

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 14-09-2023

1. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households.
2. The Government of India has recently discontinued this scheme.

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 Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System generally referred to as "Harmonized System" is a nomenclature developed by the

- A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. World Trade Organisation
- D. World Customs Organization

3. With reference to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), consider the following statements.

1. It was signed by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.
2. Under the treaty, India received the control of Jhelum, Chenab and Indus.

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. "Nine-dash line" sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- A. Middle East region
- B. South China sea
- C. India-China
- D. North America

5. The "Nagorno-Karabakh" region sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- A. China and Philippines

Plot No: 935, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai-40

Ph: 044-40483555,9677120226,9677174226

Web: www.officersiasacademy.com

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- B. Israel and Palestine
- C. Azerbaijan and Armenia
- D. Iraq and Iran

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in 2016 to **provide clean cooking fuel to poor households**.
- It aims to provide **8 crore deposit free LPG connections to poor households**. The connections are issued in the **name of women** of the households.
- The scheme increases the usage of LPG and helps in reducing health disorders, air pollution and deforestation. Use of fossil fuels and conventional fuel like cow-dung, firewood etc. has serious implications on the health of rural women and children.
- Initially, the beneficiaries were identified through Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 data. The **scope of PMUY has now been expanded to cover all the poor families in the country** subject to fulfilling the terms and conditions.
- Under the scheme, **cash assistance of Rs. 1600** is given to the beneficiaries to get a deposit-free new connection. Further, **interest free loans** are provided to purchase a stove and refill by Oil Marketing Companies.

PMUY 2.0

- The Government of India launched the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - Ujjwala 2.0 to extend the coverage of PMUY.
- During Ujjwala 1.0, launched in 2016, a target was set to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households. Later, the target was revised to **8 Crore LPG connections which was achieved in August 2019**.
- In the **Union budget for Financial Year 2021-22**, a **provision for an additional one crore LPG connection** under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was announced. These one crore additional connections under Ujjwala 2.0 aim to provide **deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of this scheme**.
- Along with a deposit free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will **provide first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries**.

Why in News?

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- Provisioning of 75 lakh additional Ujjwala connections will take total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crore.
- As per the existing modalities of Ujjawala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- A targeted subsidy of Rs.200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for upto 12 refills per year is being provided to PMUY consumers. Without continuation of PMUY, eligible poor households may not be able to get their due benefit under the scheme.

2. Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System generally referred to as "Harmonized System" or simply "HS" is a **multipurpose international product nomenclature** developed by the **World Customs Organization** in 1988.
- It is a **six-digit code** that classifies more than 5000 products, arranged in a legal and logical structure. To achieve uniform classification, the HSN is supported by well-defined rules and is accepted worldwide.
- HSN code is used by customs authorities, statistical agencies, and other government regulatory bodies, to **monitor and control the import and export of commodities**.
 - **India** has been using HSN codes since 1986 to classify commodities for Customs and Central Excise.
- HSN classification is **widely used for taxation purposes** by helping to identify the rate of tax applicable to a specific product in a country that is under review. It can also be used in calculations that involve claiming benefits.

Significance of HSN

- It acts as a universal economic language and code for goods and an indispensable tool for international trade.
- The system helps in harmonising customs and trade procedures thus **reducing costs in international trade**.
- HSN code removes the need to upload details about the goods which **makes filing of GST returns easier in India**.

3. Answer: A

Explanation:

What is the Indus Water Treaty (IWT)?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Signed in the year 1960 by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan, the Indus Water Treaty is an agreement that was made to chalk out the control over the 6 rivers that run across India and then Pakistan into the Indus basin.
- This treaty was signed following the partition of the subcontinent.
- On an international level, the IWT has been seen as one of the most successful cases of conflict resolution. It is so because India and Pakistan, ever since IWT was signed, have engaged in 4 major wars but the treaty has stayed in place.

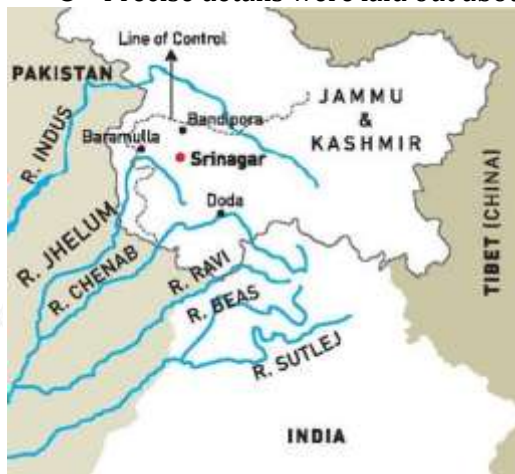
OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The origin of the six rivers that make the Indus basin take place in **Tibet** from where they flow across the Himalayan ranges and end in the Arabian sea south of Karachi. The Treaty was devised as the Indus basin was one of the networks between the two nations and because Pakistan was unsurprisingly threatened with the prospect of being fed by India.

Which rivers belong to India and which ones to Pakistan?

- Before 1960, in order to sort out the water sharing issue, the Inter-Dominion accord was laid down in order to release enough waters to Pakistan from India in return for annual payments. However, the problem of this arrangement was soon realised. A new alternative solution was considered necessary.
- The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the **World Bank**, which is also a signatory.
- Precise details were laid out about how the water will be divided.



- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While **Jhelum, Chenab and Indus** (3 western rivers) were allocated to Pakistan, India received the control of **Ravi, Beas and Sutlej** (3 eastern rivers).
- The treaty also stated that aside from certain specific cases, no storage and irrigation systems can be built by India on the western rivers.

4. Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Nine-dash line is related to the South China sea dispute.
- Currently, among the most disputed topics in the world, in the South China Sea (SCS) dispute, the governments of six countries (Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and China) claim that they are the rightful owner of **Paracel and Spratly islands**, and among them, China has been the most aggressive one.
- The disputed sea is composed of approximately 100 to 230 islands wherein small islands called islets are usually included in it. Submerged in water, shoals, banks, atolls, reefs and cays, which covers an area of approx. 180,000 sq. km.³

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The Chinese government claims an enormous area under what is known as the “**nine-dash line**” that is over 2000 km long, starting from mainland China and reaching waters close to Indonesia and Malaysia. China maintains that the area has been under Chinese rule since ancient times.
- China has been building military bases on small islands and also expanding the area of islands artificially.



Importance of the South China Sea

- This sea route, connecting Asia with Europe and Africa, is an **important trade passageway** for international trade.
- The **Strait of Malacca**, along with the **Lombok Strait** and **Sunda Strait** are all connected with SCS and responsible for oil and LNG imports by major countries such as China, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, and others from Gulf countries.
- It is estimated that around 15 million barrels each day are transported through the Strait of Malacca, making it the **second busiest strait** after the Strait of Hormuz in terms of oil transportation with respect to volume.
- The economy of China depends upon the oil import in which 80% of the oil is transported through the Strait of Malacca and then through SCS to China, which means that full control and easy access through this strait is the justification behind economic prosperity of the Chinese nation.
- Apart from the strategic importance of the SCS, this region is also blessed with **large deposits of natural resources beneath the sea**.
- Aside from oil and gas reserves, this region is also gifted with **one-third of the total marine biodiversity of the Earth**, which means that substantial revenue can also be generated through fishing alone.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

5. Answer: C

Explanation:

- Straddling western Asia and Eastern Europe, the landlocked mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh is the subject of an unresolved dispute between **Azerbaijan**, in which it lies, and its ethnic **Armenian** majority, backed by neighbouring Armenia.
- Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists.
- In 1988, towards the end of Soviet rule, Azerbaijani troops and Armenian secessionists began a bloody war which left the de facto independent state in the hands of ethnic Armenians when a truce was signed in 1994.
- It is today governed by separatist Armenians who have declared it a republic called the "**Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast**". While the Armenian government does not recognise Nagorno-Karabakh as independent, it supports the region politically and militarily.



- The **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group**, chaired by France, Russia and the US, has tried to get the two countries to reach a peace agreement for several years.

However, negotiations have so far failed to produce a permanent peace agreement, and the dispute remains one of post-Soviet Europe's "**frozen conflicts**."