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Daily MCQs: 13-09-2023

1. Consider the following statements.

1. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention.
2. India is a signatory and party to the Chemical Weapons convention.

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. Consider the following statements about the International Energy Agency (IEA).

1. It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
2. Before becoming a member country of the IEA, a candidate country must have crude oil or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports.

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

3. Consider the following statements about the Raisina Dialogue.

1. It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, held annually since 2016.
2. It is organised by the NITI Aayog.

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 term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- A. China
- B. Israel
- C. Iraq
- D. Yemen

5. Consider the following statements about the Arctic Council.

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1. It is an intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation in regulating the activities in the Arctic region.
2. The Arctic Council prohibits the commercial exploitation of resources in the Arctic.

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: C

Explanation:

- The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is a universal, non-discriminatory, multi-lateral, disarmament treaty which prohibits the development, production, stock-piling and use of chemical weapons and monitors its elimination in order to secure a chemical weapons free world.
- The Convention entered into force in 1997. As on date, 193 countries are parties to the Convention.
- **Statement 2 is correct: India** is a signatory and party to the convention. India, pursuant to provisions of the Convention enacted the **Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000**.

About OPCW

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the **implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention**.
- The OPCW, with its 193 Member States (including **India**), oversees the global endeavour to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons.

2. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The International Energy Agency is an autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in 1974.
- Created in 1974, the IEA works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its member countries and beyond. Its main areas of focus are energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The IEA is made up of **30 member countries**. Before becoming a member country of the IEA, a candidate country must meet several criteria.
 - For eg: It must have crude oil or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports.
 - It must have in place a demand restraint program to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10 per cent.
- **India became an Associate Member** in 2017.
- IEA is headquartered in Paris, France.

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3. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Raisina Dialogue is **India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics**, held annually since 2016.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is jointly organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**.
 - *ORF is an independent global think tank based in Delhi.*
- It is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. Every year, global leaders in policy, business, media and civil society are hosted in **New Delhi** to discuss cooperation on a wide range of pertinent international policy matters.
- The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, as well as major private sector executives, members of the media and academics.

Why does the Dialogue matter?

- In the past six years, the Raisina Dialogue has grown in stature and profile to emerge as a leading global conference on international affairs. It attracts leading minds from the global strategic and policy-making community to discuss broader foreign policy and strategic issues facing the world.
- An event of such scale sets the tone for the rest of the year. The Dialogue provides a platform for the government to state its position on various questions and issues of international relations.
- The event gives many experts, and other countries, a glimpse into the Indian government's near-term priorities in international relations.
- The Dialogue also provides a golden chance for young scholars and researchers to interact with a galaxy of stars from the international relations universe. Also, it gives a platform for researchers to network and perhaps even collaborate.
- And finally, the event creates an ecosystem for the growth and development of think tanks and other policy groups.

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

Israel-Palestine conflict

- **Britain** took control of the area known as **Palestine** after the ruler of that part of the Middle East, the **Ottoman Empire**, was defeated in World War 1.
- The land was inhabited by a **Jewish minority and Arab majority**.
- Tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave **Britain the task of establishing a "national home" in Palestine for Jewish people**.
- For Jews, it was their ancestral home, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed the land and opposed the move.

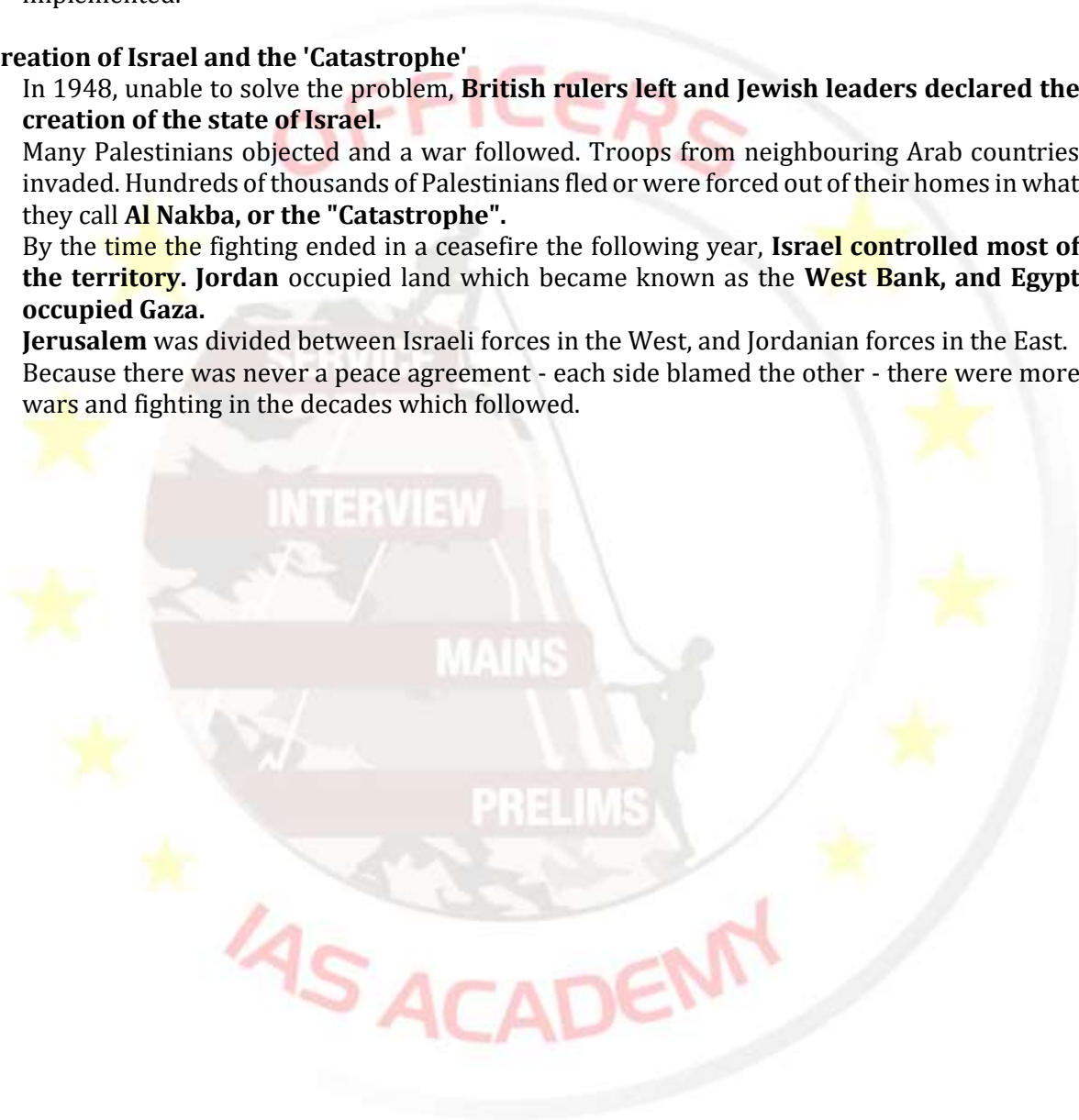
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- Between the 1920s and 40s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe and seeking a homeland after the **Holocaust of WWII**. Violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, also grew.
- In **1947**, the **UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city**.
- That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

The creation of Israel and the 'Catastrophe'

- In 1948, unable to solve the problem, **British rulers left and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel**.
- Many Palestinians objected and a war followed. Troops from neighbouring Arab countries invaded. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced out of their homes in what they call **Al Nakba, or the "Catastrophe"**.
- By the time the fighting ended in a ceasefire the following year, **Israel controlled most of the territory. Jordan** occupied land which became known as the **West Bank, and Egypt occupied Gaza**.
- **Jerusalem** was divided between Israeli forces in the West, and Jordanian forces in the East.
- Because there was never a peace agreement - each side blamed the other - there were more wars and fighting in the decades which followed.



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The map today

Israel's boundaries today



- In another war in 1967, Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank, as well as most of the Syrian Golan Heights, and Gaza and the Egyptian Sinai peninsula.
- Most Palestinian refugees and their descendants live in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as in neighbouring Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.
- Neither they nor their descendants have been allowed by Israel to return to their homes - Israel says this would overwhelm the country and threaten its existence as a Jewish state.
- Israel still occupies the West Bank, and although it pulled out of Gaza the UN still regards that piece of land as part of occupied territory.

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- **Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.** The US is one of only a handful of countries to recognise Israel's claim to the whole of the city.
- In the past 50 years Israel has built settlements in these areas, where more than 600,000 Jews now live.
- Palestinians say these are illegal under international law and are obstacles to peace, but Israel denies this.

What's happening now?

- **Gaza** is ruled by the Palestinian militant group **Hamas**, which has fought Israel many times. Israel and Egypt tightly control Gaza's borders to stop weapons getting to Hamas.
- Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank say they're suffering because of Israeli actions and restrictions. Israel say it is only acting to protect itself from Palestinian violence.
- Things have escalated since the start of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan in mid-April 2021, with nightly clashes between police and Palestinians.
- The threatened eviction of some Palestinian families in East Jerusalem has also caused rising anger.

What are the main problems?

- There are a number of issues which Israel and the Palestinians cannot agree on.
- These include what should happen to Palestinian refugees, whether Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank should stay or be removed, whether the two sides should share Jerusalem, and - perhaps most tricky of all - whether a Palestinian state should be created alongside Israel.
- Peace talks have been taking place on and off for more than 25 years, but so far have not solved the conflict.

What does the future hold?

- The UN and majority of the countries are pushing for the **"two-state solution"** to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its basis is two separate states, Israel and Palestine, living peacefully side by side on the land between the western bank of the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea.
- This territory would be divided broadly along the **pre-1967 armistice line or "green line"**. **Jerusalem**, which both sides want as their capital, would be shared.
- Past negotiations have failed to make progress and there are currently no fresh talks in prospect.
- The most recent peace plan, prepared by the United States, when Donald Trump was President - called **"the deal of the century"** by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu - has been dismissed by the Palestinians as one-sided and never got off the ground.
- Any future peace deal will need both sides to agree to resolve complex issues.

5. Answer: A

Explanation:

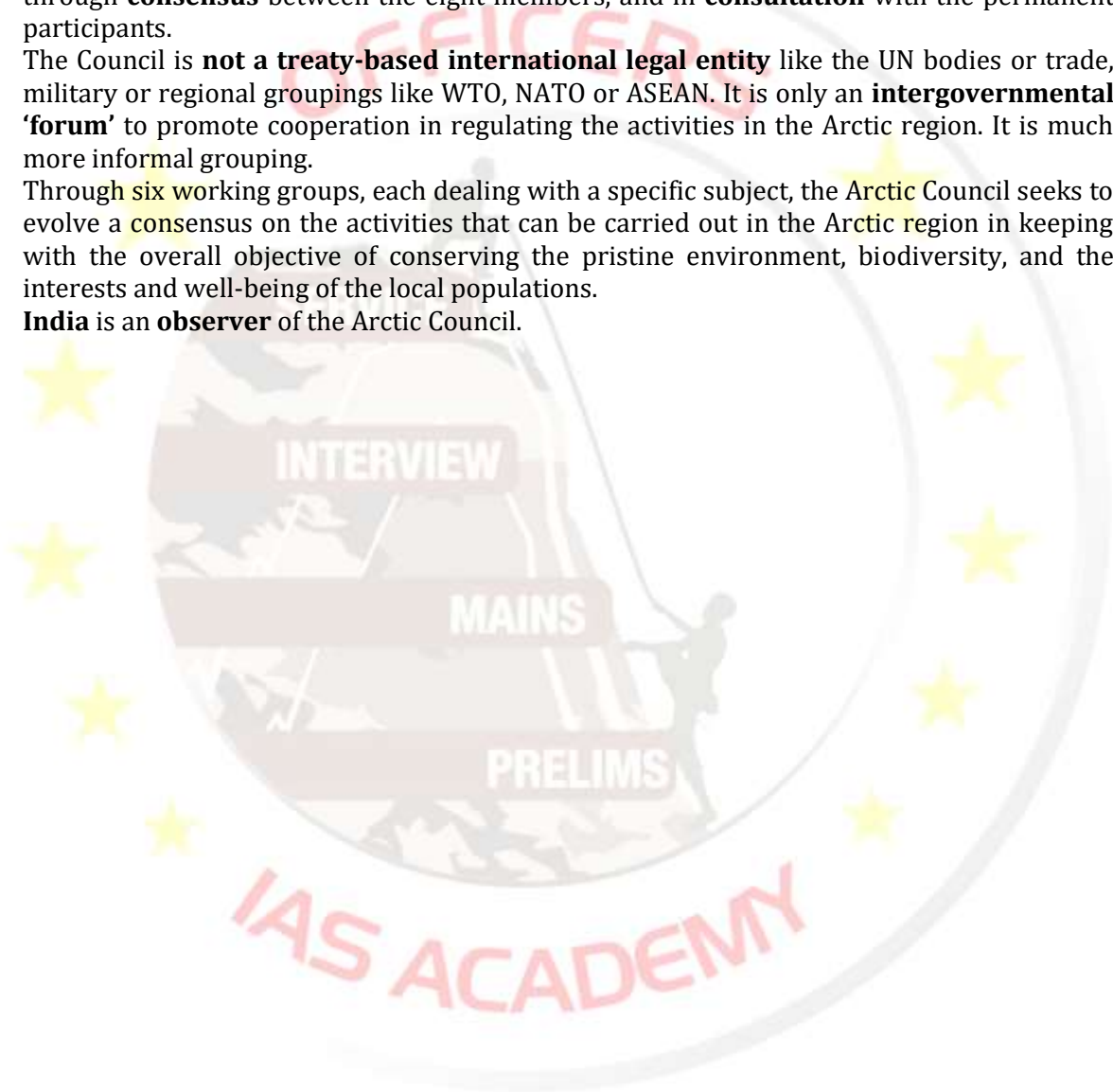
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arctic Council is the **leading intergovernmental forum** promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on

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issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. It was formally established in **1996**.

- The Council was established by the **eight Arctic States** — the countries whose territories fall in the Arctic region — through the **Ottawa Declaration** of 1996. The eight Arctic States — **Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States** — are the only members of the Arctic Council.
- Besides them, **six organisations** representing the indigenous people of the Arctic region have been granted the **status of permanent participants**. All decision-making happens through **consensus** between the eight members, and in **consultation** with the permanent participants.
- The Council is **not a treaty-based international legal entity** like the UN bodies or trade, military or regional groupings like WTO, NATO or ASEAN. It is only an **intergovernmental 'forum'** to promote cooperation in regulating the activities in the Arctic region. It is much more informal grouping.
- Through six working groups, each dealing with a specific subject, the Arctic Council seeks to evolve a consensus on the activities that can be carried out in the Arctic region in keeping with the overall objective of conserving the pristine environment, biodiversity, and the interests and well-being of the local populations.
- **India** is an **observer** of the Arctic Council.



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Commercial and strategic interests

- The Arctic region is **very rich in some minerals, and oil and gas**. With some parts of the Arctic melting due to global warming, the region also opens up the **possibility of new shipping routes** that can reduce existing distances. Countries which already have ongoing activities in the Arctic hope to have a stake in the **commercial exploitation of natural resources** present in the region.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Arctic Council **does not prohibit the commercial exploitation of resources** in the Arctic. It only seeks to **ensure that it is done in a sustainable manner** without harming the interests of local populations and in conformity with the local environment.