

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

## IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 09-10-2024

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).**

- 1) GSP was instituted under the aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 2) GSP are non-reciprocal benefits extended by some developed countries to developing countries.
- 3) GSP provides a preferential tariff treatment to imports from developing countries.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**2. Consider the following statements regarding Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs).**

- 1) ANNs are programmed to mimic interconnected brain cells.
- 2) Voice to type, Siri and Alexa use ANNs.

**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. Consider the following statements about the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).**

- 1) It has a vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.
- 2) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a cosponsor of the program.

**How many 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. Consider the following statements about Gold.**

**Statement-I:**

Gold is used for industrial applications.

**Statement-II:**

Gold is malleable, ductile, corrosion resistant, and electrically conducting.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

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- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are true and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is true but Statement-II is false
- D. Statement-I is false but Statement-II is true

### 5. Consider the following statements regarding Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

- 1) RUSA is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- 2) The vision of RUSA is to attain higher levels of access, equity and excellence in the State higher education system.
- 3) The Funding to States would be made on the basis of critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans.

### How many of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

### Solutions:

#### 1. Answer: C

### Explanation

- The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme is a **voluntary trade measure** implemented by **developed countries** that provide an **advantageous or preferential tariff treatment to imports from developing countries**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- It was instituted in **1971** under the aegis of the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- These **non-reciprocal benefits** extended by some developed countries to developing countries are expected to **contribute to developing countries' export growth** particularly in the manufacturing sector. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- More than **20 developed countries** including Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America grant GSP preferences.

### Why in News?

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently said that now is not the right time to get into a detailed negotiation around the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a preferential trade program which India was removed from under the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump.
- Earlier, India **sought restoration of its beneficiary status under the US Generalized System of Preferences programme** to facilitate trade exports from India.

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- In 2019, the Trump administration **revoked the GSP from India in 2019** citing India had denied adequate access to its agricultural and dairy markets and had placed prohibitive price controls on medical devices.

### 2. Answer: C

#### Explanation

- Neural networks, also known as **artificial neural networks (ANNs)** or **simulated neural networks (SNNs)**, are a subset of **machine learning** and are at the heart of deep learning algorithms. Their **name and structure are inspired by the human brain**, mimicking the way that biological neurons signal to one another.
- The concept behind an Artificial Neural Network is to **define inputs and outputs, feed pieces of inputs to computer programs that function like neurons** and make inferences or **calculations**, then **forward** those results to another layer of computer programs and so on, **until a result is obtained**. As part of this neural network, a difference between intended output and input is computed at each layer and this difference is used to tune the parameters to each program. This method is called **backpropagation** and is an essential component to the Neural Network.
- **ANN** is based on a **collection of connected units or nodes** called **artificial neurons**, which loosely model the neurons in a biological brain.
- ANNs are created by **programming regular computers** to behave as though they are interconnected brain cells. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ANNs are present in many smartphone applications that we use, like **voice to type, Siri and Alexa**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

#### What is Machine Learning?

- **Machine learning is** a branch of **artificial intelligence (AI)** and computer science which focuses on the use of data and algorithms to **imitate the way that humans learn**, gradually improving its accuracy.

### 3. Answer: A

#### Explanation

- The **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations family which brings together the efforts and resources of 11 UN system organizations to **unite the world against AIDS**.
- The participating organizations that form UNAIDS, also called the **UNAIDS Cosponsors**, are
  - UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
  - UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
  - World Bank
  - UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
  - UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)
  - UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

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- UNFPA (United Nations Populations Fund)
- WHO (World Health Organisation)
- World Food Programme
- UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
- ILO (International Labour Organisation). Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is **coordinated by the UNAIDS Secretariat, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- Its mission is to lead and inspire the world in **achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.**
- It has a vision of **zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, and a principle of leaving no one behind.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

### Why in News?

- UNAIDS director for the Asia Pacific emphasized that India's significant role is crucial for the world to meet the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3.3) of ending AIDS by 2030.**
- He highlighted that the **new HIV infections in India fell 44% and AIDS-related deaths fell 80% between 2010 and 2023**, both better than global average, however, **185 Indians were infected each day last year.**

### About AIDS

- **AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)** is a life-threatening condition caused by the **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).**
- It **weakens the immune system** by destroying cells that fight disease and infection, making the body more vulnerable to infections.
- HIV is **transmitted** through unprotected sex, contaminated needles, and from mother to child.
- Symptoms of AIDS include swollen lymph nodes, severe weight loss, chronic diarrhea, memory loss, persistent fever, and opportunistic infections like pneumonia or certain cancers.
- While there is **no cure, Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)** can control the virus, enabling those infected to live healthy lives.
- **Prevention** methods include safe sex practices, clean needles, and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for high-risk individuals.

### 4. Answer: A

### Explanation

- Gold is a precious metal used in **jewelry and investment**, with the **atomic number 79** and symbol **Au** (from Latin "aurum").
- Around 10% of the global gold production is used in industry due to its desirable properties such as **malleability, ductility, corrosion resistance, and electrical conductivity.** Hence, **answer is option A.**
- Gold is resistant to nitric acid but dissolves in a **mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acid, called aqua regia or 'Royal Water'.**
- The **largest gold producer** today is **China**, though **South Africa was the leading producer historically.**



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- The country with the **most gold reserves is the United States**, holding 8,133 tonnes followed by Germany and Italy. (India in 9th position with approx 800 tonnes)
- **Australia** has the **largest gold mine reserves** in the world.
- The majority of India's gold reserves are located in the state of **Karnataka** and account for 88% of the total, a further 12% are situated in **Andhra Pradesh** and an insignificant amount (less than 0.1t) are found in **Jharkhand**.

### 5. Answer: D

#### Explanation

- Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which aims at **providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Ministry of Education** is the nodal agency administering the program.

#### Funding

- The Central Funding (in the ratio of 90:10 for North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and 65:35 for Other States and UTs) would be **norm based and outcome dependent**.
- The Funding would flow from the Central Ministry through the State Governments/ Union Territories to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified Institutions.
- The Funding to States would be made on the basis of **critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans**, which would describe each State's strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in Higher Education. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

#### Vision

- To attain higher levels of access, equity and excellence in the State higher education system with greater efficiency, transparency, accountability and responsiveness. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- With the assistance under RUSA Scheme, the state envisions an increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio [G.E.R.], quality, access and equity in higher education and to build a system that is not only responsible for producing bright minds but can also support sophisticated research in a number of scientific and scholarly fields.

#### Priorities and Strategies

- The priorities of the state are:
  - Quality Assurance
  - Access and Equity
  - Infrastructure Development
  - Faculty Recruitment
  - Research and innovation.