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Daily MCQs: 01-10-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Pangolins

- 1) They typically have no teeth.
- 2) As a defence mechanism against predators, they curl up into a tight ball exposing their scales.
- 3) The species, Chinese Pangolin, is not found in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. In India, which one of the following Constitutional Amendments was enacted to create a uniform taxation policy?

- A. 91st Amendment
- B. 92nd Amendment
- C. 101st Amendment
- D. 102nd Amendment

3. Who among the following are eligible to buy G-Secs?

- 1) Individuals
- 2) Mutual funds
- 3) Non-resident Indians (NRI)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

4. An informal grouping, "Coffee Club", has been instrumental in holding back reforms to the UNSC. Who among the following countries are members of "Coffee Club"?

- 1) Japan
- 2) Argentina
- 3) Germany
- 4) Canada
- 5) Italy

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 5 only

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D. 2, 4 and 5 only

5. With reference to the Agnipath Scheme, consider the following statements.

- 1) The main motivation behind the scheme is to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces.
- 2) Agniveers would form a distinct rank in the armed forces.
- 3) Pension and gratuity benefits are available for these recruits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- It is a small toothless, sticky-tongued creature which thrives on ants and termites, and lives in hollow trees and burrows. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- When threatened, the pangolin **curls up into a tight ball**, exposing its scales to prevent attack by predators. But these scales have been the reason why pangolins have reached endangered status. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Pangolins are reported to be **among the most trafficked wild mammals** globally with demand primarily in Asia and in growing amounts in Africa for their meat and scales.
- **8 species of pangolins** can be found across Asia and Africa. All of these have shown decline in their population.
- The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** has listed **all eight species of pangolins in Appendix I** of the Convention to end their international commercial trade.
- **World Pangolin Day** is celebrated every 3rd Saturday of February each year.

Distribution in India

- India is home to two species – **Indian pangolin** and **Chinese pangolin**. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect**.
- Indian pangolins are found in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Chinese pangolins are found in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Taiwan, China, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- In India, both Indian pangolins and Chinese pangolins are listed in **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, of 1972**. Therefore hunting, trade, or any other form of utilisation of the species or their body parts and derivatives is banned.

2. Answer: C

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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**. Hence, **answer is option C**.
- 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

- 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**.

3. Answer: D

Explanation

- A Government Security (G-Sec) is a **tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments**. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.
- Such securities are **short term** (usually called **treasury bills**, with **original maturities of less than one year**) or **long term** (usually called **Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more**).

Who can buy government securities in India?

- **Individuals, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), trusts, companies, mutual funds, financial institutions, etc.** are eligible to invest in G-Secs.
- **Non-resident Indians (NRI)** can also invest in G-Secs. Hence, **answer is option D**.

4. Answer: D

Explanation

- An informal "**coffee club**", comprising 40-odd member states (including Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Argentina and Pakistan) has been instrumental in holding back reforms to the UNSC. Hence, **answer is option D**.

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- Most members of the club are middle-sized states who oppose bigger regional powers grabbing permanent seats in the UN Security Council.
- India is part of the **G4 nations**, which also includes **Germany, Japan, and Brazil** which advocates for UNSC reforms that would grant permanent membership to each of them.

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- The Union Cabinet in 2022 approved the Agnipath scheme which allows patriotic and motivated **youth (17.5 years to 21 years old) to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.**
- The youth (male/female) selected under this scheme will be known as **Agniveers.**
- Agniveers would form a **distinct rank** in the armed forces, different from any other existing rank. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

Benefits

- On completion of the engagement period of four years, Agniveers will be paid a one time '**Seva Nidhi**' package, comprising 30 percent monthly contributions from their salaries, a matching contribution from the government, and interest earned.
- In addition, Agniveers will get **skill certificates, awards of credits** so that they can study further, and a financial package to support future endeavours after their short-term military service.
- There will, however, be **no pension or gratuity benefits** for these recruits. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect.**

Objectives

- The scheme has been designed to enable a **youthful profile** of the Armed Forces. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - The **average age** in the forces is 32 years today, which will go down to **26** in six to seven years.
- The best among Agniveers, up to **25 percent in each batch**, will be selected for **regular cadre** to serve for another 15 years, based on transparent and merit-based assessment.