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Daily MCQs: 13-08-2024

1. Theyyam, a ritual art, is primarily associated with which state in India?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Andhra Pradesh

2. The primary objective of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan is

- A. To promote the use of traditional medicines
- B. To eliminate single-use plastics
- C. To eradicate substance abuse and reduce drug dependency in India
- D. To promote digital literacy among rural populations

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- 1) The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rates in India.
- 2) All members of the MPC are appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements about International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- 1) The IMF provides financial assistance to member countries facing balance of payments problems or experiencing financial crises.
- 2) It releases the Global Financial Stability Report.
- 3) It is administered by the International bank for Reconstruction and Development.

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

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

5. Consider the following countries

- 1) Lebanon
- 2) Israel
- 3) Egypt
- 4) Syria

How many of the above countries border 'Golan Heights'?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation

- Theyyam is a famous **ritual art** form that originated in **North Kerala**.
- It encompasses **dance, mime and music** and exalts the beliefs of the ancient tribals who gave a lot of importance to the worship of heroes and the spirits of their ancestors.
- The ceremonious dance is accompanied by the **chorus of such musical instruments** such as **Chenda, Elathalam, Kurumkuzal and Veek kuchenda**.
- There are **over 400 separate Theyyams, each with their own music, style and choreography**. The most prominent among these are Raktha Chamundi, Kari Chamundi, Muchilottu Bhagavathi, Wayanadu Kulaven, Gulikan and Pottan.



Characteristics of Theyyam

- Theyyam artists use **natural materials** like charcoal, rice paste, turmeric, and colored clays for makeup.
- The makeup uses a limited palette, **primarily red, black, yellow, and white**. Each color has **symbolic meaning**.
- The "Mudi" headpiece plays a significant role in theyyam. It is a religious crown composed of different coloured coconut and areca nut splices.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

- The 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' or the 'Drugs-Free India Campaign' is a **campaign against substance abuse** flagged off on 15th August 2020 by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- The campaign focuses on **272 districts in 32 states & UT's which are identified as most vulnerable in terms of usage of drugs** and launches a **three-pronged attack** combining

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efforts of the Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Department.

Components of the action plan

- Awareness generation programmes;
- Focus on Higher Educational Institutions, University Campuses and Schools;
- Community outreach and Identification of dependent population;
- Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings; and
- Capacity Building Programmes for Service Providers.

Why in News?

- As India celebrates its 78th Independence Day, the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) is entering into its fifth year.
- In recognition of this milestone, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is organizing a mass pledge taking ceremony against drug abuse across the country.

3. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee of the RBI which is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (**repo rate**) to **contain inflation within the specified target level.**
 - Under the **flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework**, the RBI targets to contain **Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation within 4 percent with a tolerance band of (+/-) 2 percent** for the period April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2026.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The MPC has **six members: RBI Governor (Chairperson)**, RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board and remaining 3 members would represent the Government.
- The MPC is required to meet **at least four times in a year.** The **quorum** for the meeting is **four members.**
- The MPC makes decisions based on **majority vote.** In case of a tie, the **RBI governor will have a second or casting vote.**
- Each Member of MPC writes a **statement** specifying the reasons for voting in favour of, or against the proposed resolution.

Why in News?

- The Reserve Bank of India-led Monetary Policy Committee has decided to keep the repurchase rate (repo rate) unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth time in a row.
- The MPC left its inflation forecast for this fiscal year (FY25) unchanged at 4.5 per cent.

4. Answer: B

Explanation

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international organization established with the goal of **promoting global monetary cooperation, ensuring exchange rate stability, facilitating the balanced growth of international trade, and providing resources to help member countries in need of financial assistance.**

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- It was created in July 1944 at the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference (commonly known as the Bretton Woods Conference) in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA.
- The IMF **monitors the global economy** and provides economic analysis and policy advice to its member countries.
- The IMF **provides financial assistance to member countries** facing balance of payments problems or experiencing financial crises. Thus, it cannot grant loans to any country but only member countries. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- The IMF has its own reserve asset called the **Special Drawing Right (SDR)**, which is a supplementary international reserve currency created to supplement its member countries' official reserves.
- The IMF is governed by its member countries, with decision-making power allocated based on the financial contributions (quotas) made by each member. The largest and most influential members have more significant voting power and influence.
- **IMF releases the Global Financial Stability Report. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) are two separate entities, each with its own distinct functions and governance structures. Hence **statement 3 is incorrect**.
- The IBRD is **one of five member institutions that make up the World Bank Group**. Its focus is on providing financial and technical assistance to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries for development projects and programs.

5. Answer: C

Explanation

