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Daily MCQs: 08-05-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Pulicat lake

- 1) It is the second largest freshwater lake in the country.
- 2) Pulicat Lake is a designated Ramsar site, recognizing its importance as a wetland of international significance.

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 Eco-sensitive zones

- 1) These are fragile areas falling within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- 2) They are protected under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- 3) Agriculture is the only activity permitted in an Eco-sensitive zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1 and 2 only

3. Which of the following is/are capabilities envisioned for Artificial General Intelligence?

- 1) Reasoning and drawing logical conclusions
- 2) Learning from new experiences and adapt its behavior
- 3) Ability to differentiate between cause and effect

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

4. India shares a land border with Myanmar along which of the following states?

- A) Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram
- B) Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram
- C) Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura
- D) Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland

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5. Consider the following statements about the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

- 1) It is issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
- 2) It is recognised as legal tender and thus has to be accepted by everyone in the country as a medium of exchange.

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: B

Explanation

- Pulicat Lake is located on the **Coromandel Coast of India**, between the states of **Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh**.



- It is the **second-largest brackish water lake** in the country (next to **Chilika in Odisha**). Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- The lake is separated from the Bay of Bengal by **Sriharikota Island**, home to the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**.
- **Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary** is located within the lake and hosts a rich biodiversity of birds and aquatic life.
- Major inflows to the lake include **Arani, Kalangi, and Swarnamukhi rivers**, while the **Buckingham Canal** serves as a navigation channel.
- The **Flamingo Festival** is an annual event that promotes tourism in this region.
- Pulicat Lake is a designated Ramsar site, recognizing its importance as a wetland of international significance. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

Threats

- Despite its ecological significance, Pulicat Lake is facing several threats. One of the biggest threats to the lake is **pollution**, both from industrial activities and domestic sewage.

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- The lake is also threatened by the **encroachment of its banks** by local communities and the **illegal mining of sand**.
- The rapid development of **aquaculture** and **fishing activities** in the lake is also contributing to the degradation of its ecosystem.

2. Answer: D

Explanation

- **Eco-sensitive zones are areas notified by the MoEF around protected areas, National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries.**
- The National Wildlife Action Plan (2002–2016) of MoEFCC stipulated that state governments should declare land **falling within 10 km** of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries as eco-fragile zones or ESZs under the **Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986. Hence statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is correct.**
- The purpose of the ESZ was to provide more protection to the parks by acting as a shock absorber or transition zone.
- Eco-Sensitive Zones would minimize forest depletion and man-animal conflict.
- The basic aim is to regulate certain activities around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so as to minimize the negative impacts of such activities on the fragile ecosystem encompassing the protected areas.
- **Activities prohibited in ESZ**
 - Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood.
 - Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.
- **Regulated Activities:**
 - Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g., adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads.
- **Permitted Activities:**
 - **Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

3. Answer: D

Explanation

What is Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)?

- AGI refers to a **machine or a software that can perform any intellectual task that a human can do**. This includes **reasoning, common sense, abstract thinking, background knowledge, transfer learning, ability to differentiate between cause and effect**, etc.

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- AGI aims to **emulate human cognitive abilities** such that it allows it to **do unfamiliar tasks, learn from new experiences, and apply its knowledge in new ways**. Hence **all the three statements are correct**.

Difference between AGI and AI

- The main difference between AGI and the more common form of AI (known as narrow AI), lies in their **scope and capabilities**.
- **Narrow AI is designed to perform specific tasks** such as image recognition, translation, or even playing games like chess—at which **it can outdo humans**, but it **remains limited to its set parameters**. On the other hand, **AGI envisions a broader, more generalised form of intelligence, not confined to any particular task** (like humans).

4. Answer: B

Explanation

- Myanmar is a Southeast Asian country with Naypyidaw as its capital.
- **Borders:**
 - China to the north and northeast,
 - Laos to the east,
 - Thailand to the southeast,
 - Bangladesh to the west, and
 - **India to the northwest.**
- **Border with India:** 1600 km and maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal.
- **Marginal seas:** The Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal to the south and southwest.
- **Indian states bordering Myanmar: Four North-Eastern States**
 - **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. Hence option B is correct.**



- **Important Rivers: Irrawaddy**
- **Myawady**
 - It is a **town on the border between Myanmar and Thailand**. It had seen sporadic clashes between the military and anti junta fighters since the coup in 2021.

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5. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The digital rupee, or the **e-rupee**, is a **central bank digital currency (CBDC) issued by the RBI**.
- It is similar to the physical cash that you hold in your wallet except that the **e-rupee is held electronically in a digital wallet overseen by the RBI**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The digital rupee is recognised as **legal tender** by the RBI, and thus has to be **accepted by everyone in the country as a medium of exchange**.
- It is, however, different from deposits that you hold in a bank. Unlike deposits which are paid interest, the digital rupees in your wallet are **not paid any interest by the central bank**.
- **Deposits held in banks can be converted into digital rupees and vice-versa.**

CBDC can be classified into two types

- **Retail (CBDC-R):** Retail CBDC would be potentially available for use by all;
- **Wholesale (CBDC-W):** Designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.

CBDC vs Cryptocurrency

- The central bank digital currency **should not be mistaken with a cryptocurrency**.
- A CBDC is a **central bank issued digital currency which is backed by some kind of assets** in the form of either gold, currency reserves, bonds and other assets, **recognised by the central banks as a monetary asset**.
- This guarantee from a central bank reduces the CBDC risk, volatility, and ensures a larger acceptance across the globe.
- On the other hand, a **cryptocurrency is issued by a network and backed by a crypto asset which may or may not have the backing of any monetizable asset or physical asset**. Therefore, the **risk is higher and there is more price volatility and less acceptance as a money instrument globally**.