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Daily MCQs: 07-03-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

1. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
2. ECOSOC's membership consists of all 193 sovereign states of the United Nations.

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 about Gross Environment Product (GEP).

1. GEP is a measure that allows monitoring of ecological growth parallel to economic growth which is measured using the gross domestic product.
2. GEP helps to understand if development is happening at the cost of ecology.

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. 'Rhizophoraceae, Lythraceae and Arecaceae' are

- A. Neglected tropical diseases
- B. Microorganisms resistant to first-line antibiotics
- C. Mangrove families
- D. Plants with allelopathic properties

4. With reference to the National Food Security Act, 2013, which one of the following statements is not correct?

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- A. The Act legally entitled the population to receive subsidized food grains under the Universal Public Distribution System.
- B. According to the Act, pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000.
- C. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.
- D. The implementation of the scheme comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

5. Mission Karmayogi was launched with the main objective of

- A. To provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.
- B. Assisting Indian MSMEs by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.
- C. Nationwide programme to lay the foundation for capacity building of civil servants.
- D. Implementing Direct Benefit Transfer for procurement of food grains by the Food Corporation of India.

Solutions:

- 1. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- It is responsible for the direction and coordination of the economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities carried out by the UN.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** ECOSOC was established by the UN Charter (1945), which was amended in 1965 and 1974 to increase the number of members from 18 to 54. ECOSOC membership is based on geographic representation.
- ECOSOC is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gross Environment Product (GEP) is a measure that allows **monitoring of ecological growth parallel to economic growth** which is measured using the gross domestic product or GDP.

GEP and GDP

- GDP is the sum of whatever we produce every year within a boundary of a state or a nation.
- Gross Ecosystem Product is the **total value of products and services that are produced within a functional living ecosystem** and are essential for human welfare and sustainable development.
 - For example, a tree is a source of oxygen, timber, shade, fodder, shelter, it regulates water, fixes nitrogen, controls flood, improves soil quality, and so on. All these are invisible services offered by the living ecosystems throughout the year and can be captured using specific indicators.

Why is GDP not sufficient?

- **GDP is not adjusted for pollution costs.** If two economies have the same GDP per capita, but one has polluted air and water, it will have a disparate impact on people's well-being. Yet GDP won't capture it.

How will GEP help?

- It will update us about the growth of forest, soil and water, and quality of air, in any given year, parallel to GDP.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Therefore, it will **help understand if development is happening at the cost of ecology.**
- This will help maintain a **balance between economy and ecology.** Currently, we are unaware how long natural resources will support us.

3. Answer: C

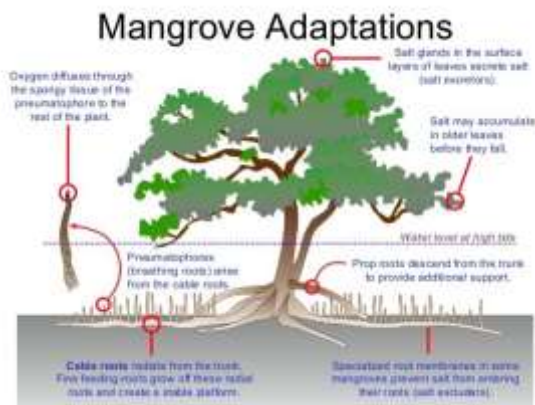
Explanation:

- Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands found in **tropical and subtropical regions.**
- Mangroves belong primarily to the families **Rhizophoraceae, Acanthaceae, Lythraceae, Combretaceae, and Arecaceae.**

- They are characterized by **halophytic** (salt loving) trees, shrubs and other plants growing in **brackish to saline tidal waters**.
- These wetlands are often found in **estuaries**, where fresh water meets salt water.

Adaptation mechanisms

- Many mangroves characteristically have **prop roots** descending from the trunk and branches, providing a stable support system in the submerged conditions.
- Many mangrove species survive by **filtering** out as much as 90 percent of the salt found in seawater as it enters their roots. Some species excrete salt through **glands** in their leaves.
- Some mangroves have pencil-like roots called **pneumatophores** that grow out from the water surface. Pneumatophores facilitate the aeration necessary for root respiration in mangroves.
- Mangroves, like desert plants, store fresh water in thick **succulent leaves**. A **waxy coating** on the leaves seals in water and minimises evaporation.
- **Mangroves are viviparous**, their seeds germinate while still attached to the parent tree. Once germinated, the seedling grows into a propagule. The mature propagule then drops into the water and gets transported to a different spot, eventually taking root in a solid ground.



Significance of mangroves

- A **wide diversity of plants and animals** are found in mangrove swamps. Since these estuarine swamps are constantly replenished with nutrients transported by fresh water runoff from the land and flushed by the ebb and flow of the tides, they support a bursting population of bacteria and other decomposers and filter feeders.

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- Because mangroves create dense foliage and close proximity of trees, they **protect shorelines from damaging winds and waves**. A series of studies in the early 2000s discovered that mangroves with an average height of 6-10 metres could shorten a cyclone's waves by 60%.
- Their protective role has been widely recognized especially after the devastating **Tsunami of 2004**.
- Mangrove forests **stabilize the coastline**, and help **prevent erosion** by stabilising sediments with their tangled root systems.
- Mangroves also have a **big impact on climate**. Mangroves are powerhouses when it comes to carbon storage. Studies indicate that mangroves can **sequester greater amounts of carbon** than other trees in the peat soil beneath. They store this carbon for thousands of years.
- The intricate root system of mangroves also makes these forests attractive to fish and other organisms seeking food and shelter from predators.
- Many people living in and around mangroves **depend on them for their livelihood**. The trees are a source of wood for construction and fuel. The ecosystem provides local fishermen with a rich supply of fish, crabs and shellfish. The ecosystem also supports tourism

4. Answer: A

Explanation:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 was notified on 10th September, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Statement A is incorrect:** The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**, thus covering about two-thirds of the population.
- The eligible persons will be **entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains**. The existing **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households**, which constitute the poorest of the poor will continue to receive **35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month**.
- **Statement B is correct:** The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000. It is however restricted to two children only.

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- Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards.
- **Statement C is correct:** In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive **food security allowance**. The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels
- The eldest women of the household of age 18 years or above will be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing ration cards.
- **Statement D is correct:** The implementation of the scheme comes under the ambit of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** (not under the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare).

5. Answer: C

Explanation

- Mission Karmayogi is a nationwide programme to lay the **foundation for capacity building of civil servants**. It will help the officers to learn about the best practices across the world.
- Officially called the "**National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**", the mission plans to **transform human resource management in the country**.
- Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.
- The fundamental focus of the reform is the creation of a '**citizen centric civil service**' capable of creating and delivering services conducive to economic growth and public welfare.
- It shifts the focus from "Rule based training to **Role based training**". Greater thrust has been laid on behavioural change.