

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 22-05-2024

1. With reference to India's biodiversity, Wattle (Acacia), parthenium hysterophorus, forked fanwort, Water Hyacinth are

- A. Least concerned bird species that are recently spot in western ghats
- B. Invasive alien species that reduces biodiversity in the area where it grows.
- C. Endangered species recently included in the species recovery programme
- D. Non migratory wetland species endemic to sundarbans

2. Which among the following countries are separated by the Strait of Gibraltar?

- A. Portugal and Morocco
- B. Spain and Algeria
- C. Portugal and Algeria
- D. Spain and Morocco

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Enforcement Directorate

- 1. It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
- 2. The administrative control of the Directorate is under the Ministry of Home affairs

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 Spices Board of India

- 1) It is a statutory body.
- 2) It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 3) It is responsible for the overall development of the cardamom industry.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements about Orangutans

- 1) Orangutans are great apes native to the rainforests of India.
- 2) Orangutans are known to use sticks as tools to scrape insects from hollow surfaces of trees..

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

Plot No: 935, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai-40

Ph: 044-40483555,9677120226,9677174226

Web: www.officersiasacademy.com

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

- An invasive species can be any kind of living organism—an amphibian, plant, insect, fish, fungus, or bacteria—that is not native to an ecosystem and causes harm.
- **Not all non-native species are invasive.** For example, most of the food crops grown in India, including onion, potato and tomatoes are not native to the region.
- To be invasive,
 - a species must adapt to the new area easily
 - it must reproduce quickly
 - it must harm the economy, or the native plants and animals of the region.
- The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** defines Invasive Alien Species as “an alien species whose introduction and spread threaten ecosystems, habitats, or species with socio-cultural, economic and environmental harm and harm to human health”.
- Some of the most serious invasive species in India are Alternanthera philoxeroides, Cassia uniflora, Chromolaena odorata, Eichhornia crassipes, Lantana camara, Parthenium hysterophorus and Prosopis juliflora, Senna Spectabilis, **Wattle (Acacia), parthenium hysterophorus, forked fanwort, Water Hyacinth** etc.

2. Answer: D

Explanation

- The **Strait of Gibraltar** is a narrow strait that **connects the Atlantic Ocean** to the **Mediterranean Sea** and separates Gibraltar (belongs to the UK) and Peninsular Spain in Europe from Morocco in Africa.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS



3. Answer: A

Explanation

About Enforcement Directorate

- It was constituted in **1956** for **handling Exchange Control Laws violations** under the **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA)**.
- At present, the **administrative control** of the Enforcement Directorate is with the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- The ED today is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with **investigation of the offense of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws**.

Statutory Functions

- The statutory functions of the Directorate include **enforcement of following Acts**:

1. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):

- It is a criminal law enacted to **prevent money laundering** and to provide for **confiscation of property** derived from, or involved in, money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- ED has been given the **responsibility to enforce the provisions of the PMLA** by conducting investigation to trace the assets derived from proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach the property and to ensure prosecution of the offenders and confiscation of the property by the Special court. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.

2. The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA):

- It is a civil law enacted to consolidate and amend the laws relating to **facilitate external trade and payments** and to promote the **orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India**.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- ED has been given the responsibility to conduct **investigation into suspected contraventions** of foreign exchange laws and regulations, to **adjudicate** and **impose penalties** on those adjudged to have contravened the law.

3. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA):

- This law was enacted to **deter economic offenders** from evading the process of Indian law by **remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts**.
- It is a law whereby the Directorate is mandated to **attach the properties of the fugitive economic offenders** who have escaped from India warranting arrest and provide for the confiscation of their properties to the Central Government.

4. Sponsoring agency under COFEPOSA:

- Under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA), the Directorate is empowered to **sponsor cases of preventive detention** with regard to contraventions of FEMA.
 - COFEPOSA was enacted to provide for **preventive detention** in certain cases for the purposes of **conservation and augmentation of foreign exchange and prevention of smuggling activities**.

4. Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statements 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect:** Spices Board is a **statutory body** constituted in 1987 under the **Spices Board Act, 1986** by merging the erstwhile Cardamom Board and the Spices Export Promotion Council under the **administrative control of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Spices Board is responsible for the **overall development of the cardamom industry and export promotion of 52 spices** listed in the schedule of the Spices Board Act, 1986.
- The **primary function** of the Board includes development of small and large cardamom, promotion, development, regulation of export of spices and control on quality of spices for export.
- The Spices Board also undertakes **research activities** on cardamom.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** **Orangutans** are **great apes** native to the **rainforests of Indonesia and Malaysia**.
 - *Ape is a large primate (an order of mammals) that lacks a tail, including the gorilla, chimpanzees, orangutan, and gibbons.*
- Orangutans were originally considered to be **one species**. From **1996**, they were divided into two species: the **Bornean orangutan** and the **Sumatran orangutan**. A third species, the **Tapanuli orangutan**, was identified definitively in **2017**.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- They have proportionally **long arms** and **short legs**, and have **reddish-brown hair** covering their bodies.
- Some adult male orangutans develop **flaps of fatty tissue on both sides of their face** known as **flanges**.
- **Orangutans** are the **most solitary** of the great apes. **Social bonds** occur primarily between **mothers** and their **dependent offspring**.
- They are **arboreal** creatures.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Orangutans are known to use **sticks as tools** to **scrape insects** from **hollow surfaces** of trees.



Threats

- Habitat loss and fragmentation caused by **logging** for **timber materials** is **threatening the survival of orangutans**.
- Frequent **forest fires** threaten to reduce **tree cover** available for orangutans.
- **Encroachment** of **forest land** for **palm oil cultivation** is also affecting the population of **Orangutans**.

Conservation status

- All the three species of Orangutan are listed as **critically endangered** as per **IUCN red List**
- All the three species of Orangutan are listed in **Appendix I** of **CITES**.

Why in the news?

- Recently, scientists observed a unique animal behavior where an orangutan was found using its fingers to apply medicinal plant juices to heal wounds on the skin.