

indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Application of fertilisers as per the recommendation of soil health cards led to savings in nitrogen fertilisers such as urea, which results in reduction in the cost of cultivation. A 2017 study by **the National Productivity Council (NPC)** found that the SHC scheme has promoted sustainable farming and led to a decrease of use of chemical fertilizer application in the range of 8-10%. Besides, overall **increase in the yield of crops** to the tune of 5-6% was reported due to application of fertilizer and micro nutrients as per recommendations available in the Soil Health Cards. Hence **statement 3 is correct.**

77. (a)

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator is a measure of general price inflation. It is calculated by dividing nominal GDP by real GDP and then multiplying by 100. Nominal GDP is the market value of goods and services produced in an economy, unadjusted for inflation (It is the GDP measured at current prices). Real GDP is nominal GDP, adjusted for inflation to reflect changes in real output.

Statement 1 is correct: There are other measures of inflation too like Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (or WPI). Since Gross Domestic Product is an aggregate measure of production, being the sum of all final uses of goods and services, **GDP deflator reflects the prices of all domestically produced goods and services in the economy whereas, other measures like CPI and WPI are based on a limited basket of goods and services**, thereby not representing the entire economy.

Statement 2 is not correct: However, **WPI and CPI are available on a monthly basis whereas deflator comes with a lag (yearly or quarterly, after quarterly GDP data is released).** Hence, the monthly change in

inflation cannot be tracked using the GDP deflator, limiting its usefulness. Also, CPI includes prices of goods consumed by the representative consumer, hence it includes prices of imported goods. GDP deflator does not include prices of imported goods. The weights are constant in CPI – but they differ according to production level of each good in GDP deflator

Statement 3 is correct: WPI data is published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

78. (c)

Pair 1 is not correctly matched: The Mississippi River is the second longest river in North America, flowing 2,350 miles from its source at Lake Itasca through the center of the continental United States to the Gulf of Mexico, which is the part of **Atlantic Ocean**.

Pair 2 is not correctly matched: Originating in the icy headwaters of the Tibetan highlands, the Mekong River flows through the steep canyons of China, known as the upper basin, through lower basin countries Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia, before fanning across an expansive delta in Vietnam and emptying into **the South China Sea**.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The **Danube** is the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga in Russia. It flows through much of Central and Southeast Europe, from the Black Forest into **the Black Sea**.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: The Congo river, also known as the Zaire River, is the second longest river in Africa, shorter only than the Nile, as well as the second largest river in the world by discharge volume, following only the Amazon drains into **Atlantic Ocean**.

79. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: MSP is an integral component of Agriculture Price Policy and it targets to ensure support price to farmers and affordable prices to the consumer. Based