

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 23-01-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Neglected Tropical Diseases.

1. They are a diverse group of communicable diseases.
2. Dengue and Leprosy are considered as Neglected Tropical Diseases.

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. With reference to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, consider the following statements.

1. The act superseded Vishakha Guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court.
2. Unorganised sectors are also covered under the ambit of the Act.
3. Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 50 or more employees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. When an Indian university receives financial grants from an multilateral organisation, it is included in

- A. Short term capital account of Balance of Payments
- B. Long term capital account of Balance of Payments
- C. Trade account of Balance of Payments
- D. Invisibles under Balance of Payments

4. Consider the following statements.

1. Capital market is a component of a financial market that allows long-term trading of debt and equity-backed securities.
2. Money market instruments are considered to be more risky in nature than that of the capital market.
3. NBFCs operate in both the money and the capital markets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only

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- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

5. The salt tolerant Pokkali rice variety is indigenous to the state of

- A. Kerala
- B. West Bengal
- C. Odisha
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a **diverse group of communicable diseases** that prevail in **tropical and subtropical conditions** in more than 140 countries.
- NTDs are caused by a **variety of pathogens** including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and toxins.
- NTDs affect **one in five people worldwide** and are a key impediment to economic development. In addition to causing unbearable suffering and death, NTDs **lead to other conditions** like anemia and malnutrition, stunting growth and causing lifelong health and cognitive problems.
- They are called "neglected" because they generally afflict the world's poor and historically have not received as much attention as other diseases.
- More than 70% of countries and territories that report the presence of neglected tropical diseases are low-income or lower middle-income economies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NTD includes **Dengue**, Blinding trachoma, Human dog-mediated rabies, **Leprosy** (Hansen disease), Endemic treponematoses (yaws), Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Leishmaniasis, Lymphatic filariasis, etc.

2. Answer: A

Explanation:

Key Provisions of the Act

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 addresses the issue of workplace sexual harassment faced by women in **private institutions and government organisations**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The act superseded **Vishakha Guidelines** laid down by the Supreme Court in 1997.
- The Act defines sexual harassment at the work place and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.

Definition of Workplace

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- Under the Act, a workplace is defined as “any place visited by the employee arising out of or during the course of employment, including transportation provided by the employer for undertaking such a journey.”
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per this definition, a workplace covers **both the organised and unorganised sectors**.
- It also includes all workplaces whether owned by Indian or foreign company having a place of work in India.
- As per the Act, workplace includes:-
 - Government organizations, including Government company, corporations and cooperative societies;-
 - Private sector organisations, venture, society, trust, NGO or service providers etc. providing services which are commercial, vocational, educational, sports, professional, entertainment, industrial, health related or financial activities, including production, supply, sale, distribution or service;-
 - Hospitals/Nursing Homes;-
 - Sports Institutes/Facilities;-
 - Places visited by the employee (including while on travel) including transportation provided by employer;
 - A dwelling place or house.

ICC & LCC

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Every employer is required to constitute an **Internal Complaints Committee** at each office or branch with **10 or more employees**.
- Every district will have a **Local Complaints Committee (LCC)** so as to enable women in the unorganised sector or small establishments to work in an environment free of sexual harassment.
- The LCC will receive complaints:
 - From women working in an organisation having less than 10 workers;
 - When the complaint is against the employer himself;
 - From domestic workers.
- At least **50 percent** of the nominated members in any Internal or Local Committee must be women.
- The Complaints Committees have the powers of **civil courts** for gathering evidence.
- The Complaints Committees are required to provide for **conciliation** before initiating an inquiry, if requested by the complainant.

3. Answer: D

Explanation:

- Under the current account of the Balance of Payments (BOP), transactions are classified into **merchandise (exports and imports)** and **invisibles**.
- **Invisible transactions** are further classified into three categories, namely:
 - **'Services'** such as travel, transportation, insurance, etc.
 - **'Income from Investment'** comprises payment of interest on non-resident deposits, payment of interest on loans from non-residents, payment of dividend/profit to non-resident shareholders, etc.

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- **'Unilateral Transfers'** represent one-sided transactions, i.e., transactions that do not have any quid pro quo, such as **grants**, gifts, and migrants' transfers by way of **remittances** for family maintenance, repatriation of savings, etc. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**

4. Answer: D

Explanation:

- A **financial market** brings buyers and sellers together to trade in financial assets such as stocks, bonds, commodities, derivatives, and currencies. Although there are many components to a financial market, two of the most commonly used are money markets and capital markets.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Government and corporate entities use money markets as a means for borrowing and lending in the short term, usually for assets being held for up to a year. Conversely, A capital market is a component of a financial market that allows long-term trading of debt and equity-backed securities.
- The financial instruments used in capital markets include stocks and bonds, whereas the instruments used in the money markets include deposits, collateral loans, acceptances, Certificates of Deposits, Commercial Papers and bills of exchange.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Investors use money market instruments (such as Treasury bills, commercial papers, certificates of deposits) to invest funds in a safe manner. Unlike capital markets, money markets are considered low risk.

About NBFCs

- An NBFC is a company registered under the **Companies Act, 1956** which provides banking services without meeting the legal definition of a bank.
- They engage in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares, bonds, etc. issued by Government or local authority.
- They also deal in other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business but **does not include any institution whose principal business** is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.

What is the difference between banks & NBFCs?

- NBFCs lend and make investments and hence their activities are similar to that of banks; however there are a few differences:
 1. NBFC cannot accept demand deposits;
 2. NBFCs cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;
 3. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs, unlike in the case of banks.

Examples of NBFCs

- **Statement 3 is correct:** NBFCs operate in **both the money and the capital markets**. Eg: Housing Finance Companies, Merchant Banking Companies, Stock Exchanges, Companies engaged in the business of stock-broking/sub-broking, Venture Capital Fund Companies, Nidhi Companies, Insurance companies and Chit Fund Companies are examples of NBFCs.

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Does the Reserve Bank regulate all financial companies?

- **No.**
- Housing Finance Companies are regulated by **National Housing Bank**, Merchant Banker/Venture Capital Fund Company/stock-exchanges/stock brokers/sub-brokers are regulated by **Securities and Exchange Board of India**, and Insurance companies are regulated by **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority**.
- Similarly, Chit Fund Companies are regulated by the respective **State Governments** and Nidhi Companies are regulated by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

5. Answer: A

Explanation::

- Pokkali rice is a unique **saline tolerant rice** grown in coastal areas of central **Kerala**.
- The Pokkali Rice is called **Clever man's rice**. A farmer must utilize the naturally available ecological system as fertilizer to cultivate the rice variety.
- The crop grows to a height up to 1 meter making them naturally flood resistant.
- Pokkali rice cultivation has been evolved through ages by the farmers of the area for the maximum utilization of available resources without affecting the ecosystem.
- It has been given a **GI tag** from Kerala.

Rice-Prawn Culture

- Pokkali Rice and Prawn are cultured in the same field. Both are **mutually complementary**.
- During high salinity the prawn farming takes over which feeds on leftovers of post paddy harvest.
- The rice crop, which gets no other fertilizer or manure, draws nutrients from the prawn's excrement and other remnants.

Saline tolerance properties

- A team of researchers, including scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), has found that the high expression of a specific gene – **OsIF** – stabilizes the plant's photosynthetic machinery in high salinity conditions, thereby playing a crucial role in pokkali's tolerance to salty conditions.