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Daily MCQs: 24/09/2022

1. With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements.

1. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
2. The act also applies to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against Indian citizens or affecting the interest of India.

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

2. The Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launch system is

- A. Imported from the U.S.
- B. Collaboration between India and Israel
- C. Collaboration between India and Russia
- D. Developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation

3. It is the best quality of coal which carries 80 to 95% carbon content. It has the highest calorific value. It is found in small quantity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The above description refers to which of the following types of coal?

- A. Bituminous
- B. Lignite
- C. Peat
- D. Anthracite

4. Consider the following statements about UNESCO's World Heritage Convention, 1972.

1. It basically defines the kind of natural or cultural sites which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List.
2. The Convention sets out the duties of State Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them.
3. By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

D. 1, 2 and 3

5. The Himadri research station is

- A. India's permanent research station in Antarctica
- B. India's permanent research station in Arctic
- C. India's research facility for Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)
- D. International collaboration for Artemis programme

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:**The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is India's counter-terrorist task force. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of **the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.**
- **The NIA (Amendment) Act 2019**, passed by the parliament on 17 July 2019, gave more investigating powers to the NIA:
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** It empowered the NIA to **probe terror attacks targeting Indians and Indian interests abroad.** The NIA Act applies to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against Indian citizens or affecting the interest of India.
 - It **empowered the central government**, with respect to a scheduled offence committed outside India, to direct the NIA to register the case and take up investigation as if such offence had taken place in India.
 - The amendment also inserted certain **new offences in the Schedule of the NIA Act.** Consequently, the NIA is also empowered to probe the **offences relating to human trafficking, counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and explosive substances.**

2. Answer: D

Sol:

- Pinaka is an **indigenous multi-barrel rocket launch system**, which has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the Indian Army.
- The development of the Pinaka was started by the DRDO in the late 1980s, as an alternative to the multi-barrel rocket launching systems of Russian make, called the '**Grad**', which are still in use.
- After successful tests of Pinaka Mark-1 in the late 1990, it was first used in the battlefield during the **Kargil War of 1999**, quite successfully.

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- The **Mark-I version** of Pinaka has a range of **around 40 kilometres** and the **Mark-II version** can fire **up to 75 kilometres**. Over the late 2010s, multiple successful tests of the Mark-II version have been carried out by the DRDO.
- The navigation system of the Pinaka Mark II is aided by the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** to improve the accuracy and enhance the range.

3. Answer: D

Sol:

The above description refers to **Anthracite**.

- **Coal is the main source of energy in India** as it fulfils almost 67 per cent of the total commercial energy consumed in the country. This fossil fuel is found in a form of sedimentary rocks and is often known as '**Black Gold**'. It originated from organic matter, wood. When large tracts of forests are buried under sediments, wood is burnt and decomposed due to heat from below and pressure from above. The phenomenon makes coal but takes centuries to complete.

Classification of Coal

- Coal can be classified **on the basis of carbon content and time period**.

Types of coal on the basis of carbon content

- **Anthracite** is the best quality of coal which carries 80 to 95 percent carbon content. It ignites slowly with a blue flame. It has the highest calorific value. It is found in small quantity in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Bituminous** carries 60 to 80 percent of carbon content and a low level of moisture content. It is widely used and has high calorific value. It is found in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Lignite is often brown in colour**. It carries 40 to 55 percent carbon content. It is an intermediate stage which happens during the alteration of woody matter into coal. It has high moisture content so it gives smoke when burnt. It is found in Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam), and Tamil Nadu.
- **Peat** has less than 40 percent carbon content. It is in the first stage of transformation from wood to coal. It has low calorific value and burns like wood.

Types of coal on the basis of a time period

- **Gondwana coal**: Around 98 per cent of India's total coal reserves are from Gondwana times. This coal was formed about 250 million years ago.
- **Tertiary coal** is of younger age. It was formed from 15 to 60 million years ago.

4. Answer: D

Sol:

UNESCO's World Heritage Convention, 1972

- The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is an international agreement that was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972.
- It is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of **outstanding universal value** and should therefore form part of the common heritage of humankind.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It basically defines the kind of **natural or cultural sites** which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List.
 - **Cultural sites** include monuments, such as architectural structures, art and science pieces, while **natural sites** include formations that are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view.
 - In addition to these, UNESCO designates some sites as **Mixed heritage sites** which contain elements of both natural and cultural significance.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Convention sets out the duties of **State Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to **protect its national heritage.**
- It explains how the **World Heritage Fund** is to be used and managed and under what conditions **international financial assistance** may be provided.

5. Answer: B

Sol:

- India is one of the very few countries to set up a **permanent station** in the Arctic for the purposes of scientific research. The polar regions offer some unique opportunities to carry out research related to atmospheric and climate sciences that cannot be done anywhere else.
- The **Himadri research station**, located in Ny Alesund, Svalbard in Norway, about 1200 km south of the North Pole, was started in 2008. The Goa-based **National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCOAR)** is the nodal organisation coordinating the research activities at this station.
- The station has been used to carry out a variety of biological, glaciological and atmospheric and climate sciences research projects in the last one decade, with over 200 scientists from a number of institutions, universities and laboratories having accessed the facilities at the station.
- Himadri came on the back of India's three-decade experience of carrying out scientific research in the polar regions of Antarctica which began in 1981. India's first permanent station in Antarctica (**Dakshin Gangotri**) was set up way back in 1983. In 2010, Indian scientists undertook a scientific expedition to the South Pole as well. India is now among the very few countries which have multiple research stations in the Antarctic.

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