

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 21-05-2024

1. The Paris Principles establish minimum standards for

- A. Environmental Protection Agencies
- B. National Human Rights Institutions
- C. International Trade Organizations
- D. National Security Agencies

2. Consider the following statements about the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI)

- 1) It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- 2) It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) dedicated to the renewable energy 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

3. Which of the following statements about rules on contesting elections is/are correct?

- 1) There is no bar on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest.
- 2) There is no minimum age and educational qualification needed to contest general elections in India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements about Indian Meteorological Department

- 1) It has the responsibility of forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region.
- 2) It is the principal agency under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

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.

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1. The rules for recognition as a national party are mentioned in the Constitution.
2. A national party can have a maximum of 40 'star campaigners', whose travel expenses are not accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates.

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

- The **Paris Principles ("Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions")** set out the minimum standards required by **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)** to be considered credible and to operate effectively. Hence **option B is correct**.
- The guidelines were developed at a **United Nations meeting** held in **Paris** in **1991**, which brought together representatives of NHRIs from all parts of the globe to define the core attributes that all new or existing institutions should possess.
- Paris Principles require that NHRIs have **independence in law, membership, operations, policy and control of resources**.
- They also require that NHRIs have a **broad mandate, pluralism in membership, broad functions, adequate powers, adequate resources, cooperative methods and engage with international bodies**.
- Full compliance with the Paris Principles provides **NHRIs with international recognition**.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) is a **Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU)** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- It was set up in **2011** to facilitate the implementation of **National Solar Mission (NSM)** and achievement of targets set therein.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the **only CPSU dedicated to the renewable energy sector**.
- The company is one of the nodal agencies for implementation of a number of schemes of MNRE.

3. Answer: D

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Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** According to the **Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951**, a candidate is permitted to contest an election from up to two constituencies, but he or she can hold only one seat at a time if elected from both.
- A subsection, 33 (7), of the RPA, allowing a candidate to contest from two seats, was **introduced through an amendment in 1996**, prior to which there was **no bar** on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest.
- However, Section 70 of the same Act stipulates that a candidate can hold only one seat at a time, regardless of whether he or she has been elected from more than one seat.
- Thus, if a candidate wins from two seats, a **byelection is necessary from the seat he or she vacates**.
- Moreover, a person has to be a **voter in a particular State to contest Assembly polls from there**.
- But to contest in a **Lok Sabha election**, a person can be registered as a voter in any **constituency** of the country. If a person is a registered voter in any constituency, he or she can contest from any seat in India, **except Assam, Lakshadweep and Sikkim**.

What is the minimum age to contest?

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The minimum age for a person to contest **Lok Sabha and Assembly polls** is **25 years**, while one can become a member of the **Rajya Sabha or the State Legislative Council** only at **30 years**.
- There is **no minimum educational qualification** needed to contest general elections in India.
- Candidates must be **citizens of India**, registered in some constituency of the country as a **valid voter** and **must not have been convicted of any offence punishable by more than two years**.

How can a candidate be disqualified?

- A person shall be disqualified from being chosen as or being a member of either House
 - if he holds any **office of profit** under the Government of India or the Government of any State;
 - if he or she is of **unsound mind** and stands so declared by a competent court;
 - if he or she is an **undischarged insolvent**;
 - if he or she is **not a citizen of India** or has **voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign state**.
- Under the **RPA Act**, if a person is **convicted of any offence and sentenced to an imprisonment of two years or more**, this will lead to his disqualification to contest elections.
- Even if this person is out on bail, after the conviction and his appeal is pending for disposal, he or she is disqualified from contesting an election.
- For **some categories of serious offenses**, one may **incur disqualification for any conviction, regardless of the quantum of punishment**.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

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- **Statement 2 is correct: India Meteorological Department** was established in 1875. It is the **National Meteorological Service of the country** and the principal government agency in all matters relating to **meteorology, seismology and allied subjects**. IMD is the **principal agency** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** IMD is also one of the six Regional Specialized Meteorological **Centres of the World Meteorological Organization**. It has the responsibility for forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region, including the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Mandate

- To take meteorological observations and to provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.
- To warn against severe **weather phenomena like tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms**, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.
- To provide **meteorological statistics required for agriculture**, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- To conduct and **promote research in meteorology** and allied disciplines.
- To detect and locate earthquakes and to evaluate seismicity in different parts of the country for development projects.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), the roots of which were planted at the **1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress**.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, **WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later.
- The Secretariat, **headquartered in Geneva**, is headed by the Secretary-General. Its supreme body is the World Meteorological Congress.

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Election Commission reviews the poll performance of recognised parties after every State Assembly election or general election to the Lok Sabha**.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The rules for recognition as a national party are specified by the Commission in the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**.
- A party becomes eligible to be accorded **national status if it fulfil one of the following conditions:**
 - if it is **recognised as a State party in at least four States**,

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- if it **secures 6% of the total votes polled in four States** in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, and in addition, **gets four of its members elected** to the Lok Sabha, or
- if it wins **2% of seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different States**.

Benefits of being recognised as a national party

- Candidates from a national party require **only one proposer** to file their nominations and are **entitled to two sets of electoral rolls free of cost**.
- National parties get **dedicated broadcast slots on public broadcasters Doordarshan and All India Radio** during the general elections.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Further, political parties are entitled to nominate 'star campaigners' during general elections. A national party can have a **maximum of 40 'star campaigners'** while a registered unrecognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 'star campaigners', whose **travel expenses are not accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates**.

