

First Advance Estimates of India's GDP

Why in News?

- According to the First Advance Estimates (FAEs) released by the Government of India, India's GDP will grow by 7.3% in the current financial year (2023-24), slightly faster than the 7.2% growth in 2022-23.

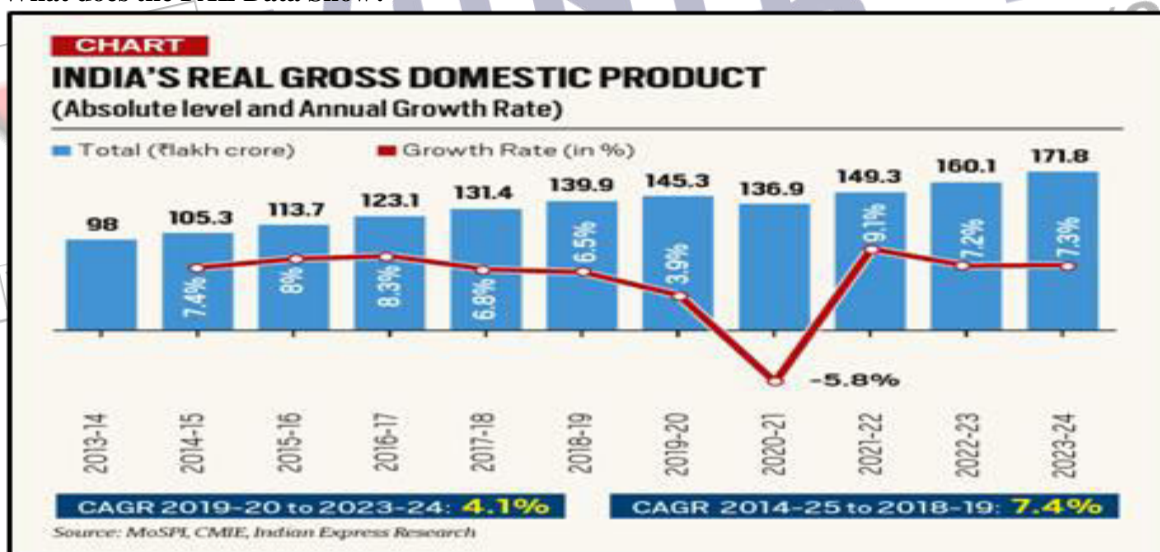
What is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Estimates?

- The FAE is presented at the end of the first week of January every year and are only the first estimates of growth for that financial year.
- By the end of February, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will release the Second Advance Estimates and, by the end of May, the Provisional Estimates.
- The GDP estimates continue to be revised as more and better data become available and in the coming 3 years, MoSPI will release the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Revised Estimates of this year's GDP before settling on the "Actuals"/ final number.

What are the FAEs and their Significance?

- The FAE are based on the performance of the economy over the first 7-odd months, and the data are extrapolated to arrive at an annual picture.
 - This means that the estimates available for the previous year (2022-23) are extrapolated using the relevant indicators reflecting the performance of sectors.
- The crucial significance of the FAEs is that they are the last GDP data released before the Union Budget for the coming financial year (which is presented on February 1) is finalised.
 - As such, the FAEs constitute the base for the Budget numbers.
 - However, since Lok Sabha elections will be held in April-May (2024), a full-fledged Union Budget will not be presented this year.
- This year's FAEs draw some additional significance from the fact that they provide the first complete picture of economic growth in the 10 years of the present government.

What does the FAE Data Show?



- The chart shows India's real GDP (GDP after excluding the effect of inflation), both in absolute terms (in Rs lakh crore) and in terms of growth rate.
- By the end of March 2024, India's GDP is expected to rise to almost Rs 172 lakh crore as compared to Rs 98 lakh crore in 2014 and Rs 140 lakh crore in 2019.
- On an annual basis, the 7.3% growth rate estimated for 2023-24 presents a substantial and pleasant upside surprise.
 - During 2014-15 to 2018-19, the Indian economy grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.4%; and during 2019-20 to 2023-24, it was just 4.1%.
 - The big reason for this is that the economy grew by less than 4% in 2019-20 (before the Covid-19 pandemic), and then contracted by 5.6% in 2020-21 (immediately after Covid struck).

How India's GDP Growth is calculated?

- India's GDP is calculated by adding up all kinds of spending in the economy - the demand side of the economy.
- As such, there are four main "engines" of GDP growth.
 - Spending by people in their individual capacity/ Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE). It accounts for almost 60% of India's GDP.
 - Spending towards investments in boosting the productive capacity of the economy/ Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF). It accounts for 30% of the GDP.
 - Spending by governments to meet daily expenditures such as salaries/ Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE). It is the smallest engine, accounting for around 10% of GDP.
 - Net exports: Since India typically imports more than it exports, this engine drags down GDP calculations, and shows up with a minus sign.

What is Contributing/Dragging India's Current GDP Growth?

Moving up
Nominal investment rate of **29.8%** at a nine-year high
But agriculture growth muted at sub-**2%** mark

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

- Nominal GDP at **8.9%** to have fiscal implications
- Need for a pickup in consumption
- Capex growth at such high levels not sustainable

- PFCE: In the current year, the overall demand by people is expected to grow by 4.4%. This is similar to the CAGR (4.5%) in the 2nd term of the present government but is substantially lower than the growth rate in the 1st term (7.1%).
 - Muted private consumption is made worse by growing inequality (consumption among the urban rich has grown quite fast while rural India hasn't yet recovered enough).
 - While people should not consume more than their income, the muted performance of the biggest engine of growth is a matter of concern.
- GFCF: Investments have grown by 9.3% in the current financial year, thus helping to push up the CAGR in the second term (5.6%) closer to the CAGR in the first (7.3%).
 - However, there are two lingering concerns: one, a large part of the investment spending is still coming from the government and, two, private consumption is still muted.
- GFCE: As weak as the growth in private demand has been in the current year, at 3.9%, government spending has grown even slower.
- Net exports: When data for any particular year shows up with a negative sign, it suggests Indians are importing more than they are exporting.
 - With global growth remaining weak, the external sector remains a major drag on India's growth, with net exports contributing negatively to real GDP growth (at -3 percentage points).

SOCIAL ISSUES

Child Marriage in India

Why in the News?

- One in five girls and one in six boys are still getting married below the legal age of marriage in India.
- This has been highlighted by a new study published in the Lancet Global Health on December 15th, 2023.

Child Marriages in India

- In India, child marriage reduced from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 26.8% in 2015-16.

- In the last five years, it declined by 3.5% points to reach 23.3% in 2020-21, according to the latest National Family Health Survey-5 data.
- There is a growing trend for decline in the overall prevalence of child marriage, but 23.3% is still a disturbingly high percentage in a country with a population of 141.2 crore.
- Eight States have a higher prevalence of child marriage than the national average:
 - West Bengal, Bihar and Tripura top the list with more than 40% of women aged 20-24 years married below 18, according to NFHS data.
- Some States have shown a reduction in child marriages, like Madhya Pradesh (23.1% in 2020-21 from 32.4% in 2015-16), Rajasthan (25.4% from 35.4%) and Haryana.

Global Scenario

- According to data from UNICEF, the total number of girls married in childhood stands at 12 million per year.
- The 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals aim to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations, under goal 5.
- While it is encouraging that in the past decade great progress has been made in South Asia, where a girl's risk of marrying before she is 18 has dropped by more than a third, from nearly 50% to below 30%, it is not enough, and progress has been uneven.

Impact of Child Marriage

- While child marriage is considered a human rights violation and a recognised form of sexual and gender-based violence, the adverse impact of child marriage is manifested across maternal and child health.
- Recently, 10 infants died at Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital in a span of 24 hours.
 - The hospital authorities said the majority of the children were born with extremely low birth weight.
- Murshidabad, one of the economically poorer districts of the State, has one of the highest numbers of child marriages in West Bengal.
- The NFHS - 5 points out that 55.4% of women aged 20-24 years are married before the age of 18 years in the district.
- The district saw a rise from NFHS-4 numbers, which stood at 53.5 %.

Legal Intervention in India

- There are several laws including the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, which aim at protecting children from violation of human and other rights.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 seeks to increase the marriage age of women from existing 18 years to 21 years.

Why Minimum Age of Marriage for Females should be Increased?

- Lack of access to education and employment:
 - Women face inequalities when it comes to access to education and employment as a consequence of their early marriages.
 - It is often the case that women are denied access to education and an economic means of livelihood after entering into the institution of marriage at an early age.
 - Increasing the minimum age for marriage will lead to more women pursuing higher education and opt for employment.
- Impact of early marriage on health of women and children:
 - An early age of marriage and consequent early pregnancies have a substantial impact on the nutritional levels of mothers and their children, along with their overall health and mental wellbeing.
 - Underage mothers are at a higher risk of reproductive health challenges, malnutrition, postpartum haemorrhage, and a susceptibility to sexually transmitted diseases.

Schemes/ Policies for Preventing Girl Child Marriage

- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY):
 - Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), was launched in 2015, in order to promote the welfare of girl child.
 - It encourages parents to invest and build funds for the future studies and marriage expenses of the girl's children.

- **Balika Samridhhi Yojana:**
 - Balika Samridhhi Yojana is another central government scheme to support girls in financially vulnerable sections of society.
 - This scheme ensures the enrolment and retention of girl child in primary and secondary schools.
 - It aims at the prosperity of a girl's child and provides them with a better quality education.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:**
 - Among all the other girl's child welfare schemes, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is the most popular.
 - This scheme celebrates girl children, literally translating to Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl child. It believes in women empowerment and creating an inclusive ecosystem for the same.
 - This scheme is to promote girl children's safety before and after they are born.

Key highlights of the report

- There remains an urgent need for strengthened national and state-level policy to eliminate child marriage by 2030, say the researchers.
- Researchers have noted that substantial variation exists in the prevalence of girl and boy child marriages across the states and Union Territories during the study period.
- All states, except Manipur, experienced a decline in the prevalence of girl child marriage between 1993 and 2021.
- According to researchers in 2021, the headcount of child marriage in girls was 13,464,450 and 14,54,894 in boys.
- Four states – Bihar (16.7%), West Bengal (15.2%), Uttar Pradesh (12.5%), and Maharashtra (8.2%) – accounted for more than half of the total burden of child marriages in girls.
 - For boys, Gujarat (29%), Bihar (16.5%), West Bengal (12.9%), and Uttar Pradesh (8.2%) accounted for more than 60 per cent of the burden.
- Jharkhand had the largest percentage increase in headcount (53.1%) between 1993 and 2021.
- Most states and Union Territories saw a decrease in headcount of child marriage in girls between 1993 and 2021.
- Uttar Pradesh had the most substantial absolute decrease, which accounted for an estimated one-third of the all-India decrease in headcount of child marriage in girls observed between 1993 and 2021.
- West Bengal saw the largest absolute increase with over 500000 more girls married as children.

PRELIM FACTS

1. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) in Bengaluru have found that many bird species have started shifting to higher elevations due to rising temperatures in Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It is a protected area of India in the Himalayan foothills of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- It conjoins Sessa Orchid Sanctuary to the northeast and Pakhui Tiger Reserve across the Kameng river to the east.
- It is situated in the biodiversity hotspot of Eastern Himalayas and home to over 500 bird species.
- Altitude ranges are extreme: from 500 metres (1,640 ft) to 3,250 metres (10,663 ft).
- It is also a part of the Kameng Elephant Reserve.
- It is notable as a prime birding site due to the extraordinary variety, numbers and accessibility of species.
- It derives its name from the Red Eagle Division of the Indian army which was posted in the area in the 1950s.
- Flora: The temperate cloud forest is intermixed with dense bamboo patches and broadleaved evergreen forest across a wide altitudinal range, with conifers and rhododendrons at the higher elevations.
- Fauna: Capped langur, Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, red panda, Asiatic black bear, Arunachal macaque and gaur.

2. Bobbili Veena

- Despite the longstanding fame of the Bobbili veena, the livelihoods of craftsmen face challenges due to a lack of demand from the public and required patronage from the government.

About Bobbili Veena:

- The traditional 'Saraswati Veena' from Bobbili is famed for its fine tune and distinctive notes.
- It is a large plucked string instrument used in Carnatic music.
- The making of the veena began in the 17th century during the reign of Pedda Rayudu, the king of Bobbili Samsthanam who was a great patron of music.
- Features
 - These veenas are painstakingly crafted from Jack-wood tree logs in Gollapalli, a town in Bobbili (AndhraPradesh).
 - It takes almost a full month for a log of mute wood to be crafted into a fine musical instrument.
 - Jack-wood is preferred as it is light and the unique grain of the wood renders the quality of swara or tone.
 - A single piece of wood is used to create the instrument giving it the name 'Ekandi Veena'.
 - These Veenas are also remarkable for the exquisite designs etched on the body, making each piece exclusive.
 - With their origin dating back to the Seventeenth Century, these veenas are played in a distinctive style, which also led to the coinage of the 'Bobbili Veena Sampradayam'.
- It earned a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2012 for its unique design and high-quality craftsmanship.

3. RBI Norms for Politically-Exposed Persons (PEPs)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently updated Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for politically exposed persons (PEPs) who transact with regulated entities (REs), seeking to comply with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

New RBI Norms for Politically-Exposed Persons (PEPs):

- Who are PEPs? In the amended KYC master direction, the central bank defines PEPs as "individuals who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions by a foreign country, including the heads of states/governments, senior politicians, senior government or judicial or military officers, senior executives of state-owned corporations, and important political party officials".
- REs have the option of establishing a relationship with PEPs (whether as customers or beneficial owners).
- REs have to perform regular customer due diligence and also follow additional conditions prescribed by the RBI to transact with PEPs.
- Some additional conditions include establishing an appropriate risk management system to determine whether the customer or the beneficial owner is a PEP.
- REs have to take reasonable measures to establish the source of funds/ wealth.
- They also need to get approval from senior management to open an account for a PEP.

Key Facts about Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- FATF is an inter-governmental policy-making and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.
- Headquarters: Paris, France.
- FATF members include 39 countries, including the United States, India, China, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Germany, France, and the EU as such.
- India became a member of FATF in 2010.
- What are FATF 'grey list' and 'blacklist'? FATF has 2 types of lists:
 - Black List: Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put on the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.

- Grey List: Countries that are considered a safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put on the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
- Three countries North Korea, Iran, and Myanmar are currently on FATF's blacklist.
- Consequences of being on the FATF blacklist:
 - No financial aid is given to them by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the European Union (EU).
 - They also face a number of international economic and financial restrictions and sanctions.

4. Project Veer Gatha

- The third edition of Project 'Veer Gatha', as part of Republic Day celebrations, has witnessed an overwhelming pan India response.

About Project Veer Gatha:

- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education.
- It was instituted under Gallantry Awards Portal (GAP) in 2021.
- Aim: With the aim to disseminate the details of acts of bravery of the Gallantry Awardees and the life stories of these brave hearts among the students so as to raise the spirit of patriotism and instill amongst them values of civic consciousness.
- Project Veer Gatha deepened this noble aim by providing a platform to the school students to do creative projects/activities based on gallantry award winners.
- As part of this, the students framed different projects through various media like art, poems, essays and multimedia on these gallantry award winners and best projects were awarded at national level by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Education.

Key facts about the Gallantry Awards:

- Gallantry Awards have been instituted by the Government of India to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians.
- These are announced twice in a year - first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.
- Post-independence, three gallantry awards namely the ParamVir Chakra, the MahaVir Chakra and the Vir Chakra were instituted by the Government of India on 26th January, 1950.
- Thereafter, other three gallantry awards i.e. the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III were instituted by the Government of India on 4th January, 1952.
- These awards were renamed as the Ashoka Chakra, the Kirti Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra respectively in January, 1967.
- Order of precedence of these awards is the ParamVir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.

5. Sohrai Painting

- Remote Bengal village began their New Year with workshop on ancient indigenous art i.e Sohrai Painting.

About Sohrai Painting:

- It is an indigenous mural art form.
- It is also interesting to note that the word 'Sohrai' comes from soro – translating to 'to drive with a stick'.
- This art form dates back to the Meso-chalcolithic period (9000-5000 BC).
- The Isko rock shelter excavated in Barkagaon, Hazaribagh area also has rock paintings that are exactly similar to the traditional Sohrai paintings.
- Theme: It is usually based on natural elements of the universe, this includes forests, rivers, animals amongst others.
- These ancient paintings are made by tribal (Adivasi) women with the use of natural substances like charcoal, clay, or soil.
- The very primitive form of Sohrai art was in the form of cave paintings.
- It is practiced by indigenous communities, particularly in the States of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- The region of Hazaribagh in Jharkhand that has received the GI tag for this art form.
- It is the art of the women of the Kurmi, Santal, Munda, Oraon, Agaria, Ghatwal tribes.
- Sohrai paintings are distinctive for their vibrant colours, intricate patterns, and symbolic motifs;
- There is a Sohrai festival held every year, marking the harvesting season and the arrival of winter.

ANSWER WRITING

“Globalisation will make our societies prosperous but also vulnerable”. In this context, critically analyze the impact of globalisation on vulnerable sections in India.

Globalization is the term for the increasing interdependence of the populations, economies, and cultures around the world. Globalization has impacted every aspect of life. Some of its impacts can be seen on the vulnerable sections of society.

Positive impact of globalization on vulnerable sections:

- **Increased employment opportunities:** Globalization has led to the growth of the manufacturing and service sectors, creating employment opportunities for many low-skilled workers. This has benefited vulnerable sections of society, such as women and rural communities.
- **Access to education and healthcare:** Globalization has improved access to education and healthcare for vulnerable sections of society. The growth of the knowledge economy has led to the expansion of education and healthcare services in urban and rural areas.
- **Reduction in poverty:** The growth of the Indian economy, driven by globalization, has led to a reduction in poverty levels in the country. This has benefited vulnerable sections of society, such as low-income groups, who have been lifted out of poverty by the economic growth.
- **Access to technology:** Globalization has brought about a technological revolution in India, which has benefited vulnerable sections of society by providing access to new technologies, such as mobile phones and the internet. This has enabled them to access information, connect with others, and engage in economic activity.
- **Empowerment of women:** Globalization has contributed to the empowerment of women in India by creating opportunities for education and employment. Women have become more visible in the workforce and have been able to challenge traditional gender roles and norms.

Negative impact of globalization on vulnerable sections:

- **Increased inequality:** Globalization has led to an increase in inequality in India. The benefits of economic growth have been concentrated in the hands of a few, leading to widening income and wealth disparities.
- **Exploitation of labour:** The growth of the manufacturing and service sectors has created new employment opportunities, but it has also led to the exploitation of labor. Many workers in these sectors are employed under poor working conditions and receive low wages.
- **Environmental degradation:** The rapid industrialization and urbanization brought about by globalization have led to severe environmental degradation in India. This has disproportionately affected vulnerable sections of society, such as the poor and marginalized communities who are more likely to live in areas with poor environmental conditions.
- **Isolation of the Elderly:** Elderly population suffering from isolation, powerlessness and depression because of nuclear families, which is the result of globalization.

Measures to navigate the challenges posed by globalization:

- **Inclusive Policies:** Formulate policies that prioritize the interests of vulnerable sections, ensuring that they are not left behind in the globalization process.
- **Skill Development:** Establish skill enhancement programs targeted at vulnerable groups, aligning their capabilities with the demands of evolving job markets.
- **Labor Rights:** Strengthen labor laws and enforcement mechanisms to safeguard the rights and dignity of vulnerable workers, particularly in industries with global supply chains.
- **Social Safety Nets:** Expand and strengthen social protection programs to provide a safety net for vulnerable populations during economic transitions and uncertainties.
- **Sustainable Development:** Promote sustainable economic practices that consider the social and environmental impacts on vulnerable populations.
- **Health and Education:** Enhance access to quality healthcare and education for vulnerable sections, ensuring they can fully participate in the opportunities created by globalization.

Conclusion

Thus, while globalisation might have brought several benefits to India, it has also had negative impacts on vulnerable sections of society. It is important to address these negative impacts through policies and measures that promote inclusive and sustainable development.

MCQs

- Consider the following Countries:
 - India
 - Maldives
 - Bangladesh
 - Sri-Lanka

How many of the above-mentioned countries are part of the Colombo security conclave (CSC)?

(a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) **Only three** (d) All four
 - In India, the term “Good Manufacturing Practices” is used in the context of
 - Electric Vehicle industry
 - Pharmaceutical industry**
 - Refrigeration industry
 - Steel Manufacturing industry
 - Identify the incorrect statement in the context of the Aditya L1:
 - Aditya-L1 has been placed into a halo orbit around Lagrangian point (L1).
 - It will study Coronal Heating and Solar Wind Acceleration.
 - Its halo orbit is almost perpendicular to the line joining the Earth and the Sun.
 - It was launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle.**
 - “Experiment will employ a pair of satellites flying together maintaining a fixed configuration as a ‘large rigid structure’ in space to prove formation flying technologies”. It is related with the context of which of the following Space Missions?
 - Proba-3 mission**
 - Voyager 2
 - New Horizon
 - Aditya L1
 - Which of the following are Zoonotic diseases?
 - Nipah virus infection
 - Ebola
 - Rabies
 - Anthrax
 - Bovine tuberculosis

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only (d) **1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**
 - Which of the following are products from Odisha that have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?
 - Kapdaganda shawl
 - Lanjia Saura Painting
 - Bobbili Veena
 - Khajuri Guda
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
 - 1, 2 and 4 only**
 - 1, 2, 3, and 4
 - With reference to the Janaushadhi Kendras, consider the following statements:
 - Janaushadhi Kendras sell generic drugs that are priced lower than the popular brands.
 - The Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) is the implementing agency for the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
 - Consider the following statements with reference to ‘Voice cloning’:
 - Voice cloning involves the creation of synthetic voices that mimic a target voice through speech synthesis.
 - Online sharing of voice data makes one more vulnerable to online fraud.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) **Both 1 and 2** (d) Neither 1 nor 2
 - Consider the following statements about Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary:
 - It is a protected area of India in the Himalayan foothills of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It derives its name from the Red Eagle Division of the Indian army which was posted in the area in the 1950s.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) **Both 1 and 2** (d) Neither 1 nor 2
 - Consider the following statements about Sohrai Painting:
 - It is an indigenous mural art form which dates back to the Meso-chalcolithic period (9000-5000 BC).
 - It is practiced by indigenous communities, particularly in the States of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) **Both 1 and 2** (d) Neither 1 nor 2