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Daily MCQs: 08-10-2024

1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

- 1) It is a statutory fund.
- 2) It is managed by the Central government.
- 3) It can be spent on projects exclusively meant for the purpose of mitigation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Chagos Islands is a disputed territory between

- A. Mauritius and the United Kingdom
- B. Madagascar and the United Kingdom
- C. Fiji and Australia
- D. Indonesia and Malaysia

3. Consider the following statements about Quantum Computing.

- 1) Quantum computers use qubits in place of bits, used in classical computers.
- 2) Qubits enable superpositioning in quantum computers.
- 3) Quantum computers have potential applications in Computational Chemistry.

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

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

4. Which of the following states are covered under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution?

- 1) Assam
- 2) Manipur
- 3) Meghalaya
- 4) Nagaland
- 5) Tripura

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

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5. Consider the following statements regarding Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC).

- 1) An account under this scheme can be opened by a guardian on behalf of a minor girl child.
- 2) Premature closure of the account is not permitted,

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- The National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) was constituted under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** as a fund **managed by the Central Government** for meeting the expenses for **emergency response, relief and rehabilitation** due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster. Hence, **statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- NDRF **supplements the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) of a State**, in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in SDRF.
 - SDRF, constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005, is a primary fund available with the State Government for responses to notified disasters.
- NDRF amount can be **spent only towards meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.**
- For projects exclusively for the **purpose of mitigation**, i.e, measures aimed at reducing the risk, impact or effect of a disaster or threatening disaster situation a separate fund called **National Disaster Mitigation Fund** has to be constituted. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The **National Executive Committee (NEC)** of the **National Disaster Management Authority** takes decisions on the expenses from NDRF.

Why in News?

- The Kerala High Court has asked the Union government to respond to a statement that no amount has been released from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for providing relief to those affected by the landslides in Wayanad in July.

2. Answer: A

Explanation

- Chagos Islands is a **disputed territory between Mauritius and the United Kingdom.** Hence, **answer is option A.**

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- The Chagos Archipelago was part of the British colony of Mauritius until 1965 when the UK separated the islands to form the **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)**.
- After Mauritius gained independence from the UK in 1968, the United Kingdom refused to return the Chagos Islands to Mauritius claiming that the island was required to use certain islands in the Indian Ocean for **defense purposes**.
- Mauritius claims this separation was illegal and that the Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia, belong to it.
- The largest island on the Chagos Islands archipelago, **Diego Garcia**, is where **the US and the UK operate a large military base**.
- In 2019, the **International Court of Justice** ruled that **Britain should give up control of the islands**.
- In the same year, the **UN General Assembly** adopted a resolution recognising that **“the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius”** and urged UN agencies **“to support the of Mauritius”**.

Why in News?

- The **United Kingdom and Mauritius** have reached a historic agreement **to recognize Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, while ensuring the continued operation of the U.K.-U.S. military base there**.
- The treaty ensures both sovereignty and the long-term security role of the Diego Garcia base in regional and global stability.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- Quantum computing harnesses the **phenomena of quantum mechanics** to deliver a huge leap forward in computation to solve certain problems.
- One of the basic elements that make up this quantum computer is that where the classical one uses **bits** to compute this one uses **“qubits”**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Classical bits can take the value 0 or 1, allowing for a binary system to be set up and the lowest level of computer language is done manipulating these bits. A qubit on the other hand can

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exist as a **superposition of two states 0 and 1** (a state known as **quantum superposition**). So if one has an n-qubit number, it can exist as a superposition of 2^n states. This also allows for an **immense amount of parallel processing**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Uses of Quantum Computing

- **Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning:** As the number of applications increases, it becomes a challenging task for traditional computers, to match up the accuracy and speed. And, that's where quantum computing can help in processing through complex problems in very less time.
- **Computational Chemistry:** The ability for quantum computers to focus on the existence of both 1 and 0 simultaneously could provide immense power to the machine to successfully map the molecules which, in turn, potentially opens opportunities for pharmaceutical research. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Cybersecurity & Cryptography:** Quantum computing with the help of machine learning can help in developing various techniques to combat these cybersecurity threats. Additionally, quantum computing can help in creating encryption methods, also known as quantum cryptography.
- **Financial Modelling:** By applying quantum technology to perform these massive and complex calculations, companies can not only improve the quality of the solutions but also reduce the time to develop them.
- **Weather Forecasting:** Application of quantum machine learning can help in improving pattern recognition, which, in turn, will make it easier for scientists to predict extreme weather events and potentially save thousands of lives a year. With quantum computers, meteorologists will also be able to generate and analyse more detailed climate models, which will provide greater insight into climate change and ways to mitigate it.

4. Answer: D

Explanation

- The Sixth Schedule contains **provisions regarding the administration of tribal areas** in the states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**. Hence, **answer is option D**.

What's in the news?

- Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has announced plans to sit on an indefinite fast, citing the government's failure to respond to their demands on inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule.

Benefits of adding Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule

- The Sixth Schedule under **Article 244** (Administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas) of the Constitution of India **guarantees certain protections for land and a nominal autonomy for citizens in designated tribal areas**.
- Inclusion under this Schedule would allow Ladakh to create **Autonomous District and Regional Councils (ADCs and ARCs)** — elected bodies with the power to administrate tribal areas.
- This would include the **power to make laws on subjects** such as forest management, agriculture, administration of villages and towns, inheritance, marriage, divorce and social customs. A majority of the population in Ladakh belongs to **Scheduled Tribes**.

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- The ADCs and ARCs may also constitute **village councils or courts** to decide disputes between parties from Scheduled Tribes, and appoint officers to oversee the administration of the laws they enact.
- The Schedule also gives ARCs and ADCs the **power to collect land revenue, impose taxes, regulate money lending and trading, collect royalties** from licences or leases for the extraction of minerals in their areas, and **establish public facilities** such as schools, markets, and roads.

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- In the Union Budget 2023-34, the Government announced the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), a **new small-savings scheme for women**.
- An account under this scheme can be opened by a **woman** for herself or by the **guardian** on behalf of a **minor girl child**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

Minimum and Maximum Limit

- An individual may open an **unlimited number of accounts**, subject to the maximum deposit limit, and **three months** shall be maintained between the existing account and the opening of another account.
- A **minimum of Rs 1000 and any sum in multiples of Rs 100** can be deposited in an account with **maximum limit of Rs 2 lakh**, with no additional deposits permitted.

Interest on MSSC

- The interest rate on deposits made under this Program is **7.5% per year**.
- Interest is calculated **quarterly** and credited to the account.

Withdrawal

- **Partial withdrawal upto 40%** of eligible balance can be availed after the expiry of **one year** from the date of opening of the account.
- The account will **mature after 2 years** from the date of opening.
- **Premature closure** of the account may be permitted, any time after the completion of **6 months** from the date of opening of the account for any reason and in such cases **interest payable shall be two percent less** than the rate specified for the scheme i.e. 5.5%. Hence, **Statement 2 is incorrect**.