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Daily MCQs: 17-06-2024

1. The Sea of Azov is connected to the Black Sea through which strait?

- A) Bosphorus Strait
- B) Kerch Strait
- C) Dardanelles Strait
- D) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait

2. Consider the following statements about the Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- 1) It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism.
- 2) It aims to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country.

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. Consider the following statements about coal

- 1) India occupies the second position globally in terms of coal production.
- 2) Peat has a lower carbon content compared to Anthracite.
- 3) More than 90 per cent of India's total coal reserves are gondwana coal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements about rat-hole mining:

- 1. Rat-hole mining method of extracting coal prevalent in Meghalaya.
- 2. This practice is legal and widely supported by environmental regulations in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements about the Sangeet Natak Akademi

- 1) It is the apex body in the field of performing arts in India.
- 2) The President of India is the Chairman of the Akademi.
- 3) It is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture.

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How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

- The Sea of Azov is an inland shelf sea in Eastern Europe connected to the Black Sea by the narrow **Strait of Kerch**, and is sometimes regarded as a **northern extension of the Black Sea**.
 - *Shelf sea is a shallow water region which submerges a part of the continent.*
- The sea is bounded by **Russia** on the east, and by **Ukraine** on the northwest and southwest.



2. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Tourism** in 2014.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to develop **theme-based tourist circuits** in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** and **completely funded by the central government of India**.

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- Efforts are made to achieve convergence with other schemes of Central and State Governments and also to leverage the voluntary funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Corporate Sector.

The scheme has following objectives:

- Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and job creation;
- Develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner;
- Promote cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods in the identified regions;
- Follow community based development and pro-poor tourism approach;
- Create employment through active involvement of local communities;
- Projects under the scheme shall be under the following identified themes; **Eco-tourism, Wildlife, Buddhist, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Coastal, Northeast, Rural, Himalayan, Tribal and Heritage.**

Swadesh Darshan 2.0

- The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 for development of sustainable and responsible tourist destinations.**
- The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme envisages an **increase in private sector investment** in tourism & hospitality.
- It would help in **increasing Public Private Partnerships (PPP)** in the field of tourism and operation and maintenance of the created assets under the scheme.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

All the statements are correct.

- India occupies the **second** position globally in terms of **coal production** and possesses the **fourth-largest estimated coal reserves.**
- Given that **72% of the electricity in India is generated from coal**, it becomes a very strategic sector for the nation's development.
- This fossil fuel is found in a form of **sedimentary rocks** and is often known as '**Black Gold**'.
- It originated from **organic matter wood**. When large tracts of forests are buried under sediments, wood is burnt and decomposed due to heat from below and pressure from above. The phenomenon makes coal but **takes centuries to complete.**

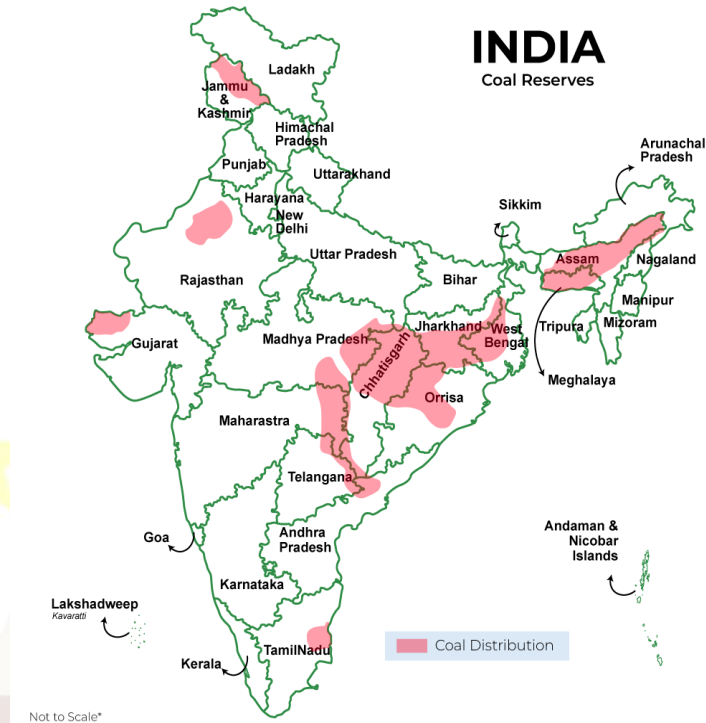
Classification of Coal

Classification	Anthracite	Bituminous	Lignite	Peat

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Carbon content	Anthracite is the best quality of coal which carries 80 to 95 percent carbon content .	Bituminous carries 60 to 80 percent of carbon content and a low level of moisture content .	Lignite is often brown in color. It carries 40 to 55 percent carbon content .	Peat has less than 40 per cent carbon content .
Calorific Value	It ignites slowly with a blue flame. It has the highest calorific value .	It is widely used and has high calorific value .	It is an intermediate stage which happens during the alteration of woody matter into coal. It has high moisture content so it gives smoke when burnt.	It is in the first stage of transformation from wood to coal. It has low calorific value and burns like wood.
Distribution	It is found in small quantities in Jammu and Kashmir .	It is found in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh .	It is found in Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam), and Tamil Nadu .	Peat deposits are found primarily along the western coast of India , particularly in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Goa .



Types of coal on the basis of a time period

- **Gondwana coal:** Around **98 per cent** of India's total coal reserves are from Gondwana times. This coal was formed about **250 million years ago**.
- **Tertiary coal** is of **younger age**. It was formed from **15 to 60 million years ago**.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rat hole mining is a **method of extracting coal from narrow, horizontal seams**. This practice is prevalent in **Meghalaya**.
- The term "**rat hole**" refers to the **narrow pits dug into the ground**, typically just large enough for one person to descend and extract coal.
- Once the pits are dug, miners descend using ropes or bamboo ladders to reach the **coal seams**.
- The coal is then **manually extracted** using **primitive tools** such as pickaxes, shovels, and baskets.

Concerns

- Rat hole mining poses significant **safety and environmental hazards**. The mines are **typically unregulated**, lacking safety measures such as proper ventilation, structural support, or safety gear for the workers.
- The mining process can cause **land degradation, deforestation, and water pollution**.

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- This method of mining has faced severe criticism due to its **hazardous working conditions**, and **numerous accidents** leading to injuries and fatalities.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** banned the practice in **2015**, but it continues to persist due to the absence of viable alternative livelihoods for the local population.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statements 1 and 3 are correct:** Sangeet Natak Akademi is the **apex body in the field of performing arts** in India. It is an **autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture**.
- The Akademi was set up in **1953** for the **preservation and promotion of the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture** expressed in forms of music, dance and drama.
- The management of the Akademi vests in its **General Council**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Chairman** of the Akademi is appointed by the **President of India** for a term of **five years**.
- Its headquarters is located in **New Delhi**.

