

Question 1

Answer: B

Samagra Shiksha Scheme:

- It is an integrated scheme for school education covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII.
- It aims to deliver inclusive, equitable, and affordable school education.
- It subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- The scheme covers 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools (from pre-primary to senior secondary level).

It is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme. It involves a 60:40 split in funding between the Centre and most States. It was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018

Question 2

Answer: A

Article 366 (25) of the Constitution refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.

Article 342 says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the **President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament(Not by States)** will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes.

Question 3

Answer: C

Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996:

- To promote local self-governance in rural India, the 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment was made in 1992.
- Through this amendment, a three-tier Panchayati Raj Institution was made into a law. However, its application to the scheduled and tribal areas under Article 243(M) was restricted.
- After the Bhuria Committee recommendations in 1995, Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996 came into existence for ensuring tribal self-rule for people living in scheduled areas of India.
- The PESA conferred the absolute powers to Gram Sabha, whereas state legislature has given an advisory role to ensure the proper functioning of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas. The power delegated to Gram Sabha cannot be curtailed by a higher level, and there shall be independence throughout.
- The PESA is considered to be the backbone of tribal legislation in India.
- PESA recognises the traditional system of the decision-making process and stands for the peoples' self-governance.
- Following powers and functions have been provided to the Gram Sabhas:
  - Right to mandatory consultation in land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons.
  - Protection of traditional belief, the culture of the tribal communities
  - Ownership of minor forest products
  - Resolution of the local disputes
  - Prevention of land alienation
  - Management of village markets
  - Right to control production, distillation, and prohibition of liquor
  - Exercise of control over money-lending
  - Any other rights involving the Scheduled Tribes.

#### Question 4

Answer: B

Provisions of the MTP Amendment Act, 2021: Termination due to Failure of Contraceptive Method or Device: Under the Act, a pregnancy may be terminated up to 20 weeks by a married woman in the case of failure of contraceptive method or device. It allows unmarried women to also terminate a pregnancy for this reason.

Opinion Needed for Termination of Pregnancy: Opinion of one Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation. Opinion of two RMPs for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation. Opinion of the State-level medical board is essential for a pregnancy to be terminated after 24 weeks in case of substantial foetal abnormalities.

Upper Gestation Limit for Special Categories: Increases the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women, including survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (differently abled women, minors, among others).

#### Question 5

Answer: A

#### International Space Station (ISS)

- It is a habitable artificial satellite - the single largest man-made structure in low earth orbit. Its first component was launched into orbit in 1998.
- It circles the Earth in roughly 92 minutes and completes 15.5 orbits per day.
- The ISS programme is a joint project between five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada) but its ownership and use has been established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements.
- It serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory in which crew members conduct experiments in biology, human biology, physics, astronomy, meteorology, and other fields.
- Continuous presence at ISS has resulted in the longest continuous human presence in low earth orbit.
- It is expected to operate until 2030.
- Recently, the Russian Space Agency Roscosmos launched its biggest space laboratory named Nauka to the International Space Station (ISS).