduction in smoking in public places in the city.

How does India fare?

- When it comes to India, the report states that the country has the highest level of achievement (among the top 10 countries) when it comes to putting health warning labels(85%) on tobacco products and providing tobacco dependence treatment.
- The cigarette packets in the country also carry a toll-free number for a quit-line and have also banned the sale of e-cigarettes, and banned smoking in healthcare facilities and educational institutions.

What further measures are needed?

- Implementing warnings on OTT platform content when actors are seen using tobacco products. This would make India the first country in the world to do so.
- There is a need to ban the loose sale of cigarettes through amendment to the law on tobacco control. Many college students buy one or two cigarettes instead of the whole pack. This means they are not exposed to the health warning and quit-line at all.

Control Measures in India

- Cigarettes Act, 1975: Tobacco control legislation in India dates back to the Cigarettes Act, 1975 which mandates the display of statutory health warnings in advertisement and on cartons and cigarette packages.
- Delhi Prohibition of Smoking and Non-Smokers Health Protection Act: It was passed in the Delhi assembly in 1997 and became the model for Central Legislation banning smoking in public places in 2002, on the directions of the Supreme Court.

- Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade, Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (COTPA) 2003:
 - The comprehensive tobacco control legislation aims to provide smoke-free public places and also places restrictions on tobacco advertising and promotion.
- Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019: It prohibits production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of e-cigarettes.
- Tobacco Quitline Services: These toll-free quitline services (1800-112-356) were initiated in 2016 and were expanded in September 2018.
 - These are now available in 16 languages and other local dialects from 4 centres.
- National Health Policy 2017: It sets an ambitious target of reducing tobacco use by 30 per cent by 2025, which has been devised keeping in view the targets for control of NCDs.
- Ratification of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).
- National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP):
 - The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007- 08 in 42 districts of 21 States/Union Territories of the country.
 - Currently, the Programme is being implemented in all States/Union Territories covering over 600 districts across the country.

Way forward for India:

- India already has a comprehensive law on tobacco control, but some amendments are needed.
- There is a need to ban the loose sale of cigarettes.
 - Many people, especially college students, buy one or two cigarettes instead of the whole pack.
 - This means they are not exposed to the health warning and quit-line at all.

ENVIRONMENT

Carbon capture and storage

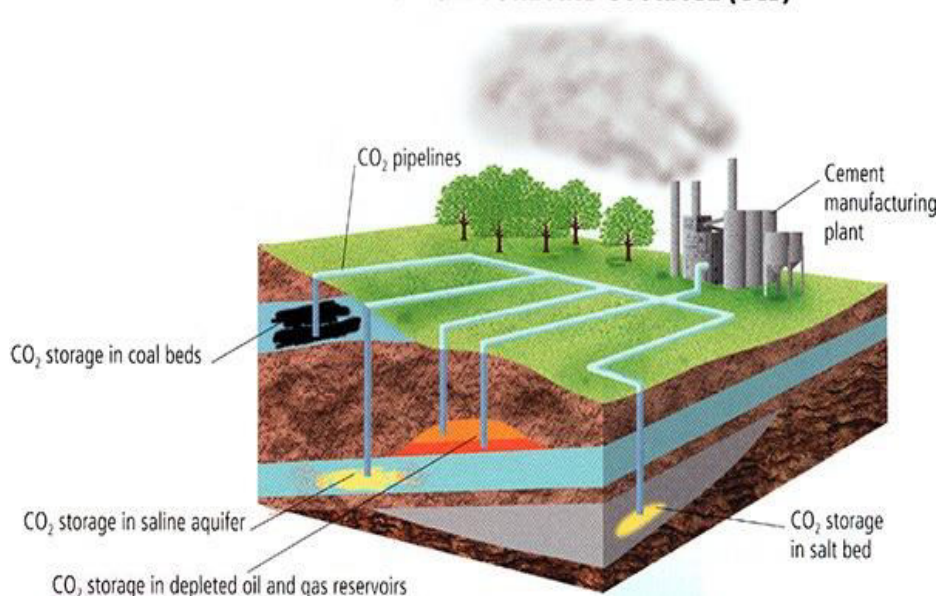
Recent Context:

- Recently, UK government reaffirmed its support for projects to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions as part of its efforts to reach net zero goals.
- Experts say carbon capture and storage a way to grab a planet-heating gas and lock it underground. It is sorely needed to cut pollution in sectors where other clean technologies are farther behind.

What is carbon capture and storage?

- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a way to catch carbon and trap it beneath the earth.
- There are two main types of carbon capture and storage. Point-source carbon capture and storage (CCS) which captures CO₂ produced at the source, such as a smokestack, while direct air capture (DAC) removes carbon dioxide (CO₂) that has already been released into the atmosphere.
- It is different to carbon dioxide removal (CDR) where carbon is sucked out of the atmosphere although some of the technologies overlap.

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS)



- The key difference is that CDR brings down the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, cooling the planet while CCS in fossil fuel plants and factories prevents the gas from getting out in the first place.

How does it work?

- Firstly, the CO₂ has to be separated from other gases produced in industrial processes or during power generation.
- Once captured it has to be compressed and transported to sites for storage often via pipelines. After that, it has to be injected into rock formations underground - typically 1 km (0.62 mile) or more under the ground - for storage for decades.

CCS has to play significant role in emission reduction

- A U.N. panel of scientists' report last year said CCS can help the world to reach global climate targets set under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, but that the focus needed to remain on preventing emissions from being emitted in the first place.
- Scientists see a big role for CCS in factories that make cement and fertiliser, as well as in plants that burn rubbish. As they are split on whether it makes sense to use it to make steel and hydrogen, which have some greener alternatives.
- However, some environmental groups, however, question how effectively CCS can curb emissions as the technology enables fossil fuel companies to operate for longer and can allow more oil and gas to be recovered from old fields.

Economic efficiency of CCS model:

- Most of their skepticism goes to capturing carbon when making electricity, because there are already cheaper alternatives that work better, like wind turbines and solar panels. In theory, it could play a role in gas plants as a back-up when the sun doesn't shine and wind doesn't blow particularly in countries that are still building fossil fuel plants today but it would have to quickly grow cheaper and more effective.

How well does CCS work?

- For decades, engineers have captured carbon from concentrated streams of gas pushing it into tanks, scrubbing it clean and using it in industry or storing it underground. Some bioethanol plants, where the gas stream is pure, already report capturing more than 95% of the carbon emissions.
- But capturing carbon from dirtier gas streams, like those from factories and power plants, CCS projects have repeatedly overpromised and underdelivered.
- As there is need for a special type of chemical to capture Carbon. However such technology has been successfully demonstrated but it hasn't been fully commercialised at scale
- While a handful of test facilities have managed to capture more than 90% of emissions from some dirty gas streams, commercial projects have been plagued with problems. Some have broken down or not been made to run all the time. Others have been designed to capture only a fraction of the total emissions.
- Still, experts see the failures of CCS more as an economic problem than a technical one as companies have little incentive to capture their pollution

Why is CCS controversial?

- Activists have called out energy companies for failing to capture much carbon while at the same time drilling for oil and lobbying against laws to cut fossil fuel production.
- Along with it, CCS also gives companies fighting to burn fossil fuels access to policymakers and a "social license to operate,"
- CCS is criticised as it is not used as carbon capture method for climate solution rather is being used in actually enhance extraction.
- There is need of hour that policymakers put more weight on societal shifts like cutting energy demand rather than placing their faith in shaky technologies.
- Scientists have also questioned how serious the industry is about its commitments. After decades of pushing the technology, there are only 30 working CCS facilities,

How can CCS work better? (Way forward)

- Experts say momentum to capture carbon is starting to pick up.
 - ✓ For e.g. In Norway, German industrial giant Heidelberg Materials is building the first facility to capture carbon from cement and store it underground. However, the company claims a capture rate of close to 100% is possible. Still, it only plans to capture half of the emissions from the site.

- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), new companies are focusing on specific parts of the problem like transport and storage.

Conclusion:

- CCS is advanced state of art technology to capture and storage of carbon which will be a game changer method for climate solution. However, it requires large capital investment, therefore there is need to provide subsidy for industries in order to accelerate the development of CCS.

PRELIM FACTS

1. GI tags given to various products

In Context: Seven products from across India were given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

Which products got the GI Tag?

➤ **The Jalesar Dhatu Shilp (metal craft):**

- At Jalesar in Etah district in Uttar Pradesh, which was the capital of Magadha King Jarasandha, over 1,200 small units are engaged in making Jalesar Dhatu Shilp.
- This place is known for making decorative metal craft as well as brassware.

➤ **Goa Mankurad mango:**

- ✓ The Portuguese named the mango as Malcorada meaning poor coloured and with time this word transformed to 'Mankurad' aamo.
- ✓ Aamo means mango in Konkani language.

➤ **Goan Bebinca:**

- ✓ Bebinca is a type of pudding and a traditional Indo-Portuguese dessert.
- ✓ It is also known as the Queen of Goan desserts.

➤ **Udaipur Koftgari metal craft:**

- ✓ The Udaipur Koftgari metal craftsmen practices the ancient art of Koftgari used in making ornamental weaponry.
- ✓ The weapons are exquisitely ornamented by a complicated process of etching of design, heating and then cooling intertwined with the process of embedding gold and silver wire into the metal, pressing and flattening it to a smooth surface using moonstone and finally polishing.

➤ **Bikaner Kashidakari craft:** Kashidakari work is done majorly on objects associated with marriage, especially gift items, and makes use of mirror work.

➤ **Jodhpur Bandhej craft:**

- ✓ The Jodhpur bandhej craft is the Rajasthani art of tying and dyeing.
- ✓ It is the art of printing varied patterns on fabrics using the tie and dye method

➤ **Bikaner Usta Kala:**

- ✓ The Bikaner Usta Kala craft is also known as gold nakashi work or gold manauti work, due to the prominence of golden colour in an actual manner developed by gold in the previous period.
- ✓ Due to this, the craft has longevity.

2. Kuril islands

In context: Russia's invasion of Ukraine forced it to funnel more and more of its resources to its western border thereby neglecting disputed Kurils island with Japan along the eastern border.

About Kurils Island

- Kuril Islands, Russian Kurilskiye Ostrova, Japanese Chishima-rettÅ□, is an archipelago in Sakhalin oblast province of far-eastern Russia.
- The archipelago (56 islands) extends for 1,200 km from the southern tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula (Russia) to the northeastern corner of Hokkaido island (Japan) and separates the Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean.
- The chain is part of the belt of geologic instability circling the Pacific and contains at least 100 volcanoes, of which 35 are still active, and many hot springs.



- Parallel to the chain, in the Pacific floor, is the **Kuril Trench**, which reaches a depth of more than 6.5 miles (10.5 km).

Background of the dispute:

- The Kurils were originally inhabited by the Ainu, and they were later settled by the Russians and Japanese, following several waves of exploration in the 17th and 18th centuries.
- **Treaty of Shimoda, 1855:** gave control of the four southernmost islands to Japan and the remainder of the chain to Russia.
- **Treaty of Saint Petersburg, 1875:** Russia ceded possession of the Kurils to Japan in exchange for uncontested control of Sakhalin Island.
- **Yalta agreements 1945:** The islands were ceded to the Soviet Union, and the Japanese population was repatriated and replaced by Soviets.
- Japan still claims historical rights to the southernmost islands and has tried repeatedly to persuade the Soviet Union and, from 1991, Russia to return those islands to Japanese sovereignty

3. Rohini panel report on 'sub-categorisation' of OBCs

In context: The Justice G Rohini commission set up to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) submitted its report to the President of India recently. But, the contents of the report have not been made public as yet.

Background

- The Kalelkar Commission, 1953, was the first to identify backward classes other than the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at the national level.
- The Mandal Commission Report, 1980 estimated the OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward. It recommended increasing the existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include the OBCs.
- In 2008, the Supreme Court directed the central government to exclude the creamy layer (advanced sections) among the OBCs.
- The Justice Rohini Commission was constituted under Article 340 of the Constitution in recognition of the perceived distortions in the affirmative action policy. It was seen that a few castes cornered the bulk of benefits available under the 27% quota for OBCs

4. Safe City Project

In Context: Minister of State for Home Affairs informed the Rajya Sabha about implementation of the Safe City Project.

Key details:

- ✓ Safe City Projects have been approved by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** with **centrally sponsored funding** in **eight cities** initially:
 - Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai.
- ✓ The **projects involve:**
 - identification of hotspots for crime against women
 - deployment of various components including infrastructure, technology adoption
 - capacity building in community through awareness programmes which will enable safety for women.
- ✓ Safe City Project is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- ✓ The project aims to **curb crime against women** and address safety issues sensitively.
- ✓ It aims to use technology and ensure the **prompt availability of professionally equipped police personnel** to reach women in distress.
- ✓ **CCTV cameras** will be installed in places frequented by women.
- ✓ A **command and control centre** will be set up at police headquarters, district headquarters and police stations.
- ✓ **Integration of location-based services** and crime and criminal databases with CCTV feeds for prompt and effective resolution of women's safety issues at public places.
- ✓ Analysis of video and creation of **actionable warnings or alerts** for preventive and curative actions.

MASI Portal

In context: Recently, the Minister of Women and Child Development informed the Rajya Sabha about MASI Portal.

About the MASI Portal:

- ✓ Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection (MASI) was developed for synchronous monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanisms across the country.
- ✓ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed this application.
- ✓ The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021).
- ✓ The app is linked to the monitoring Portal where the automatic reports are generated.
- ✓ This App enables unified inspections by Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), State Inspection Committees, District Inspection Committees, Members of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) as laid down under the JJ Act, 2015.
- ✓ It serves as a single platform for inspections of all the CCIs across the country by any of the above stated authorities.
- ✓ Regular follow-up is done before and after the completion of cycle of inspection.
- ✓ The complete reports are automatically generated on the Portal as soon as the questionnaire is filled and submitted by the authority.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss (Answer in 150 words) 10

Introduction: Empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

How women empowerment will help in tackling population growth:

- **Political Empowerment:** This would result in increase in women's participation in the political processes, structures, institutions. This would enhance the voice of women at different platforms. Hence, women will be able to raise awareness about need of small families and birth control and the associated benefits.
- **Economic Empowerment:** This will lead to the participation of women in the economic activities. It will increase the family income and also improve the situation of women in making financial decisions. Thus, there will be fewer requirements of income generating options which led to giving birth to more children. Thus, this would check the population growth.
- **Social Empowerment:** This would result in the improved status and boost confidence of the women. This confidence would ultimately affect the decision-making ability of the women. They would be able to take decisions regarding number of children they want.
- **Constitutional Empowerment:** This would result in rise in awareness of the women about their constitutional rights including right to life and liberty, freedom, and equality. Hence, women will be able to make choices in the family planning and number of children they want to have.
- **Technological Empowerment:** If women are able to use technology like mobile phones, etc., they would be able to receive the information about the advantages of small families and right age of having children. Also, this would lead to the improved reproductive and general health of women as the women would be aware of the options of various birth control measures like pills, tablets, etc.

Conclusion: Hence, there is a saying that "If you educate a man, you educate only a man, but if you educate a woman, you educate a whole generation". This is the kind of effect women have and hence, population control can be achieved by the empowerment of women in various spheres. This would have a multiplier effect on other institutions of the society and economy and lead to sustainable development.

MCQs

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Which of the following committee is/are related to the OBC ? The Kalelkar Commission</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandal Commission 2. Rohini Commission 3. Kalelkar Commission 4. Peel Commission <p>CODE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1 and 3 only b) 2 and 4 only c) 1, 2 and 4 only d) 1, 2, and 3 only | <p>2. Considered the following statement regarding Safe City Projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It has been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs. 2. It is centrally sponsored funding for all over India. 3. The project aims to curb crime against women and address safety issues sensitively. <p>How many of the above statement is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Only 1 |
|---|---|

- b) **Only 2**
c) Only 3
d) None
3. Kuril Islands, which is recently in news located in which ocean?
a) **Pacific Ocean**
b) Indian Ocean
c) Atlantic Ocean
d) Arctic Ocean
4. Match the followings:
GI Tag **State**
1. Goan Behinco - Maharashtra
2. Bandhej Craft- Rajasthan
3. Dhatu Shilp - Uttar Pradesh
How many of the above are correctly matched:
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) Only 3
d) None
5. Consider the following statements regarding Iberian wolf:
1. It is native to the Iberian Peninsula comprising Spain and Portugal.
2. It is categorized as vulnerable species under the IUCN Red List.
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
6. Consider the following statements regarding Sovereign Credit Rating:
1. It can give investors insights into the level of risk associated with investing in the debt instruments of a country.
2. Governments with higher credit ratings can borrow at lower interest rates from global financial markets.
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
7. Consider the following statements:
1. Cheetah is the fastest land animal, capable of running at 80 to 128 km/h.
2. Cheetah is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
3. Cheetah is a large cat native to Africa and central Iran.
How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) Only 1
b) **Only 2**
c) Only 3
d) None
8. With reference to Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in India, consider the following statements
1. GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
2. Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get a GI tag.
3. Mankurad mango of Goa has been recently accorded the GI tag.
4. Geographical Indications Registry is located in Chennai.
How many of the above statements is/are correct?
a) Only 1
b) Only 2
c) Only 3
d) **Only 4**
9. Which one of the following statements is correct about the MPOWER measures of WHO?
a) These are the prescriptive guidelines issued to curb the spread of Dengue and Malaria.
b) They talk about achieving the target of an AIDS-free world by 2025.
c) **They aim to monitor tobacco use and protect people from tobacco smoke.**
d) They are related to empowering women in the Health profession.
10. With reference to the Anna Bhau Sathe, consider the following statements:
1. He was a social reformer, writer and folk poet of Maharashtra.
2. He was influenced by the socialist ideology.
3. He dedicated his most famous novel Fakira to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
How many statements given above are correct?
a) Only 1
b) **Only 2**
c) Only 3
d) None