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Daily MCQs: 17/03/2023

1. Consider the following statements about the Ramalingeswara Temple which is popularly known as the Ramappa temple.

1. It is situated in the state of Maharashtra.
2. It was built by the patronage of the Kakatiya ruler Ganapathi Deva.
3. The foundation of the temple is built with the "sandbox technique".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. The Logistics Performance Index is released by

- A. World Trade Organization
- B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- C. World Customs Organization
- D. World Bank

3. Consider the following statements about the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

1. It is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

1. It was set up in 2008 after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
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

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5. With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Tribunal has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving a substantial question relating to the environment.
3. The decisions of the Tribunal are final and binding.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Sol:

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Ramalingeswara Temple** which is popularly known as the **Ramappa temple** dates back to **1213 AD**, was built by the patronage of the **Kakatiya ruler Ganapathi Deva** under the authority of his Chief Commander **Recherla Rudra**.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is located near Warangal in the state of **Telangana**.
- It was built using **sandstone** and its construction is believed to have continued for over four decades.
- Explorer **Marco Polo** had allegedly remarked that the temple was the “**brightest star in the galaxy of temples.**”



Distinct Features

- The temple is situated on a **six-foot-high star-shaped platform** with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The foundation of the temple is built with the “**sandbox technique**”, the flooring is **granite** and the pillars **basalt**.
 - The sandbox technique involved filling the pit — dug up for laying foundation — with a **mixture of sand lime, jaggery (for binding) and karakkaya (black myrobalan fruit)**, before the buildings were constructed on these ‘sandboxes’.

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- The sandbox in the foundation acts as a cushion in case of earthquakes. Most of the vibrations caused by earthquakes lose their strength while passing through the sand by the time they reach the actual foundation of the building.
- The lower part of the temple is **red sandstone** while the white gopuram is built with light bricks that reportedly **float on water**.
- The temple's sculptures of high artistic quality illustrate regional dance customs and Kakatiyan culture.

2. Answer: D

Sol:

- The Logistics Performance Index Report is published by the **World Bank every two years**.
- It is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance.

3. Answer: A

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a **statutory authority** established under the provisions of **the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016")** by the Government of India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- UIDAI was created **to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India**.
- Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication and the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

4. Answer: C

Sol:

- **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.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** 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**.

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- **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**.

5. Answer: A

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a **statutory body** established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to **handle environmental disputes** involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be **guided by principles of natural justice**.
- The Tribunal is vested with the **powers of a civil court** under the Code of Civil Procedure for discharging its functions but it can make its own rules.
- It provides speedy environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.

What is the Tribunal's composition?

- The Tribunal has a presence in **five zones**- North, Central, East, South and West. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in **Delhi**.
- The Central zone bench is situated in Bhopal, East zone in Kolkata, South zone in Chennai and West zone in Pune.
- The Tribunal is headed by the **Chairperson** who sits in the Principal Bench and has **at least ten but not more than twenty judicial members** and **at least ten but not more than twenty expert members**.

Tribunal's Jurisdiction

- The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
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 - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
 - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
 - The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
 - The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

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- Two important acts - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tribunal has jurisdiction **over all civil cases involving a substantial question relating to the environment**. Additionally, any person aggrieved by an order/direction of any of the Appellate Authorities under the legislations mentioned above can also challenge them before the National Green Tribunal.

Are decisions of the Court binding?

- **Yes**, decisions of the Tribunal are binding. The Tribunal's orders are enforceable as the powers vested are the same as in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Are decisions of the Tribunal final?

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Tribunal has powers to review its own decisions. If this fails, the decision can be challenged before the **Supreme Court within ninety days**.

