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Daily MCQs: 26-09-2024

1. Which one of the following statements best reflects the idea behind the "Aerobraking" often talked about in media?

- A. It is a technique used in space missions that involves using a planet's atmosphere to slow down a spacecraft by creating drag.
- B. It is a process used in material science where materials are exposed to air at elevated temperatures to remove moisture, volatile substances, or residual chemicals from the surface of materials.
- C. It is a technique used in cooking where hot air circulation is used to cook food, simulating the effects of deep frying but with little to no oil.
- D. It is a process used in industries where air or oxygen is used to break down large hydrocarbons or other chemical compounds into smaller, more useful molecules.

2. With reference to PM SHRI Schools, consider the following statements:

- 1) PM SHRI Schools will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020.
- 2) These schools shall also be developed as green schools.

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. Who among the following are competent authorities to declare the whole or part of a state or a union territory to be a 'disturbed area'

- 1) Central Government
- 2) Governor of the state
- 3) Chief Minister of the state
- 4) Administrator of the Union Territory
- 5) The Supreme Court of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A) 1 and 5
- B) 2 and 3
- C) 1,2 and 4
- D) 1,2 and 5

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4. With reference to Goods and Services Tax Council, consider the following statements:

- 1) Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall be taken at a meeting, by a majority of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.
- 2) One-tenth of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall constitute the quorum at its meetings.
- 3) The vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one-third of the total votes cast

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

5. With reference to Treasury bills, consider the following statements:

- 1) They typically have maturity periods that are shorter than a year.
- 2) They are issued at discount and redeemed at face value on maturity.
- 3) They can be issued by both state and central governments.

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

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- Aerobraking is a technique used in space missions that involves **using a planet's atmosphere to slow down a spacecraft by creating drag.**
- The **Venus Orbiter Mission (Shukrayaan-1)** mission will see India perform aero-braking for the first time.

About Venus Orbiter Mission

- The **Venus Orbiter Mission (Shukrayaan-1)** is envisaged to orbit a scientific spacecraft in the orbit of planet Venus for **better understanding of the Venusian surface and subsurface**, its atmosphere, its ionosphere, and its interaction with the Sun.

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- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is responsible for developing and launching the spacecraft.
- The mission will carry scientific instruments from India and abroad. The orbiter is expected to carry instruments like synthetic aperture radar, infrared and ultraviolet cameras, and sensors that will study Venus's ionosphere.
- The mission will carry **scientific payloads** weighing **around 100 kg**.
- Launch plan: The satellite will gain speed in Earth's orbit, will get sling-shot towards Venus, and then get captured in its orbit.
- Once the satellite exits the Earth orbit, it will take around **140 days to reach Venus**.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

- PM SHRI School (PM Schools for Rising India) is a **centrally sponsored scheme** launched by the Government of India in 2022.
- This initiative is intended to **upgrade and develop more than 14500 Schools across the country** by strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- PM SHRI Schools will showcase all components of the **National Education Policy 2020** and act as **exemplar schools** and also offer **mentorship to other schools** in their vicinity.
Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Objectives

- The aim of these schools will not only be **qualitative teaching, learning and cognitive development**, but also **creating holistic and well-rounded individuals** equipped with key 21st century skills.
- **Pedagogy** adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable.
- These schools will be equipped with **modern infrastructure** including labs, smart classrooms, libraries, sports equipment, art room etc. which is inclusive and accessible.
- These schools shall also be developed as **green schools** with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of organic lifestyle in curriculum.
Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

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About AFSPA

- Passed in 1958 for the North-East and in 1990 for Jammu & Kashmir, the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) gives armed forces special powers to control “disturbed areas”**, which are designated by the government when it is of the opinion that a region is in such a **disturbed or dangerous condition** that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.
- The Act in its original form was promulgated by the British in **response to the Quit India movement in 1942**. After Independence, the Government decided to retain the Act, which was first brought in as an ordinance and then notified as an Act in 1958.
- Under the act, an area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The **Central Government**, or the **Governor of the State** or **administrator of the Union Territory** can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area. **Hence, answer is option C.**
- Under its provisions, the armed forces have been **empowered to open fire, enter and search without warrant, and arrest any person** who has committed a cognisable offence, all while having immunity from being prosecuted.
- The law has been repealed where insurgencies have subsided, and when governments have gained confidence in managing the region using the police force.

Are there safety nets?

- While the Act gives powers to security forces to open fire, this **cannot be done without prior warning** given to the suspect.
- The Act further says that any suspects apprehended by security forces should be **handed over to the local police station within 24 hours**.
- It says **armed forces must act in cooperation with the district administration and not as an independent body**.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- Goods & Services Tax Council is a **constitutional body** under **Article 279A** of the amended Constitution, for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- The Council was introduced by the **Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016**.
- The GST Council is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister** and other members are the **Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States**.

Mandate of GST Council

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- The Goods and Services Tax Council shall make recommendations to the Union and the States on—
 - the **taxes, cesses and surcharges** levied by the Union, the States and the local bodies which may be subsumed in the goods and services tax;
 - the goods and services that may be **subjected to, or exempted** from the goods and services tax;
 - the **threshold limit of turnover** below which goods and services may be exempted from goods and services tax;
 - the **rates including floor rates with bands** of goods and services tax;
 - the date on which the goods and services tax be levied on **petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit (commonly known as petrol), natural gas and aviation turbine fuel.**
- **Quorum: One-half** of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall constitute the quorum at its meetings. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect.**
- **Voting share:** Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall be taken at a meeting, by a majority of **not less than three-fourths** of the weighted votes of the members present and voting, in accordance with the following principles, namely. (Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**): —
 - the vote of the **Central Government** shall have a weightage of **one-third** of the total votes cast. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - the votes of all the **State Governments** taken together shall have a weightage of **two-thirds** of the total votes cast, in that meeting.
- No act or proceedings of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall be invalid merely by reason of—
 - any vacancy in, or any defect in, the constitution of the Council; or
 - any defect in the appointment of a person as a Member of the Council; or
 - any procedural irregularity of the Council not affecting the merits of the case.
- **Dispute adjudication:** The Goods and Services Tax Council shall establish a mechanism to adjudicate any dispute
 - between the Government of India and one or more States; or
 - between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other side; or
 - between two or more States, arising out of the recommendations of the Council or implementation thereof.

Why in News?

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is looking at the GST rates, item by item, for rationalisation and the process was being discussed for a long time and delayed due to several factors including the impact of COVID-19.

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5. Answer: B

Explanation

T-Bills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Issued in three maturities of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">T-bills are zero coupon securities i.e. there are no periodic interest payments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Issued at discount and redeemed at face value on maturity. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- In India, the **Central Government issues both**, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the **State Development Loans (SDLs)**. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect.**

