Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 27-03-2024 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Postal Ballot Voting in India:

1. Postal voting also known as mail-in ballots, allow voters to cast their votes by mail instead of physically going to a polling station.
2. Only classified voters in the Indian armed forces or paramilitary forces are allowed to vote under this system.
3. Counting of postal ballot paper starts half an hour before counting of votes on EVMs.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a. Only one
b. Only two
c. All three
d. None of the above

Answer : b

Postal Ballot Voting

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that media persons covering polling day activities are now eligible to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024 and state Assembly polls through postal ballots.

- The ECI has provisions for allowing its citizens to cast vote during an election in three different ways: In person, by post, and through a proxy.
- While in-person voting obviously involves the voter to be physically present at the polling booth, the other two allows certain voters to exercise their Right to Adult Franchise from a distance.
- **Postal ballots –** They are also known as mail-in ballots, allow registered voters to cast their votes by mail instead of physically going to a polling station.
- The system is an alternative for individuals unable to vote in person due to reasons, such as being away from their constituency, disability, or performing essential services on Election Day.

- **Eligibility –** Eligible electors who can opt to vote through postal ballots include:
    1. **Service voters –** Members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and government employees deployed on election duty far from their home constituencies.
    2. **Absentee voters –** Individuals unable to vote in person due to reasons like work commitments, illness, or disability.
    3. **Electors on election duty –** Government officials and polling staff assigned duties at polling stations other than their own.
    4. **Electors under preventive detention –** Individuals detained under preventive custody orders during the election period.
    5. **Essential services covering polling day activities –** Media persons with authorization letters from the EC and those involved in essential services such as metros, railways,

and healthcare have the option to vote using postal ballots in Lok Sabha and four state Assembly polls.

- **Applying for postal ballot –** To apply for a postal ballot, eligible voters must apply, Form 12 D, to the returning officer (RO) of their respective constituency.
    1. **Service voters –** For service voters, the RO sends the postal ballot paper through the record office, directly or through the Ministry of External Affairs for service voters serving outside India.
    2. **Seniors citizens –** For senior citizens, a team of two polling officials, a videographer, and security personnel will visit the residence of the elector to facilitate this process.
- **Process –** The process of casting the postal vote is as follows:
    1. Receiving the postal ballot
    2. Marking the ballot
    3. Completing the declaration form
    4. Sealing the envelope
    5. Returning the postal
- **Counting –** Postal ballots are counted separately from votes cast at polling stations.
- On the designated counting day, postal ballots are collected by postal authorities and brought to the counting centre.
- Counting of postal ballot paper starts half an hour before counting of votes on EVMs.
- The RO and election officials scrutinise postal ballots for validity and integrity, adding valid ballots to the respective candidate's vote count.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to the District Election Management Plan (DEMP):

1. It is a comprehensive document that uses statistics and analysis to ensure the smooth conduct of elections.
2. As per the Election Commission of India, the DEMP is to be prepared at least six months before the tentative poll day.
3. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) plan is a component of DEMP.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are **incorrect**?

   a. Only one
   b. Only two
   c. All three
   d. None of the above

Answer : d

District Election Management Plan (DEMP)

A cornerstone of election planning process is the District Election Management Plan (DEMP), a comprehensive document that uses statistics and analysis to ensure the smooth conduct of elections.

- **DEMP –** As per the Election Commission of India, the DEMP is to be prepared at least six months before the tentative poll day.
- However, it becomes necessary to revise/update the plan occasionally.
- Executing the DEMP requires a collaborative effort involving election officials, administrative authorities, law enforcement agencies etc.
- Regular interactions with political parties and media are also planned to brief them on electoral rules.
- **Elements –** The plan starts with a district profile that serves as the foundation of the electoral strategy.
- This includes a political map outlining constituencies, key demographic and infrastructure

statistics, a brief on the district's administrative setup and socio-economic features.

- The plan encompasses detailed strategies for improving the availability and accessibility of polling stations, ensuring that all stations have essential facilities.
- Another critical component of the DEMP is the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) plan, which focuses on increasing electoral participation.
- Activities under the SVEEP plan include the use of social media, engagement with various community and youth organisations, and organising events leading up to the poll day to increase awareness and participation.
- The plan also includes training district-level teams to enforce the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and providing a training program for all election personnel to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge.
- **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) –** Material management is a crucial component of the DEMP involving procuring 61 essential items, including indelible ink, seals, stamps, stationary and statutory forms.
- These items are categorised based on the level at which they are to be procured (State/U.T. or district level), with timelines ranging from two-to-three weeks to four months before the election.
- EVMs management is crucial with plans necessary for secure storage and availability of EVMs and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), including plans for their transportation and maintenance.

3) Consider the following statements with respect to the Ramakrishna Mission:

1. Ramakrishna Mission was established by Ramakrishna Paramahamsa in 1897.
2. The first Math of the Ramakrishna Mission was established at Belur in West Bengal.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : d

Ramakrishna Mission

Ramakrishna Mission president Swami Smaranananda passed away due to old age ailments at the age of 95.

- It is a Hindu religious and spiritual organization that is at the heart of the Ramakrishna Movement, also known as the Vedanta Movement.

- The mission was created on May 1, 1897, by Ramakrishna Paramahamsa's principal follower Swami Vivekananda.
- It is named after and inspired by the Indian spiritual Guru Ramakrishna Paramahamsa.
- **Ideals –** The organization primarily promotes Advaita Vedanta, a Hindu philosophy, as well as four yogic ideals: Jnana, Bhakti, Karma, and Raja yoga.
- **Math –** At Baranagar, the first Math was founded and another math was established in Belur in 1899, and it became the central math.
- It is responsible for the organizing and operation of all maths' located across India and even beyond the country.
- It is also the educational center for the Ramakrishna Mission's saints.
- **Goals –** The mission's goals included assisting the impoverished, improving women's situation, combating untouchability and superstition, and overhauling the educational system.

4) Consider the following statements with respect to the Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre

(ICCC):

1. ICCC will enable monitoring of the farm sector by making available at one place geospatial information received from multiple sources.
2. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare and ISRO.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : a

Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)

Agriculture Minister inaugurated a Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) set up at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi, a big-screen dashboard of all digital innovations in the sector.

- The ICCC is a tech-based solution involving multiple IT applications and platforms, which is designed to help in making informed decisions.
- The centre is housed in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, which is responsible for legislation, policy formation, and implementation of initiatives in the agriculture sector.
- ICCC uses technologies such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to collect and process large amounts of granular data and present it in graphical format.
- The granular data includes data on temperatures, rainfall, wind speed, crop yields and production estimations.
- **Output –** On 8 large, 55-inch LED screens installed at the ICCC, one can see information on crop yields, production, drought situation, cropping patterns (geographic region-wise and year-wise) in map, timeline, and drill-down views.
- One can also see the relevant trends, outliers, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and receive insights, alerts, and feedback on agriculture schemes, programmes, projects, and initiatives.
- The ICCC uses platforms including the Krishi Decision Support System (DSS) to collect micro-level data, process it, and present the macro picture.
- The ICCC has a contact centre and a helpdesk facility, with the operator's handset capable of being converted into a call centre.
- If needed, farmer beneficiaries can interact directly with officials or the Minister through video conferencing facilities.
- **Objectives –** The ICCC will enable comprehensive monitoring of the farm sector by making available at one place geospatial information received from multiple sources.
- The sources of ICCC includes:
    1. Data from remote sensing
    2. Plot-level data received through soil survey
    3. Weather data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD)
    4. Sowing data from Digital Crop Survey
    5. Farmer- and farm-related data from Krishi MApper, an application for geo-fencing and geo-tagging of land
    6. Market intelligence information from the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg)
    7. Yield estimation data from the General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES)
- The integrated visualization of the data will enable quick and efficient decision-making by the

ICCC ecosystem can be linked with the PM-Kisan chatbot going forward.

- **Applications –** Drought Actions, Crop Diversification, Farm Data Repository, Validation of Yield.

5) Which of the following organisation(s) prepared the India Employment Report 2024?

    a. International Labour Organisation

    b. World Bank

    c. Niti Aayog

    d. National Statistical Organisation

Answer : a

India Employment Report 2024

The recently released India Employment Report 2024 has highlighted the issue of high unemployment amongst India's educated youth.

- Unemployment is the condition of one who is capable of working, actively seeking work, but unable to find any work.
- **Report prepared by** – Institute for Human Development (IHD) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Key findings

- **Unemployment** – India's youth account for almost **83%** of the unemployed workforce.
- The Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio and the Unemployment Rate showed a long-term deterioration between 2000 and 2018, but witnessed an improvement after 2019.
- The youth unemployment rate increased with the level of education, with the highest among graduates and higher among women than men.
- **Nature of work** – Most of the workers remain engaged in informal work and the share of regular work declined after 2018.
- **Skill development** – India's large young workforce don't appear to have the necessary skills with 75% of youth unable to send emails with attachments.
- **Gender gap** – Among the educated unemployed youths, women accounted for a larger share (76.7%) than men (62.2%).
- India is also facing the challenge of a substantial gender gap in the labour market, with low rates of female labour force participation.
- **Demographic dividend** – India remains ready to reap a demographic dividend for at least another decade due to the youth population remaining at 23% of the total in 2036 from 27% in 2021.

- **Areas for action** – The report highlighted 5 key policy areas for further action:
  1. Promoting job creation
  2. Improving employment quality
  3. Addressing labour market inequalities
  4. Strengthening skills and active labour market policies
  5. Bridging the knowledge deficits on labour market patterns and youth employment