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Daily MCQs: 04-10-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

- 1) It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.
- 2) Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India.
- 3) Once granted, the registration of GI is valid indefinitely.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. In India, Eco-sensitive Zones are declared under

- A. Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- B. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- C. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- D. None of the above

3. Consider the following statements about Defence Acquisition Council

- 1) It is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- 2) Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Chiefs of triservices.

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 languages enjoy the 'Classical language' status?

- 1) Tamil
- 2) Sanskrit
- 3) Hindi
- 4) Odia
- 5) Gujarati

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

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5. With reference to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region, consider the following statements.

- 1) The powers of the CAQM will supersede that of any other body in matters of air pollution.
- 2) CAQM will also be monitoring the measures taken by the states to prevent stubble burning.
- 3) No civil court will have jurisdiction to entertain any suit, proceeding or dispute pertaining to or arising out of the actions taken or directions issued by the commission.

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: B

Explanation

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- It is used for **agricultural, natural and manufactured goods**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Darjeeling tea** became the first GI tagged product in India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The registration of GI is valid for **10 years** after which it needs to be renewed. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect**.
- It should be noted that registration of a product is **not compulsory**.
 - Registration affords **better legal protection** to facilitate an action for infringement;
 - The registered proprietor and authorised users can **initiate infringement actions**;
 - The authorised users can exercise the **exclusive right to use the geographical indication**.

Legislations

- In India, GI is given under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.
- The Act is administered by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs & TradeMarks, GI (CGPDTM-India)** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- India enacted its GI legislation to comply with India's obligations under the **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement** of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
- GI is a **collective intellectual property right** and is thus owned by all the producers within the defined GI territory unlike intellectual properties like patent and trademark which are owned by an individual or a business entity.

Benefits of registration of Geographical Indications

- It confers **legal protection** to Geographical Indications in India
- **Prevents unauthorised use** of a Registered Geographical Indication by others

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- It provides legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications which in turn **boost exports**.
- It **promotes economic prosperity** of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

- As a general principle, **land falling within 10 kms** (in some exceptional cases it can even go beyond that) of the **boundaries of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries** are categorized as **Eco-Fragile Zones or Eco-sensitive Zones**.
- They are declared under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986 and are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoFCCC)**. Hence, **answer is option C**.
- The purpose of declaring Eco-sensitive Zones around National parks and Sanctuaries is to create some kind of "**Shock Absorber**" for the Protected Areas.
- They would also act as a **transition zone** from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- The activities in the eco-sensitive zones would be of a **regulatory nature rather than prohibitive nature**, unless and otherwise so required.

Activities in ESZ

- **Prohibited Activities:**
 - Commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units; major hydroelectric project; handling of hazardous substances; discharge of untreated effluents; setting up of brick kilns; setting up of polluting industries, which have high potential for environmental damage.
- **Regulated Activities:**
 - Activities like infrastructure augmentation including civic amenities, widening of roads, non-polluting industries etc.,
- **Permitted Activities:**
 - Ongoing agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities, dairy farming, aquaculture, fisheries, poultry farm, goat farm, food related units etc.,

3. Answer: B

Explanation

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is **constituted under the Ministry of Defence (MoD)** for **overall guidance of the defence procurement planning process**.
- The **Defence Minister is the Chairman** of DAC. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Chiefs of triservices. Hence, **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.

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- 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.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

What is a classical language?

- A classical language in India is defined as a language with a high degree of antiquity, a rich and original literary heritage, and a significant impact on the cultural and intellectual development of the region.

Criteria for declaring a language as 'Classical' in India

- The guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:
 - **High antiquity** of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
 - A **body of ancient literature/texts**, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
 - The **literary tradition be original** and not borrowed from another speech community;
 - The classical language and literature being **distinct from modern**, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

How are the Classical languages promoted?

- Two major **annual international awards** for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages;
- A **Centre of Excellence** for studies in Classical Languages;
- The University Grants Commission is requested to create a certain number of **Professional Chairs** for the Classical Languages so declared.

Current status

- At present, 11 languages enjoy the 'Classical' status:
 - Tamil (declared in 2004),
 - Sanskrit (2005),
 - Kannada (2008),
 - Telugu (2008),
 - Malayalam (2013), and
 - Odia (2014).
 - Marathi (2024)
 - Bengali (2024)
 - Pali (2024)
 - Prakrit (2024)
 - Assamese (2024). Hence, **answer is option C.**

Why in news?

On 3rd October, the Union Cabinet approved giving the status of "classical language" to five more languages: Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit, and Assamese.

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5. Answer: D

Explanation

- Apart from consolidating all agencies that monitored, investigated and planned mitigation of air pollution in the region, the **Commission for Air Quality Management** has replaced the **Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)** which had been running for 22 years.
- Over the years, the EPCA's powers had been waning. While dissolving the body, the Centre felt that the EPCA had become redundant and had been ineffective in addressing issues related to air pollution. The EPCA also **did not have penal provisions** that the commission will now have.

What are the powers of the commission?

- The Commission is the **most powerful air pollution monitoring body set up by the Centre to date**. The rulings by the commission on air pollution will override anything contained in any other law.
- The powers of the commission will also **supersede that of any other body in matters of air pollution**. Therefore, in cases where conflict may arise between orders or directions issued by the other state governments, state pollution control boards or even the Central Pollution Control Board, the **orders of the commission will prevail**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Commission will have the power to **take measures, issue directions and entertain complaints "for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of air in the National Capital Region"**.
- It will also coordinate action taken by states on air pollution and will lay down parameters for air quality and emission or discharge of environmental pollutants. It will also have **powers to restrict industries** in any area, carry out random inspections of any premises including factories and be able to **close down an industry or cut its power and water supply in case of non-compliance**.
- It will also be monitoring the measures taken by the states to prevent stubble burning. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

What will be the composition of the commission?

- The Commission will be headed by a **full-time chairperson** with experience of not less than 15 years in the field of environmental protection and pollution control or having administrative experience of not less than 25 years.
- The commission will also have **three members**, being stakeholders from sectors such as agriculture, industry, transport or construction apart from representatives of several ministries.
- The Chairperson and members of the Commission will have a tenure of **three years or till the age of seventy years**, whichever is earlier, and shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- No civil court will have jurisdiction to entertain any suit, proceeding or dispute pertaining to or arising out of the actions taken or directions issued by the commission and that **orders of the commission can only be contested before the National Green Tribunal**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.