

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

## IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 17-01-2024

**1. With reference to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, consider the following statements.**

- 1.The Act establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Consolidated Fund of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Consolidated Fund of each state.
- 2.The National Fund receives 10% of funds from compensation for the lost forest land and the State Funds receive the remaining 90%.
- 3.These funds are primarily spent on afforestation to compensate for loss of forest cover, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wildlife protection and infrastructure development.

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**2. At present, the major population of Gharials occurs in the tributaries of**

- A. Cauvery
- B. Godavari
- C. Ganges
- D. Narmada

**3. Which of the following is/are eligibility criteria for availing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan scheme.**

1. Unorganised workers whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less
2. The beneficiary should belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years
3. The beneficiary should not be an income tax payer.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**4. Lake Baikal, the oldest and deepest lake in the world, is situated in?**

- A. Russia
- B. Uzbekistan
- C. Israel
- D. Kazakhstan

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5. India's Financial Stability Report is published biannually by

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Reserve Bank of India

**Solutions:**

1. Answer: B

**Explanation:**

**About CAMPA**

- Many development and industrial projects such as erection of dams, mining, and construction of industries or roads require **diversion of forest land**. Any project proponent, government or private, must apply for **forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** before the conversion of land takes place.
- This proposal is to be submitted through the concerned forest department of the state government. If clearance is given, then **compensation for the lost forest land** is also to be decided by the ministry and the regulators.
- Due to certain discrepancies in the implementation of compensatory afforestation, some NGOs had approached the Supreme Court for relief. The apex court in 2009 issued orders that there will be a **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** as National Advisory Council for monitoring, technical assistance and evaluation of compensatory afforestation activities.

**Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 establishes the **National Compensatory Afforestation Fund** under the **Public Account of India**, and a **State Compensatory Afforestation Fund** under the **Public Account of each state**.
- These Funds will receive payments for:
  - compensatory afforestation,
  - net present value of forest (NPV), and
  - other project specific payments.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **National Fund** receives **10% of these funds**, and the **State Funds** receive the remaining **90%**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** These funds are primarily spent on **afforestation to compensate for loss of forest cover, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wildlife protection and infrastructure development**.
- The Act also established the **National and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authorities** to manage the National and State Funds.

**What is Net Present Value of Forest?**

- Since afforested land does not become a forest overnight, there is still a loss of the goods and services that the diverted forest would have provided in the interim period. These goods and services include timber, bamboo, fuelwood, carbon sequestration, soil conservation, water recharge, and seed dispersal. Afforested land is expected to take no less than 50 years to start delivering comparable goods and services.

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- Thus, “**Net Present Value (NPV)**” means the **quantification of the environmental services provided for the forest area diverted for non-forestry uses**, as may be determined by an expert committee appointed by the Central Government from time to time in this regard.

2. Answer: C

### Explanation:

- Gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*), sometimes called gavials, are a type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts. It is one of the most endangered **freshwater crocodile species**.
- Gharials exhibit **sexual dimorphism** — or differences in characteristics between males and females of the same species — in both size and appearance which are absent in other crocodile species.
- Adult males develop a **bulbous growth** at the tip of their snout, called a “**ghara**” after the Indian pot it resembles. The ghara has several functions. It partially covers the crocodile's nostrils and acts as a vocal resonator, creating a loud, buzzing sound when the gharial vocalizes. It is also a visual signal for females, helping males attract a mate.
- Like tigers are the topmost predators in a forest, **gharials are the topmost predators in a river** as they balance the riverine food chain.



### Distribution

- Historically, gharial were found in the river system of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and southern part of Bhutan and Nepal.
- Today, their major population occurs in **three tributaries of the Ganga River**: the Chambal and the Girwa Rivers in **India** and the **Rapti-Narayani River in Nepal**. The **Gharial reserves** of India are located in three States – Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

3. Answer: D

### Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan is a Central Sector pension scheme to ensure old age protection for **Unorganised Workers**. It was launched in 2019.
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** and implemented through **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** and **Common Service Centres (CSCs)**.

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- LIC will be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.

#### Eligibility

- The **Unorganised workers** whose **monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less** and belong to the entry **age group of 18-40 years** are eligible for the scheme.
- They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- He/she **should not be an income tax payer**.

#### Salient Feature of PM-SYM

- **Matching contribution by the Central Government:** PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a **50:50 basis** where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government.
- **Minimum Assured Pension:** Each subscriber under the PM-SYM, shall receive a minimum assured pension of **Rs 3000/- per month** after attaining the age of 60 years.
- **Family Pension:** During the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to the spouse.

4. Answer: A

#### Explanation:

- The 3.15-million-ha Lake Baikal is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (1,700 m) lake in the world. It is situated in south-east Siberia, **Russia**.
- It contains 20% of the world's total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Known as the '**Galapagos of Russia**', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science.

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5. Answer: **D**

#### Explanation:

- Financial Stability Report is published by **Reserve Bank of India** taking inputs from financial sector regulators i.e. RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI. It is published **biannually**.
- It is a periodic exercise for reviewing the nature, magnitude and implications of risks that may have a bearing on the macroeconomic environment, financial institutions, markets and infrastructure.
- It also assesses the resilience of the financial sector through stress tests.
- **Note:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) releases the **Global Financial Stability Report** which provides an assessment of the global financial system and markets, and addresses emerging market financing in a global context.