

Daily MCQS- 5th November

1. Consider the following statements about cess and surcharge.

1. Cess and surcharge are earmarked for a specific purpose
2. The Union government does not have to share cesses and surcharges with the states

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: B

Explanation:

- A cess is a tax that is levied by the government to raise funds for a specific purpose. Collections from the Education Cess and Secondary and Higher Education Cess, for instance, are supposed to be used for funding primary and higher and secondary education respectively.
- Surcharge is an additional charge or tax. For example: A surcharge of 10% on a tax rate of 30% effectively raises the combined tax burden to 33%.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The main difference between surcharge and cess is that surcharge

can be spent like any other taxes, the cess should be spent only for a specific purpose for which it is created.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Union government does not have to share cesses and surcharges with the states as they are not part of the divisible pool that needs to be shared with states.

**2. Vultures which used to be very common in Indian countryside some years ago are rarely seen nowadays. This is attributed to:**

- A) the destruction of their nesting sites by new invasive species
- B) a drug used by cattle owners for treating their diseased cattle
- C) scarcity of food available to them
- D) a widespread, persistent and fatal disease among them

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

- The major cause of mortality of vultures was found to be the veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug 'Diclofenac', given to cattle in pain and inflammation.
- "Diclofenac was found to be extremely toxic to vultures and causes renal failure.
- The Government of India banned the veterinary use of the drug in 2006 which was gazetted in 2008, but the misuse of multi-dose vials of human formulation of the drug in treating cattle was still causing mortality in vultures

**Why in news?**

Nationwide vulture surveys are being carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) every four years sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Departments of various States since 1990.

According to the recent vulture survey, there has been a sharp decline in the population of vultures in the country.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/vulture-conservation-plan-targets-drug/article33026880.ece>

**3. Which of the following species of vultures are accorded Critically endangered according to IUCN?**

- 1) Slender billed vulture
- 2) Long billed vulture
- 3) Red headed vulture

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- Of the nine species of vultures found in India
- Oriental white backed vulture, Slender billed vulture, Long billed vulture and Red headed vulture are critically endangered according to IUCN.
- Egyptian vulture- Endangered
- Indian griffon vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Cinereous vulture and Bearded Vulture are all near threatened.

4. 'International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)', often in the news, is

- a) a division of the International Police Association
- b) a non-governmental international organization
- c) an inter-governmental body
- d) a specialized agency of the United Nations

Ans: C

Explanation

- The **International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol**, is a 194-member **intergovernmental organisation**
- Headquartered in Lyon, France. Formed in **1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission**, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956. India joined the organisation in 1949, and is one of its oldest members.
- Interpol's declared global policing goals include **countering terrorism, promoting border integrity worldwide**, protection of vulnerable communities, providing a secure cyberspace for people and businesses, curbing illicit markets, supporting environment security, and promoting global integrity
- The **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)** has warned member countries that **cybercriminals were attempting to target major hospitals** and other institutions on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 with **ransomware**. Interpol has also issued a 'Purple Notice'.

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- Organisations at the forefront of the global response to the COVID-19 outbreak have also **become targets of ransomware attacks**, which were “designed to lock them out of their critical systems in an attempt to extort payments”
- Cybercriminals are **using ransomware to hold hospitals and medical services digitally hostage**, preventing them from accessing vital files and systems until a ransom is paid.

5. Which of the following are the provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India?

1. If a member of a House belonging to any political party voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party.
2. If an independent member of a House joins any political party after such election.
3. If a nominated member of a House joins any political party within six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The Tenth Schedule contains the following provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection:

**Disqualification**

**Members of Political Parties:**

A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House,

(a) if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or

(b) if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days. From the above provision it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.

**Independent Members:**

An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

**Nominated Members:** A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting this disqualification.

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Plot No: 935,6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai-40  
Ph: 044-40483555,9677120226,9677174226  
Web: [www.officersiasacademy.com](http://www.officersiasacademy.com)