The hapless workers find shelter in abandoned toilets and dry culverts

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BIRIPALI

After a back-breaking 1,300-km cycle ride from COVID-19 hotspot Mumbai to his village in Odisha’s Balangir district, Kishore Behera thought he had escaped hell. But little did the 31-year-old mason anticipate the appalling conditions in his village, Biripali.

With 12 positive cases reported in the village of 3,000 people, Mr. Behera went passing trucks fearing I could contract the virus. However, on reaching my village, I found no social distancing being adhered to in quarantine centres. I took shelter in a half-constructed Indira Awas Yojana house with my friends,” he said.

As there was no water connection in the house, he and his seven migrant labourer friends decided to stay under culverts that offered some respite from the toilet is too small but will be my home for the next two weeks,” he said.

Like them, more than 150 migrant labourers, who have returned from other States, have quarantined themselves at half-constructed temples, makeshift agricultural watchtowers, riverbeds and village forests as they dread staying in official centres. They are also facing resistance from fellow villagers who do not want them to enter their homes at this point of time.

Desperate measures: Migrants workers taking refuge under a culvert in Odisha’s Balangir district. *BISHAWARJAN ROUT*

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Pulses, oilseeds see sharp hike in MSP
CCEA nod to benefit all kharif crops

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Monday approved an increase in the minimum support prices (MSPs) for all mandated kharif crops, including paddy, pulses and cotton, for the 2020-21 marketing season.

The Union Cabinet also extended the repayment date for standard short-term loans upto ₹3 lakh for agriculture and allied activities, till August 31, 2020.

The MSP for paddy (common) has been increased by ₹53 per quintal, to ₹1,868 per quintal, while that of cotton was increased by ₹260 per quintal to ₹5,515 for medium staple variety, and by ₹275 per quintal to ₹5,825 for long staple variety.

Hike for oilseeds
The highest increase in MSP has been proposed for nigerseed (₹755 per quintal), followed by sesame (₹370 per quintal) and urad (₹300 per quintal). "The increase in MSP for kharif crops is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production, aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers," an official release said.

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

PAPER-III
General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

PAPER-IV
General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
News

• Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the PM has approved the increase in MSP for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2020-21.
• MSP has been increased for 14 Kharif crops including Paddy, jowar, maize, cotton, Niger seed and sesame etc.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

• MSP is the price at which government purchases crops from the farmers.
• MSP guarantees a minimum and fair amount for the farmers’ produce prior to the sowing season.

• Purpose: Encourages farmers to invest more in respective commodities—ensures adequate supply of food grains in the country.
• MSP is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), a attached body under Ministry Of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
• Central Government considers,
  ✓ CACP report
  ✓ Views of the State Governments
  ✓ Overall demand and supply situation in the country—and takes the final decision.
CACP recommends MSPs of 23 commodities. It comprises,
- 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi).
- 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil).
- 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed).
- 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

**Fair Remunerative Price (FRP)**
- For sugarcane, as the Fair Remunerative Price.
- Statutory binding on sugar factories to pay the minimum announced price.

**News**
- Highest increase in MSP is proposed for nigerseed, followed by sesamum, urad and cotton.
- Differential remuneration is aimed at encouraging crop diversification.
- This increase in price is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement—Fix the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average Cost of Production.
- Expected returns to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of Bajra (83%), followed by urad (64%), tur (58%) and maize (53%).
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to ‘Minimum Support Price’, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Government fixes the MSP based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

2. Paddy, Wheat, Cotton, Sunflower and Raw Jute are covered under MSP.

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
India, China and fortifying the Africa outreach

Burnishing their credentials as humanitarian champions is the name of the game, but their approaches differ

HARSH V. PANT & ABHISHEK MISHRA

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a great leveller across the world. But its effects stand to be devastating particularly in Africa, where economic and public health conditions are extremely vulnerable. Although African countries moved quickly to curb the initial spread, they are still woefully ill-equipped to cope with a public health emergency of such magnitude due to shortages of masks, ventilators, and even basic necessities such as soap and water. Such conditions have meant that Africa’s cycle of chronic external aid dependence continues. Africa needs medical protective equipment and gear to support its frontline public health workers. As Asia’s two largest economies and long-standing partners of Africa, India and China have increased their outreach to Africa through medical assistance. Their efforts are directed to fill a part of the growing African need at a time when not many others have stepped in to help.

Beijing’s donation diplomacy

China, being Africa’s largest trading partner, was quick to signal its has been to raise Beijing’s profile as a leading provider of humanitarian assistance and “public goods” in the global public health sector. China’s billionaire philanthropy was also in full display when tech founder Jack Ma donated three rounds of anti-covonavirus supplies. These consignments were transported mostly by Ethiopian aircraft. Chinese embassies across Africa have taken the lead by coordinating both public and private donations to local stakeholders and have also embarked on a donation blitz of cash even if the sub-optimal quality of China’s medical supplies and its deputing of medical experts have been a major cause for concern.

Beijing’s donation diplomacy in Africa aims to achieve three immediate objectives: shift the focus away from talking about the origins of the virus in Wuhan, build goodwill overseas, and establish an image makeover. For the most part, it succeeded in achieving these ends until China faced widespread backlash over the ill-treatment of African nationals in Guangzhou city. The issue quickly grew into a full-blown political crisis for Beijing. But for the most part, China has been successful in controlling the Guangzhou narrative due to the depth of its political influence in Africa. It is no secret that China relies heavily on diplomatic support and cooperation from African countries on key issues in multilateral fora. For example, Beijing used African support and credibility gap between Africa’s governing class, the people, the media and civil society. Even when criticisms have been levelled against Chinese indiscretions, it has hardly ever surfaced at the elite level. Overall, China’s donation diplomacy towards Africa during COVID-19 has received mixed reactions, but Beijing’s advantage lies in its economic heft and political influence in Africa.

New Delhi’s focus

For India, the pandemic presents an opportunity to demonstrate its willingness and capacity to shoulder more responsibility. The fact that even with limited resources, India can fight the virus at home while reaching out to developing countries in need is testament to India’s status as a responsible and reliable global stakeholder. Nowhere has India’s developmental outreach been more evident than in Africa with the continent occupying a central place in Indian government’s foreign and economic policy in the last six years. Africa has been the focus of India’s developmental outreach and credibility gap between Africa’s governing class, the people, the media and civil society. Even when criticisms have been levelled against Chinese indiscretions, it has hardly ever surfaced at the elite level. Overall, China’s donation diplomacy towards Africa during COVID-19 has received mixed reactions, but Beijing’s advantage lies in its economic heft and political influence in Africa.

India’s role as ‘the pharmacy of the world’, as the supplier of low-cost, generic medicines is widely acknowledged. Pharmaceutical products along with refined petroleum products account for 40% of India’s total exports to African markets. India is sending consignments of essential medicines, including hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and paracetamol, to 25 African countries in addition to doctors and paramedics at a total cost of around $6 million (57.9 million) on a commercial and grant basis. The initial beneficiaries were the African Indian Ocean island nations of Mauritius, the Seychelles, Comoros, and Madagascar under India’s ‘Mission Sagar’. While transportation and logistics remain a concern, most of the consignments have already reached various African states.

A timely initiative has been the e-TEC COVID-19 management strategies training webinars exclusively aimed at training healthcare professionals from India and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations and sharing of best practices by Indian health experts. Nigeria, Kenya, Mauritius, and Namibia have been beneficiaries. Across Africa, there is a keen interest to understand the developments and best practices in India because the two share similar socioeconomic and developmental challenges. There is also growing interest in research and development in drugs and vaccines. A few African

been playing a crucial role in helping spread awareness. Prominent Indian businessmen and companies in Nigeria and Kenya have donated money to the respective national emergency response funds. Country-specific chapters of gurdwaras and temples have fed thousands of families by setting up community kitchens, helplines for seniors and distributing sanitizers and sanitizers.

The contrasts

Both India and China, through their respective health and donation diplomacy, are vying to carve a space and position for themselves as reliable partners of Africa in its time of need. Burnishing their credentials as humanitarian champions is the name of the game. But there are significant differences in the approaches. For China, three aspects are critical: money, political influence and elite level wealth creation; strong state-to-state relations as opposed to people-to-people ties; and hard infrastructure projects and resource extraction. India’s approach on the other hand is one that focuses on building local capacities and an equal partnership with Africans and not merely with African elites concerned. As these two powers rise in Africa, their two distinct models will come under even greater scrutiny. And both New Delhi and Beijing might find that they need to adapt to the rising aspirations of the African continent.
Africa is facing devastating effects due to pandemic – economic and public health conditions are extremely vulnerable.

- Ill-equipped to cope with a public health emergency of this magnitude – shortages of essentials.

- Need medical protective equipment and gear to support front line public health workers.

- Necessitated Africa’s dependence on external aid.
India and China

- Shown support through medical assistance to Africa.
- Both are long-standing partners of Africa.
- China and India are Africa’s first and second single largest trading partners in 2018 — over 21% of total African trade.
- Differences in the approaches of both countries in assisting Africa.

China

- Money, political influence and elite level wealth creation
- Strong state-to-state relations as opposed to people-to-people ties
- Hard-infrastructure projects and resource extraction.

India

- Focus on building local capacities and an equal partnership with Africans, not merely with African elites.
China’s support to Africa – COVID

- Provided medical equipment.
- Beijing’s donation diplomacy – to raise China’s profile as a leading provider of humanitarian assistance and public goods in the global public health sector.
  - Shift the focus away from talking about the origins of the virus.
  - Build overseas goodwill.
  - Establish an image makeover.
- Ill-treatment of African nationals in Guangzhou city received widespread backlash and created a political crisis in China.
- Donation diplomacy towards Africa.

India’s support to Africa

- Pandemic – opportunity to demonstrate India’s willingness and capacity to undertake more responsibility – fighting domestically and helping developing countries.
  - Testament to India’s status as a responsible and reliable global stakeholder.
- ‘The pharmacy of the world’ – supplier of low-cost, generic medicines.
- Pharmaceutical products and refined petroleum products account for 40% of India’s total exports to African markets.
**Mission Sagar**

- Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines provided.
- Assistance to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.
- Medical Assistance Teams
- Indian Naval Ship Kesari.
- In line with India’s role as first responder in region.

**e-ITEC**

- A modality of ITEC programme.
- Training is imparted in partner countries by Indian Institutes online in real time.
- The classrooms are shifted to the partner countries and tailor made courses are delivered by Indian faculties online/through video conferencing.
- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.
  - Instituted in 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of GoI – fully funded by Government of India.
Under ITEC and Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme – 161 countries are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience acquired over six decades of India’s existence as a free nation.

Competence of India as a provider of technical know-how and expertise as well as training opportunities, consultancy services and feasibility studies.

COVID-19 management strategies training webinars – exclusively aimed at training health-care professionals from Africa and SAARC nations and sharing of best practices by Indian health experts.

- Indian businessmen and companies in Nigeria and Kenya have donated money to the respective national emergency response funds.

Conclusion

- Two models – both countries might find that they need to adapt to the rising aspirations of the African continent.
Q. “During COVID-19 pandemic, both India and China are trying/tried to position themselves as reliable partners of Africa”. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)
Monsoon hits Kerala with
cyclone in the background

Storm brewing in Arabian Sea could delay its progress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The monsoon has arrived in Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday. This is four days earlier than what the IMD had forecast in mid-May but is also the date on which the monsoon normally sets in over the State.

However, 700 km from Mumbai, a nascent cyclone is brewing in the Arabian Sea and is likely to hit north Maharashtra as well as the Gujarat coast by June 3. “Its track is northward but will recurve into Hariharswara and Daman. However, more details on the potential damage would be available once it begins to form. Right now, it’s a depression in the South East Arabian Sea and is about 690 km away from Mumbai,” Murtyunjay Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said at a press conference.

The IMD’s latest cyclone update expects it to balloon into a “severe cyclone” by the middle of the week.

The presence of a cyclone near land during the monsoon onset could delay the progress of the monsoon and put it into a “missing,” Madhavan Rajevar, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
MUMBAI ON ALERT PAGE 11

Mumbai likely to receive heavy rain

Cyclone Nisanga red alert also for Thane, Palghar, Raigad; fishermen asked not to venture into sea

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday scaled up its weather warning, issuing a red alert for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Raigad. A high pressure area formed over north-east and adjoining regions of the Arabian Sea in the early morning and remained till afternoon. It intensified into a depression, moved north-northwestwards, and lay centred there, 620 km south-southwest of Mumbai, on Monday.

Deep depression
It is very likely to intensify into a deep depression by Monday evening and turn further into a cyclonic storm Cyclone Nisanga on Tuesday. It is very likely to move north-northwestwards initially until June 3 and then north-northwestwards and cross north Maharashtra and south Gujarat between Harihareshwar and Narsapur on June 3.

Therefore, the IMD has issued a red alert for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Raigad districts for Wednesday. The IMD had initially issued an orange alert (very heavy rain) on Monday evening for Mumbai and Thane. The four districts will see heavy to very heavy rain on Wednesday. Mumbai, Thane and Raigad have a red alert for Thursday as well. Navi Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Raigad have a red alert for Wednesday.

Tidal waves
There will be very high wind speeds in these four districts, while sea will be very rough and high to very high over east-central Arabian Sea. Fishermen have been advised not to go into the sea.

Meanwhile, many parts of the state will receive light showers on Monday.

The IMD’s Colaba observatory recorded a rainfall of 0.2 mm whereas Santacruz observatory remained rainless by the end of the day.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

• Indian and World Geography—Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.

PAPER II

General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

• Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.
Monsoon

- Arabic word “MAUSIM” – means Season
- Indicates the seasonal reversals of the wind direction along the shores of the Indian Ocean, especially in the Arabian Sea
- A double system of seasonal winds
  1. Southwest monsoon – flow from sea to land during the summer
  2. Northeast monsoon – flow from land to sea during winter
- Monsoons are more pronounced in the Indian subcontinent compared to any other region.

Seasons in India

1. Winter (January – February)
2. Pre-Monsoon (March – May)
3. Southwest Monsoon (June – September)
4. Northeast Monsoon (October – December)
• During summer in northern hemisphere, due to the high temperature, a low-pressure system will be formed over the Tibetan plateau.
  ✓ Southwest monsoons bring intense rainfall to most of the regions in India.

• During winter, high pressure system is created over Tibetan and Siberian plateaus.
  ✓ The northeast monsoons bring rainfall to mainly southeastern coast of India like Tamil Nadu, part of Andhra Pradesh etc.
Factors responsible – formation of SW monsoon

1. Intense heating of the Tibetan plateau in summer
2. Formation of permanent high pressure near Madagascar in southern Indian Ocean
3. Indian Ocean Dipole
4. Somalia jetstream etc.

- During summer, sun’s position is apparently over the Tropic of Cancer (latitude 23.5 north).
- A low pressure and high temperature in central Asia.
- At the same time pressure over the Indian Ocean is sufficiently high due to the differential heating of land and water.
- Winds flow from ocean to the landmass – results in southwest monsoon.
Onset of SW Monsoon

- Typically breaks over the Indian Territory by around 25\textsuperscript{th} May, when it lashes the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal

1) Arabian Sea branch

✓ It strikes the Indian mainland around June 1 near the Malabar Coast of Kerala

✓ By June 9, it reaches Mumbai

✓ It appears over Delhi by June 29

✓ Moves northeast towards the Himalayas

✓ By the first week of July, the entire country experiences monsoon rain.
2) Bay of Bengal branch

- Initially tracks the Coromandel Coast northeast from Cape Comorin to Odisha, swerves to the northwest towards the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- Monsoon clouds begin retreating from Rajasthan by the first week of September.
- Mid-December, the centre of low pressure, completely removed for the peninsular India.
Cyclone Nisarga

- A developing tropical cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea - likely to make landfall between Harihareshwar in Mumbai and Daman
- Effects of cyclone on the Monsoon:
  - Likely to interfere with normal progression of monsoon
  - Example: Cyclone Vayu

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following:
1. Formation of high pressure system over Tibetan and Siberian plateaus.
2. Formation of high pressure near Madagascar.
3. Positive Indian Ocean Dipole

Which of the factors given above favour the Southwest monsoon?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to ‘Speaker of Lok Sabha’:

1. He/she must be a member of either houses of the Parliament
2. He/she can removed only by a resolution passed in the Lok Sabha by a majority of members present and voting in the House.
3. The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha presides over the Joint Sitting of both the Houses of the Parliament, when Lok Sabha speaker is not available/absent

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Speaker of Lok Sabha

- Elected by the LS from amongst its members.
- The head of the LS and its representative.
- The principal spokesman of the House.
- Decisions in all Parliamentary matters is final.
- Placed at seventh rank in the order of precedence along with the Chief Justice of India.

Functions of the Speaker

1. Maintains order and decorum in the House for conducting its business and regulating its proceedings.
2. Adjourns the house or suspends the meeting in absence of quorum.
3. Exercise casting vote in case of tie but not on first instance – makes his position impartial.
4. Presides over the Joint Sitting of the two houses which is summoned by the President to settle a deadlock between two houses on a bill.
Provisions to ensure independence and impartiality

- Provided with security of tenure
- Removed only by a resolution passed by the LS by an absolute majority and not by an ordinary majority
  - Absolute majority – a majority of total members of the House
  - Ordinary majority – a majority of members present and voting in the House

- Salaries and allowances are fixed by Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India
- Speaker’s work and conduct cannot be discussed and criticised in LS except on a substantive motion.
- Speaker’s powers of regulating procedure or conducting business or maintaining order in the House is not subject to the Jurisdiction of any court.
Chairman

- The Vice-President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of RS.
- As a presiding officer, the powers and functions of Chairman in RS are similar to those of the Speaker in LS except,
  - Speaker decided whether a bill is money bill
  - Speaker decides over the Joint Sitting of the Parliament
  - Unlike Speaker (who is a member of the House), the Chairman is not a member of the House.
Q2. Consider the following statements regarding PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) Scheme:

1. It aims to provide affordable loans to over 50 lakh street vendors and enable them to resume work and earn livelihoods.
2. On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries.
3. It is launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs .

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) Scheme:

- A special micro-credit facility scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Aim: To provide affordable loans to street vendors and enable them to resume work and earn livelihoods.
- Target: Over 50 lakh street vendors, who had been vending on or before 24th March this year, in urban areas.
- Duration: Till March 2022.

Features:

- Street vendors from peri-urban or rural areas are being included as beneficiaries under the urban livelihoods programme for the first time.
- Vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000.
- It is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
- On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries—through DBT on six-monthly basis.
• An online portal and a mobile application are being developed to ensure speedy implementation of the scheme.

✓ It will help in integrating the vendors into the formal financial system.
✓ It will integrate the web portal/mobile app with UdyamiMitra portal of SIDBI for credit management and with the PAiSA portal of MoHUA to administer interest subsidy automatically.

• Lending institutions under the Scheme also includes NBFCs, Micro Finance institutions and Self-Help Group banks.

• Urban Local Bodies will play a pivotal role in the implementation of the scheme.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. With reference to Bar Council of India (BCI), which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Attorney-General and Solicitor General of India are its ex-officio members.
3. It can constitute funds for providing financial assistance to organise welfare schemes for indigent advocates.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Bar Council of India (BCI)

- Established to regulate and represent the Indian bar.
- Section 7 provides for statutory functions and covers BCI’s regulatory and representative mandate for the legal profession and legal education in India.
- Can constitute funds for
  - Giving financial assistance to organise welfare schemes for indigent, disabled or other advocates
  - Giving legal aid, and
  - Establishing law libraries.

1. To lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.
2. To lay down procedure to be followed by its disciplinary committee and the disciplinary committees of each State Bar Council.
3. To safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of advocates.
4. To promote and support law reform.
5. To deal with and dispose of any matter which may be referred to it by a State Bar Council.
6. To promote legal education and to lay down standards of legal education.
7. To recognise Universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate - visits and inspects Universities, or directs the State Bar Councils to visit and inspect Universities for this purpose.
8. To conduct seminars and talks on legal topics by eminent jurists and publish journals and papers of legal interest.
9. To organise legal aid to the poor.
10. To recognise on a reciprocal basis, the foreign qualifications in law obtained outside India for the purpose of admission as an advocate in India.
11. To manage and invest the funds of the Bar Council.
12. To provide for the election of its members.
Composition

- Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected from amongst its members for a period of two years.
- Members
  - Elected from each State Bar Council for a period of five years.
  - The Attorney General of India and Solicitor General of India – ex-officio members

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to Bar Council of India (BCI), which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Attorney-General and Solicitor General of India are its ex-officio members.
3. It can constitute funds for providing financial assistance to organise welfare schemes for indigent advocates.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following:

1. Formation of high pressure system over Tibetan and Siberian plateaus.
2. Formation of high pressure near Madagascar.
3. Positive Indian Ocean Dipole

Which of the factors given above favour the Southwest monsoon?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Q5. With reference to ‘Minimum Support Price’, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Government fixes the MSP based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

2. Paddy, Wheat, Cotton, Sunflower and Raw Jute are covered under MSP.

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
Answers
1. Option ‘d’- 1, 2 and 3
2. Option ‘d’- 1, 2 and 3
3. Option ‘d’- 1, 2 and 3
4. Option ‘b’- 2 and 3 only
5. Option ‘c’- Both 1 and 2
Q. “During COVID-19 pandemic, both India and China are trying/tried to position themselves as reliable partners of Africa”. Discuss. (250 words, 15 marks)