



Drishiti IAS Presents...



PT

SPRINT 2023

AGRICULTURE

(March 2022 – March 2023)



Detailed
Explanation

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Answers

Explanation

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Drishiti IAS, 641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature View Apartment,
New Delhi

Drishiti IAS, 21
Pusa Road, Karol Bagh
New Delhi - 05

Drishiti IAS, Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines, Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh

Drishiti IAS, Tonk Road,
Vasundhara Colony,
Jaipur, Rajasthan

e-mail: englishsupport@groupdrishiti.com, Website: www.drishitias.com

Contact: Inquiry (English): 8010440440, Inquiry (Hindi): 8750187501

1. Ans: A**Exp:**

- The Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices is an affiliated office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (CACP).
- It is mandated to recommend minimum support prices (MSPs) to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **CACP submits** its recommendations to the government **in the form of Price Policy Reports every year**, separately for five groups of commodities namely Kharif crops, Rabi crops, Sugarcane, Raw Jute and Copra. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

2. Ans: B**Exp:**

- NABARD is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country. Its headquarters is located in Mumbai, the country's financial capital.
- **It is a statutory body** established in 1982 under Parliamentary act-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is the **apex banking institution** to provide finance for **Agriculture and rural development. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

3. Ans: D**Exp:**

- **Brazil** is the largest exporter of sugarcane in the world, followed by India. **Hence, option D is correct.**
 - ◆ Although, India is the **largest producer of Sugarcane** in the World.
- India has surpassed Brazil in the sugar production in **the current sugar season 2021-22.**
 - ◆ Factors like policies that incentivize production, including a minimum price, guaranteed sales of sugarcane and public distribution of sugar, **have helped India become the largest producer.**

4. Ans: C**Exp:**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has hiked Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October - September) by Rs 15 per quintal.
- Sugarcane is a **water intensive crop and it requires around 75-100 cm of rainfall.**
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- It can be **grown on all varieties of soils** ranging from sandy loam to clay loam given these soils should be well drained.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Top Sugarcane Producing States are: Maharashtra > Uttar Pradesh > Karnataka.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

5. Ans: D**Exp:**

- **DAP (Diammonium phosphate)** is a concentrated phosphate-based fertilizer.
 - ◆ Phosphorus is an essential nutrient along with Nitrogen and plays a vital role in the development of new plant tissues and the regulation of protein synthesis in crops.
- DAP is the **second most commonly used fertiliser** in India after urea.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- DAP (46% P, 18% Nitrogen) is the preferred source of Phosphorus for farmers.
 - ◆ It contains 46% Phosphorus and 18% Nitrogen.
 - **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

6. Ans: C**Exp:**

- There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method. and Farmers have to only level their land and give one pre-sowing irrigation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This system offers avenues for groundwater recharge as it prevents the development of hard crust just beneath the plough layer due to puddled transplanting which saves water and further improves its yields. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

7. Ans: C**Exp:**

- The European Commission (EC), the European Union's executive arm, proposed a draft law for halving pesticide use across Europe by 2030.
- Pesticides are chemical compounds that are employed to eliminate pest organisms.
 - ◆ These are used to **kill or repel** pests like rodents (rodenticides), insects (insecticides), weeds (herbicides) and fungi (fungicides). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Chronic low-level pesticide** exposure is associated with a broad range of nervous system symptoms

such as headache, fatigue, dizziness, tension, anger, depression, and impaired memory, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease, among others. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

8. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development and Authority (APEDA)** is the primary organization which is promoting the export of agricultural and horticultural products developed in the states of the **North Eastern (NE)**.
- **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER)** is a **Central Sector Scheme**, a sub-mission under **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**, launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** for implementation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, to promote the **NER as Agri Export Hub**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **Assam** and the other states of the **North East Region** have favorable climate condition and the soil type for growing almost all agricultural and horticultural crops. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

9. Ans: C

Exp:

- Coffee is shade loving plant and it requires a hot and humid climate with **temperature varying between 15°C and 28 °C** and **rainfall from 150 to 250 cm**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It does not tolerate frost, snowfall, high temperatures above 30°C and strong sunshine and is generally grown under shady trees.
- Coffee is largely produced in the southern part of India.
 - ◆ **Karnataka is the largest producer accounting for about 70% of the total coffee production in India**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- India produces two types of coffee: **Arabica** and **Robusta**.
 - ◆ **Arabica has higher market value than Robusta coffee** due to its mild aromatic flavor. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

10. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies** prohibits providing **subsidies for fishing on high seas**, which are outside the jurisdiction of coastal countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- It will **prohibit subsidies** from being provided for **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)** fishing and overfished stocks.
- It will eliminate the subsidies granted to **fishing vessels** or **fishing operators** engaged in IUU fishing.
- A **two-year transition time** from the date of this Agreement's entry into force has been granted to **Developing and least developed nations (LDCs)** under the **Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) clause**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

11. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Natural farming** is defined as a "**chemical-free farming and livestock based**". **North East India** has traditionally been organic, and the consumption of chemicals is far less than the rest of the country.
 - ◆ **Sikkim** is the first state in the world which became a fully organic state. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- Natural farming is in sync with the **Sustainable Development Goal-2** i.e., targeting '**end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**'. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)** is a process of certifying organic products produced by natural farming. It ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards. The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

12. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** recently issued guidelines to prevent false or misleading advertisements.
- CCPA is a regulatory body established in 2020 based on the provisions of the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- CCPA works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

13. Ans: A

Exp:

- Farmers in West Bengal have started **shrimp farming on 30 hectares as part of the Sustainable Aquaculture In Mangrove Ecosystem (SAIME)** programme in order to restore mangroves. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Sundarbans** hosts the largest **mangrove forests** in the world, lying on the delta of the **Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna** rivers on the **Bay of Bengal**.



- Producing **shrimp or prawns (crustaceans of the groups Caridea or Dendrobranchiata)** for human consumption through **shrimp farming** is an aquaculture practice that can take place in either a **marine or freshwater environment**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

14. Ans: C

Exp:

- Millets are **Photo-insensitive (do not require a specific photoperiod for flowering)** & resilient to **climate change**. Millets can grow on poor soils with little or no external inputs. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ Millets are **less water consuming and are capable of growing under drought** conditions, under non-irrigated conditions even in very low rainfall regimes.
- Millets are **less expensive and nutritionally superior** to wheat & rice owing to their high protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals like iron content.
- Millets are also **rich in calcium and magnesium**. For example, Ragi is known to have the highest calcium content among all the food grains. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

15. Ans: C

Exp:

- Regenerative agriculture is a **holistic farming system** that **focuses on soil health, food quality, biodiversity improvement, water quality and air quality**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Through methods such as **reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, reducing tillage, integrating livestock and using cover crops**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ It adheres to the following principles:
 - ◆ Minimise soil distribution through **conservation tillage**
 - ◆ **Diversify crops** to replenish nutrients and disrupt pest and disease lifecycles
 - ◆ Retain soil cover using **cover crops**
 - ◆ **Integrate livestock**, which adds manure to the soil and serves as a source of carbon sinks.

16. Ans: B

Exp:

- A **fertilizer** is a natural or artificial substance **containing chemical elements (such as Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K))** that improve **growth and productiveness of plants**.
 - ◆ There are **3 basic fertilizers** in India - **Urea, DAP and Muriate of Potash (MOP)**.

- ◆ The **subsidy on P&K fertilizers is announced by the Government on an annual basis** for each nutrient on a per kg basis – which are determined **considering** the international and domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, **exchange rate**, inventory level in the country etc. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- The government **pays a subsidy to fertilizer producers** to allow **farmers to buy fertilizers at below-market rates**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The difference between the cost of production/import of a fertilizer and the actual amount paid by farmers is the **subsidy portion borne by the government**.
- In India, **urea is the most produced, imported, consumed and physically regulated fertilizer** of all. It is subsidized only for agricultural uses. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

17. Ans: C

Exp:

- GM crops are derived from plants whose genes are artificially modified, usually by inserting genetic material from another organism, in order to give it new properties, such as increased yield, tolerance to an herbicide, resistance to disease or drought, or improved nutritional value. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Earlier, India approved the commercial cultivation of only one GM crop, Bt cotton, but Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has recommended GM Mustard for commercial use. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

18. Ans: D

Exp:

- Coarse cereals are traditionally **grown in resource poor agro-climatic regions** of the country.
- Agro-climatic zone is a land unit in terms of major climates suitable for a certain range of crops and cultivars.
 - ◆ Sorghum, pearl millet, maize, barley, finger millet and several small millets such as kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, proso millet and barnyard millet together called coarse cereals.
 - ◆ Sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, maize and small millet (barnyard millet, proso millet, kodo millet and foxtail millet) **are also called nutri-cereals**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Coarse cereals are known for **nutria-rich content** and having characteristics like **drought tolerance, photo-insensitivity and resilient to climate change** etc.



- These crops also offer a good potential in the **food processing industry** and as a **promising exportable commodity**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The demand for coarse cereals for **animals and poultry feed** is on the rise.
 - ◆ In India, feed requirements are met from **waste food grains** in general and **made especially from coarse cereals**.
 - ◆ Maize is the preferred carbohydrate source in poultry feed. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

19. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About Livestock Sector:**
 - ◆ **Animal husbandry** has historically been an integral part of agriculture in India and is relevant today as a large section of society is actively engaged and dependent on it.
 - ◆ India is rich in **livestock biodiversity and has developed many specific breeds adapted to various climatic conditions**.
- **Contribution of Livestock in the Indian Economy:**
 - ◆ The **livestock sector grew at a CAGR of 7.9% during 2014-15 to 2020- 21** (at constant prices), and its contribution to total agriculture GVA (at constant prices) **has increased from 24.3% in 2014-15 to 30.1% in 2020-21**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ Besides their monetary benefit and providing a steady stream of food and revenues for households, **livestock provide employment to the rural family, act as insurance during crop failures** and the number of livestock owned by a farmer determines the social status among the community.
 - ◆ **Dairy is the single-largest agri commodity in India**. It contributes **5% to the national economy** and employs 80 million dairy farmers directly.
- **Recognised Indigenous Livestock Species:**
 - ◆ **Recently, ICAR** has registered 10 new breeds of livestock species. This has taken the total number of indigenous breeds to **212 as of January, 2023**.
 - ◆ The **ten new breeds of indigenous livestock species** are -
 - ◆ Kathani cattle (Maharashtra), Sanchori cattle (Rajasthan) and Masilum cattle (Meghalaya); Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ Purnathadi buffalo (Maharashtra)
 - ◆ Sojat goat (Rajasthan), Karauli goat (Rajasthan) and Gujari goat (Rajasthan)

- ◆ Banda pig (Jharkhand), Manipuri Black pig (Manipur) and Wak Chambil pig (Meghalaya).

20. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Glyphosate is an Herbicide**, developed in 1970.
 - ◆ Its scientific name is N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine under the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) system of nomenclature.
- Glyphosate was highly accepted by the tea planters in the past two decades. It has a very good market size in the tea sector of West Bengal and Assam.
 - ◆ Presently, **its consumption is highest in Maharashtra** as it is becoming a **key herbicide in sugarcane, maize and many fruit crops**. Hence, **both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct**.
- Health impacts of glyphosate range from cancer, reproductive and developmental toxicity to neurotoxicity and immunotoxicity.
 - ◆ Symptoms include irritation, swelling, burning of the skin, oral and nasal discomfort, unpleasant taste and blurred vision.
- **Some 35 countries have banned or restricted the use of glyphosate:**
 - ◆ These include Sri Lanka, Netherlands, France, Colombia, Canada, Israel and Argentina.
 - ◆ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has also recently restricted the use of glyphosate, a widely used herbicide, citing health hazards for humans and animals. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

21. Ans: D

Exp:

Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Regime:

- Under the NBS regime – fertilizers are provided to the farmers at subsidized rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers.
 - ◆ Also, the **fertilizers which are fortified with secondary and micronutrients** such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are **given additional subsidy**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **subsidy on P&K fertilizers is announced by the Government on an annual basis** for each nutrient on a per kg basis – which are determined taking into account the international and domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, exchange rate, inventory level in the country etc. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.



- NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that optimum balance (**N:P:K= 4:2:1**) of NPK fertilization is achieved. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- This would improve soil health and as a result the yield from the crops would increase, resulting in enhanced income to the farmers.
- Also, as the government expects rational use of fertilizers, this would also ease off the burden of fertilizer subsidy.
- It is being implemented since April 2010 by the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

22. Ans: C

Exp:

- Millet is a **collective term referring to a number of small-seeded annual grasses** that are cultivated as grain crops, primarily on **marginal lands in dry areas in temperate, subtropical and tropical regions.**
 - ◆ Some of the common millets available in India are Ragi (Finger millet), Jowar (Sorghum), Sama (Little millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), and Variga (Proso millet). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The earliest evidence for these grains has been found in **the Indus civilization and were one of the first plants domesticated** for food.
- It is grown in about 131 countries and is the traditional food for around 60 crore people in Asia & Africa. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India is **the largest producer** of millet in the world.
- It Accounts for 20 % of global production and **80 % of Asia's production. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Millets are **less expensive and nutritionally superior** to wheat & rice owing to their high protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals like iron content. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

23. Ans: A

Exp:

- India is the largest consumer of vegetable oil in the world. Of this, palm oil imports are almost 55% of its total vegetable oil imports.
 - ◆ It imports the rest, buying palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, soyoil from Brazil and Argentina, and sunflower oil, mainly from Russia and Ukraine. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The National Mission on Palm Oil aims to harness domestic edible oil prices that are dictated by expensive palm oil imports and become self-reliant in edible oil.

- ◆ To raise the domestic production of palm oil by three times to 11 lakh MT by 2025-26. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The special emphasis of the scheme will be in **India's North-Eastern (NE) states, Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

24. Ans: D

Exp:

Neem Coating of Urea:

- The Department of Fertilisers (DoF) has made it **mandatory for all the domestic producers to produce 100% urea as Neem Coated Urea (NCU). Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The benefits of the use of NCU:**
 - ◆ Improvement in soil health.
 - ◆ Reduction in usage of plant protection chemicals.
 - ◆ Reduction in pest and disease attack.
 - ◆ **An increase in yield of paddy, sugarcane, maize, soybean, Tur/Red Gram.**
 - ◆ Negligible diversion towards non-agricultural purposes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Due to slow release of Nitrogen, Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) of Neem Coated Urea increases resulting in reduced consumption of NCU as compared to normal urea.

25. Ans: B

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

- It provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers.
- The scheme **was compulsory** for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan/Kisan Credit Card (KCC) account for notified crops and voluntary for others.
 - ◆ **Currently, this scheme is voluntary** for all the farmers. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Scope:** All food & oilseed crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which past yield data is available.
- **Premium:** The prescribed premium is 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all rabi crops. In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium is 5%. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Premium cost over and above the farmer share was equally subsidized by States and GoI.
 - ◆ However, GoI shared **90% of the premium** subsidy for the Northeastern States to promote the uptake in the region.

26. Ans: D

Exp:

Differences between Natural Farming and Organic Farming

Organic Farming	Natural Farming
In organic farming, organic fertilisers and manures like compost, vermicompost, cow dung manure, etc. are used and added to farmlands from external sources.	In natural farming, neither chemical nor organic fertilisers are added to the soil. In fact, no external fertilisers are added to soil or given to plants whatsoever.
Organic farming still requires basic agro practices like ploughing, tilling, mixing of manures, weeding, etc. to be performed. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.	In natural farming, decomposition of organic matter by microbes and earthworms is encouraged right on the soil surface itself, which gradually adds nutrition in the soil, over the period.
Organic farming is still expensive due to the requirement of bulk manures, and it has an ecological impact on surrounding environments; whereas, natural agriculture is an extremely low-cost farming method, completely moulding with local biodiversity.	In natural farming there is no ploughing, no tilling of soil and no weeding is done just the way it would be in natural ecosystems. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

27. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Silver Revolution** is linked to the enormous increase in **egg production**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- White revolution is associated with milk production.
- Dr. Verghese Kurien is the Father of White Revolution in India.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry is celebrating National Milk Day on 26th November 2022.

- National Gopal Ratna Awards 2022 was conferred as part of the National Milk Day, 2022 celebrations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

28. Ans:

Exp:

- **Parboiled rice** refers to rice that has been partially boiled at the paddy stage, before milling. Parboiling of rice is not a new practice, and has been followed in India since ancient times.
 - ◆ However, there is no specific definition of parboiled rice of the Food Corporation of India or the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- **Advantages:**
 - ◆ Parboiling makes rice tougher which **reduces the chances of the rice kernel breaking** during milling. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Parboiling also **increases the nutrient value** of the rice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Parboiled rice has a **higher resistance to insects and fungi**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Disadvantages:**
 - ◆ The rice becomes darker and may smell unpleasant due to prolonged soaking.
 - ◆ Besides, setting up a parboiling rice milling unit requires a higher investment than a raw rice milling unit.

29. Ans: D

Exp:

- In 1915, **Gilbert Ellis Bailey** coined the term vertical farming and he went on to write a namesake book. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The modern concept was first proposed in 1999 by professor Dickson Despommier. His concept centered on the idea that urban areas should grow their own food which can save time and resources required for transportation.
- Instead of horizontally on the ground like traditional farming, vertical farming grows crops in vertical, stacked layers without putting too much impact on land and water resources which are scarce. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It includes soilless farming techniques, among others.
- **Vertical farming systems like aeroponics and hydroponics** come under the broad umbrella ambit of 'protected cultivation', where one can control and regulate multiple variables like water, soil, temperature, humidity, and so on. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Protected cultivation, when practised at scale, offers a massive potential to shorten and optimise our farm-to-plate supply chains by making food available closer to the consumer and thereby can go a long way to improve our nation's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and reduce imports dependency.

30. Ans. D

Exp:

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):

- The ICAR was **established on 16 July 1929** as a **registered society** under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It is **headquartered in New Delhi**. With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country, this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- It is the **apex body** for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.
- The ICAR has **played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution** and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development that has enabled the country to increase the **production of foodgrains by 5.6 times, horticultural crops by 10.5 times, fish by 16.8 times, milk by 10.4 times and eggs by 52.9 times since 1950-51 to 2017-18**.

31. Ans. C

EXP:

- Bumchu is an annual holy water vase ritual commemorated in Tashiding Monastery, one of the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites, located on a hilltop **overlooking the Rangeet River in Sikkim**. Bumchu means "pot of sacred water" in Tibetan.
- Hojagiri dance is one of the **famous dances of Tripura, and not Nagaland**. The dance is performed on the occasion of Hojagiri Festivals or Laxmi puja.
- **Lai Haraoba** is the earliest form of dance which forms the basis of all stylised dances in **Manipur**. Literally meaning - the merrymaking of the gods, it is performed as a ceremonial offering of song and dance.
- Recently, the Rock-cut Sculptures of **Unakoti in Tripura** was added to the tentative list of **United Nations**

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites. It is Shaivite pilgrimage and dates back to 7th or 9th century if not earlier. Unakoti means one less than a crore and it is said that these many rock cut carvings are available here.

32. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Milk Production:**

- ◆ Total milk production in India was **221.06 million tonnes** in 2021-2022, keeping it the **largest milk producing country** in the world. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ◆ Production had increased by 5.29% over the previous year. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ◆ The Indigenous cattle contribute 10.35% of the total milk production in the country whereas **non-descript cattle contribute 9.82%** and non-descript buffaloes contribute 13.49% of the total milk production in the country.
- ◆ Top five major milk producing States are **Rajasthan (15.05%), Uttar Pradesh (14.93%), Madhya Pradesh (8.06%), Gujarat (7.56%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.97%)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

33. Ans: D

Exp:

- The MSP is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers and is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.
 - ◆ MSP is a "minimum price" for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of "support".
- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
 - ◆ CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - ◆ The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.
- **Mandated Crops under Minimum Support Price:**
 - ◆ **Kharif Crops (14): Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Niger seed and Cotton**
 - ◆ **Rabi Crops (6): Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (lentil), Rapeseed/Mustard and Safflower**
 - ◆ **Commercial Crops (2): Raw Jute, Virginia Flu Cured (VFC) Tobacco and Copra.**



◆ **Other Crops:** MSPs of Toria and De-husked Coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of Rapeseed/Mustard and Copra, respectively.

- **Rapeseed and Mansur** are **Rabi Crops not Kharif crops.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

34. Ans: A

Exp:

National Food Security Act, 2013:

- **It provides food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach**, by ensuring access to **adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people** to live a life with dignity.
- **It covers 75% of the rural population** and up to **50% of the urban population** for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
 - ◆ **Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

◆ **Beneficiaries:**

- Priority Households to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
- Households covered under existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana.
- **The Economic Survey- 2020-21** had recommended a **revision of the Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains released from the central pool**, which have **remained unchanged for the past several years. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Central Issue Prices:** Foodgrains under NFSA are made available to beneficiaries at subsidized prices.
 - ◆ The centre procures food grains from farmers at a Minimum Support Price (MSP) and sells it to states at central issue prices.
 - ◆ The prices are fixed by the Central Government from time to time, but do not exceed MSP.

