

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 13/03/2023

1. With reference to the New Space India Limited (NSIL), consider the following statements.

1. NSIL is the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route.
2. NSIL will gradually replace ISRO in the field of space science research and planetary exploration.

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. Gadgil Report and Kasturirangan Report, sometimes seen in the news, are related to?

- A. To examine the equitable redistribution of the 27% quota for the Other Backward Castes.
- B. To study various issues relating to data privacy.
- C. Development and environment protection of Western Ghats.
- D. To address the challenges faced by the current education system.

3. Which of the following countries in Central America have both Caribbean and Pacific coastline?

1. Belize
2. El Salvador
3. Guatemala
4. Nicaragua
5. Costa Rica
6. Panama

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 5 only
- C. 2, 5 and 6 only
- D. 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

4. Consider the following statements about the Kisan Rail services.

1. The primary objective of the initiative is to increase the income in the farm sector by connecting production centers to markets and consumption centers.
2. The Ministry of Railways is yet to operationalise kisan rails.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

5. Which of the following regions is often referred to as the world's "Third Pole"?

- A. Central Siberian Plateau
- B. Columbia Icefield
- C. Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges
- D. Perito Moreno glacier

Solutions:

1. Answer: **A**

Sol:

- New Space India Limited, incorporated in 2019 (under the Companies Act, 2013) is a wholly owned Government of India company, under the administrative control of **Department of Space (DOS)**. It was established in 2019.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NSIL is the **commercial arm of ISRO** with the primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high technology space related activities.
- It is also responsible for promotion and commercial exploitation of the products and services emanating from the Indian space programme.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** NSIL will be the nodal agency for carrying out PSLV production through Indian Industry under consortium route. The industry consortium will be responsible for producing, assembling and integrating the launch vehicle, by making use of the existing ISRO facilities under the Government-Owned Contractor-Operated (GOCO) model.
- The major business areas of NSIL include:
 - Production of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) through industry;
 - Production and marketing of space-based services, including launch services and space-based applications like transponder leasing, remote sensing and mission support services;
 - Building of Satellites (both Communication and Earth Observation) as per user requirements.
 - Transfer of technology developed by ISRO centres/ units and constituent institutions of Dept. of Space;
 - Marketing spin off technologies and products/ services emanating out of ISRO activities
 - Consultancy services

2. Answer: **C**

Sol:

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)** headed by **Madhav Gadgil** was formed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in **2010** to study the impact of population pressure, climate change and development activities on the **Western Ghats**.

Gadgil Committee Recommendations

- Calling the Western Ghats region as "**Protector of Indian Peninsula**", the panel designated the **entire western ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)**, with only limited development allowed in graded zones.
- It classified the 142 taluks in the Western Ghats boundary into **Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ) 1, 2 and 3**, with varying degrees of protection. ESZ-1 being of high priority, almost all developmental activities (mining, thermal power plants etc) were restricted in it.
- Gadgil Committee report specifies that the present system of governance of the environment should be changed. It asked for a **bottom to top approach (right from Gram sabhas)** rather than a top to bottom approach. It also asked for **decentralization and more powers to local authorities**.
- The commission recommended the constitution of a **Western Ghats Ecology Authority (WGEA)**, as a statutory authority under MoEFCC, with the powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The Gadgil report also called for decommissioning of big projects like dams, thermal power stations that have completed their shelf life.

Implementation Issues

- The Western Ghats region covers **six states** (Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu). The states have not shown much interest in implementing the recommendations of the Gadgil panel as states fear it may cause livelihood loss to thousands of people.
- Following protests by various groups and political parties against the recommendations, the government constituted the **K Kasturirangan committee in 2012 to examine the WGEEP report**.

Recommendations of Kasturirangan committee

- The Kasturirangan Commission **sought to balance the development and environment protection**.
- It made a **distinction between the 'cultural landscape' and 'natural landscape'**. According to this distinction:
 - 41 per cent of the Western Ghats is "natural landscape", having low population impact and rich biodiversity.
 - The remaining 59 per cent is "cultural landscape" dominated by human settlements and agricultural fields
- Thus, instead of declaring the entire Western Ghats as ESA, the panel said that **90 per cent of the "natural landscape" should be protected**. This would be around 60,000 Km² (**37.5 % of the total area of the Western Ghats**) ecologically sensitive area against the 137000 Km² areas as stipulated in the Gadgil report.
- The committee recommended a **ban on all polluting industries** (including mining) categorised as most hazardous in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It made **several pro-farmer recommendations**, including the exclusion of inhabited regions and plantations from the purview of ESA.

Present Status

- In 2017, the environment ministry had issued a draft notification accepting certain recommendations of the Kasturirangan report and called on the governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu to oversee their implementation.
- Today, the Kasturirangan report remains under consideration by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

3. Answer: D

Sol:

- While most of the countries in Central America have both a Caribbean and a Pacific coastline, **Belize** has only a Caribbean coast, and **El Salvador** has only a Pacific coast.



OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

4. Answer: A

Sol:

- Kisan Rail service was announced in the Union Budget 2020-21 to **provide better market opportunity by transporting perishables and agri-products**, including milk, meat, and fish.
- This is a multi-commodity, multi-consignor/consignee, multi-loading/unloading transportation product which is aimed at providing a wider market to Kisan.
- This service helps in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time. The trains with **frozen containers** are expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The primary objective of running Kisan Rail trains is to increase the income in the farm sector by connecting production centers to markets and consumption centers. It is a step towards realizing the **goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022**.
- The first Kisan Rail train was flagged-off on 07.08.2020 between Devlali (Maharashtra) and Danapur (Bihar).

5. Answer: C

Sol:

- The Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges span 2,400 kilometers across six nations (Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan).
- There are almost 55,000 glaciers in the HKHK mountains, and they **store more freshwater than any other region outside the North and South Poles**.
- The HKHK region is referred to as the **world's "Third Pole"** because it contains so much glacial ice.
- The glaciers contain estimated ice reserves of 163 cubic kilometres, of which almost **80% feeds the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra**. Snow and glacier melt from the HKHK play an important role in the timing and magnitude of water availability within the region.