



Yojna IAS

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MAY 2023

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

YOJNA IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENTS

S.No.	Topics	Pg No.
1.	SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23	1 - 4
2.	WTO REFORMS	4 - 7
3.	GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN	7 - 9
4.	PROJECT 75	10 - 12
5.	SENDAI FRAMEWORK	12 - 15
6.	GEM INCORPORATION DAY	15 - 18



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2023

SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23”. The topic “SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23” has relevance in the International Relations section for the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance of the topic “SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23”

For Prelims:

What is SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23?

For Mains:

GS 2: International Relations

What are the capacities and capabilities of Indian Navy?

What is Indian Ocean Region (IOR)?

*What are the initiatives taken by India to enhance its leadership in Indian Ocean Region (IOR)?
Way Forward*

Why in the news?

The 4th edition of the India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 was conducted recently.

What is SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23?

It is a bilateral exercise between India and Indonesia.

The primary objectives of SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23 were to enhance the Indian Navy's

operational preparedness, test its ability to respond to a range of maritime security threats and demonstrate its readiness to undertake joint operations with other friendly navies.

Indian Navy: Capacities and Capabilities

Indian Navy is one of the largest and most powerful naval forces in the world, with a fleet of more than 150 ships and submarines, and over 300 aircraft. The Indian Navy has made significant progress in enhancing its capabilities, modernizing its fleet, and developing its human resources. Here are some of the key aspects of the Indian Navy's readiness:

- **Modernization:** The Indian Navy has been actively pursuing modernization of its fleet and equipment to enhance its operational capabilities. It has been acquiring new warships, submarines, and aircraft, and upgrading its existing assets with advanced sensors and weapons systems.
- **Training and human resource development:** The Indian Navy has been focused on training and developing its personnel to ensure they are prepared for a wide range of operations, from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to combat operations. The Navy has established a robust training and education system that includes technical and leadership training, and it also conducts regular exercises with other navies to enhance interoperability.
- **Maritime domain awareness:** The Indian Navy has developed a comprehensive maritime domain awareness system that includes satellite and radar-based surveillance, as well as human intelligence. This system enables the Navy to monitor and track maritime activity in the Indian Ocean Region, and respond to any potential security threats.
- **Regional cooperation:** The Indian Navy has been actively engaged in regional cooperation with other navies in the Indian Ocean Region. It participates in joint exercises, patrols, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and shares information and expertise with partner countries.

About Indian Ocean Region(IOR)

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is a geopolitical term used to describe the vast expanse of ocean that stretches from the east coast of Africa to the west coast of Australia and includes the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is one of the most strategically important and economically vibrant regions in the world, with a rich history and diverse cultures.

- **Shipping lanes:** The IOR is home to several important shipping lanes, including

the Strait of Malacca, the Suez Canal, and the Persian Gulf, through which much of the world's trade and energy supplies pass. The region is also home to several important ports and naval bases, which are critical to maintaining maritime security and ensuring the free flow of goods and services.

- **Diversity:** The IOR is a region of immense diversity, with a rich mix of cultures, religions, and languages. It is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, including India, China, and several countries in Southeast Asia.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** The region is also home to several important strategic partnerships, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), which bring together like-minded countries to promote security and economic cooperation in the region.

Initiatives taken by India to enhance its leadership in Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

India has been an active participant in initiatives aimed at promoting cooperation and stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Some of the Indian initiatives in IOR are as follows:

- **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):** India was one of the founding members of the IORA, a regional forum comprising 23 countries bordering the Indian Ocean. The IORA aims to promote economic cooperation and maritime security in the region through dialogue and collaboration.
- **SAGAR:** The Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative were launched by India in 2015. The initiative seeks to promote economic and security cooperation in the IOR by strengthening maritime links, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing regional security.
- **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):** India played a key role in the establishment of IONS, a voluntary association of navies from the littoral states of the Indian Ocean. IONS seeks to enhance maritime security and promote regional stability through dialogue and cooperation.
- **Project Mausam:** India launched Project Mausam in 2014 to promote cultural and economic ties among countries in the IOR. The initiative seeks to revive historical maritime links and promote tourism, trade, and cultural exchange in the region.
- **Indian Ocean Conference:** India hosts an annual Indian Ocean Conference that brings together policymakers, academics, and business leaders to discuss issues related to regional security and economic cooperation.

Way Forward

India can expand its maritime capabilities, including naval presence, maritime surveillance, and search and rescue operations, to ensure the safety and security of shipping lanes and territorial waters in the region. This can be done through the development of infrastructure, acquisition of advanced naval assets, and capacity building of regional countries.

What is the significance of SAMUDRA SHAKTI – 23?

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1924058>

WTO REFORMS

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “WTO Reforms”. The topic “WTO Reforms” has relevance in the International Relations section for the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance of the topic “WTO Reforms”

For Prelims:

What are WTO Reforms?

For Mains:

GS 2:International Relations

What is the significance of WTO Reforms?

Way Forward

Why in the news?

Recently India and the EU have affirmed their commitment to work together on WTO reforms.

What are WTO Reforms?

WTO is a multilateral trade body that allows the free and fair movement of goods and services across the country. WTO is in the eye of the storm as the major reforms to allow an equitable trade environment are stalled because of the lack of cooperation between the states.

WTO reforms refer to the proposed changes and adjustments to the rules, procedures, and functions of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO is an international organization that deals with global trade rules among its member countries. Over time, concerns and criticisms have emerged regarding certain aspects of the WTO's functioning, leading to calls for reforms to address these issues. Some of the key areas of focus for WTO reforms include:

The issues with WTO are as follows:

1. **Dispute Settlement Mechanism:** One of the critical functions of the WTO is the resolution of trade disputes among member countries. However, the WTO's Appellate Body, which hears appeals in trade disputes, has faced challenges, including a backlog of cases and concerns about overreach and delays. Reforms aim to address these issues and restore the functioning of an effective dispute settlement system.
2. **Trade Negotiations:** The WTO conducts negotiations to establish global trade agreements and reduce trade barriers. Reforms aim to make the negotiation process more inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs of member countries, particularly addressing concerns raised by developing and least-developed countries.
3. **Special and Differential Treatment:** Developing countries have advocated for stronger provisions that address their specific needs and development challenges. Reforms focus on enhancing special and differential treatment provisions to ensure that developing countries can effectively participate in global trade and derive benefits from the multilateral trading system.
4. **Trade and Environment:** There is a growing recognition of the need to reconcile trade rules with environmental objectives. Reforms aim to strengthen the integration of environmental considerations in trade agreements, promote sustainable practices, and address issues such as climate change, conservation, and sustainable development.
5. **Digital Economy and E-commerce:** The rapid growth of the digital economy and e-commerce has raised new challenges and opportunities for global trade. Reforms seek to address digital trade barriers, ensure data flows, and establish rules for the digital economy within the WTO framework.
6. **Transparency and Notification Obligations:** Transparency and timely information

exchange are essential for effective trade governance. Reforms focus on improving transparency and strengthening notification obligations to ensure that member countries have access to accurate and up-to-date trade-related information.

The process of WTO reforms involves discussions and negotiations among member countries, and the specific reform proposals can vary. Reforms aim to ensure that the WTO remains relevant, effective, and capable of addressing emerging trade challenges while balancing the interests of its diverse membership.

What is the significance of WTO Reforms ?

WTO reforms hold significant importance for several reasons:

1. **Addressing Current Trade Challenges:** The global trade landscape has evolved significantly since the establishment of the WTO. Reforms help the organization adapt to emerging challenges such as digital trade, environmental sustainability, and changing economic dynamics.
2. **Promoting Inclusivity and Development:** Reforms aim to address the concerns of developing and least developed countries, promoting their interests and ensuring their meaningful participation in the global trading system.
3. **Restoring Dispute Settlement Mechanism:** The effective functioning of the dispute settlement mechanism is crucial for maintaining a rules-based trading system. Reforms aim to address the challenges faced by the WTO's Appellate Body, which include a backlog of cases and concerns about overreach.
4. **Strengthening Transparency and Governance:** Transparency and information exchange are essential for building trust and ensuring effective trade governance.
5. **Fostering Cooperation and Consensus:** The WTO operates on a consensus-based decision-making process, requiring agreement among member countries.
6. **Enhancing the Role of WTO in Global Trade:** Reforms aim to strengthen the role and relevance of the WTO as the primary international organization governing global trade.
7. **Mitigating Trade Tensions and Protecting Against Protectionism:** In the context of growing trade tensions and protectionist measures, WTO reforms play a crucial role in promoting open, rules-based, and non-discriminatory trade.

Way Forward

WTO reforms are essential for adapting to the evolving global trade landscape, promoting inclusivity, addressing emerging challenges, and maintaining the stability and

effectiveness of the multilateral trading system. By strengthening the WTO, reforms contribute to fostering economic growth, development, and cooperation among member countries.

1. What is the significance of WTO reforms? Discuss.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1924405>

GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Graded Response Action Plan". The topic "Graded Response Action Plan" has relevance in the Environment section for the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance of the topic "Graded Response Action Plan"

For Prelims:

What is the Graded Response Action Plan?

For Mains:

GS 3: Environment

What is the significance of Graded Response Action Plan?

Way Forward

Why in the news?

The Sub-Committee for invoking actions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) met to take stock of the current air quality scenario of Delhi-NCR and also assess technical as well as expert inputs related to the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR put forward by IITM/ IMD.

What is Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)?

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is an environmental action plan implemented by the Government of India to combat air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR), which includes Delhi and its neighboring areas.

GRAP was first introduced in 2017 and has since been revised and updated to address the severity of the air pollution problem in the region.

GRAP is designed to take into account the Air Quality Index (AQI) and trigger specific actions based on different levels of air pollution. It consists of a set of measures that are implemented in a graded manner, depending on the severity of pollution levels.

The plan categorizes the AQI into different levels, such as moderate, poor, very poor, severe, and emergency. Each level triggers a specific set of actions to be taken by various government agencies and departments. These actions include:

1. Closure of brick kilns and hot mix plants.
2. Prohibition of garbage burning and strict enforcement of dust control measures at construction sites.
3. Water sprinkling and mechanized road sweeping to reduce dust pollution.
4. Strict enforcement of pollution control measures for industries and power plants.
5. Intensification of public transport services, with a focus on electric vehicles and improving their frequency and capacity.
6. Introduction of odd-even vehicle rationing schemes to reduce vehicular pollution.
7. Implementation of measures to control open burning of agricultural waste and stubble.
8. Introduction of emergency measures, such as banning the entry of trucks into Delhi, closing schools, and enforcing strict action against visibly polluting vehicles.

GRAP is implemented by a task force comprising representatives from various government agencies, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), and other concerned departments. The task force regularly monitors the air quality and recommends appropriate actions based on the pollution levels.

What is the significance of Graded Response Action Plan?

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) holds significant importance in addressing and combating air pollution in the Delhi region. Here are some key aspects highlighting

the significance of GRAP:

1. **Systematic Approach:** GRAP provides a systematic and graded approach to tackle air pollution based on the severity of pollution levels. It categorizes the Air Quality Index (AQI) into different levels and triggers specific actions accordingly.
2. **Timely Intervention:** GRAP is enforced during the winter season, which is when air pollution in the Delhi region tends to peak. By implementing specific actions and measures at the right time, GRAP aims to mitigate pollution sources and reduce the impact of high pollution levels on public health.
3. **Interagency Coordination:** GRAP involves the collaboration and coordination of various government agencies, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), and other departments.
4. **Pollution Source Control:** GRAP addresses multiple sources of pollution, such as vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, construction activities, waste burning, and agricultural practices.
5. **Public Awareness and Engagement:** GRAP emphasizes the importance of public awareness and engagement in combating air pollution. It seeks to educate the public about the causes and effects of air pollution, encouraging individual actions such as carpooling, using public transport, avoiding waste burning, and adopting cleaner cooking practices.
6. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** GRAP is a dynamic plan that can be revised and updated based on the evolving nature of air pollution and emerging challenges.
7. **Improved Air Quality and Public Health:** The ultimate significance of GRAP lies in its impact on air quality and public health. By implementing the plan's measures, it aims to reduce the concentration of pollutants in the air, leading to improved air quality and a reduction in associated health risks, such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular problems.

Overall, GRAP plays a crucial role in providing a comprehensive framework for combating air pollution in the Delhi region. It brings together government agencies, promotes public participation, and focuses on targeted actions to mitigate pollution sources, leading to a cleaner and healthier environment.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1924559>

PROJECT 75

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “Project 75”. The topic “Project 75” has relevance in the Security section for the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance of the topic “Project 75”

For Prelims:

What is Project 75?

What are the names of submarines under Project 75?

For Mains:

GS 3: Security

What is the significance of Project 75?

Way Forward

Why in the news?

The sixth submarine of Project 75, Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced her sea trials on 18 May 23.

What is Project 75?

“Project 75” refers to a series of submarine construction programs undertaken by the Indian Navy. These programs aim to enhance India's naval capabilities by constructing advanced submarines domestically.

The Indian Navy's Project 75 involves the construction of six diesel-electric submarines in collaboration with foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

The objective is to acquire and develop advanced submarine technology and capabilities for the Indian Navy.

Under Project 75, the Indian Navy has pursued the following submarine programs:

1. Project 75: Scorpene-class submarines: This program is a collaboration between India's Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) and French shipbuilding company Naval Group. It involves building six Scorpène-class submarines in India, with technology transfer from France. These submarines are designed for various roles, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, mine laying, and intelligence gathering.

2. **Project 75(I): Next-generation submarines:** This program aims to build six advanced submarines with superior capabilities compared to the Scorpene class. The Indian Navy has initiated a competitive process to select an OEM for this project, with several global companies participating.

What are the names of submarines under Project 75?

Project 75 aimed to construct six conventional Scorpene-class attack submarines for the Indian Navy. The current status of the submarines is as follows:

1. **INS Kalvari:** The first submarine under Project 75, INS Kalvari, was delivered in 2015 and joined the service in December 2017.
2. **INS Khanderi:** The second submarine, INS Khanderi, was deployed in September 2019, just two years after the delivery of INS Kalvari.
3. **INS Karanj:** The third submarine, INS Karanj, was inducted into the Indian Navy's fleet in March 2021.
4. **INS Vela:** The fourth submarine, INS Vela, joined the fleet in November 2021.
5. **INS Vagir:** The construction of the fifth submarine, INS Vagir, commenced in November 2020. It is expected to be commissioned by the latter quarter of 2022.
6. **INS Vagsheer:** The sixth submarine completed under the project is INS Vagsheer. It is a reincarnation of the original Vagsheer, which was withdrawn from service in April 1997. The vessel, named after a deadly deep-sea hunter in the Indian Ocean, was launched in April 2022.

What is the significance of Project 75?

Project 75 holds significant importance for the Indian Navy and India as a whole due to the following reasons:

1. **Indigenous Submarine Construction:** One of the main objectives of Project 75 is to strengthen India's indigenous submarine construction capabilities. By collaborating with foreign OEMs and leveraging technology transfer, the project aims to enhance domestic shipbuilding expertise and reduce India's dependence on foreign imports for submarines.
2. **Naval Modernization:** Project 75 plays a vital role in the modernization of the Indian Navy's submarine fleet. The construction of advanced submarines with cutting-edge technologies and capabilities significantly enhances India's underwater warfare capabilities.

3. **Regional Security:** India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean region necessitates a robust naval presence to safeguard its maritime interests and maintain regional security.
4. **Technological Advancements:** Through collaboration with foreign OEMs and technology transfer, Project 75 facilitates the acquisition and assimilation of advanced submarine technologies.

Overall, Project 75 holds significant strategic, technological, and economic importance for India. It strengthens the country's naval capabilities, promotes self-reliance in defense manufacturing, and enhances regional security in the Indian Ocean region.

Source:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1925363>

SENDAI FRAMEWORK

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "SENDAI FRAMEWORK". The topic "SENDAI FRAMEWORK" has relevance in the "Disaster Management" section for the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance of the topic "SENDAI FRAMEWORK"?

For Prelims:

What is SENDAI FRAMEWORK?

For Mains:

GS 3: Disaster management

What are the Goals, Key Principles and Implementation framework of SENDAI FRAMEWORK?

What is the significance of SENDAI FRAMEWORK? Way forward?

Why in the news?

India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Japan International Co-

operation Agency (JICA) organized a Risk Reduction Hub Event at the United Nations headquarters during the High-level meeting of the midterm review of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 to discuss 'The Roles of States for Promoting Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction towards Resilient and Sustainable Future.

What is SENDAI FRAMEWORK?

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is a global agreement adopted by United Nations member states in 2015. It is a comprehensive framework that sets out strategies and goals for reducing disaster risk and promoting resilience at the national, regional, and global levels. The framework is named after the city of Sendai in Japan, where it was adopted during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

What is the goal of SENDAI FRAMEWORK?

The framework sets four specific goals for disaster risk reduction, which are to reduce disaster mortality, reduce the number of affected people, reduce economic losses, and reduce damage to critical infrastructure. It also outlines seven global targets and four priorities for action.

Key principles:

The framework is guided by four key principles, known as the "4 Rs": Risk Reduction, Resilience, Recovery, and Reconstruction. It emphasizes the need for a multi-hazard approach, the involvement of all stakeholders, and the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning.

Implementation and Monitoring:

The Sendai Framework encourages countries to develop and implement national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction. It also emphasizes the importance of international cooperation, capacity building, and the sharing of knowledge and information. The framework includes a monitoring process to track progress in achieving its goals and targets.

What is the significance of SENDAI FRAMEWORK

- **International Cooperation:** The framework emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction.
- **Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The Sendai Framework is closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United

Nations. It recognizes the interlinkages between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change adaptation, and other global development agendas.

- **National and Local Implementation:** The framework encourages countries to develop and implement national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction. This includes incorporating disaster risk reduction into development planning, policy-making, and governance structures.

Way forward:

- **Strengthening National Policies and Governance:** Countries should align their national policies and legal frameworks with the Sendai Framework.
- **Risk Assessment and Early Warning Systems:** Conducting comprehensive risk assessments is essential to identify hazards, vulnerabilities, and potential impacts.
- **Strengthening Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Engaging local communities in disaster risk reduction efforts is vital. This includes raising awareness, providing education and training, and involving communities in decision-making processes.

Source: PIB, UNDRR website. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1925356> <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

Q.1 Which of the following statements regarding the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is/are correct?

1. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is a global roadmap for disaster risk reduction.
2. The framework aims to substantially reduce the number of deaths and the economic losses caused by disasters.
3. It emphasizes the importance of incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into disaster risk reduction efforts.
4. The Sendai Framework primarily focuses on addressing natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Q.2 The Sendai Framework is aimed at:

- (a) Promoting sustainable development in urban areas.
- (b) Addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- (c) Enhancing global cooperation to prevent and manage disaster risks
- (d) Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation in vulnerable communities capabilities

Answer: (c)

Q.3 Discuss the role of the Sendai Framework in promoting sustainable development. How does the framework contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples

[15 marks]



GEM INCORPORATION DAY

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "GeM Incorporation Day". The topic "GeM" has relevance in the Governance, Transparency and Accountability section for the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance of the topic "GeM Incorporation Day"

For Prelims:

When was GeM Incorporated?

What is GeM?

For Mains:

GS 2: Governance, Transparency and Accountability

What is the significance of GeM?

Way forward?

Why in the news?

A function was held yesterday in New Delhi to commemorate the incorporation of Government e- Marketplace (GeM) as a 100 percent not-for-profit Company on 17th May, 2017.

What is GeM?

GeM stands for Government e-Marketplace. It is an online platform introduced by the Government of India to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various government departments, organizations, and public sector undertakings (PSUs).

Significance of GeM?

Mandate: GeM aims to bring transparency, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness to the government procurement process. It eliminates the need for physical paperwork, manual tenders, and middlemen, thus reducing delays and corruption.

Features: GeM provides a single platform for buyers and sellers to interact and conduct business. It offers a wide range of products and services across multiple categories, including IT, office supplies, vehicles, furniture, consulting, manpower, and more.

Direct Purchase and Bidding: GeM offers two modes of procurement. In the Direct Purchase mode, government buyers can directly purchase goods and services from registered sellers at predefined rates. In the Bidding mode, competitive bidding is conducted for high-value procurements to ensure fair and transparent practices.

Benefits: GeM provides several advantages, including increased transparency, reduced transaction costs, improved efficiency, and access to a larger pool of suppliers. It also promotes small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups by providing them equal opportunities to participate in government procurement.

Integration with other systems: GeM integrates with various existing government systems such as Aadhaar, Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), Public Financial Management System (PFMS), and eSign. This integration ensures data integrity, authentication, and secure transactions.

Monitoring and Ratings: GeM maintains a rating system to assess the performance of sellers and buyers. It also enables monitoring and tracking of orders and provides

analytics to government agencies for effective decision-making.

Way forward:

To improve GeM, consider implementing the following suggestions:

- 1.Enhance user interface for better navigation and ease of use.
- 2.Expand the range of products and services to cater to diverse government requirements.
- 3.Provide multilingual support to accommodate users from different regions.
- 4.Offer training and support programs to educate users on GeM functionalities.
- 5.Strengthen cybersecurity measures to ensure data protection and prevent fraudulent activities.
- 6.Strengthen cybersecurity measures to ensure data protection and prevent fraudulent activities.
- 7.Collaborate with state governments to encourage their active participation in GeM for wider reach and increased procurement opportunities.

Source:PIB

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1925299>

<https://gem.gov.in/>

Q.1 GeM (Government e-Marketplace) is an online platform launched by the Government of India to facilitate procurement by government agencies.

- 1.GeM aims to promote transparency, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in public procurement.
- 2.GeM allows only government entities to buy goods and services through the platform.
- 3.GeM provides a single-window system for registration, bidding, and payment processes.
- 4.GeM is exclusively designed for the procurement of goods and does not cover services.

Which of the following statements regarding GeM is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only

- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer:(a)

Q.2 Which initiative was launched by the Government of India to promote transparency and efficiency in public procurement through an online marketplace?

- (a) Make in India
- (b) Digital India
- (c) GeM
- (d) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Answer:(c)

Q.3 Discuss the significance of GeM (Government e-Marketplace) in promoting transparency, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in public procurement in India. Analyze its impact on reducing corruption, and fostering economic growth. Also, evaluate the challenges faced by GeM and suggest measures to overcome them for its effective implementation.

(15 marks)

