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Daily MCQs: 13-04-2024

1. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, consider the following statements.

1. The scheme provides a conditional cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 to pregnant women.
2. Both rural and urban areas are covered under the scheme.

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 are the functions and powers of the Election Commission of India?

1. Determining the electoral constituencies' territorial areas throughout the country.
2. Issuing the Model Code of Conduct in elections.
3. Granting recognition to the various political parties and allocating them election symbols.
4. Advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

3. Which of the following countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

1. Iran
2. United Arab Emirates
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Qatar
5. Bahrain

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

4. The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a

- A. Constitutional Body created under original Constitution
- B. Constitutional Body created by an Constitutional Amendment
- C. Statutory Body

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D. Body formed under Executive Resolution

5. Consider the following statements about the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

1. It was established to provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector.
2. NIIF is a 100% government-owned entity.
3. NIIF is registered with SEBI as an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Solutions:

1. Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** launched "Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan" (PMSMA) with an aim to **provide fixed-day, free of cost, assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women** in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities.
 - Under **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** conditional cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 is provided to pregnant women.
- Launched in 2016, PMSMA envisages to improve the quality and coverage of Antenatal Care (ANC) including diagnostics and counselling services as part of the **Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Strategy**.
- One of the key focus areas of PMSMA is to generate demand through Information Education & Communication (IEC), Inter-personal Communication (IPC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities.
- Extensive use of audio-visual and print media in raising mass awareness is an integral part of IEC/BCC campaign.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and Anganwadi Worker (AWW) play a pivotal role in mobilization of the community and potential beneficiaries in **both rural and urban areas** for availing of services during the PMSMA.

2. Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India. The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President** in the country.

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Powers and responsibilities

- The Commission's functions and powers with respect to elections are divided into **three categories (Administrative, Advisory, and Quasi-judicial)**. In detail, these powers include
 - **Determining** the Electoral Constituencies' territorial areas throughout the country;
 - Preparing and periodically revising **electoral rolls** and **registering all eligible voters**;
 - **Notifying** the schedules and dates of elections and **scrutinising** nomination papers;
 - Granting recognition to the various political parties and allocating them election symbols;
 - The Commission also has **advisory jurisdiction** in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures;
 - It issues the **Model Code of Conduct** in elections for political parties and candidates so that no one indulges in unfair practice or there is no arbitrary abuse of powers by those in power.

3. Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a **political and economic union of Arab states bordering the Gulf**.
- It was established in 1981 and its 6 members are the **United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain**.
- The official language is **Arabic**.
- The GCC Charter states that the basic objectives are to have coordination, integration and inter-connection between Member States in all fields, strengthening ties between their peoples, formulating similar regulations in various fields such as economy, finance, trade, customs, tourism, etc.



4. Answer: C

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a **statutory body** formed in **1992** under the **National Commission Act 1990**.

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- It is the apex national level organisation of India with the mandate of protecting and promoting the interests of women.
- It provides the government with advice to make policies and laws that are more prone to protect and safeguard the rights of women.
- The commission also has the powers that are vested upon with a **civil court**.

Objectives

- The objectives of NCW are as follows:
 1. To suggest the government regarding policies regarding women,
 2. A platform to redress the grievances,
 3. To make recommendations relating to legislation measures,
 4. To review legal and constitutional safeguards for women.

Powers

- Powers of NCW:
 1. Provide consultation on all major policy matters that affect women,
 2. Issuing summons for the examination of documents and the witnesses,
 3. It has the power to make any public record,
 4. Receiving evidence on affidavits,
 5. Discovery and production of documents,
 6. Summoning and enforcement.

Composition

- The commission consists of a **chairperson, a member secretary and five other members**.
- The chairperson of the NCW is **nominated by the Central Government**. The Central Government also nominates the member secretary.

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is an **Indian-government backed entity** established in **2016** to **provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector**. It was established with a planned corpus of ₹40,000 crore.
- The NIIF aims to maximize the economic impact mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects such as greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects. It would also consider other nationally important projects in manufacturing, if commercially viable.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Indian government has **49 per cent** stake in NIIF with the **rest held by foreign and domestic investors**. NIIF is India's **first sovereign wealth fund**.
 - *Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) are pools of assets owned and managed directly or indirectly by governments to achieve national objectives.*
- **Statement 3 is correct:** NIIF got registered with SEBI as an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**.
 - *AIFs are private funds which are otherwise not coming under the jurisdiction of any regulatory agency in India. In India, AIFs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.*

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- NIIF currently manages three funds each with its distinctive investment mandate.
 - **Master Fund**
 - It primarily invests in operating assets in core infrastructure sectors such as transportation and energy.
 - **Fund of Funds**
 - This fund invests in funds managed by fund managers in infrastructure and associated sectors. Sectors of focus include Green Infrastructure, Mid-Income & Affordable Housing, Infrastructure services and allied sectors.
 - **Strategic Fund**
 - This fund is aimed at growth and development-stage investments in large scale projects/companies in a broad range of sectors of economic and commercial importance, which are likely to benefit from India's growth trajectory over the medium- to long-term.

