

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 14-08-2024

**1. Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site is primarily known for?**

- A) The largest population of Asiatic lions
- B) The densest tiger population in India
- C) The world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceros
- D) The habitat of the endangered Ganges dolphin

**2. Consider the following statements about the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**

- 1. The Network covers creative fields such as Media Arts, Gastronomy, Literature, etc.
- 2. At present, no cities in India have been included as a part of the creative city network.

**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

**3. Which of the following statements about Fly ash is incorrect?**

- A) Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands and wastewater treatment.
- B) Fly ash can be used as a replacement for some of the Portland cement contents of concrete.
- C) Fly ash is made up of silicon dioxide and calcium oxide only, and does not contain any toxic elements.
- D) None of the above

**4. The primary objective of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan is**

- A) To improve agricultural productivity
- B) To enhance logistics efficiency
- C) To promote tourism
- D) To increase foreign direct investment

**5. Which of the following products require mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification?**

- 1) Cylinders

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- 2) Cement
- 3) Household electrical goods
- 4) Diesel engines

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2,3 and 4 only
- C) 1,3 and 4 only
- D) 1,2,3 and 4

### Solutions:

1. Answer: C

### Explanation

- The Kaziranga national park is located in **Assam** and was formed in 1908 on the recommendation of **Mary Curzon** (wife of Lord Curzon).
- Located on the edge of the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot**, the park is famous for its **Indian one-horned rhinoceros**. About 2200 rhinoceros exist in this park, **approximately 2/3rd of their total world population**.
- Other animals that can be seen in Kaziranga are Hoolock Gibbon, Tiger, Leopard, Indian Elephant, Sloth Bear, Wild water buffalo, swamp deer, etc.
- Due to the difference in altitude between the eastern and western areas of the park, one can see **four types of vegetation** in the park: **alluvial inundated grasslands, alluvial savanna woodlands, tropical moist mixed deciduous forests, and tropical semi-evergreen forests**.
- **River Brahmaputra** flows adjacent to the park.
- In 1985, the park was declared as a **World Heritage Site** by **UNESCO**. Kaziranga was declared as a **Tiger Reserve** in 2006.

2. Answer: A

### Explanation

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to **promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development**.

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- The cities which currently make up this network work together towards a common objective: **placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Network covers seven creative fields:
  - **Crafts and Folk Arts,**
  - **Media Arts,**
  - **Film,**
  - **Design,**
  - **Gastronomy,**
  - **Literature and**
  - **Music.**
- By joining the Network, cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society.

### Sites from India

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Indian cities that have joined UCCN:
  - **Mumbai – Film**
  - **Hyderabad – Gastronomy**
  - **Chennai – Creative city of Music**
  - **Jaipur – Crafts and Folk Arts**
  - **Varanasi – Creative city of Music**
  - **Srinagar – Crafts and Folk Arts**
  - **Gwalior – Creative city of Music**
  - **Kozhikode – Literature.**

### 3. Answer: C

### Explanation

- Fly ash is a fine gray powder consisting mostly of spherical, glassy particles that are produced as a **byproduct in coal-fired power stations.**
- Fly ash has **pozzolanic properties**, meaning that it forms cement in the presence of water.

### Issues with Fly ash

- **Statement C is incorrect:** Fly ash is a **highly toxic substance** known for causing **health and environmental problems.** It can contain **lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and uranium.**
- When fly ash is deposited in water bodies they **contaminate aquaculture** and **may leach into landmasses**, leading to toxicity of agricultural land and drinking water.

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- Fly ash cannot be disposed-off in the open field because it **pollutes the air, soil and groundwater**.
- Long inhalation of fly ash causes **serious respiratory problems**.
- Fly ash also causes **siltation problems**.

### Uses of Fly ash

- Fly ash composition, **rich in silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), calcium oxide (CaO), and aluminum oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)**, makes it valuable for various applications, transforming potential waste into useful material.
- Fly ash can be used as **prime material in many cement-based products**, such as poured concrete, concrete block, and brick.
- **Statement B is correct:** One of the most common uses of fly ash is in **Portland Cement Concrete pavement or PCC pavement**.
- **Road construction projects** using PCC can use a great deal of concrete, and substituting fly ash provides significant economic benefits.
- **Statement A is correct:** Fly ash can be used in **reclamation of wastelands and wastewater treatment**.
- Fly ash has also been used as an **embankment and mine fill**.

### Regulations in India

- **Prohibiting dumping and disposal of fly ash** discharged from coal or lignite based thermal power plants on land or into water bodies, the Centre has made it mandatory for such plants to **ensure 100% utilization of ash in an eco-friendly manner**.
- The centre has also introduced a **penalty regime for non-compliance** based on the **'polluter pays' principle**.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has made it **mandatory for all agencies** (government, semi-government and private), **engaged in construction activities within 300 kms from the lignite or coal based thermal power plants, to utilize ash in these activities**.

### 4. Answer: B

### Explanation

- In 2021, the Government of India **launched the “PM GatiShakti — National Master Plan”** for infrastructure development aimed at boosting multimodal connectivity and driving down logistics costs.

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## IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- PM GatiShakti is a **digital platform that connects 16 ministries** — including Roads and Highways, Railways, Shipping, Petroleum and Gas, Power, Telecom, Shipping, and Aviation- with a view to **ensuring holistic planning and execution of infrastructure projects**.
- The plan has been developed as a **Digital Master Planning tool** by **BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics)**.
  - *BISAG-N is an autonomous scientific society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** to undertake technology development in the area of geo-spatial technology.*
- The GatiShakti portal will offer **200 layers of geospatial data**, including on existing infrastructure such as roads, highways, railways, and toll plazas, as well as geographic information about forests, rivers and district boundaries **to aid in planning and obtaining clearances**.
- The portal will also allow various government departments to **track**, in real time and at one centralised place, the **progress of various projects**, especially those with multi-sectoral and multi-regional impact.
- The objective is to **ensure that each and every department now has visibility of each other's activities** providing critical data while planning and execution of projects in a comprehensive manner.
- The GatiShakti platform aims to **address the issue of government departments working in silos**.

### How will the platform help bring down logistics costs?

- Studies estimate that **logistics costs in India are about 13-14% of GDP as against about 7-8% of GDP in developed economies**.
- High logistics costs impact cost structures within the economy, and also make it more expensive for exporters to ship merchandise to buyers.
- By incorporating infrastructure schemes under various ministries and state governments, and economic zones, the GatiShakti platform aims to **boost last-mile connectivity and bring down logistics costs with integrated planning and reducing implementation overlap**.

5. Answer: D

### Explanation

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the **National Standard Body of India**. It is a **statutory organization** established under the **BIS Act 2016**.



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- BIS is responsible for the **harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.**
- BIS is involved in various activities like standard formulation, certification of products, hallmarking, testing and calibration scheme, etc.
- BIS works under the aegis of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**

### About BIS Certification

- BIS Product Certification Scheme is one of the largest in the world, with over 26500 licensees covering more than 900 products.
- BIS Certification in India is provided by the **Bureau of Indian Standards.**
- BIS Certification allows the licensees to use the popular **ISI mark** on their product, which is synonymous with quality products.
- BIS also operates **Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme** under which overseas manufacturers can be granted a license to use the BIS Standard Mark.

### Products that Require Mandatory BIS Certificate

- BIS certification scheme is basically **voluntary in nature.** However, for a number of products compliance to Indian Standards is **made compulsory** by the Central Government under various considerations viz. public interest, protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of environment, prevention of unfair trade practices and national security.
- The following are products that require mandatory BIS License or Certification.
  - Cement
  - Household electrical goods
  - Food and related products
  - Diesel engines
  - Oil pressure stoves
  - Automobile accessories
  - Cylinders, Valves and Regulators
  - Medical Equipment
  - Steel Products
  - Electrical Transformers.

### Why in News?

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India, has created a new department for standardization on issues related to environment and ecology named as **Environment and Ecology Department (EED).**