

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 26-06-2024

1. The International Solar Alliance (ISA)'s "Towards 1000" strategy aims to achieve which of the following

- 1) Installation of 1000 GW of solar energy capacity.
- 2) Mobilizing \$1000 billion of investments in solar energy.
- 3) Providing energy access to 1000 million people using clean energy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

2. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Right to Information Act, 2005?

- A. The Act's definition of "public authorities" does not include Non-Government organizations.
- B. The first request for information goes to the State Information Commission or the Central Information Commission.
- C. If information sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 48 hours.
- D. The act sets a uniform application fee of Rs. 10 throughout the country.

3. Consider the following statements.

1. Sowa-Rigpa is an ancient Indian medical system conceived and propounded by Lord Buddha in India.
2. It has been propagated and transmitted through teacher-student-lineage prevalent in the Western ghats region of India.
3. Sowa-Rigpa is acknowledged as a traditional medical system by the governments of India, Bhutan, Mongolia and Tibet.

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

4. Which of the following is NOT a goal of the iDEX framework?

- A) To support start-ups and MSMEs in the defense sector
- B) To foster collaboration between defense sector and academia
- C) To enhance the import of defense technologies
- D) To promote self-reliance in defense technology

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

5. Panama shares its borders with which of the following countries?

- A) Costa Rica and Colombia
- B) Nicaragua and Colombia
- C) Honduras and Costa Rica
- D) Ecuador and Costa Rica

Solutions:

1. Answer: D

Explanation

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a **joint effort by India and France** to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of **solar energy solutions**.
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the **21st Conference of Parties (COP21)** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in **Paris in 2015**.
- The **Paris Declaration** that established the ISA states that the alliance is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for **increased deployment of solar energy technologies** as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- The ISA is headquartered in **Gurugram, Haryana**.

Membership

- ISA was conceived as a **coalition of solar-resource-rich countries** (which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn) to address their special energy needs.
- The first general assembly of the ISA, held in 2018, adopted the amendment to its framework agreement to **expand the scope of membership to all member states of the United Nations**.
- At present, 116 countries are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement, of which 94 countries have submitted the necessary instruments of ratification to become full members of the ISA.

Objectives

- The ISA is guided by its **‘Towards 1000’ strategy** which aims to **mobilize USD 1,000 billion of investments** in solar energy solutions by 2030, while **delivering energy access to 1,000 million people** using clean energy solutions and resulting in **installation of 1,000 GW** of solar energy capacity. This would help **mitigate global solar emissions** to the tune of **1,000 million tonnes of CO2 every year**. Hence all the statements are correct.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Under the Right to Information Act, 2005, **Public Authorities** are required to make disclosures on various aspects of their structure and functioning.
 - This includes: (i) disclosure on their organisation, functions, and structure, (ii) powers and duties of its officers and employees, and (iii) financial information.
- The intent of such **suo moto disclosures** is that the public should need minimum recourse through the Act to obtain such information. If such information is not made available, citizens have the **right to request** it from the Authorities.
- This may include information in the **form of documents, files, or electronic records** under the control of the Public Authority. The intent behind the enactment of the Act is to **promote transparency and accountability** in the working of Public Authorities.

Who is included in the ambit of 'Public Authorities'?

- The RTI Act defines "public authorities" in **Section 2(h)**.
- A "**public authority**" means **any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted**
 - by or under the Constitution;
 - by any other law made by Parliament;
 - by any other law made by State Legislature;
 - by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any -
 - body owned, controlled or substantially financed;
 - Non-Government organizations substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government. **Hence, statement A is incorrect.**

Section 8 of the RTI

- This provides for **exemption from disclosure of information** that are more valid in reasons
 - Which would affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State;
 - Which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal;
 - Which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;
 - Information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property;
 - Information received in confidence from foreign government;
 - Information which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person; etc.

How is the right to information enforced under the Act?

- The Act has established a **three tier structure** for enforcing the right to information guaranteed under the Act.
- **Statement B is incorrect:** The first request for information goes to the **Central/State Assistant Public Information Officer** and **Central/State Public Information Officer**, designated by the Public Authorities.
- **Statement C is correct:** These Officers are required to provide information to an RTI applicant **within 30 days** of the request. If information sought **concerns the life or liberty of a person**, it shall be supplied within **48 hours**.
- Appeals from their decisions go to an **Appellate Authority**.
- Appeals against the order of the Appellate Authority go to the **State Information Commission or the Central Information Commission**. These Information Commissions consist of a **Chief Information Commissioner, and up to 10 Information Commissioners**.

Section 4(2) of the RTI

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It mandates that different authorities and government departments should **voluntarily disclose (*suo motu*) much information to the public at regular intervals through various means**, including the internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information.

Fee

- **Statement D is incorrect:** There is an **application fee** that **varies for the Centre and for States**.
- For **public authorities under the Central Government**, this is **Rs. 10**.

3. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sowa-Rigpa is an ancient Indian medical system conceived and **propounded by Lord Buddha in India** and later was enriched in the entire Trans-Himalayan region.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sowa-Rigpa originated in India 2500 years ago and was introduced in the **TransHimalayan region** around the 8th Century CE. Since then, it has been propagated and transmitted through teacher-student-lineage (including family lineage) prevalent in the secular and monastic contexts of the **Trans Himalayan region of India**.
- Sowa-Rigpa is a traditional medical system of Ladakh, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kalingpong (West Bengal); Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnour, Dharamsala regions of Himachal Pradesh; Mon-Tawang and west Kameng regions of Arunachal Pradesh; and Tibetan settlements in various parts of India. Sowa-Rigpa is also traditionally practiced in Bhutan, Mongolia, Tibet, China, Nepal and some parts of Central Asia.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Today, Sowa-Rigpa is acknowledged as a traditional medical system by the governments of **India, Bhutan, Mongolia and Tibet**.
- Sowa-Rigpa has been recognized and promoted by the Government of India as a traditional medical system.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework was launched in 2018 by the Government with the aim to **foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace Sector** by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia to **promote self-reliance**.
- The underlying objective is to **make the country self-reliant and self-sufficient in matters of Defence**.
- Fundamentally, iDEX fosters the **culture of technology co-creation and co-innovation** within the Defence and Aerospace sectors.

Implementing Agency

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)**, a **special purpose vehicle** under the aegis of the **Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence**, implements the iDEX framework.
- DIO has been formed as a '**not for profit**' company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), both Defence Public Sector Undertakings.
- DIO acts as a bridge between the requirements of the Armed Forces and the solution providers.

Why in News?

- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence, signed the landmark 350th contract in New Delhi.

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- Panama is a country in Central America that lies on the narrow isthmus connecting North and South America.
- It shares its northern border with **Costa Rica** and its southeastern border with **Colombia**.
- This strategic geographical position also makes it the site of the Panama Canal, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, playing a crucial role in international maritime trade.

