

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 01/07/2022

**1. With reference to electoral bonds, which one of the following statements is not correct?**

- A. They can be purchased by any citizen of India or a body incorporated in India.
- B. Electoral bonds will not bear the name of the donor.
- C. Only political parties which secured no less than one per cent votes in the last Lok Sabha or State elections are eligible to receive electoral bonds.
- D. A company's contribution cannot be more than 7.5% of its average net profit in the three preceding years.

**2. The Strait of Gibraltar connects**

- A. Atlantic ocean and Mediterranean sea
- B. Aegean sea and Sea of marmara
- C. Black Sea and Azov sea
- D. Mediterranean sea and Red sea

**3. Consider the following statements about the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.**

- 1. The Act mandates that each person would have to be recognised as 'transgender' on the basis of a certificate of identity issued by a District Magistrate.
- 2. The Act establishes the National Council for Transgender Persons which be chaired by the Prime Minister.
- 3. The Act provides one percent reservation for Transgender persons in posts of all Government establishments.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**4. Consider the following statements about the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI).**

- 1. It is released by the National Statistical Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- 2. Steel production has been accorded with the highest weightage in ICI.

**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

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#### 5. With reference to the Indian Coast Guard, consider the following statements.

1. It operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is the coordinating authority for response to oil spills in Indian waters.

#### 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

#### Solutions:

1. Answer: D

#### Sol:

- An electoral bond is designed to be an **interest-free bearer instrument** like a **Promissory Note** — in effect, it will be similar to a bank note that is payable to the bearer on demand.
- **Statement A is correct:** It can be purchased by **any citizen** of India or a **body incorporated in India**.
- The electoral bonds were announced in the **2017 Union Budget**.
- The bonds will be issued in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore and will be available at specified branches of **State Bank of India**.
- They can be bought by the donor with a **KYC-compliant account**.

#### Features

- The bonds will be available for purchase for a period of 10 days each in the beginning of every quarter, i.e. in January, April, July and October as specified by the Central Government.
- **Statement B is correct:** The donor will remain **anonymous**. The electoral bonds will **not bear the name of the donor**. The intention is to ensure that all the donations made to a party will be accounted for in the balance sheets **without exposing the donor details to the public**.
- Political parties are allotted a verified account by the Election Commission and all the electoral bond transactions are done through this account only.
- **Statement C is correct:** **Only political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951** and have **secured no less than one per cent votes** in the last Lok Sabha or State elections are eligible to receive electoral bonds.
- A donor will get **tax deduction** and the recipient, or the political party, will get **tax exemption**, provided returns are filed by the political party.
- The information furnished by the buyer shall be treated confidential by the authorised bank and shall not be disclosed to any authority for any purposes, except when demanded **by a competent court or upon registration of a criminal case by any law enforcement agency**.

#### Criticisms

- The key critique is that, for something meant to bring transparency to the system, electoral bonds actually make political funding **more opaque – but only for the public**. Companies

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don't have to say who they are donating money to and parties don't need to say from whom they're getting the cash.

- Experts have said this undercuts the freedom of political information, which is an integral element of **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution (the free expression clause).
- **Statement D is incorrect:** Prior to 2017, **Companies Act, 2013**, stipulated that a company can donate **only up to 7.5% of its average profit of the last three years**. Now, through the electoral bonds, there is **no limit** to the amount companies can donate, and the requirement for such firms to **have existed for the last three years on a profit-making basis** has also been deleted.
- The implication is that even **loss-making companies or shell companies** can be used to purchase electoral bonds.
- In 2016 and 2017, **amendments were made to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010**, with retrospective effect. Thus, **enabling the Indian subsidiaries of foreign companies to make donations to political parties** through electoral bonds.
- This allows **anonymous financing by foreign entities** opening Indian elections to the influence of foreign interests.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Election Commission** had both said the sale of electoral bonds had become an avenue for shell corporations and entities to park illicit money and even proceeds of bribes with political parties.
- The Election Commission of India criticised electoral bonds saying it would **wreck transparency** in political funding and allow for **unchecked foreign funding** of Indian political parties.
- However, the government defended the scheme, saying it allowed anonymity to political donors to protect them from "political victimisation".

2. Answer: A

Sol:

- The Strait of Gibraltar is a channel connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.
- It lies between southernmost Spain and northwesternmost Africa.
- The strait is an important gap, averaging 1,200 feet (365 metres) in depth in the arc formed by the Atlas Mountains of North Africa and the high plateau of Spain.

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3. Answer: A

Sol:

### Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

- **Definition:** The act defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes transmen and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
- **Certificate of identity:** The Act allows **self perception of gender identity**. But it mandates that each person would have to be recognised as 'transgender' on the basis of a certificate of identity issued by a **District Magistrate. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Welfare measures by the government:** The Act states that the relevant government will take measures to ensure the full inclusion and participation of transgender persons in society. It must also take steps for their rescue and rehabilitation, vocational training and self-employment, create schemes that are transgender sensitive, and promote their participation in cultural activities.
- **Prohibition against discrimination:** The Act prohibits the discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment, healthcare, access to, or enjoyment of goods, facilities, right to movement, right to reside, rent, or otherwise occupy property, opportunity to hold public or private office and access to a government or private establishment in whose care or custody a transgender person is.
- **Right of residence:** Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household.
- **Employment:** No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion.
- **Offences and penalties:** The Act recognizes the following offences against transgender persons: (i) forced or bonded labour (excluding compulsory government service for public

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purposes), (ii) denial of use of public places, (iii) removal from household, and village, (iv) physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse. Penalties for these offences vary between six months and two years, and a fine.

- The Act makes it mandatory to constitute the **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT)** which will advise the central government as well as monitor the impact of policies, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons. It will also redress the grievances of transgender persons.

### National Council for Transgender Persons

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons, a requirement under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

### Composition

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment** will be Chairperson (ex-officio) and **Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment** will be Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio).
- Members would include officials of various Ministries and the NITI Aayog.
- The council also includes **five nominated members from the transgender community.**

### Functions

- The National Council shall perform the following functions, namely:—
  - to advise the Central Government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons;
  - to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons;
  - to review and coordinate the activities of all the departments of Government and other Governmental and non-Governmental Organisations which are dealing with matters relating to transgender persons; and
  - to redress the grievances of transgender persons.

### Major Judgements

- **National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) Vs. Union of India** Case under which the Supreme Court for the very first time recognised transgendered persons as a **“third gender”** and directed the government to safeguard their rights and extend certain reservations for admission into education institutions and public appointments to third gender persons.
- In the **Navtej Singh Johar Vs. Union of India Case**, Supreme Court decriminalised some part of **Section-377 of Indian Penal Code** that barred even consensual homosexual sex between adults, thereby strengthening transgender rights.
- In this case, the Supreme Court introduced the concept of the **Doctrine of progressive realisation of rights** which mandates that the laws of a country should be in consonance with its modern ethos, it should be “sensible” and “easy to apply”.
- Using this legal doctrine, then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra held that once a right is recognised and given to the public, it cannot be taken back by the state at a later date. Once a step is taken forward, there is no going back.

**Criticisms of the current Act**

- **Against the Spirit of Self Perceived Identity:** The act does not have a clear definition regarding how the District Magistrate will actually examine the person or their documents to certify them as a transgender and it is also considered as a violation of privacy.
- **It does not mention any punishments for rape or sexual assault** of transgender persons as according to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code stands, rape is something that only a man can do to a woman.
- **No Reservation:** In the **NALSA judgement**, the state and central govts were asked to extend backward class reservation to transgenders in education and public employment. But the act fails to address that issue. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- **Lighter Sentences:** There are lighter punishments for several criminal offences, such as "sexual abuse" and "physical abuse" if they are committed against transgender people in comparison to females.
- **A transgender commission at the national level is not enough.** There is need for a welfare board for transgender, and a helpline number for those in distress at regional and local levels.

4. Answer: **D**

**Sol:**

- The monthly Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is a **production volume index**.
- The objective of the ICI is to provide an advance indication on production performance of industries of 'core' nature. These industries are likely to impact on general economic activities as well as industrial activities.
- The Eight Core Industries- **Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers**- comprise **40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
- **Industry Weight (In percentage)**
  - Petroleum & Refinery production - 28.04; **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
  - Electricity generation - 19.85
  - Steel production - 17.92
  - Coal production - 10.33
  - Crude Oil production - 8.98
  - Natural Gas production - 6.88
  - Cement production - 5.37
  - Fertilizers production - 2.63
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** ICI is released by the **Office of Economic Advisor**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. The base year of the ICI is **2011-12**.

5. Answer: **B**

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Sol:

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is a **maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency** of India with **jurisdiction over its territorial waters** including its **contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone**.
- The Indian Coast Guard was formally established by the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** of the Parliament of India.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It operates **under the Ministry of Defence**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is **responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India** and is coordinating authority for response to **oil spills** in Indian waters.

