

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

## IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 16-01-2024

**1. India's Defence Acquisition Council is headed by**

- A. Prime Minister
- B. National Security Advisor
- C. Defence Minister
- D. Chief of Defence Staff

**2. Consider the following statements about the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).**

- 1. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.
- 2. India has signed UNHCR's 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

**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 Indian Forest Act, 1927.**

- 1. The Act establishes three categories of forests which include Reserve forest, Protected forest and Village forest.
- 2. The Indian Forest Act, 1927, for the first time, gave an official definition of forest.

**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 Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements.**

- 1. It is meant to enable Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on creation of durable community assets.
- 2. Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.
- 3. The MPLADS is fully funded by the Government of India and the funds are non-lapsable.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

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- C. All three
- D. None

### 5. Consider the following statements about the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

1. Under GSP, the donor country offers preferential treatment such as zero or low duties on imports to products originating in beneficiary countries.
2. At present, GSP is offered by the U.S. only.

### 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 Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is **constituted under the Ministry of Defence (MoD)** for **overall guidance of the defence procurement planning process**.
- It includes **Defence Minister as Chairman** and Minister of State for Defence (when appointed), Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Chiefs of triservices, Defence Secretary, Secretary Dept. of Defence Production and Supplies, Secretary Defence Research & Development, Secretary Defence Finance, Vice Chief of Defence Staff (when appointed) and Secretary (Acquisition) as members.
- The DAC is the **highest decision-making body** in the defence ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

2. Answer: A

### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established in **1950** by the **United Nations General Assembly**.
- The agency is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to **safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees**.
- It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people.

### Legal Provisions

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- The **1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees** (commonly known as the **Refugee Convention**) and its **1967 Protocol** are the key legal documents that form the basis of UNHCR's work.
- With **149 State parties** to either or both, they define the term 'refugee' and outline the rights of refugees, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them.
- The core principle is **non-refoulement**, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. This is now considered a rule of customary international law.
- **UNHCR serves as the 'guardian' of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: India** has not been a signatory of the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol.

3. Answer: A

#### Explanation:

- The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was largely based on previous Indian Forest Acts implemented under the British.
- The first and most famous was the Indian Forest Act of 1878.
- The preamble to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 states that the Act seeks to consolidate the law relating to forests, the transit of forest produce and the duty that can be levied on timber and other forest produce.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Act establishes three categories of forests which include **Reserve forest, Protected forest and Village forest.**
  - Reserve forests are the most restricted forests and are constituted by the State Government on any forest land or wasteland which is the property of the Government. In reserved forests, local people are prohibited, unless specifically allowed by a Forest Officer in the course of the settlement.
  - The State Government is empowered to constitute any land other than reserved forests as protected forests over which the Government has proprietary rights and the power to issue rules regarding the use of such forests. This power has been used to establish State control over trees, whose timber, fruit or other non-wood products have revenue-raising potential.
  - Village forests are the one in which the State Government may assign to 'any village community the rights of Government to or over any land which has been constituted a reserved forest'.
- It defines what is a **forest offence**, what are the acts prohibited inside a Reserved Forest, and penalties leviable on violation of the provisions of the Act.
- It has 86 Sections and it has been divided into 13 chapters.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In the Indian Forest Act, 1927, a **striking feature is the absence of any definition of forest or forest land.** The attempt of the Supreme Court to assign a meaning to the term 'forest' as per the dictionary meaning has seen a spate of interventions in the Court due to its wide ambit.
- Forest as per the above definition, may include private, common pasture, or cultivable land.

4. Answer: C

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### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is meant to enable **Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature** with emphasis on **creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs** to be taken up in their constituencies in the area of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads etc.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has been responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme.

### Features

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The MPLADS is **fully funded** by the Government of India. The **annual** MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is **Rs. 5 crore**. Funds under the MPLADS are **non-lapsable**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Lok Sabha Members** can recommend works within their Constituencies and **Elected Members of Rajya Sabha** can recommend works within the State of Election (with select exceptions). **Nominated Members** of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.
- All works to meet locally felt infrastructure and development needs, with an emphasis on creation of durable assets in the constituency are permissible under MPLADS as prescribed in the scheme guidelines.
- The MPLADS funds can be merged with other schemes such as MGNREGA and Khelo India.

### Allocation for SC & ST

- The guidelines recommend MPs to suggest works costing at least 15 per cent of their MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by **Scheduled Caste population** and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by **Scheduled Tribe population**.
- In case there is insufficient tribal population in the area of Lok Sabha Member, they may recommend this amount for the creation of community assets in tribal areas outside of their constituency but within their State of election.

### Implementation

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Under MPLADS, the role of the MPs is limited only upto recommendation of works. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the **District Authority** to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended by Members of Parliament within the stipulated time.
- The District Authority shall identify the Implementing Agency capable of executing the eligible work qualitatively, timely and satisfactorily. It shall be responsible for timely and effective implementation of such works.
- Information on MPLADS (the number and cost of works sanctioned, implementing agencies, projects completed, etc) should be made available to citizens under the **Right to Information Act**.
- **At least 10% of the projects** under implementation in the district are to be **inspected** every year by the district authority.

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5. Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Generalised System of Preferences is one of the oldest trade preference programmes in the world, under which **developed countries offer preferential treatment** (such as zero or low duties on imports) **to products originating in developing countries.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** GSP is presently extended by **around 15 developed countries.**

