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Daily MCQs: 26-07-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- 1) In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus.
- 2) India is not a member of APEC.

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

2. Which of the following social reformers is closely associated with the Lingayat movement?

- A. Basavanna
- B. Kabir
- C. Guru Nanak
- D. Raja Rammohan Roy

3. Consider the following countries

- 1) India
- 2) Belarus
- 3) Iran
- 4) Kazakhstan

How many of the above are members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

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

4. Belarus shares its border with which of the following countries?

- A. Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia
- B. Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, Estonia
- C. Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Estonia
- D. Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Finland

5. Consider the following statements

- 1) Perihelion is the point of the earth's orbit that is farthest away from the sun.
- 2) Aphelion is the point at which it is closest to the Sun.

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: C

Explanation

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a **regional economic forum** established in **1989** to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
- APEC operates as a **cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** In APEC, **all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus**.
- There are **no binding commitments or treaty obligations**. Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.
- The APEC Secretariat is based in **Singapore** and operates as the core support mechanism for the APEC process.



Membership of APEC

- There are **21 member economies** at present. It includes Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.
 - *The word 'economies' is used to describe APEC members because the APEC cooperative process is predominantly concerned with trade and economic issues.*
- **Statement 2 is correct: India is not a member of APEC.**

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2. Answer: A

Explanation

- The Lingayat community are devotees of Lord Shiva.
- The Lingayat sect is believed to have stemmed from the principles of the **12th century social reformer and Kannada poet Basava**.
- **Basavanna** started a radical anti-caste movement which **rejected orthodox ritualistic Hindu practices** in favor of a more personal, affective relationship with God, specifically Lord Shiva.
- Today, the Lingayat community is an **amalgamation of many sub-castes**. Of these sub-castes, the **agriculturalist Panchamasalis are the largest**, making up nearly **70 per cent** of the Lingayat population.

Veerashaivas

- Veerashaivas are the followers of the five peethas (religious centres), called pancha peethas.
- They believe that they are **born straight out of the Shivalingam** – a phallic symbol worshipped by Shaivas.
- Veerashaivas do not worship any God other than Shiva and can be found spread across India.
- The major difference between the **Lingayats** and the Veerashaivas is that while the former **worship Shiva as a formless entity** (ishta linga), the **Veerashaivas** worship the **Vedic idol of Shiva** with a snake around his neck.

3. Answer: D

Explanation

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a **permanent intergovernmental international organisation** established in 2001.
- It was built on the **Shanghai Five** grouping of **Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**, which had come together in the post Soviet era in 1996, in order to work on regional security, reduction of border troops, and terrorism. In **2001, the Shanghai Five inducted Uzbekistan** into the group and **named it the SCO**.
- The Organization has **2 standing bodies** — the **Secretariat in Beijing** and the **Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent**.
- The official languages of the SCO are **Russian and Chinese**.
- The supreme **decision-making body** of the SCO is the **Council of Heads of States (CHS)**. It **meets once a year** and decides upon all the important issues of the Organization.
- The **Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization** which entered into force in **2003** is a statute that stipulates the **goals, principles, structure** and major areas of activities of the organisation.
- **Member States: 10**

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- **India** (Member since 2017), Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and **Belarus**. Hence all the given countries are members of SCO.

- **Observer Status: Afghanistan and Mongolia**

Why in news?

- **Belarus** has joined SCO as its tenth member in the July summit in Astana, becoming the **first European country to join the organisation**.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

Belarus

- **Location:** It is a Landlocked country in **Europe**.
- **Capital: Minsk**
- Bordered by:
 - Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest,
 - Russia to the north and east,
 - Ukraine to the south,
 - Poland to the west



5. Answer: D

Explanation

- Both the statements are incorrect.

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- Aphelion is the point of the earth's orbit that is **farthest** away from the sun.
- At aphelion, Earth's distance from the Sun is about **152.1 million km**.

Why does it occur?

- That Earth has an aphelion because of its **orbit being elliptical**, rather than circular.

Does aphelion affect temperatures on Earth?

- Earth receives **7% less sunlight at aphelion** compared to what we are exposed to at perihelion, leading to slightly milder summers and winters in the Northern Hemisphere.
- But this **effect is offset by Earth's tilt** on its axis at different points along its orbit; the hemispheres slant either toward or away from the Sun.
- Hence the Earth's varying distance from the Sun does not give rise to the seasons.

Perihelion

- Perihelion is the point at which it is closest to the Sun.
- At perihelion, the distance between Earth and the Sun is roughly **147.1 million km**.

