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GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan to form quad group

Context:

- The U.S., Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform.

Details:

- The diplomatic platform would focus on **building transit links and enhancing regional connectivity** which could help expand interregional trade and strengthen business-to-business ties.

Significance of the platform:

Take advantage of the strategic location of Afghanistan:

- Afghanistan's strategic location functions as a competitive advantage for the country.
 - Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast.
- Located at the heart of the historic Silk Road, Afghanistan lies at the **crossroads of commerce between Asian countries and European countries.**
- The diplomatic platform could help leverage Afghanistan's strategic location advantage to its growth and development.

Bring peace and stability to Afghanistan:

- The diplomatic effort gains significance in the backdrop of US troop's withdrawal from Afghanistan and the rising violence. Given the **mutually reinforcing nature of peace and regional connectivity**, this diplomatic platform could contribute to bringing long-term peace and stability to Afghanistan.

Countering BRI:

- The formation of the new quad group is important amid China's desire to extend its Belt Road Initiative (BRI) to Afghanistan.
 - The BRI aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

2. Live-streaming court proceedings is key: CJI

Context:

- The Chief Justice of India recently inaugurated live-streaming of proceedings at the Gujarat High Court.

Significance of live streaming:

- As noted by the CJI, **live-streaming of court proceedings is crucial for dissemination of information** and the spread of information is sacrosanct to free speech.

Challenges with live streaming:

- As noted by the CJI, with live-streaming **Judges who will have to work under public scrutiny**, is liable to be swayed by multiple public debates and may tend to lose objectivity. Hence the live streaming may be a stressful environment for the judge to work in.
- The live streaming does pose some **challenges for the protection of privacy and security of victims and witnesses**.

3. Concerns remain over anti-trafficking Bill

Context:

- The **Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021**, is likely to be tabled in the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament.

Details:

- The legislation is aimed at **preventing and countering trafficking in persons**, especially women and children.
- The Bill defines **human trafficking as an organised crime**.

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) shall act as the national **investigating and coordinating agency** responsible for prevention and combating of trafficking in persons.

Significance of the bill:

Victim centred provisions:

- Apart from helping counter trafficking in persons, the bill also has provisions for **care, protection, and rehabilitation to the victims**.
- Respecting the rights of the victims, it creates a supportive legal, economic and social environment for the victims of human trafficking.
- Significantly, the bill upholds the right of survivors to **rehabilitation and compensation independent of criminal proceedings**.

Concerns:

- The **absence of provision for community-based rehabilitation** in the draft bill is a major lacunae given the potential that community based centres hold in the rehabilitation process.
- Sex work and pornography have been added to the definition of exploitation and are considered to be trafficking. This the experts claim leads to unnecessary mixing up of the issue of trafficking and sex work. This **goes against the right to the choice of sex work as a profession**.
- There are doubts over how the NIA as a nodal agency will gather information and intelligence through **anti-human trafficking Units (AHTUs) at the district and State levels**.
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs had mandated the AHTUs for conducting inter-State probe in cases of human trafficking and allocated budgets to them.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology, Environment

4. Rare Arctic lightning storms strike north of Alaska

Context:

- **Three successive thunderstorms swept across the Arctic region** resulting in unusual lightning bolts.

Details:

- **Lightning are a relatively rare phenomenon in the arctic region.**
 - Given that in the arctic region the water is usually covered with ice, the air over the Arctic Ocean lacks the convective heat needed to generate lightning storms.
- However there are indications of a change in this trend with **episodes of summer lightning within the Arctic Circle having tripled since 2010.**
 - This trend could be **attributed to climate change and increasing loss of sea ice** in the region. As sea ice vanishes, more water is able to evaporate, adding moisture to the warming atmosphere.
 - **Notably climate change has been warming the Arctic faster than the rest of the world.**

Concerns:

- These lightning threaten boreal forests around the Arctic, as they could spark **forest fires** in remote regions already experiencing high temperatures due to global warming.
- On the water, **the lightning is an increasing hazard to mariners** as the vessel traffic has been increasing with retreating sea ice.

5. Independent defence policy in place now, claims Amit Shah

Context:

- Union Home Minister delivering the Rustamji Memorial Lecture at the 18th Investiture Ceremony of the Border Security Force (BSF).

Highlights of the speech:

Border safety:

- **Border safety was at the core of the national security policy.**
- A pilot project of the **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System** had been implemented for effective surveillance along the border.
- **Development of border areas has been prioritized through infrastructure development work** to provide basic services to the residents. This includes construction of border roads, bridges and important tunnels.

Challenges to internal security:

- The major challenges before the BSF would be **infiltration, drugs/weapons trafficking and drones.**

- There is also the need to develop a long-term strategy for countering the possible use of artificial intelligence and robotic technology from across the border.

6. Curbs on Mastercard

Context:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has banned Mastercard from issuing new debit and credit cards to customers in India.

Background:

RBI's data localisation policy:

- In 2018, the Reserve Bank of India had issued a circular ordering card companies such as Visa, Mastercard, and American Express to **store all Indian customer data locally**.
- The underlying reasons for this were stated as follows:
 - Local storage of consumer data is necessary to **protect the privacy of Indian users** and to **address national security concerns**.
 - Regulator could have necessary supervisory access over the card companies.

RBI strict implementation of the guidelines.

- Earlier, American Express and Diners Club International were banned by the RBI from issuing new cards after they failed to comply with the 2018 circular.

Details:

- According to the RBI, **Mastercard has failed to comply with the local data storage rules** announced in 2018.

Concerns:

- The move to ban Mastercard would **impact the operation of banks** operating in India that use Mastercard's services to issue cards to their customers.
- Given that Mastercard accounts for almost one third of the card market in India, **new card registrations might take a hit**.
- Some believe the data localisation rules are being used by governments as **tools of economic protectionism**. This sort of economic protectionism could

affect the business of foreign card companies. Thus, the card payments sector may end up being restricted to a few domestic companies, which in turn **can lead to reduced competition**. This could mean **higher costs and lower quality services for customers**.

7. AI tool developed to study cancer-causing mutations

- Researchers at IIT Madras have developed an **AI tool called NBDriver** (neighbourhood driver) for **use in analysing cancer-causing mutations in cells**.
- By looking at the genomic neighbourhood of a mutation in the genome, the new tool can look at harmful cancer **“driver” mutations** and distinguish them from **neutral “passenger” mutations**.
 - The “driver” mutations enable the cancer cells to grow while the “passenger” mutations do not have any effect on the progression of the disease.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. Violence in South Africa

In news Recently, Riots and looting in South Africa have left more than 70 people dead, hurt thousands of businesses and damaged major infrastructure.

- It is the worst civil unrest since the end of white minority rule in 1994.

Reason for Recent Violence

- Protests began over calls for release of former president Jacob Zuma, who served the country from 2009-18 and is facing corruption charges.
- While the violence may have been spurred on by the imprisonment of Jacob Zuma, it's being fanned by underlying problems of unemployment and poverty amid a raging pandemic and failing economy.

India- South Africa Relations

- India and South Africa have a long history of working together in institutions of **global governance/multilateral fora** such as BRICS, G20 , Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- India is **South Africa's fifth-largest export destination**, fourth-largest import origin and second-largest trading partner in Asia.
- The Department of Science and Technology of both countries have collaborated, especially in the **Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project**.
- With the help of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), an **intensive programme of cultural exchanges** is organised throughout South Africa including scholarships for South African nationals.
- South Africa is **home to the highest number of Indian Diaspora** in the African continent, constituting 3% of South Africa's total population.

2. Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

In news The Union Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary for further five years to 2026.

- The entire cost of the scheme will be Rs 9000 crore out of which the Centre will contribute Rs 5357 crore including Rs 50 crore for the implementation of the Gram Nyayalayas Scheme as a part of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms.

About the CSS for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary:

- It has been in operation since 1993-94.
- The Central Government through this scheme augments the resources of the State Governments for construction of court buildings and residential quarters for Judicial Officers (JO) in all the States / UTs.

Significance/benefits of the scheme:

- This will help in improving the overall functioning and performance of the Judiciary.
- Continued assistance to the Gram Nyayalayas will also give impetus to providing speedy, substantial and affordable justice to the common man at his door step.

What are Gram Nyayalayas?

- Gram Nyayalayas or village courts are established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 for speedy and easy access to the justice system in the rural areas of India.
- The Act came into force from 2nd October 2009.
- A Gram Nyayalaya has jurisdiction over an area specified by a notification by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court.
- The Court can function as a mobile court at any place within the jurisdiction of such Gram Nyayalaya, after giving wide publicity to that regard.
- They have both civil and criminal jurisdiction over the offences.
- Gram Nyayalayas has been given power to accept certain evidences which would otherwise not be acceptable under Indian Evidence Act
- **Composition:**
 - The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by a Nyayadhikari, who will have the same power, enjoy same salary and benefits of a Judicial Magistrate of First Class.
 - Such Nyayadhikari are to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court.

3. China Starts Carbon Trading Scheme

In news China recently introduced its long-awaited emissions trading system.

- It is a system that would create the world's largest carbon market and double the share of global emissions covered under such programs.

What are the features of the carbon trading scheme?

- The carbon market will help the country **lower greenhouse-gas emissions**.
- It will help China **achieve its goal of reaching peak emissions before 2030** and carbon neutrality, or **net zero emissions, by 2060**.
- The program will initially involve such **2,225 companies in the power sector which are responsible for a seventh of global carbon emissions** from fossil-fuel combustion
- Under the trading program, emitters such as power plants and factories are given a **fixed amount of carbon** they are allowed to release a year. They can in turn buy or sell those allowances. That pushes emitters to think of controlling and reducing emissions in terms of a market.
- Over the next three to five years, the market is **set to expand to seven additional high-emissions industries**: petrochemicals, chemicals, building materials, iron and steel, nonferrous metals, paper, and domestic aviation.

- Rather than be subject to the absolute caps on emissions in other trading programs, Chinese companies will start off with allowances that use benchmarks based on previous years' performances which can be traded by negotiation or auction.

What are India's Initiatives to Reduce Emissions?

- India shifted from Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission norms from 1st April 2020 which was earlier to be adopted by 2024.
- It has distributed more than 360 million LED bulbs under the UJALA scheme, which has led to energy saving of about 47 billion units of electricity per year and reduction of 38 million tonnes of CO₂ per year.
- International Solar Alliance: Indian initiative conceived as a coalition of solar-resource-rich countries to address their special energy needs.
- The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC): Launched in 2008 by the Central government, it aims at creating awareness about the threat posed by climate change and the steps to counter it.
- Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), 2017: Developed by Power Ministry and BEE, ECBC seeks to promote low carbon growth by integrating the renewable energy sources in the design of the buildings
- Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA): It evaluates the environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle, thereby providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a green building

4. Delhi Water Crisis

In news Haryana releases 16,000 cusecs water for Delhi amidst the water shortage in the capital.

- Delhi Jal Board (DJB) blamed the Haryana government for triggering a "severe water crisis" in the national capital, and exhorted the neighbouring state to adhere to orders by the Supreme court on water sharing.

What is the water Crisis in India?

- India constitutes 16% of the world's population, but it has only 4% of the world's freshwater resources.
- With the changing weather patterns and recurring droughts, India is water stressed.
- According to the latest data from the Central Ground Water Board (2017), almost 256 of 700 districts have reported 'critical' or 'over-exploited' groundwater levels.

- Water scarcity in India is expected to worsen as the overall population is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by year 2050.
- **Causes:** Traditional techniques of water irrigation, excess use of groundwater, Rapid urbanization, industrialization, population growth, demand for domestic use
- Also, during the monsoon season the desilting operations of the water bodies, dams, etc. are not done at the time affecting the water storage capacity of India.

Solutions to mitigate water crisis

- Rain water harvesting
- Micro irrigation (MI) systems (sprinkler, drip)
- Robust long-term planning and preparation for droughts and other contingencies.
- Agricultural universities should take a lead in advising farmers on suitable cropping patterns to save water.
- The practice of providing free or subsidised water and power to farmers must be stopped. Small and marginal farmers can be compensated for their loss by increasing the MSP for their produce.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology, Environment

5. New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021

In news Minister for Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy inaugurated “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021”

Significance of the inauguration

- **Building sector is the second largest consumer of electricity** after industry but it is expected to become the largest energy consuming sector by 2030.
- Realizing its importance, the Government of India is focusing on **improving energy efficiency across residential as well as commercial building establishments.**

- These initiatives will help enhance the energy-efficiency levels in residential buildings thereby leading to sustainable habitation.
- With future-driven initiatives like smart home ecosystems, optimizing energy-efficiency in any given structure will surely be the need in the coming years.
- More energy-efficiency means less energy consumption in household and reduced carbon emissions.

The initiatives launched included:

- **Specifying code compliance** approaches and **minimum energy performance requirements** for building services, and verification framework with Eco Niwas Samhita 2021.
- **The web-based platform ‘The Handbook of Replicable Designs for Energy Efficient Residential Buildings’ as a learning tool**, which can be used to create a pool of ready-to-use resources of replicable designs to construct energy-efficient homes in India.
- **Creating an Online Directory of Building Materials** that would envisage the process of establishing Standards for energy efficient building materials.
- **Announcement of NEERMAN Awards**, (National Energy Efficiency Roadmap for Movement towards Affordable & Natural Habitat), with the goal of encouraging exceptionally efficient building designs complying with BEE’s Energy Conservation Building Codes.
- **Online Star Rating tool** for Energy Efficient Homes created to improve energy-efficiency and reduce energy consumption in individual homes.
- **Training of over 15,000** Architects, Engineers and Government officials on Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 and Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) 2021.

What is BEE?

- The Government of India has set up the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provision of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- **Mission:** To assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles
- **Primary objective:** Reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- This will be achieved with active participation of all stakeholders, resulting in accelerated and sustained adoption of energy efficiency in all sectors.

6. Digital Platform Kisan Sarathi

In news In order to facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language, a digital platform 'Kisan Sarathi' was recently launched.

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

What are the features of the platform?

- It shall empower farmers with technological interventions to reach farmers in remote areas.
- The farmers can interact and avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from the respective scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs).
- It will be highly valuable not only in addressing the location specific information needs of the farmers but also in Agricultural Extension, Education and Research activities of ICAR.

About The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recently celebrated its 93rd Foundation Day.
- It is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- The Council is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.
- With 101 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.

7. COVID Impact on Women Workforce

Context: COVID-19 Pandemic has severely exacerbated existing gendered barriers, widened India's gender gap in the workforce, and affected (overwhelmingly female) caregivers and frontline workers.

Recent Survey Findings of Impact of Pandemic on Women

- **Economic Impact:** Women made up just 24% of those working before the pandemic, yet accounted for 28% of all those who lost their jobs. Women also constitute 43% of those who are yet to recover their paid work.
- **Impact on food intake:** Due to low income, more than one in ten women limited their food intake or ran out of food in the week they were surveyed.
 - **Impact on Health:** About 16% of women had to stop using menstrual pads, and more than one in three married women were unable to access contraceptives.
- **Increased Unpaid work:** Indian women already do almost three times more unpaid work than Indian men (nearly 6.5 hours a day). During Pandemic, there is 47% increase in unpaid labour for women, and a 41% increase in unpaid care work for women.
- **Government Support:** One in three women said that government welfare schemes and SHGs had played an important role in helping them navigate the pandemic, comparable to the commonly cited family support.
 - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, and the public distribution system (PDS) supported 12 million, 100 million, and 180 million women respectively during the crisis.

While the government's role in entitlements has been invaluable to women, there is a need for broader conversations around universalising, deepening, and extending them support.

Following are three proposals

- Bundling free menstrual hygiene products with PDS would relax women's dependence on income for these essentials.
- Launching drives to enlist women on MGNREGS job cards and increase the total number of person-days to meet women's demand for job opportunities.
- Focusing on the inclusion of single, divorced/separated women in the One Nation One Ration Card rollout, and building social assistance programmes for informal workers, specifically domestic workers and casual labourers

Prelims Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements regarding 'Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative'?

1. The initiative is proposed by G7 countries to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower income countries.

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

Answer : C

Explanation

- The **G7 (Group of Seven)** Countries proposed a '**Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative**' at the recent **47th G7 summit** to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to address the infrastructure investment deficit in developing and lower income countries - the space which has been increasingly captured by China through 2,600 BRI projects with trillions of dollars of investment. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- This infrastructure plan is **being led by the United States.**
 - B3W initiative will **provide a transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow about \$40 trillion** needed by developing nations by 2035.
 - It calls for spending **hundreds of billions of dollars** in collaboration with the **private sector** while **adhering to climate standards and labour practices.**
 - However, the **announcement is yet to be made about how exactly the plan would work or how much capital it would ultimately allocate.**

2. Which of the following authorities/institutions fall under the definition of 'Public Authority' in the Right to Information act?

1. Office of Attorney General
2. Securities and Exchange Board of India
3. Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
4. Office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)

Options:

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2 and 4 only
- c. 1 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Delhi High Court has clarified that the office of the attorney general would not be a public authority within the ambit of the Right to Information Act (RTI).
- “Public authority” means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted –
 - by or under the Constitution;
 - by any other law made by Parliament;
 - by any other law made by State Legislature;
 - by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any –
 - body owned, controlled or substantially financed;
 - non-Government organisation substantially financed,
- directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government;
- Therefore only those NGOs substantially financed by the Government come under the ambit of Public Authority, not all.

3. With reference to Dowry, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Dowry Prohibition Act applies to persons of all religions in India.
2. The Dowry Prohibition Act prohibits both the giving and receiving of a dowry.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- In this act, 'dowry' means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly:
 - by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage; or
 - by the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person; at or before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage of said parties but does not include dower or mahr in the case of persons to whom the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) applies.
- The Dowry Prohibition Act prohibits the giving or taking of the dowry.

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Bio-Toilets?

1. Bio toilets use anaerobic bacteria for converting human waste to gas.
2. Bacteria can decompose plastic and cloth materials dumped into toilets.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: c

Explanation: Bio-toilets in Railways

- Bio-toilet is a dry toilet that treats human waste by a biological process called composting.
- It decomposes human excretory waste in a digester tank using specific high graded bacteria (aerobic or anaerobic), further converting it into methane gas, carbon dioxide gas and water.

- It treats human waste at the source. A collection of anaerobic bacteria that have been adapted to work at temperatures as low as -5 degree C and as high as 50 degree C as inocula (seed material) to the bio-digesters convert the organic human waste into water, methane and carbon dioxide gases.
- The anaerobic process inactivates the pathogens responsible for water-borne diseases and treats the excreta without the use of an external energy source.
- However, sometimes, bio-toilets are choked as passengers dump cigarette butts, gutka pouches, plastic water bottles, plastic covers, liquor bottles, and food waste into it.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE):

1. It is an AI-based portal that collects relevant facts and makes decisions on behalf of the judges.
2. The portal was launched by the Chief Justice of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer :A

Explanation

- Recently, the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal '**SUPACE**' in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - SUPACE is short for Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency.
- It is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
 - It is **not designed to make decisions**, but only to process facts and to make them available to judges looking for an input for a decision. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Initially, it will be used on an experimental basis by the judges of Bombay and Delhi High Courts who deal with criminal matters.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) are a part of National Agricultural Research System (NARS).
2. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra scheme is 100% financed by the Government of India.

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

Answer :C

Explanation

- **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)** is an agricultural extension center in India. Usually associated with a local agricultural university, these centers serve as the ultimate link between the ICAR and farmers, and aim to apply agricultural research in a practical, localized setting.
 - It is an integral part of the **National Agricultural Research System (NARS)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - The first KVK was established in 1974 at Puducherry.
- The mandate of KVK is technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development.
 - KVKs also produce quality technological products (seed, planting material, bio-agents, livestock) and make it available to farmers.
- The **KVK scheme is 100% financed by the Government of India** and the KVKs are sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) working in Agriculture. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Mains Practice Questions

1Q. "Next to war, famine and pandemic the worst thing that can happen to agriculture is absentee-landlordism". Analyse this statement with reference to the land revenue system of Britishers in India. (250 words)

Approach

- In the introduction briefly explain the meaning of absentee landlordism.
- Establish the relationship of absentee landlordism with the land revenue system of Britishers.
- Highlight the implications of absentee landlordism on the agriculture sector.
- In the body, starting with the cause, analyse the effects of absentee landlordism under various headings in such a way that their implications are elaborated.
- Conclude by summarising the effects of absentee landlordism and with the future changes brought about by it.

2Q. Discuss the importance of public services reforms in ensuring good governance in India. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly define public services reforms in the introduction and establish its relationship with Good Governance.
- Elaborate some of the important public services reforms initiated in India. Also, highlight their importance in achieving some of the components of good governance.
- Mention the challenges that impede these reforms.
- Conclude with some valid suggestions about what more efforts are needed to make public services reform ensure Good Governance.

