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Daily MCQs: 04-09-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- 1) The Prime Minister is the Chairman of DAC.
- 2) It is the highest decision-making body in the defense ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions

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 has/have been included under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer?

1. Chlorofluorocarbons
2. Halons
3. Hydrofluorocarbons

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

3. The AgriSURE Fund primarily focuses on

- A. Providing insurance to farmers against crop failures.
- B. Financing the development of cold storage facilities in rural areas.
- C. Supporting startups and enterprises in the agriculture sector.
- D. Subsidizing the cost of fertilizers for small farmers.

4. Which organization is responsible for the establishment and management of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in India?

- A. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- B. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- C. NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)
- D. NITI Aayog

5. Consider the following statements about the Open Network for Digital Commerce

- 1) It is a government-backed initiative aimed at democratizing e-commerce in India.
- 2) It is intended to reduce the dominance of large e-commerce companies in the Indian market.

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- 3) It is mandatory for all the existing digital commerce applications and platforms to be a part of the ONDC network.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is **constituted under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for overall guidance of the defence procurement planning process.**
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **Defence Minister is the Chairman** of DAC. Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Chiefs of triservices.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The DAC is the **highest decision-making body** in the defence ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The objective of the DAC is to **ensure expeditious procurement** of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

2. Answer: D

Explanation

- The **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** is an international environmental treaty that **regulates the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals** referred to as **ozone depleting substances (ODS)** including **chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).**
- The **stratospheric ozone layer protects humans and the environment from harmful levels of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.** The widespread use of ODS had caused a **hole** in the Ozone layer of the atmosphere, which allowed some harmful radiation to reach the earth. These radiations were considered potential health hazards.
- Adopted in **1987**, the Montreal Protocol is the **only UN treaty that has been ratified by every country.**
- Under this treaty, all parties have specific responsibilities related to the phase out of the different groups of ODS, control of ODS trade, annual reporting of data, national licensing systems to control ODS imports and exports, and other matters.
- Developing and developed countries have **equal but differentiated responsibilities** along with **binding, time-targeted and measurable commitments.**

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- The Montreal Protocol has been a **far more effective and successful agreement** than the climate change instruments. It has already **resulted in the phase-out of nearly 99% of ozone-depleting substances**.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL CONTRIBUTES TO THE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



About Hydrofluorocarbons

- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are a **group of industrial chemicals** primarily used for **cooling and refrigeration**.
- HFCs are **powerful greenhouse gases** and a substantial number are **short-lived climate pollutants** with a lifetime of between 15 and 29 years in the atmosphere.
- HFCs are widespread in **air conditioners, refrigerators, aerosols, foams and other products**.
- HFCs were introduced as **non-ozone depleting alternatives** to support the timely **phase out of CFCs and HCFCs under Montreal Protocol**.
- While these chemicals **do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer**, HFCs were found to be extremely potent in causing global warming. Some of them have **high Global Warming Potentials (GWPs) ranging from 12 to 14,000**.
- So, the HFCs solved one problem, but were contributing in a major way to another. But these could not be eliminated under the original provisions of Montreal Protocol which was meant to phase-out ozone-destroying chemicals only. The **Kigali Amendment** enabled the Montreal Protocol to **mandate the elimination of HFCs as well**.

Kigali Agreement

- The Parties to the Montreal Protocol reached an agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties in 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda. The Agreement particularly aims at **phasing out the production and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons** which were first introduced as a substitute to ODSs namely CFCs and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons HCFCs.
- Parties to the agreement agreed to **curtail the use of HFC by at least 85 per cent before the middle of this century**. Countries have **different timelines** to do this. **India** has to achieve this target by **2047** while the developed countries have to do it by 2036. China and some other countries have a target of 2045.
- The agreement came into force on **1st January 2019** and has been ratified by more than **130 countries** (including **India**) so far.

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- Kigali Agreement **legally binds the signatory countries** with non-compliance measures.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development has launched the AgriSURE Scheme, an **innovative fund which is a pioneering step toward revolutionizing the agricultural landscape** in India.
- With a focus on technology-driven, high-risk, high-impact ventures, AgriSURE is **designed to fuel growth and foster innovation in the agricultural and rural start-up ecosystem**.
- A Blended capital fund of **₹750 crore** with SEBI Registered Category II, Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), contributions from the Government of India is ₹250 crore, NABARD is ₹250 crore, and ₹250 crore is being mobilized from banks, insurance companies, and private investors.
- With the introduction of the AgriSURE fund, the government aims to further drive investments in the agriculture sector that will empower farmers and boost the rural economy through accelerating accessible and affordable innovative solutions.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are agricultural extension centers in India that play a crucial role in disseminating agricultural knowledge, innovations, and technologies to farmers.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is responsible for the establishment and management of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in India.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

- In 2022, the government of India launched the pilot phase of **open network for digital commerce (ONDC)** with an aim to **democratise the country's fast growing digital e-commerce space** that is currently dominated by the two U.S.-headquartered firms — Amazon and Walmart. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

What is ONDC?

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- ONDC is a network based on open protocol and will **enable local commerce across segments**, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel, among others, **to be discovered and engaged through a single platform**.
- It is an initiative of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- It is **neither an aggregator application nor a hosting platform**, and all existing digital commerce applications and platforms can voluntarily choose to adopt and be a part of the ONDC network. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**



Role in Democratising Digital Commerce

- The ONDC platform aims to **create new opportunities, curb digital monopolies and support micro, small and medium enterprises and small traders** and help them get on online platforms. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The ONDC aims to **enable buying of products from all participating e-commerce platforms by consumers through a single platform**.
- Currently, a buyer needs to go to Amazon website/app, for example, to buy a product from a seller on Amazon. Under ONDC, it is envisaged that a buyer registered on one participating e-commerce site (for example, Amazon) may purchase goods from a seller on another participating e-commerce site (for example, Flipkart).
- The ONDC model is trying to **replicate the success of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in the field of digital payments.
 - *UPI allows people to send or receive money irrespective of the payment platforms they are registered on.*
- The open network concept also **extends beyond the retail sector, to any digital commerce domains including wholesale, mobility, food delivery, logistics, travel, urban services, etc.**

Significance

- The government believes that ONDC will put an **end to the domination of the e-commerce market by a few large platforms**. Amazon and Flipkart, for instance, have been accused of discriminating among sellers on their platforms and promoting certain seller entities in which they hold indirect stakes.
- With an open network like ONDC that connects buyers and sellers across platforms, the government hopes to **level the playing field and make platforms redundant**.
- It is said that buyers will also be able to access sellers across platforms without having to switch between multiple platforms.
- Over the next five years, the ONDC expects to bring on board 90 crore users and 12 lakh sellers on the network.
- The ONDC will **standardise operations** like cataloguing, inventory management, order management and order fulfilment, **hence making it simpler and easier for small businesses to be discoverable over network and conduct business**.

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Challenges

- ONDC faces its own share of challenges and risks, which must be addressed. One of the pivotal challenges lies in ensuring the **adoption and acceptance of ONDC by the various stakeholders** within the e-commerce ecosystem.
- Another challenge is to **ensure the quality and reliability** of the services and products offered on the network. ONDC will have to **establish clear standards and guidelines** for quality assurance, consumer protection, data privacy, cybersecurity, etc.
- ONDC will also have to ensure **effective dispute resolution mechanisms** for handling complaints and grievances.
- ONDC will have to **ensure the sustainability and scalability** of the network to make sure that the network can **handle the increasing volume and variety of transactions and data**.

