

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 17-07-2024

1. Consider the following

- 1) Dholavira
- 2) Fatehpur Sikri
- 3) Kakatiya Rudreshwara temple
- 4) Group of Monuments at Pattadakal

How many of the above are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

2. Which of the following conventions established the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)?

- A. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations
- B. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- C. Geneva Conventions
- D. Hague Convention

3. Consider the following statements about Compressed BioGas

- 1) It is a form of renewable natural gas produced by the anaerobic digestion of organic matter.
- 2) It is composed primarily of methane and butane.
- 3) It can help lower pollution and carbon emissions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements about Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)

- 1) It is often referred to as hot money.
- 2) It is considered a more stable form of foreign capital infusion compared to FDI.

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

5. Lord Buddha's image is sometimes shown with the hand gesture called 'Abhaya Mudra'. It symbolizes

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- A. Gesture of fearlessness
- B. Earth-touching gesture
- C. Gesture of the wheel of dharma
- D. Gesture of meditation

Solutions:

1. Answer: D

Explanation

- The **Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, an international agreement adopted by the **General Conference of UNESCO in 1972**.
- It was founded on the premise that certain places on Earth are of **outstanding universal value** and as such should form part of the **common heritage of humankind**.
- The nations or States Parties that adhere to the Convention have become part of an international community, united in a common mission to identify and safeguard our world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage.
- Without raising any questions on the domestic ownership of the monuments, the States Parties to the Convention recognise that the protection of the World Heritage is the **duty of the international community as a whole**.
- A total of **42 properties from India** are inscribed on the World Heritage List. The monuments in the list are divided under three categories namely Cultural (34), Natural (7) and Mixed (1).
Here all the four given options are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- **Dholavira:** A Harappan City The ancient city of Dholavira, the southern centre of the Harappan Civilisation, is on the arid island of Khadir in the State of Gujarat.
 - Occupied between ca. 3000-1500 BCE, the archaeological site, one of the best preserved urban settlements from the period in Southeast Asia, comprises a fortified city and a cemetery.
 - The site had a **complex water conservation system** as it was present in a water scarce region.
 - This site also had a long text in Harappan script which came to be known as '**Dholavira Signboard**'.
- **Fatehpur Sikri:** Built during the second half of the 16th century by the **Emperor Akbar**, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years.
 - The complex of **monuments and temples**, all in a uniform architectural style, includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid.
- **Group of Monuments at Pattadakal:** This site located in Karnataka shows the highpoint of architecture under the **Chalukyas**. It is a blend of northern and southern architectural forms.
 - It includes **Hindu and Jain temples** and the most famed among them is the **Virupaksha temple**.
- **Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple:** This temple located in Telangana is also known as Ramappa temple, was built by the Kakatiyan rulers Rudradeva and Recherla Rudra.

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- The building features decorated beams and pillars of carved granite and dolerite with a distinctive and **pyramidal Vimana** (horizontally stepped tower) made of lightweight porous bricks, so-called '**floating bricks**', which reduced the weight of the roof structures.

2. Answer: B

Explanation

- The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is an **independent judicial body** established by the **1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- It has jurisdiction over any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, and over all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement which confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal.
- Disputes relating to the Convention may concern the **delimitation of maritime zones, navigation, conservation and management of the living resources of the sea**, protection and preservation of the marine environment and marine scientific research.

3. Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Compressed biogas is a form of **renewable natural gas produced by the anaerobic digestion of organic matter**, such as agricultural waste or sewage.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is composed primarily of **methane and carbon dioxide**.
- **CBG has calorific value** and other properties similar to **CNG** and hence can replace CNG in automotive, industrial, and commercial areas.

Need for Bio-CNG

- It can provide a **buffer against energy security** concerns caused by **crude oil price** fluctuations.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It can help **lower pollution and carbon emissions**.
- The **slurry** left after biogas is extracted from the digester can be used as **fertilizer**.
- It can provide additional sources of **revenue** to the farmers and thereby help in **amelioration** of the **rural economy**.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the **investment made by a person or a company in one country into businesses located in another country**.
- Generally, FDI takes place when an investor establishes foreign business operations or acquires foreign business assets.
- FDI has three major components: **equity capital, reinvested earnings and intra-company loans**.

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- **Equity capital** is the foreign direct investor's purchase of shares of an enterprise in a country other than its own.
- **Reinvested earnings** comprise the direct investor's share of earnings not distributed as dividends by affiliates, or earnings not remitted to the direct investor. Such retained profits by affiliates are reinvested.
- **Intra-company loans** refer to short- or long-term borrowing and lending of funds between direct investors (parent enterprises) and affiliate enterprises.

- FDI is considered as a **major source of non-debt financial resource** for economic development.
- The key to FDI is the **element of control**. Control represents the intent to actively manage and influence a foreign firm's operations. This is the **major differentiating factor between FDI and a passive foreign portfolio investment**.

FPI

- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) means **investing in the financial assets** of a foreign country, such as stocks or bonds available on an exchange.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** FPI is often referred to as "**hot money**" because of its tendency to flee at the first signs of trouble in an economy.

Why is FDI preferred?

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** FDI is considered a **more stable form** of foreign capital infusion as it brings in a certain expenditure that can't be pulled out overnight.
- It creates jobs and can potentially aid economic growth.
- FPI, on the other hand, can come and go easily. Sudden withdrawal can create liquidity problems in the securities market and hit the foreign exchange rate of the country.

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- Mudras are a non-verbal mode of communication and self-expression, consisting of **hand gestures and finger postures**.
- Mudras are most commonly associated with **visual depictions of the Buddha** (or Buddharupa), with **different gestures conveying different moods and meanings**, signifying the subtle manifestations of the Buddha's states of realisation.
- In the earliest depictions of Buddharupa, **four mudras** can be found:
 - the **abhaya** mudra - gesture of fearlessness
 - the **bhumisparsha** mudra - Earth-touching gesture
 - the **dharmachakra** mudra - gesture of the wheel of dharma
 - the **dhyana** mudra - gesture of meditation
- With the evolution of Mahayana (Greater Vehicle) and Vajrayana (Thunderbolt Vehicle) Buddhism, and the proliferation of Buddhist artwork outside India, hundreds of mudras entered Buddhist iconography.
- In tantric Buddhist traditions, the mudras came to be associated with **dynamic ritual hand movements**, where they symbolized material offerings, enacted forms of worship, or signified relationships with visualized deities.