

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 08-03-2024

1. With reference to the USTTAD initiative, consider the following statements.

1. The Scheme aims to preserve the rich heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities.
2. Beneficiaries under the scheme are restricted to minority communities.

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. Which of the following countries in Central America have both Caribbean and Pacific coastline?

1. Belize
2. El Salvador
3. Guatemala
4. Nicaragua
5. Costa Rica
6. Panama

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 5 only
- C. 2, 5 and 6 only
- D. 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

3. Consider the following statements about the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. It is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.

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

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4. The famous Kesaria Buddha stupa is located in the state of

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Jammu and Kashmir
- D. Bihar

5. With reference to the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, consider the following statements.

- 1. Only forest dwellers belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community are eligible for recognition of rights under the Act.
- 2. The Act also provides forest management rights for communities to protect forests and wildlife.

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: A

Explanation:

USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Scheme was launched in 2015 to **preserve the rich heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities.**
- It is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority affairs.
- The scheme aims at
 - capacity building and updating the traditional skills of master craftsmen/artisans
 - documentation of identified traditional arts/crafts of minorities; set standards for traditional skills
 - training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts through master craftsmen; and
 - develop national and international market linkages.

Eligible Trainees/beneficiaries

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The trainee should belong to a minority community. However, to promote inter-community solidarity, **25% candidates belonging to BPL families of non-minority communities** may also be considered. In addition, 3% seats will also be reserved for **differently abled persons** belonging to minority communities.
- The trainee should be between **14-35 years of age**. Upper age limit may be relaxed for differently abled persons belonging to minorities.

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- The minimum qualification of a trainee should be at least **Class V**. This may also be relaxed for differently abled persons belonging to minorities.
- More than one member of a family is eligible for training in the same art/craft form, provided she/he fulfills the eligibility criteria.

2. Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- While most of the countries in Central America have both a Caribbean and a Pacific coastline, **Belize** has only a Caribbean coast, and **El Salvador** has only a Pacific coast.



3. Answer: **B**

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Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is a statutory body constituted under **Rules 1989 of Environment Protection Act (EPA) - 1986**.
- It functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per Rules, 1989, it is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
- The committee is also responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
- GEAC is chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Presently, it has 24 members and meets every month to review the applications in the areas indicated above

4. Answer: D

Explanation:



- The Kesaria Buddha stupa is located in **Bihar**. The stupa is said to be the **tallest and the largest Buddhist stupa in the world**.
- The original Kesaria stupa probably dates back to the time of **emperor Ashoka** (circa 250 BCE). The stupa mound **may even have been inaugurated during the Buddha's time**, as it corresponds in many respects to the description of the stupa erected by the Licchavis of Vaishali to house the alms bowl the Buddha has given them.
- Two great foreign travelers, **Faxian (Fahien) and Xuan Zang (Hsuan Tsang)**, had visited this place in ancient times and have left interesting and informative accounts of their travels. They have written at length about Kesaria's unique geographical location, cultural vibrancy, and ancient heritage.

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- Lord Buddha, during his journey from Vaishali to Kushinagar, had spent a night at Kesariya where he reportedly made some historical revelations. These were later recorded in a **Buddhist Jataka story**. According to Faxian, Lord Buddha had announced his impending death or **Nirvana** just before leaving Vaishali for Kesaria.
- The **discovery of gold coins** bearing the **seal of the famous emperor Kanishka** of the Kushan dynasty goes on to further establish the ancient heritage of Kesaria.
- The **current stupa dates to the Gupta Dynasty between 200 AD and 750 AD** and may have been associated with the 4th century ruler Raja Chakravarti.

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** is a people-centric law for forests, which **recognises the rights of forest-dwelling communities to use and manage forest resources**.
- With more than 150 million forest dwellers, the scope of FRA is immense to protect their livelihoods, and engage them in sustainable forest management.

Rights under FRA

- **Title rights** – Ownership to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of **4 hectares**; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family, meaning that no new lands are granted.
- **Use rights** – to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- **Relief and development rights** – to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- **Forest management rights** – to protect forests and wildlife; **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Eligibility

- To qualify as a **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST)** and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, three conditions must be satisfied by the applicant/s, who could be **“members or community”**:
 - Must be a Scheduled Tribe in the area where the right is claimed; and
 - Primarily resided in forest or forests land prior to 13-12-2005; and
 - Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In addition to them, **Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD) are also eligible** for recognition of rights under FRA. Two conditions need to be fulfilled:
 - Primarily resided in forest or forests land for three generations (75 years) prior to 13-12-2005, and
 - Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- The FRA provides that a forest right conferred under the Act shall be **heritable but not alienable or transferable**, and shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses in case of married persons and in the name of the single head in the case of a household headed by a single person.

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Process of recognition of rights

- The Act provides that the **gram sabha**, or village assembly, will initially pass a resolution recommending whose rights to which resources should be recognised.
- This resolution is then screened and approved at the **level of the sub-division** (or taluka) and subsequently at the **district level**.
- The **screening committees** consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level. These committees also hear appeals.

