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Daily MCQs: 18-01-2024

1. With reference to the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention, consider the following statements:

1. It is held once every two years to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India.
2. The Convention is organised by 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

2. Consider the following statements.

1. Bamboos are known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface.
2. To facilitate bamboo cultivation, the government has amended the Indian Forest Act, 1927, to allow forest dwellers to fell the bamboo grown on forest areas.

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. With reference to The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), consider the following statements:

1. It functions as a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. The NCSK monitors the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

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 TAPI pipeline is proposed to run between

- A. Russia and Western Europe
- B. Afghanistan and Iran
- C. Turkmenistan and India

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D. Russia and Israel

5. Which of the following protected areas act as a crucial connecting link between the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats landscape?

- A. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- B. Bandipur National Park
- C. Nagarhole National Park
- D. Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the **Ministry of External Affairs** and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the **overseas Indians**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is **celebrated on January 9 once every two years** to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
- The day commemorates the return of **Mahatma Gandhi** from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.
- The first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was organized in 2003.

2. Answer: A

Explanation:

- Bamboo is a versatile crop. It can be used in **1,500 different ways** including as food, a substitute for wood, building and construction material, for handicrafts and paper. Around **80 per cent of bamboo forests lie in Asia**.
- **India is the world's second largest cultivator of bamboo** after China. However, despite all this, the **country's share in the global bamboo trade and commerce is only 4 per cent**.

About National Bamboo Mission

- In 2006, the Government of India launched the National Bamboo Mission (NBM).
- The NBM's key objective was to address issues relating to the development of the bamboo industry in the country, provide a new impetus and direction and enable the realisation of India's considerable potential in bamboo production.

Main Objectives

- To **increase the area under bamboo plantation in non forest Government and private lands** to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change as well as availability of quality raw material for industries.

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- To **improve post-harvest management** through establishment of innovative primary processing units near the source of production, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation technologies and market infrastructure.
- To **promote product development** keeping in view market demand, by assisting R&D, entrepreneurship & business models at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industries.
- To **rejuvenate the underdeveloped bamboo industry** in India.
- To **promote skill development, capacity building, awareness generation** for development of bamboo sector from production to market demand.
- To realign efforts so as to **reduce dependency on import** of bamboo and bamboo products by way of improved productivity and suitability of domestic raw material for industry, so as to enhance income of the primary producers.

Restructured National Bamboo Mission

- In 2018, a restructured National Bamboo Mission was launched for **holistic development of the bamboo sector through a cluster-based approach**.
- The restructured NBM aims to support the **development of the entire value chain of the bamboo sector** starting from planting material, plantation, creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing marketing, micro, small & medium enterprises, skill development and brand building initiative in a **cluster approach mode**.

Potential of Bamboo Sector

- **Land degradation** is a major problem confronting India. According to the **State of India's Environment 2017 Report, nearly 30 per cent of India's land is degraded**. With its unique ability to stitch and repair damaged soils, bamboo is **ideal for rehabilitating degraded soil**.
- To arrest the pace of land degradation in the country, a national programme of intensive bamboo plantation involving all stake-holders needs to be undertaken. The **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** should utilise bamboo as construction material.
- Though bamboo has been used in various pioneering structural applications in the past, it is still seen as a "poor man's material". Developing bamboo as a load-bearing structural element would pave the way for its high value application in construction, which can make bamboo cultivation an economically viable way of greening the vast wastelands.
- **Edible bamboo** has a huge demand in East Asian cuisines and medicine. Bamboo grown in the Northeast (which is 66 per cent of the growing bamboo stock in India) can be exported to East Asian countries like Japan and Taiwan for competitive prices with the Government's support.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bamboos are also known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface, which is an important feature in arid and drought-prone regions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** To facilitate the benefit flow to the farmers, **bamboo outside forest areas has been excluded from the definition of tree** by amending Section 2 (7) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 by the Government of India in 2017.
- Prior to this, the Act defined bamboo as a "tree" and bamboo grown outside forests was subject to regulatory rules of felling and transportation.

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3. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was established in **1993** as a statutory body under the provisions of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993**, initially for the period upto March 31, 1997. Later the validity of the Act was extended for five years and then again for two years i.e up to February 29, 2004.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** After that it was lapsed and the tenure of the commission was extended as a **non-statutory body** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**. The tenure of the Commission was being extended from time to time through government resolutions. The present tenure is valid upto March 31, 2022.
- The major beneficiaries under the commission are the **Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers** in the country. According to the government data, there were 58,098 manual scavengers identified in the country as on December 31, 2021.
 - *Safai Karamchari means a person engaged in, or employed for any sanitation work and includes his/her dependents.*

Functions

- The NCSK has been giving its recommendations to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis, investigate cases of specific grievances etc.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Also as per the provisions of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, the NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Act, tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act.

4. Answer: C

Explanation:

- Conceived in the 1990s, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) project, also known as **Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline**, entails setting up of a 1,814-km long trans-country natural gas pipeline. Through it, it is projected that **India will be receiving 38 million standard cubic meters a day (mmscmd) of natural gas from Turkmenistan.**
- The pipeline is proposed to run from the Dauletabad gas field to Afghanistan, from where TAPI will be constructed alongside the highway running from Herat to Kandahar, and then via Quetta and Multan in Pakistan. The final destination of the pipeline will be Fazilka in India, near the border with Pakistan.

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- While TAPI will provide Afghanistan with 14 mmscmd of natural gas, India and Pakistan will receive 38 mmscmd.
- The pipeline was initially expected to be complete by 2019 but ran into issues over India-Pakistan tension and the Taliban situation in Afghanistan.

5. Answer: A

Explanation:

- Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary was declared a tiger reserve in 2013 and the reserve that spread across 1,411.60 sq km is an **important link between the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats landscape**.
- It is connected to other well-established tiger habitats like **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Biligirirangana Hills (BR Hills) Tiger Reserve**.
- Sathyamangalam tiger reserve is a part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** which encompasses parts of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnataka and includes **Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley**.