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Daily MCQs: 27-05-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the RuPay Card Service

- 1) It is a product of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- 2) Presently, RuPay cards are issued by the Reserve Bank of India only.

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 Model Code of Conduct.

1. It is enforced from the date of announcement of the election schedule.
2. It is legally enforceable under the Representation of People's Act, 1951.

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. The Oslo Accords were a series of agreements aimed at resolving the conflict between:

- A. Japan and Russia
- B. Britain and France
- C. Israel and Palestine
- D. Armenia and Azerbaijan

4. Consider the following statements about the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

1. BIMSTEC came into existence through the Bangkok Declaration.
2. India is a founding member of BIMSTEC.
3. BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization with 14 priority areas of cooperation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Ashtamudi lake is located in which of the following states?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh

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- C. Kerala
- D. Karnataka

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- RuPay is the first-of-its-kind **global Card payment network of India**, with wide acceptance at ATMs, POS devices and e-commerce websites across India.
- RuPay fulfills **RBI's vision** of initiating a 'less cash' economy.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** RuPay is a **product of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the umbrella organization that powers retail payments in the country.
- The provision under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, empowered the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to create a secure electronic payment and settlement system in India.
- The nature of NPCI's initiatives and objectives includes it under the "**Not for Profit Company**" under the Companies Act 2013.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Presently, RuPay cards are issued by more than 1,100 banks which includes Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Regional Rural and Co-Operative Banks.

Why in the News?

- Maldives is set to launch India's RuPay service.
- Over the last few years, multiple banks and payment companies from across various countries have partnered with NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, to accept UPI and RuPay in one form or the other.

2. Answer: A

Explanation

- The **Election Commission of India** is given the power to **supervise and conduct free and fair elections** by **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution.
- The Model Code of Conduct is a **set of guidelines by the Election Commission of India for political parties and candidates** to maintain decorum in their campaigning.
- The Model Code of Conduct was first introduced by the Election Commission in the **assembly election in Kerala in 1960**. In **1962**, the Election Commission introduced the Model Code of Conduct for **general elections**.
- The guidelines of the Model Code of Conduct were made stricter by the Election Commission in **1991** after repeated flouting of norms by political parties.
- If the Election Commission finds a party or candidate in violation of the Model Code of Conduct, it can take **measures from issuing a warning to ordering an FIR against the concerned party or candidate**.

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- Though the MCC **does not have any statutory backing**, it has come to acquire strength in the past three decades because of its strict enforcement by the ECI.

When and where does the MCC come into play?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The MCC comes into force immediately when the election schedule is announced by the Election Commission and remains in operation till the election process is complete, i.e. results are announced.
- It is enforced throughout India in case of **General elections**, and the **State up for polls** in case of **Legislative Assembly elections**.
- **All organizations, committees, corporations, commissions** (for e.g. Transport authorities, Jal boards) **funded wholly or partially by the Centre or State are bound by the MCC**.
- While **listed political parties and candidates** are bound to follow the MCC, **even non-political organizations** which hold campaigns favoring a political party or candidate are bound to follow specific guidelines mentioned by the EC.

Guidelines under Model Code of Conduct

- The Model Code of Conduct mandates all parties **not to engage** in an activity or deliver a speech that can **create tension or hate between different communities, castes, or religions**.
- Further, **no party can appeal for votes on caste, religious or communal grounds**. Additionally, **places of worship** such as mosques, temples, and churches **cannot be used** by political parties or candidates for electioneering purposes.
- The Model Code of Conduct **prohibits criticism of the private life of a candidate**, and all criticism must be confined to the policies, work, and programmes of a candidate or party.
- The MCC says that parties and candidates must ensure that their **supporters do not obstruct the meeting or procession** of other parties or candidates. Also, they **cannot use private land or buildings** for processions or meetings without the permission of their owners.
- The Model Code of Conduct says that a party or candidate **needs to inform the local police** in advance before organizing a meeting or procession. It needs to notify the local police about the place, timing, and route of the meeting and procession.
- A **minister or other ruling party leaders cannot use official machinery**, such as aircraft or vehicles, for their electoral campaigning once the Model Code of Conduct is implemented.
- Also, the ruling party or its leaders **cannot monopolize public infrastructure** such as maidans, helipads, guesthouses, etc. Other political parties or candidates will have equal access to these places.
- Additionally, the ruling party **cannot advertise at the cost of the public exchequer** for its political campaigning or achievements of its government.
- Model Code of Conduct guidelines **keep changing to address contemporary issues**. The rise of **social media** has led to an evolution in the guidelines.
- In its latest guidelines under the Model Code of Conduct, the Election Commission of India emphasized the **guidelines for social media campaigning**.
- It said that a party or candidate cannot post or share a remark against its rival that is **insulting and below dignity**. Similarly, an advertisement masquerading as news or **misleading advertisements** can't be shared on social media.

Punishments

- The Model Code of Code is inherently an **obligatory guideline** and cannot be used as a wholesome rulebook before a court of law.

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- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The MCC is **not enforceable by law**. However, if violations fall under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Representation of the People Act, 1951, then there are many **serious repercussions**, and the **violation could even go to jail**.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Oslo Accords were a significant attempt to bring peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Background of Israel Palestine conflict

- **Britain** took control of the area known as **Palestine** after the ruler of that part of the Middle East, the **Ottoman Empire**, was defeated in **World War 1**. The land was inhabited by a **Jewish minority and Arab majority**.
- Tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave **Britain the task of establishing a "national home" in Palestine for Jewish people**. For Jews, it was their ancestral home, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed the land and opposed the move.
- Between the 1920s and 40s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe and seeking a homeland after the **Holocaust of WWII**. Violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, also grew.
- In **1947**, the **UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city**.
- That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

Major Issues

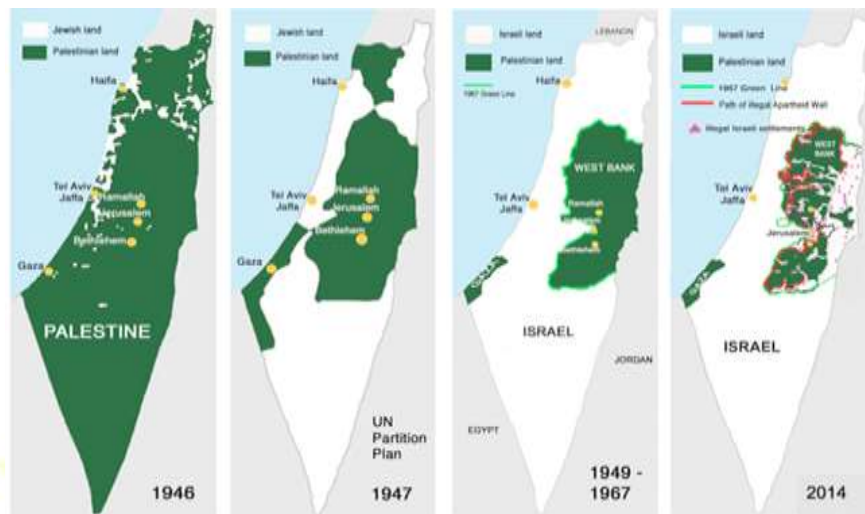
- **Jerusalem** lies in the heart of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The tussle is over who gets to control the ancient city that is **sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians**.
- After the end of the **First Arab-Israel War in 1948**, Jerusalem was partitioned into West and East, under Israeli and Palestinian control respectively.
- But in 1967, during the **Six-Day Arab-Israel War**, Israel occupied East Jerusalem from Jordanian forces, and Israel's Parliament declared the territory had been annexed to Israel.
- This marginalised the Palestinians, who wanted East Jerusalem to be their capital under the **"two-state solution"**.
- Most Palestinians, at present, live in **Gaza and the West Bank**, as well as in **neighbouring Jordan, Syria and Lebanon**.

What is the Two-State Solution?

- Its basis is **two separate states, Israel and Palestine, living peacefully side by side** on the land between the western bank of the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea.
- This territory would be divided broadly along the **pre-1967 armistice line or "green line"**. **Jerusalem**, which both sides want as their capital, would be shared.
- Past negotiations have failed to make progress and there are currently no fresh talks in prospect.

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Oslo Accords & India's position

- Despite Israel's hold over Jerusalem, in 2016, the UN reaffirmed that Jerusalem's Palestinian territories were under **"hostile occupation"**.
- Undeterred by the refusal of the international community to endorse the annexation, Israel further expanded settlements in the territories of East Jerusalem.
- In 1978, **Egypt and Israel** signed the **Camp David Accords**, which led to the first peace treaty between Israel and any of its Arab neighbors: The **Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty**. However, the accords' main failing is the **lack of settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian issue**.
- Under the **Oslo Accords** of the 1990s, both Israel and the Palestinians agreed that the status of settlements would be decided by negotiations. But the negotiations process has been stalled for several years now.
- **India has traditionally backed a two-state solution** to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict.



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4. Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organisation that comprises **seven member states adjacent to the Bay of Bengal**.
- It includes: five deriving from South Asia, including **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka**, and two from Southeast Asia, including **Myanmar and Thailand**.
- It is headquartered in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.



Background

- **Statement 1 is correct:** BIMSTEC came into existence on June 6, 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym '**BIST-EC**' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation)
- Following the inclusion of **Myanmar** on 22 December 1997, the group was renamed 'BIMST-EC'.
- With the admission of **Nepal and Bhutan** in 2004, the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).

Priority Sectors

- **Statement 3 is correct:** BIMSTEC is a **sector-driven cooperative organization**.
- BIMSTEC has **14 priority areas** of cooperation, namely (i) Trade and Investment (ii) Technology (iii) Energy (iv) Transportation and Communication (v) Tourism (vi) Fisheries

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(vii) Agriculture (viii) Cultural Cooperation (ix) Environment and Disaster Management (x) Public Health (xi) People-to-People Contact (xii) Poverty Alleviation (xiii) Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime and (xiv) Climate Change.

Founding Principles

- The founding principles of BIMSTEC are as follows:
 - Cooperation within BIMSTEC will be based on respect for the **principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, no-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co- existence and mutual benefit.**
 - Cooperation within BIMSTEC will constitute an addition to and not be a substitute for bilateral, regional or multilateral cooperation involving the Member States.

Significance

- The BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people which constitute around 22% of the global population with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.7 trillion.
- The objective of BIMSTEC is to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests.
- The regional group constitutes a **bridge between South and South East Asia** and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries.
- BIMSTEC has also established a platform for **intra-regional cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN members.**

5. Answer: C

Explanation

Ashtamudi Lake

- It is located in **Kollam District of Kerala**
- It possesses a unique **wetland ecosystem** and is a gateway to several **backwaters** in Kerala.
- The **Kallada river** is a **major river** which drains into the **Ashtamudi lake.**
- The lake is surrounded by **vegetation** such as **mangrove forests, coconut groves,** and palm trees.
- **Munroe Island** ,a cluster of eight tiny islands lies in the Ashtamudi Lake.