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Daily MCQs: 30-04-2024

1. Which of the following countries share their borders with Tajikistan?

1. Kyrgyzstan
2. Turkmenistan
3. China
4. Uzbekistan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

2. Consider the following statements.

1. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provides that juveniles in the age group of 14-18 years who commit a heinous offence may be tried as an adult.
2. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 empowers district magistrates to issue adoption orders to expedite adoption proceedings.

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 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana aims to provide

- A. Free LPG connections to women of Below Poverty Line families
- B. Distribute efficient LED lighting in the rural areas
- C. Connectivity to unconnected habitations of designated population size
- D. Low interest loans to rural households

4. Consider the following statements about the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) facility.

1. It is a temporary liquidity arrangement of the RBI that helps meet mismatches in receipts and payments of the government.
2. State governments cannot borrow under this facility.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

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D. Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements.

1. Options and futures are types of derivatives.
2. Futures contract gives the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset by a certain date.

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: C

Explanation:

- Tajikistan is a landlocked republic in central Asia, north of **Afghanistan**, southeast of **Uzbekistan** and south of **Kyrgyzstan**, it borders **China** in the east.



2. Answer: B

Explanation:

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

- In India, a juvenile is a **person less than 18 years of age**.

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- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 **addresses children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.**
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** One of the main provisions of the Act is that juveniles in the **age group of 16-18 years who commit a heinous offence may be tried as an adult.**
- The nature of the crime, and whether the juvenile should be tried as a minor or a child, was to be determined by a **Juvenile Justice Board.**
- The second major provision is with regards to **adoption.** The Act **streamlined adoption procedures** for orphans, abandoned and surrendered children and the existing **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** has been given the **status of a statutory body** to enable it to perform its function more effectively.
- The Act **fulfils India's commitment as a signatory** to the **United Nations Convention on the rights of the child**, the **Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993)**, and other related international instruments.
- As a signatory, India is required to undertake all appropriate measures to ensure the rights of children with regard to juvenile justice, care and protection, and adoption.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021

- In 2021, the Parliament passed The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 which amended the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Highlights of the Act

Adoption:

- Under the 2015 Act, once prospective adoptive parents accept a child, an adoption agency files an application in a **civil court** to obtain the adoption order. The adoption order issued by the court establishes that the child belongs to the adoptive parents.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The amendment Act provides that instead of the court, the **district magistrate (including additional district magistrate)** will perform these duties and issue all such orders. This provision has been included to expedite adoption proceedings.

Appeals:

- The amendment Act provides that any person aggrieved by an adoption order passed by the district magistrate may file an **appeal before the Divisional Commissioner**, within 30 days of such order. Such appeals should be disposed of within four weeks from the date of filing of the appeal.

Designated Court:

- The 2015 Act provides that offences against children that are punishable with **imprisonment of more than seven years**, will be tried in the **Children's Court** (equivalent to a Sessions Court). **Other offences** (punishable with imprisonment of less than seven years) will be tried by a **Judicial Magistrate.**
- Under the latest amendment, **all offences under the Act will be tried in the Children's Court.**

Offences against children:

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- The 2015 Act provides that an offence under the Act, which is **punishable with imprisonment between three to seven years, will be cognizable** (where arrest is allowed without warrant) and **non-bailable**.
- The amendment act provides that **such offences will be non-cognizable and non-bailable**.

Child Welfare Committees (CWCs):

- The 2015 Act provides that states must constitute **one or more CWCs for each district for dealing with children in need of care and protection**. It provides certain criteria for the appointment of members to CWC. For instance, a member should be: (i) involved in health, education, or welfare of children for at least seven years, or (ii) a practising professional with a degree in child psychology, psychiatry, law, or social work.
- The amendment act adds **certain criteria for a person to be ineligible to be a member of the CWC**. These include: (i) having any record of violation of human rights or child rights, or (ii) being a part of the management of a child care institution in a district.

3. Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched in 2000 as **centrally sponsored scheme** to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations of **designated population size** (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East, hill, tribal and desert areas as per Census, 2001) as part of a poverty reduction strategy.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- **Phase III** of PMGSY was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2019. It involves the consolidation of Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.

Objectives

- A strong rural road infrastructure ensures economic development through **reduced cost of production and logistics, increased productivity, improved economies of scale, enhanced employment and improvement in public and private investments** in rural farm and non-farm activities.
- It provides **better avenues of marketing of farm and non-farm products and services are facilitated** in a rural set up.

Guiding Principles of PMGSY

- The spirit and the objective of the scheme is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations. A habitation which was **earlier provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad**.
- The unit for this Programme is a **Habitation** and not a Revenue village or a Panchayat. A Habitation is a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time.

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- PMGSY promotes the use of **new and green technology** in the process of rural road construction. **Locally available materials** are used in road construction activities to promote cost effective and fast construction.
- The PMGSY shall cover **only the rural areas**. Urban roads are excluded from the purview of this Programme.

Funding pattern

- Currently, the fund sharing pattern of PMGSY is **60:40** between the **Centre and States** for all states **except for 8 North Eastern States and for 2 Himalayan States** (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand).
- For these states and **UT of J&K**, the fund sharing pattern is **90:10**.
- The funds for **other Union Territories**, implementing PMGSY, are being **fully provided by the Central Government**.

Initiatives related to PMGSY

- **Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism affected Areas (RCPLWEA)**: It was launched in 2016 as a separate vertical under PMGSY to provide all-weather road connectivity with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures in 44 districts (35 are worst LWE affected districts and 09 are adjoining districts), which are critical from security and communication point of view.
- **Meri Sadak mobile app**: It was launched to enable citizens to register complaints regarding the quality and pace of construction of PMGSY roads.

4. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct & Statement 2 is incorrect**: The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** gives **temporary loans to the centre and state governments** as a banker to the government. This facility is called Ways and Means Advances (WMA). This facility was introduced in 1997.
- Thus, WMA is a temporary liquidity arrangement that helps **meet mismatches in receipts and payments of the government**.
- Under this scheme, Centre and states can avail themselves of immediate cash from the RBI. But it has to return the amount within **90 days**. Interest is charged at the **existing repo rate**.
- The governments are, however, allowed to draw amounts in **excess of their WMA limits**. The interest on such overdraft is usually **above the repo rate**.
- The limits for WMA are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically.

5. Answer: A

Explanation:

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- A derivative is a contract between two parties which derives its value/price from an underlying asset. Generally stocks, bonds, currency, commodities and interest rates form the underlying asset.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The most common types of derivatives are futures, options, forwards and swaps.
- An option gives an investor the right, but not the obligation, to buy (or sell) shares at a specific price at any time, as long as the contract is in effect.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A futures contract requires a buyer to purchase shares, and a seller to sell them, on a specific future date unless the holder's position is closed before the expiration date.

