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Daily MCQs: 18-03-2024

1. Which of the following are used as criteria to designate tribal groups as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

1. A pre-agriculture level of technology
2. A stagnant or declining population
3. Extremely low literacy
4. A subsistence level of economy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

2. With respect to The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, consider the following statements.

1. It lays down the criteria for declaring any registered political party as a national party or a state party.
2. It also empowers the Election Commission of India to deregister political parties violating the model code of conduct.

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. The Stockholm Convention is related to

- A. International treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.
- B. Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals
- C. Multilateral treaty to provide an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one member country to another.
- D. Arrive at a set of common principles for securing cyberspace.

4. Consider the following statements about Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).

1. An exchange-traded fund can contain all types of investments including stocks, commodities, or bonds.
2. The Government of India uses ETF to disinvest its holdings in public sector companies.

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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

5. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Planetary boundaries define the safe operating space for humanity within the Earth's ecosystems.

Statement-II:

Crossing these biophysical thresholds could lead to abrupt and irreversible environmental changes, posing risks to human well-being and the stability of the planet.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-1 and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Solutions:

1. Answer: D

Explanation:

- In India, tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.
- The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:
 - **A pre-agriculture level of technology;**
 - **A stagnant or declining population;**
 - **Extremely low literacy; and**
 - **A subsistence level of economy.**
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- **75 tribal groups** have been categorized by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as PVTGs.
- PVTGs reside in **18 States and UT of A&N Islands.**
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in **Odisha (13)**, followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)" exclusively for them.

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- PVTGs depend on various livelihoods such as food gathering, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), hunting, livestock rearing, shifting cultivation and artisan works. Most of their livelihoods depend on the forest.

2. Answer: A

Explanation:

Unrecognised political parties

- Either newly registered parties or those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in Assembly or General Elections to become a State party or those which have never contested in elections since being registered are considered **unrecognised parties**. Such parties don't enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.

Provisions for recognised party status

- A recognised political party shall either be a **National party** or a **State party** if it meets certain laid down conditions.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**, lays down the criteria for declaring any registered political party as a national party or a state party.

National Party

- As per the Election symbols order, a registered political party needs to **fulfil at least one of the following three conditions** to be recognised as a national party:
 - It needs to win a minimum **two percent** of seats in the Lok Sabha (11 seats) from at least three different states.
 - It needs to get **at least six percent of votes in four states** in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, in addition to **winning four Lok Sabha seats**.
 - It needs to get **recognised as a state party in four or more states**.

State Party

- In order to be recognised as a state party, a political party needs to **fulfil at least one of the four criteria** laid down by the Election Commission of India.
- A political party will be recognised as a state party:
 - If it wins **three percent of the total seats** in the Legislative Assembly of the state (subject to a minimum of three seats).
 - If it wins one Lok Sabha seat for every 25 Lok Sabha seats allotted for the state.
 - If it gets **at least six percent of votes** in a state during a Lok Sabha or Assembly election. In addition, it also needs to win **at least one Lok Sabha or two Legislative Assembly seats**.
 - If it wins **at least eight percent votes** in a state during the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly elections.

Benefits of being a recognised state party or national party

- If a party is recognised as a 'State Party', it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its **reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the State of States in which it is so recognised**,

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and if a party is recognised as a 'National Party' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its **reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.**

- The registered unrecognised political parties do not have the privilege of contesting elections on affixed symbol of their own. They have to choose from a list of '**free symbols**' issued by the Commission.
- However, the candidates set up by a political party registered with the Election Commission of India will get **preference in the matter of allotment of free symbols** vis-à-vis purely independent candidates.
- Recognised 'State' and 'National' parties **need only one proposer** for filing the nomination and are also entitled for **two sets of electoral rolls** free of cost and **broadcast/telecast facilities** over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is to be noted that while the EC has the power to **register parties under the Representation of the People Act, 1951**, it **does not have the power to deregister parties that are inactive.**

3. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**. It aims to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.
- POPs have the following properties:
 - They **remain intact** in the environment for long periods,
 - Become **widely distributed** geographically,
 - **Accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife** (they do not easily dissolve in water)
 - Have **harmful impacts** on human health or on the environment.
- Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants can lead to **serious health effects** including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems.
- The Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in **2001** and entered into force in **2004**, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.
- **India** had ratified the Stockholm Convention on January 13, 2006.

Annexes under the Convention

- The Stockholm Convention addresses the control of POPs under **three Annexes** that relate to the intended method of controlling their release – **Elimination (Annex A), Restriction (Annex B), or Unintentional Production (Annex C).**
- Parties are required to take measures to eliminate the production and use of Annex A chemicals and eliminate production and use of Annex B chemicals.
- The goal with regard to Annex C chemicals is to continually minimize, and where feasible eliminate, unintentional releases.
- Additionally, each Party to the Convention develops and maintains an **Implementation Plan.**

4. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trade on an exchange. ETFs can contain all types of investments including stocks, commodities, or bonds.
- ETFs are in many ways similar to mutual funds; however, they are listed on exchanges and ETF shares trade throughout the day just like ordinary stock.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Government of India uses ETF to disinvest its holdings in public sector companies.

5. Answer: A

Explanation:

What are Planetary boundaries ?

- Developed in 2009, planetary boundaries refers to a **set of nine environmental boundaries or limits** that **define the safe operating space for humanity within the Earth's ecosystems**.
- These boundaries are meant to represent the **biophysical thresholds** that, if crossed, could lead to **abrupt and irreversible environmental changes**, posing risks to human well-being and the stability of the planet.

Nine Planetary boundaries

- **Climate Change:** The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming.
- **Biosphere Integrity:** The overall health and functioning of ecosystems, including biodiversity and the extent of intact habitats.
- **Stratospheric Ozone Depletion:** The concentration of ozone-depleting substances in the atmosphere, which affects the protective ozone layer in the stratosphere.
- **Ocean Acidification:** The acidity of the oceans, primarily driven by increased carbon dioxide absorption, which can have detrimental effects on marine life, especially organisms with calcium carbonate shells.
- **Biogeochemical Flows (Nitrogen and Phosphorus):** The human-driven flow of nitrogen and phosphorus into the environment, which can lead to nutrient imbalances and environmental degradation, such as eutrophication of water bodies.
- **Land System Change:** Changes in land use, including deforestation, urbanization, and other alterations to natural landscapes.
- **Freshwater Use:** Human consumption of freshwater resources, with a focus on sustainable water management to avoid depletion and ecosystem degradation.
- **Novel entities:** Levels of plastic, concrete, synthetic chemicals, gene-modified organisms, etc. that would not be found on Earth if we humans were not here.
- **Atmospheric Aerosol Loading:** The concentration of particulate matter in the atmosphere, which can affect air quality and have climate-related impacts.

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