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Daily MCQs: 16-09-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Minimum Export Price (MEP)

- 1) It is the price below which an exporter is not allowed to export the commodity from India.
- 2) It is a kind of qualitative restriction to trade.

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. Consider the following diseases that infect humans:

1. Chikungunya
2. Dengue
3. Zika
4. Malaria

Which of the above are vector borne diseases?

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

3. With reference to Ashtamudi Lake, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) It is located in the state of Kerala.
- 2) The Kallada river is a major river which drains into the Ashtamudi lake.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

4. Taiwan Strait is frequently in the news because of which of the following reasons?

- A. Due to its role in regional shipping disputes between Japan and Taiwan.
- B. Due to escalating tensions between China and Taiwan over sovereignty.
- C. Due to its significant role in climate change-related discussions.
- D. None of the above

5. Which of the following statements about microplastics is incorrect?

- A. Microplastics are biodegradable.

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- B. Microplastics are a source of air pollution.
- C. Microplastics can exhibit tendencies of biomagnification across food chains.
- D. None of the above

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Minimum Export Price (MEP) is the price below which an exporter is not allowed to export the commodity from India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** MEP is a kind of quantitative restriction to trade.
- Government impose/increase MEP to restrict exports and increase the supply of commodities which will consequently reduce its price levels.

2. Answer: D

Explanation

- Vector-borne diseases are **human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses and bacteria that are transmitted by vectors.**
- The burden of these diseases is highest in **tropical and subtropical areas**, and they disproportionately affect the poorest populations
- Vector-borne diseases account for more than 17% of all infectious diseases, causing more than 700 000 deaths annually. They can be caused by either **parasites, bacteria or viruses.**
- **Aedes mosquitoes** are known to transmit **dengue virus**, yellow fever virus, **chikungunya virus, and Zika virus.** It is suggested to be a potential vector of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis virus, and is capable of transmitting West Nile virus. Hence **statements 1,2 and 3 are correct.**
- **Malaria is a parasitic infection** transmitted by **Anopheline mosquitoes.** Hence **statement 4 is correct.**
- Other viral diseases transmitted by vectors include **Japanese encephalitis** (transmitted by mosquitoes), **tick-borne encephalitis** (transmitted by ticks).
- Many vector-borne diseases are preventable, through protective measures, and community mobilization.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Both the statements are correct.**
- Ashtamudi lake is located in Kollam District of **Kerala.**
- It is a gateway to several backwaters in Kerala.

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- The **Kallada river** is a major river which drains into the Ashtamudi lake.
- The lake is surrounded by vegetation such as mangrove forests, coconut groves, and palm trees.
- **Munroe Island**, a cluster of eight tiny islands, lies in the Ashtamudi Lake.

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

- Taiwan, officially known as the **Republic of China (ROC)**, is an island separated from China by the **Taiwan Strait**.
- The Taiwan Strait is often in the news because of rising tensions between China and Taiwan, as China claims sovereignty over Taiwan and views the strait as part of its territory, while Taiwan considers it an international waterway.



5. Answer: A

Explanation

- Microplastics are **plastics less than 5 mm in length** and occur in the environment as a consequence of plastic pollution.
- Microplastics consist of **carbon and hydrogen atoms bound together in polymer chains**.
- Other chemicals, such as **phthalates, polybrominated diphenyl ethers** and **tetrabromobisphenol A**, are also present in microplastics.
- There are two categories of microplastics: **Primary** and **Secondary**.
 - **Primary microplastics** are tiny particles **designed for commercial use**, such as cosmetics, microfibers shed from clothing, fishing nets.
 - **Secondary microplastics** are particles that **result from the breakdown of larger plastic items**, such as water bottles. This breakdown is caused by **exposure to environmental factors**, such as erosion action of ocean waves.

Impacts of Microplastics

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- **Statement A is incorrect:** Microplastics are **not biodegradable** and once in the environment, they tend to **accumulate and persist for a longer period of time**.
- **Statement B is correct:** Microplastics are a **source of air pollution**, occurring in dust and airborne fibrous particles.
- **Ingestion of microplastics** can cause aquatic species to consume less food thereby having less energy to carry out life functions, such as feeding, breeding, etc.
- **Statement C is correct:** Microplastics can exhibit tendencies of **biomagnification across food chains**, i.e., the concentration of chemicals can increase across food chains.

