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Daily MCQs: 22-08-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the Chandrayaan Series of missions taken up by the ISRO.

1. All the three missions of Chandrayaan had orbiters and rovers as components.
2. All the three missions of this series were launched by the Polar Satellite launch vehicle (PSLV).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

2. Current Account Convertibility refers to freedom to convert domestic currency into foreign currency and vice versa for which of the following purposes?

1. Trade in goods
2. Trade in services
3. Remittances
4. Transaction in financial assets with foreign countries

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

3. With reference to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI), consider the following statements.

1. While the Wholesale Price Index keeps track of the wholesale price of goods, the CPI measures the average price that households pay for a basket of different goods and services.
2. The WPI does not capture changes in the prices of services, which CPI does.

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

4. Which of the following properties are true regarding neutrinos?

1. Neutrinos have no electrical charge.

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2. Neutrinos are one of the most abundant particles in the universe.
3. Neutrinos hardly interact with other forms of matter.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), consider the following statements.

1. It is an independent judicial body distinct from the United Nations.
2. The judgment of the ICJ is final and technically binding on the parties to a case.
3. The Court has no jurisdiction to deal with applications from individuals.

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

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation:

- Chandrayaan I and II had orbiter components in them but Chandrayaan III had no orbiter component. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Chandrayaan I was launched aboard the **PSLV C-11** while II and III were launched by the LVM 3 (GSLV Mk III). **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Chandrayaan 1

- The Chandrayaan-1 mission was the first Indian lunar probe under the Chandrayaan programme.
- It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aboard **PSLV C-11** in 2008, and operated until 2009.
- The mission included **an orbiter and an impactor.**
- Chandrayaan-1 played a crucial role in the discovery of water molecules on the Moon.

Chandrayaan 2

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- ISRO launched Chandrayaan 2, a mission comprising an orbiter and a soft lander carrying a rover, in 2019.
- The primary objective of Chandrayaan 2 is to demonstrate the ability to soft- land on the lunar surface and operate a robotic rover on the surface.
- It was launched on **GSLV Mk-III** and reached the lunar orbit in August 2019.
- The **lander and rover** were set to land on the far side of the Moon after being separated from the **orbiter**.
- However, the missions did not go as planned when the combination crash-landed on the surface of the Moon.
- While the lander and rover were lost in the accident, the orbiter continues operating in the lunar orbit to date providing key observations of the surface.

Chandrayaan 3:

- ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission onboard **LVM3-M4 (GSLV Mk III) rocket** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in July 2023 to achieve India's first soft landing on another celestial body.
- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2. The mission's three objectives were to
 - demonstrate a safe and soft landing on the lunar surface,
 - to demonstrate a Rover roving on the Moon and
 - to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.
- Chandrayaan-3 consists of an **indigenous Lander module (LM), Propulsion module (PM) and a Rover** with an objective of developing and demonstrating new technologies required for Interplanetary missions.
- India made history as its Chandrayaan-3 mission became the first to land in the lunar south-pole region.
- ISRO confirmed that the Vikram lander from Chandrayaan-3 successfully touched down in the Moon's southern polar region as planned.
- With this, India joins an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.

2. Answer: C

Explanation:

- Convertibility is the **ease with which a country's currency can be converted into gold or another currency through global exchanges**. Any currency may be current account or capital account convertible, or both.
- **Current account convertibility** implies that the Indian rupee can be converted to any foreign currency at existing market rates for trade purposes for any amount. It allows for

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easy financial transactions for the export and import of goods and services. Any individual involved in trade can get foreign currency converted at designated banks or dealers.

- During the mid-1990s, the rupee was **fully made current account convertible** for all **trading activities (both goods and services) and remittances**.
- However, India has **partial capital account convertibility** which means foreign currency conversion for the purpose of capital account transactions are generally restricted by the RBI, with permissions granted only for specific kinds of transactions.
- Capital account convertibility implies freedom of currency conversion related to **capital inflows and outflows**. It is the freedom of foreign investors to purchase Indian financial assets (shares, bonds etc.) and that of the domestic citizens to purchase foreign financial assets.
- It provides rights for firms and residents to freely buy into overseas assets such as equity, bonds, property and acquire ownership of overseas firms besides free repatriation of proceeds by foreign investors.

3. Answer: C

Explanation:

About CPI

- Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an index which measures the weighted average of prices of a basket of **consumer goods and services** such as transportation, food and medical care.
- It is calculated by measuring price changes for each item in the **predetermined basket of goods and services** and averaging them.
- It is released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The base year used to calculate CPI in India is **2011-2012**.

WPI Vs CPI

- **Statement 1 is correct:** While the Wholesale Price Index keeps track of the wholesale price of goods, the CPI measures the average price that households pay for a basket of different goods and services.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The CPI basket consists of **services like housing, education, medical care, recreation etc. which are not part of WPI basket**. A significant proportion of WPI item basket represents **manufacturing inputs and intermediate goods** like minerals, basic metals, machinery etc. whose prices are influenced by global factors but these are not directly consumed by the households and are **not part of the CPI item basket**.
- Even as the WPI is used as a key measure of inflation in some economies, the RBI **no longer uses it for policy purposes**. The central bank currently uses the **Consumer Price Index** as a key measure of inflation to set the monetary and credit policy.
- Under the Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework, RBI aims to contain CPI based inflation **within 4 percent with a band of (+/-) 2 percent**.

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4. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A neutrino is a subatomic particle that is very similar to an electron, but has no electrical charge and a very small mass, which might even be zero.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Neutrinos are one of the most abundant particles in the universe.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** These miniscule subatomic particles that **hardly interact with anything**. This means that they can travel massive distances undisturbed and that in turn means that it is **much easier to trace them back to their source, helping us understand more about the distant universe**.
- Because they have **very little interaction with matter, they are incredibly difficult to detect**,

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
- It was established in **1945** by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in 1946.
- The court is the **successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ)**, which was brought into being through, and by, the League of Nations, and which held its inaugural sitting at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, in 1922.
- After World War II, the League of Nations and PCIJ were replaced by the **United Nations and ICJ respectively**.

Seat and role

- Like the PCIJ, the ICJ is based at the **Peace Palace in The Hague**. It is the **only one of the six principal organs of the UN that is not located in New York City**. (The other five organs are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, and the Secretariat.)
- The ICJ's role is to **settle**, in accordance with international law, **legal disputes submitted to it** by States and to give **advisory opinions on legal questions** referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- **English and French** are the ICJ's official languages.
- **All members of the UN are automatically parties to the ICJ statute, but this does not automatically give the ICJ jurisdiction over disputes involving them**. The ICJ gets jurisdiction **only if both parties consent to it**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The judgment of the ICJ is **final and technically binding** on the parties to a case. There is **no provision of appeal**; it can at the most, be subject to **interpretation** or, upon the discovery of a new fact, **revision**.
- However, the ICJ has **no way to ensure compliance of its orders**, and its authority is derived from the willingness of countries to abide by them.

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Judges of the court

- The ICJ has **15 judges who are elected to nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote simultaneously but separately.** To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes in both bodies, a requirement that sometimes necessitates multiple rounds of voting.
- **A third of the court is elected every three years.** Judges are **eligible for re-election.**

Who may submit cases to the Court?

- **Only States** are eligible to appear before the Court in contentious cases. At present, this essentially means the 193 Member States of the United Nations.

Statement 3 is correct: The Court has **no jurisdiction to deal with applications from individuals, non-governmental organizations, corporations or any other private entity**

Difference between ICC and ICJ

S. No.	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
1	Independent judicial body distinct from the UN	Principal judicial organ of the UN
2	Handles prosecutions of individuals	Hears disputes between sovereign states
3	Established by the Rome Statute in 2002	Established in 1945 by the San Francisco Conference, which also created the UN
4	Only those who ratified the Rome Statute are parties to ICC	All members of the UN are parties to the statute of the ICJ, and non-members may also become parties
5	The judges are elected by the Assembly of States Parties, the court's governing body.	The judges are elected by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council
6	Headquarters of both the courts are situated at The Hague, Netherlands.	