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Daily MCQs: 20-07-2024

1. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)?

- A. Singapore, Australia, Vietnam and Russia
- B. Australia, India, Malaysia and United States
- C. Brunei, Japan, United States and Canada
- D. Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and China

2. The U-WIN platform aims to

- A. Facilitate online voter registration
- B. Manage and digitize India's immunization program
- C. Track financial transactions
- D. Facilitate online doctor consultations

3. Mission Karmayogi often seen in the news is related to

- 1) recruiting soldiers across the three services- Army, Navy and Airforce.
- 2) laying the foundation for capacity building of civil servants.
- 3) building the capacity of rural poor women through self-help groups (SHGs)

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Theyyam is a popular ritual form of worship practiced mainly in the northern parts of which Indian state?

- A. Goa
- B. Kerala
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Odisha

5. With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), consider the following statements

- 1) It is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE), 1946.
- 2) The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 governs the appointment of the CBI director.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

- In 2022, the United States launched a new Asia-Pacific trade initiative known as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).
- The framework includes 14 countries — **Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Fiji and the United States.**
- Together, the participants account for about 40 percent of global GDP and there are other countries that could join the initiative.

What would IPEF do?

- IPEF is **neither an agreement nor a trade bloc, but a framework.**
- Unlike traditional trade blocs, there is **no plan for IPEF members to negotiate tariffs and ease market access.**
- Instead, the programme foresees **integrating partners through agreed standards in four key pillars: fair and resilient trade, supply chain resiliency, clean energy decarbonisation, and tax and anti-corruption** - to deepen economic engagement in the region.
- The primary objective of the IPEF is to **ensure a high degree of regulatory coherence** and to make market access contingent upon realization of regulatory standards.
- The countries touted IPEF as a framework for what will ultimately become a tight-knit group of trading nations.

Significance

- The IPEF is part of the U.S.'s more than a decade old "**Pivot to Asia**" programme, re-imagining the Indo-Pacific as a geographic construct including America.
- The **Quad grouping**, consisting **India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.**, is part of the same pitch made by the U.S. administration.
- IPEF is intended to offer US allies an alternative to China's growing commercial presence across the Asia-Pacific.
- The IPEF's **non-specific and flexible nature** also suits India, which has held strong views on a range of issues like labor standards, environmental restrictions on fossil fuels, and data localisation.
- India's inclusion also comes from a **geopolitical need to counter China's virtual control over Asian trade.**

2. Answer: B

Explanation

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- India's **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** is one of the largest public health programs in the world under which vaccination is being provided free of cost to all pregnant women & children.
- Vaccination can be availed against **12 vaccine preventable diseases**: nationally against 11 diseases- Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of childhood Tuberculosis, Rotavirus Diarrhoea, Hepatitis B, Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza Type B and Pneumococcal Pneumonia and sub-nationally against 1 Disease - Japanese Encephalitis (JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts).
- U-WIN platform **captures each & every vaccination event of all pregnant women & children under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**.
- It is one of the important steps towards **halving the number of zero-dose children by 2030**.

3. Answer: A

Explanation

- Mission Karmayogi is a nationwide programme to lay the **foundation for capacity building of civil servants**. It will help the officers to learn about the best practices across the world. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.
- Officially called the "**National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**", the mission plans to **transform human resource management in the country**.
- Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.
- The fundamental focus of the reform is the creation of a '**citizen centric civil service**' capable of creating and delivering services conducive to economic growth and public welfare.
- It shifts the focus from "Rule based training to **Role based training**". Greater thrust has been laid on behavioral change.

Unfolding of Mission Karmayogi

- The Mission Karmayogi programme will be delivered by setting up a digital platform called **iGOTKarmayogi**.
- The platform will act as a launchpad for the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building, which will enable a comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at the individual, institutional and process levels.
- **NPCSCB** will be **governed by the Prime Minister's Human Resource Council**, which will also include state Chief Ministers, Union Cabinet ministers and experts. This council will approve and review civil service capacity building programmes.
- Besides this, there will be a **Cabinet Secretary Coordination Unit** comprising select secretaries and cadre controlling authorities.
- Also, there will be a **Capacity Building Commission**, which will include experts in related fields and global professionals. This commission will prepare and monitor annual capacity building plans and audit human resources available in the government.
- There will be a wholly-owned **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)**, which will govern the **iGOT-Karmayogi platform**.

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- The SPV will be a “not-for-profit” company which will create and operationalise the content, market place and manage key business services of iGOT-Karmayogi platform.
- To cover around 46 lakh central employees, a sum of Rs 510.86 crore will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. The expenditure is partly funded by multilateral assistance to the tune of \$50 million.
- **Statements 1 and 3 are unrelated to Mission Karmayogi. Hence they are not correct.**

4. Answer: B

Explanation

- The **ritual art form** of Theyyam is practiced predominantly by the **tribal communities** from the lower strata of the society in **North Kerala region**.
- It is a ritual art that harmoniously brings together the **arts of face painting** with dance in forms of **vigorous movements (Tandav)** as well as enchanting **grace (lasya)** along with **diverse instruments** and ornaments fused with **music** that awakens the past.
- It is not mere entertainment but serves as a **way of spiritual expression, community cohesion and preservation of nature**.
- The artform reflects the deeply ingrained beliefs, customs and communal solidarity prevalent in the agrarian communities of the region. It also showcases the symbiotic relationship between nature and the people of the region.
- This artform is performed in the name of “**Bhoota Kola**” in the neighbouring region of **Karnataka**.

Performers of Theyyam:

- One of the communities involved in Theyyam is the **Malayar community**, deriving their name from 'mala' meaning the mountain, they habit Kasaragod in north to Vadakara in south.
- Secondly, the **Mavilanmar community** of hill areas of Kannur and Kasaragod districts, who apart from the traditional dance engage in basket weaving.
- The **Koppalar community** in Kasaragod retains their Thulunad culture and is known as 'Nalkedayar' in the Thulu language meaning dance. **Products made from the arecanut palm** are used in the costumes and ornaments for Theyyam which the community produces.

Significance of Theyyam:

- **Ecological Symbolism:** Many Theyyam performances feature deities and spirits that are **closely associated with elements of nature**, such as forests, rivers, animals, and celestial bodies.
 - These narratives advise about **sustainable land management practices, seasonal calendars and ecological indicators** used by indigenous people to utilise their natural resources in harmony with nature.
- **Sacred Groves and Biodiversity Conservation:** Theyyam rituals often take place in **sacred groves or kaavus**, which are revered as sacred sites by indigenous communities.
 - These groves serve as biodiversity hotspots, harboring a rich diversity of plant and animal species.
- **Harvest Festivities and Agrarian Wisdom:** Some Theyyam rituals are associated with harvest festivals and agrarian celebrations, highlighting the importance of agriculture in tribal societies.
 - These performances serve as a repository of agrarian wisdom and practices that have sustained tribal communities for centuries.

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- **Environmental Conservation and Advocacy:** In recent years, Theyyam has emerged as a **platform for environmental conservation** and advocacy. By using Theyyam as a medium for raising environmental consciousness, tribal communities seek to spread awareness and promote sustainable stewardship of natural resources.

5. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) traces its origins to the **Special Police Establishment**, a Central Government Police force, which was set up in 1941 by the British to investigate bribery and corruption.
- In **1963**, the Home Ministry expanded its power and changed its name to the **Central Bureau of Investigation**. It is governed by the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE), 1946. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The CBI was established with a view to investigate serious crimes related to Defence of India, corruption in high places, serious fraud, cheating and embezzlement and social crime, particularly of hoarding, black-marketing and profiteering in essential commodities, having all-India and inter-state ramifications.
- CBI acts as an **interface** between the law enforcement agencies of India and other countries to ensure cooperation. It facilitates exchange and sharing of information by these agencies.

Supervision over CBI

- The superintendence of CBI related to investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 lies with the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** and in other matters with the **Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT)** in the Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Grievances.

CBI Director

- Before the Lokpal Act was legislated, the CBI director was appointed by the DSPE Act. Now, the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** governs the appointment of the CBI director. Hence **statement 2 is correct.**
- Now, the CBI director is appointed by the Centre on the basis of the recommendation of a **search committee** comprising:
 - the Prime Minister as the chairperson,
 - the Chief Justice of India and
 - the Leader of Opposition.
- In the absence of a formal Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, **the leader of the floor of the largest opposition party** takes part in the search committee meetings.

Requirement of Consent

- The CBI is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 which grants the CBI power to investigate a case in Delhi, without any permission, since it is part of the Centre.
- However, in all the states, the CBI needs the **consent of the state** to investigate any case relating to that state or having jurisdiction of that state.
- The Central police cannot investigate or enter the state without the consent since **police and public order are state subjects** and the Centre cannot intervene in law and order matters.
- The CBI can initiate *suo motu* investigations only in **Union Territories**, under section 2 of the DSPE Act.

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- The **Supreme Court and High Courts**, however, can order the CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of states.

