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Daily MCQs: 14-05-2024

1. With reference to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), consider the following statements.

1. It was launched in 2015 on the sidelines of the Paris Climate Conference.
2. It is an international partnership to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.

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 is correct about the term 'Kavach' which is sometimes seen in news?

- A) A geological period in the history of Indian subcontinent
- B) A Russian hypersonic missile with which it attacked Ukraine
- C) A dark web that sells banking information illegally
- D) An indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system

3. Consider the following statements

- 1) India is the largest fish producing nation in the world.
- 2) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aims to address critical infrastructure gaps in the fisheries sector.

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

4. Consider the following statements about the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- 1) IIP measures the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services.
- 2) It is a yearly index published by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

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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5. Consider the following statements about World Trade Organization (WTO)

1. The primary purpose of the WTO is to foster global monetary cooperation.
2. The topmost decision-making body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference, which usually meets every two years.
3. The Appellate Body is a standing committee of seven members that presides over appeals against judgments passed in trade-related disputes brought by WTO members.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Launched in 2019 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Change Summit, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international collaborative platform involving the public and private sector, aiming to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- CDRI envisions enabling measurable reduction in infrastructure losses from disasters, including extreme climate events.
- It aims to help tackle these objectives in a multilateral approach, which will help implementation of the Paris Agreement, through both global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced climate change adaptation action.
- The Coalition's secretariat is based in New Delhi.
- **Members of CDRI:** 22 countries and 7 organisations.

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Significance of CDRI

- The CDRI will serve as a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.
- It will bring together technical expertise from a multitude of stakeholders that will create a mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities and practices, with regard to infrastructure development in accordance with their risk context and economic needs.
- Economically weaker sections of society, women and children, are the most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and hence, will be benefited from the improvement of knowledge and practice in creating disaster resilient infrastructure.

2. Answer: D

Explanation

What is Kavach?

- The KAVACH is an **indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system** by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** in collaboration with the Indian industry.
 - *RDSO is a research and development organization under the Ministry of Railways of India.*
- It is a **state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards**. It is meant to **provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collision**.
- It **activates the train's braking system automatically** if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions.
- In addition, it **prevents the collision between two locomotives equipped with functional Kavach systems**.

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- The system also **relays SoS messages during emergency situations**. An added feature is the **centralized live monitoring** of train movements through the Network Monitor System.
- 'Kavach' is one of the cheapest, SIL-4 certified technologies where the **probability of error is 1 in 10,000 years**.

How does Kavach work?

- The **Traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS)**, with the help of equipment on board the locomotive and transmission towers at stations connected with **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags**, helps in **two-way communication** between the station master and loco-pilot to convey any emergency message.
- The instrument panel inside the cabin helps the loco-pilot know about the signal in advance without visual sighting, and the permissible speeds to be maintained.
- If a red signal is jumped and two trains come face to face on the same line, the **technology automatically takes over and applies sudden brakes**.
- Additionally, the hooter activates by itself when approaching a level crossing which serves as a big boon to loco-pilots during **fog conditions when visibility is low**.

What is the Kavach deployment strategy?

- The Kavach system project is yet to be implemented on the Howrah-Kharagpur-Chennai line.
- Kavach implementation is being taken up in a **focused manner** by the Railway Board. The **first priority** are the **High Density Routes** and the **New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah Sections**, as they have higher chances of accidents because the trains run closer to each other.
- The **second priority** lines are the **Highly Used Networks**, the **third ones** are **other Passenger High Density Routes** and the **final priority** is of course to **cover all other routes**.

3. Answer: B

Explanation

- India is the **third largest fish producing country**, contributing 8 percent to the global fish production and ranks second in aquaculture production. (As of March 2023) **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**.
- The fish production in 2021-22 is 16.24 Million Tonnes comprising marine fish production of 4.12 Million Tonnes and 12.12 Million Tonnes from Aquaculture.

About Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- The central government launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in 2020 to bring about the **Blue Revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.
- It is implemented by the **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.

Objectives

- It is a flagship scheme for **integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries sector** in the country with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,000 crores for its implementation during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories.

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- It aims at enhancing **fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne** by 2024-25, **increasing fisheries export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore** by 2024-25, **doubling of incomes** of fishers and fish farmers, **reducing post-harvest losses** from 20-25% to about **10%**.
- It is **designed to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management**, modernization and strengthening of value chain, traceability and establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It primarily focuses on adopting '**Cluster or Area based approaches**' and creation of **Fisheries clusters** through backward and forward linkages.
- The scheme also aims at generating additional **55 lakhs direct and indirect gainful employment opportunities** in the fisheries sector and allied activities.

Sub components covered under PMMSY

- Enhancement of Production and Productivity
- Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Management
- Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework.

4. Answer: D

Explanation

- IIP is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Electricity, crude oil, coal, cement, steel, refinery products, natural gas, and fertilizers are the eight core industries that comprise about 40 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production.
- Mining, manufacturing, and electricity are the three broad sectors in which IIP constituents fall.
- **Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.**

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that is concerned with the regulation of international trade between nations.
- The WTO officially commenced on **1 January 1995** under the **Marrakesh Agreement**, replacing the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, which commenced in 1948.
- It is the largest international economic organization in the world.
- The WTO deals with **regulation of trade in goods, services and intellectual property** between participating countries by providing a framework for negotiating trade agreements and a dispute resolution process aimed at enforcing participants' adherence to

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WTO agreements, which are signed by representatives of member governments ratified by their parliaments.

Objectives

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The primary purpose of the WTO is to **open trade for the benefit of all**. It functions to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.
- Fostering global monetary cooperation is a major objective of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- The WTO is essentially an **alternative dispute or mediation entity** that upholds the international rules of trade among nations. The organization provides a platform that allows member governments to negotiate and resolve trade issues with other members.
- The WTO **prohibits discrimination between trading partners**, but provides exceptions for environmental protection, national security, and other important goals.
- At present, the WTO has over 160 members representing 98 percent of world trade.
- **India** has been a WTO member since 1 January 1995 and a member of GATT since 8 July 1948.

WTO Structure

Ministerial Conference

- The topmost decision-making body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference, which usually meets **every two years. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It brings together all members of the WTO, all of which are countries or customs unions.
- The Ministerial Conference can take decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.

General Council

- The General Council comprises the representatives of all member countries and acts as the representative of the Ministerial Conference when it comes to daily operations. Its job is to carry out the implementation and monitoring function of the WTO.

Dispute Settlement Body

- The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) is a **part of the General Council** and is responsible for settling trade disputes between member states.
- According to the procedure established by the WTO, the first step to resolve a trade dispute is engaging in the **consultation process**.
- If two trading partners having a dispute could not resolve at that level, one of them can ask for a settlement of **DSB** for hearing. The General Council of the WTO convenes as the DSB.
- The DSB's ruling can be challenged at the **appellate body**, the highest court for global trade disputes.

Appellate Body

- The Appellate Body is a standing committee of **seven members** that presides over appeals against judgments passed in trade-related disputes brought by WTO members. Hence **statement 3 is correct.**
- Members of the Appellate Body have **four-year terms**. In the selection process, WTO members follow the **consensus principle**, which means that the nomination of the Appellate Body members can only proceed smoothly with the agreement of all the members of WTO.
- The Appellate Body **must have at least three sitting members** to hear an appeal.