

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 29/06/2022

1. Consider the following statements about the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

1. It functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is the prime provider of basic earth science information to government, industry and general public, as well as the official participant in steel, coal, metals, cement, power industries and international geoscientific forums.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

2. With reference to the Agni class of missiles, consider the following statements.

1. Agni series was one of the components under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program.
2. The longest of the Agni series, Agni-V is an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile with a range of over 5,000 km.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements about the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).

1. IONS is an annual event conceived by the Indian Navy.
2. It seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

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

4. The Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) was recently released by

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. NABARD
- D. Ministry of Education

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

5. With reference to the Code on Wages, consider the following statements.

1. The Code covers only formal sector workers.
2. According to the Code, the central government will fix a floor wage, taking into account the living standards of workers.

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: A

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is a **scientific agency of India**. Founded in 1851, it functions under the **Ministry of Mines**.
- It is **one of the oldest of such organisations in the world** and the second oldest survey in India after Survey of India (founded in 1767), for conducting geological surveys and studies of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is also the prime **provider of basic earth science information** to government, industry and general public, as well as the official participant in steel, coal, metals, cement, power industries and international geoscientific forums.

2. Answer: C

Sol:

Agni Class of Missiles

- **Agni class** of missiles are the **mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability** which also includes the Prithvi short range ballistic missiles, submarine launched ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **longest** of the Agni series, **Agni-V**, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

Evolution of Agni

- Agni I: Range of 700-800 km.
- Agni II: Range more than 2000 km.
- Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km
- Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an **Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** with a range of over 5,000 to 8000 km. An intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a missile with a minimum range of 5,500 kilometres primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery

IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program)

- It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 5 missiles developed under this program are:
 - **Agni:** Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e. Agni (1,2,3,4,5)
 - **Akash:** Medium range surface to air missile.
 - **Prithvi:** Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.
 - **Trishul:** Short range low level surface to air missile.
 - **Nag:** 3rd generation anti-tank missile.

3. Answer: B

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a **biennial** event conceived by the **Indian Navy in 2008**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It seeks to **enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region** by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues that would lead to common understanding on the way ahead.
- The forum helps to **preserve peaceful relations between nations**, and thus is critical to building effective maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean Region and is also fundamental to our collective prosperity.
- It also serves to develop an effective response mechanism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) against natural disasters.
- The chairmanship of IONS has been held by India (2008-10), UAE (2010-12), South Africa (2012-14), Australia (2014-16), Bangladesh (2016-18) and Islamic Republic of Iran (2018-21). **France** assumed the Chairmanship in June 2021 for a two-year tenure.

4. Answer: D

Sol:

- The Ministry of Education has released its Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for 2019.
- The Index studied **83 indicators grouped in six categories**. These categories are **outcomes, effective classroom transaction, infrastructure facilities and student's entitlements, school safety and child protection, digital learning and governance process**.

Highlights of the Report

- **Rajasthan's Sikaris** the top performer followed by **Jhunjhunu and Jaipur** in the index for performance of the school education system at the district level.
- The three districts have figured in the '**Utkarsh**' category (scoring 81-90% on a scale of 100) with Junjhunu scoring the maximum (236 out of 290) in learning outcomes.
- Also, in the second grade '**Ati-uttam**', Rajasthan is significantly ahead of the second and third top States with 24 of its districts in this category.
- PGI-D grades the districts into 10 grades with the highest achievable grade being '**Daksh**', which is for districts scoring more than 90% of the total points in that category or overall.
- 'Utkarsh' category is for districts with scores between 81-90% followed by '**Ati-Uttam**' (71-80%), '**Uttam**' (61-70%), '**Prachesta-I**' (51-60%), '**Prachesta-II**' (41-50%) and '**Prachesta III**' (31-40%).
- The lowest grade in PGI-D is called '**Akanshi-3**' which is for scores up to 10% of the total points.
- The other States whose districts have performed best in the latest index are Punjab with 14 districts in 'Ati-uttam' grade (scoring 71-80% on a scale of 100) followed by Gujarat and Kerala with each having 13 districts in this category.
- However, there are **12 States and Union Territories which don't have even a single district in the Ati-uttam and Uttam categories and these include seven of the eight States from the northeast region.**
- The report states that since none of the States have districts in the top category there was a need for further improvement in the years to come.
- Overall, eight districts improved their PGI score by more than 20% and 14 districts improved their PGI score by more than 10 %. Another 423 districts made less than 10% improvement in PGI scores, but remained in the same grade in 2019-20.

5. Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- In 2020, the Parliament passed three labour law codes that complete the government's consolidation of 29 labour laws into four codes. The three Acts are the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Social Security Code, 2020.
- The first of the four codes- Code on Wages Act was passed in 2019.
- It should be noted that **labour falls under the concurrent list** of the Constitution. Therefore, both Parliament and state legislatures can make laws regulating labour.

Code on Wages

- The Code replaces the following four laws:
 - the Payment of Wages Act, 1936
 - the Minimum Wages Act, 1948
 - the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
 - the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Coverage:** The Code will apply to all employees to enforce minimum wage among **both formal and informal sector workers. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **Floor wage:** According to the Code, the **central government will fix a floor wage**, taking into account the living standards of workers. Further, it may set different floor wages for different geographical areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The minimum wages decided by the central or state governments **must be higher than the floor wage**. In case the existing minimum wages fixed by the central or state governments are higher than the floor wage, they cannot reduce the minimum wages.
- **Fixing the minimum wage:** The Code prohibits employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages. Minimum wages will be notified by the central or state governments. The minimum wages will be revised and reviewed by the central or state governments at an interval of **not more than five years**.
- **Overtime:** The central or state government may fix the number of hours that constitute a normal working day. In case employees work in excess of a normal working day, they will be entitled to overtime wage, which must be **at least twice the normal rate of wages**.
- **Deductions:** Under the Code, an employee's wages may be deducted on certain grounds including: (i) fines, (ii) absence from duty, (iii) accommodation given by the employer, or (iv) recovery of advances given to the employee, among others. **These deductions should not exceed 50% of the employee's total wage.**
- **Gender discrimination:** The Code prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature. Work of similar nature is defined as work for which the skill, effort, experience, and responsibility required are the same.
- **Advisory boards:** The central and state governments will constitute advisory boards to advise the respective governments on various issues including: (i) fixation of minimum wages, and (ii) increasing employment opportunities for women.

