



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. With reference to Rakhigarhi, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

- I. It is the largest known Harappan site discovered in India.
- II. Recent scientific investigations on excavated human remains include Ancient DNA analysis and stable isotope studies.
- III. The site provides evidence that the Indus Civilization was confined only to present-day Pakistan.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements **I** and **II** are correct, while Statement **III** is incorrect.

- **Rakhigarhi**, located in **Haryana**, is the **largest known Harappan settlement in India**, covering nearly **550 hectares**.
- The recently excavated human skeletons have been transferred to the **Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)** for advanced scientific investigations including:
 - **Ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis**
 - **Stable isotope analysis**
 - **Osteological studies**
 - **Palaeopathological investigations**
 - **Environmental reconstruction**
- Rakhigarhi demonstrates that the **Indus Valley Civilization extended well into present-day northwestern India** and was **not confined to Pakistan**.

2. Which one of the following archaeological findings would most strongly indicate the existence of an urban civilisation such as that at Rakhigarhi?

(a) Megalithic burial chambers and iron weapons

(b) Planned streets, brick-lined drainage and specialized craft production

(c) Rock shelters containing Mesolithic paintings

(d) Ash mounds associated with Neolithic pastoral settlements

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The defining characteristics of the **Harappan Civilisation** include:

- **Planned urban settlements**
- **Grid-pattern streets**
- **Covered drainage systems**
- **Standardised baked bricks**
- **Craft specialisation** such as bead-making and metallurgy
- **Organised civic planning**

Excavations at **Rakhigarhi** have revealed **brick-lined streets, drainage systems, fire altars, industrial areas, terracotta figurines, Indus seals, bead-making workshops, gold ornaments and human burials**, confirming its status as a major urban centre.

3. With reference to the Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus reticulatus*), consider the following statements:

- I. It is naturally distributed across the Indo-Pacific region.
- II. The last pair of walking legs is modified into paddle-like appendages.
- III. It is an exclusively freshwater species inhabiting Himalayan rivers.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
 (c) All three
 (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements **I** and **II** are correct, whereas Statement **III** is incorrect.

The **Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus reticulatus*)** is:

- Native to the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- A **commercially valuable marine and brackishwater crab**.
- Characterised by **bluish-green coloration with white spots**.
- Possesses **flattened paddle-like hind legs** adapted for swimming.

It inhabits:

- **Estuaries**
- **Mangrove creeks**
- **Coastal lagoons**
- **Seagrass meadows**

- **Sandy and muddy coastal bottoms**

It is **not** a freshwater riverine species.

4. Which one of the following best explains the significance of the recently demonstrated Blue Swimmer Crab farming technology by ICAR-CIBA?

- (a) It enables commercial aquaculture of a deep-sea pelagic species.
- (b) It provides a complete hatchery-to-harvest technology package for a high-value brackishwater species.**
- (c) It replaces marine fisheries with freshwater cage culture.
- (d) It promotes monoculture of shrimp in coastal aquaculture.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The **ICAR–Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR–CIBA)** has successfully developed India's first **standardised end-to-end farming technology** for the **Blue Swimmer Crab**.

The technology package includes:

- **Hatchery seed production**
- **Nursery rearing**
- **Specialised pelleted feed (BSCrabPlus)**
- **Grow-out culture practices**
- **Scientific harvesting techniques**

The technology is expected to:

- Diversify coastal aquaculture.
- Reduce dependence on **shrimp monoculture**.
- Increase farmers' income.
- Strengthen seafood exports.

5. With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:

- I. It is a statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- II. It may inquire into alleged human rights violations either suo motu or on petitions received.
- III. Its recommendations are legally binding on all authorities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements I and II are correct, whereas Statement III is incorrect.

The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** is a **statutory body** established under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**.

Its major functions include:

- **Suo motu inquiry** into human rights violations.
- Investigation based on complaints.
- Reviewing constitutional and legal safeguards.
- Promoting human rights awareness.
- Advising governments on policy reforms.

However, the **recommendations of the NHRC are recommendatory in nature** and **are not legally binding**, although governments are expected to act upon them and furnish action-taken reports.

6. With reference to NAFEX.in, recently launched by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), consider the following statements:

- I. It is a digital e-auction platform for transparent procurement and sale of agricultural produce.
- II. One of its objectives is to improve price discovery while reducing transaction costs in agricultural marketing.
- III. It has been developed exclusively for the export of agricultural commodities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements I and II are correct, whereas Statement III is incorrect.

- **NAFEX.in** is an **e-auction portal** launched by **NAFED** to modernise agricultural marketing through **digital, transparent and competitive bidding**.
- The platform aims to:
 - **Improve price discovery**
 - **Enhance transparency**
 - **Reduce transaction costs**

- **Strengthen digital agricultural marketing**

- The portal is **not exclusively meant for exports**; rather, it facilitates transparent procurement and marketing within India's cooperative agricultural ecosystem.

7. Which one of the following initiatives has been launched by NAFED to promote transparent, technology-driven agricultural marketing?

- (a) AgriStack
- (b) NAFEX.in**
- (c) e-NAM Plus
- (d) Bharat Krishi Grid

Answer: (b)

Explanation

NAFEX.in is the newly launched **digital e-auction platform** of **NAFED**.

Besides NAFEX.in, NAFED has also introduced:

- **DRISHTI** – Digital Monitoring & Analytics System.
- **ERP** – Enterprise Resource Planning for integrated management.
- **NAFED Kalyan** – Welfare initiative for farmers and stakeholders.

NAFED has also expanded its activities beyond procurement into:

- **Organic farming**
- **Seed production**
- **Bio-fertilizers**
- **Retail marketing**
- **Food security**
- **International agricultural trade**

8. With reference to the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, consider the following statements:

- I. It is situated on the Gulf of Mannar along the southeastern coast of India.
- II. It has been recognised as a Scope-2 Emission Free Port.
- III. It is India's first major port to launch a Green Hydrogen Pilot Project.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three**
- (d) None

Answer: (c)

Explanation

All three statements are correct.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port (formerly Tuticorin Port) is one of India's **Major Ports**, located at **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu** on the **Gulf of Mannar**.

Recent achievements include:

- **45% reduction in net carbon emissions**
- Renewable energy meeting **94% of electricity consumption**
- Nearly **50% reduction in carbon intensity per tonne of cargo**
- Recognition as a **Scope-2 Emission Free Port**
- Establishment of **India's first Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at a Major Port**

These initiatives position the port as one of India's leading **Green Ports**.

9. Which one of the following correctly explains the significance of PortGPT, recently launched at the V.O. Chidambaranar Port?

(a) It is India's first AI-based satellite navigation system for merchant ships.

(b) It is an enterprise-grade Generative AI platform made available through a dedicated mobile application for port operations.

(c) It is an autonomous cargo handling robot deployed at Indian ports.

(d) It is a blockchain platform for international shipping insurance.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

PortGPT is an **enterprise-grade Generative Artificial Intelligence platform** introduced by **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority**.

Its significance lies in the fact that:

- It makes the port the **first major port in India** to provide a **dedicated mobile application powered by Generative AI**.
- It is expected to improve:
 - **Operational efficiency**
 - **Information accessibility**
 - **Digital governance**
 - **Decision support**
 - **Citizen and stakeholder services**

The initiative aligns with India's broader goals of **Digital India, Smart Ports, and AI-enabled governance**.

10. Consider the following pairs:

Initiative	Primary Objective
I. PortGPT	AI-enabled digital management of port services
II. DRISHTI	Digital monitoring and analytics system of NAFED
III. Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)	Monitoring long-term climate variables across India
IV. NAFEX.in	Satellite-based crop insurance assessment platform

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three**
- (d) All four

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Pairs **I, II and III** are correctly matched, whereas Pair **IV** is incorrect.

- **PortGPT** is a **Generative AI-based enterprise platform** introduced by **V.O. Chidambaranar Port**.
- **DRISHTI** is **NAFED's Digital Monitoring & Analytics System**.
- **BCON** is India's long-term **climate observation network** established under **Mission Mausam** to monitor variables such as **meteorological parameters, greenhouse gases, atmospheric chemistry, short-lived climate pollutants, and soil moisture**.
- **NAFEX.in** is **NAFED's digital e-auction portal** for transparent procurement and sale of agricultural produce. It is **not** a satellite-based crop insurance platform.