

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 12-10-2024

### 1. Consider the following statements about Tuberculosis.

- 1) Tuberculosis is a viral disease.
- 2) The BCG vaccine is the only licensed vaccine for prevention of the disease.
- 3) The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to eliminate Tuberculosis by 2025.

#### 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 Currency swap agreements signed between countries.

- 1) The repayment occurs in a different (from the one that was received) currency at a fixed exchange rate.
- 2) The interest rate charged is usually higher than that available in the foreign market.

#### 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. (iDEX) framework aims to foster innovation and technology development in

- A. Manufacturing and Construction Sector
- B. Defence and Aerospace Sector
- C. Energy and Utilities Sector
- D. Transportation and Logistics Sector

### 4. Consider the following statements about UN Peacekeeping Forces.

- 1) The UN Peacekeeping Forces can only be employed when both parties to a conflict accept their presence.
- 2) The Peacekeeping Forces are subordinate to the leadership of the United Nations.
- 3) Rarely, they have been deployed by a decision of the General Assembly.

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

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

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5. Which of the following diseases are categorised as Neglected Tropical Diseases?

- 1) Dengue
- 2) Chikungunya
- 3) Malaria
- 4) Trachoma
- 5) HIV AIDS

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Tuberculosis (TB)**, caused by the **Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria**, is an ancient disease primarily **affecting the lungs** but can also impact other organs. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- Common symptoms include a persistent cough, fever, weight loss, and loss of appetite.
- TB is particularly prevalent in developing countries, where individuals with compromised immune systems are at higher risk.
- Treatment follows the **Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS)** strategy, requiring at least six months of medication.
- The **BCG vaccine** is the only licensed vaccine for prevention, offering effective protection against severe TB in children. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)** aims to eliminate TB in India by 2025, aligning with the WHO's End TB Strategy. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

2. Answer: A

Explanation

- A currency swap is an **agreement between two cross-border entities where one of them agrees to provide a loan to another in a foreign currency**.
- The repayment takes place in a **different currency at a fixed date and an exchange rate**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **interest rate** charged on such loans is **usually lesser** than that available in the foreign market. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect**.

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### Why in News?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has entered into a currency swap agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Currency Swap Framework 2024-27.
  - *The SAARC Currency Swap Framework came into operation in 2012 to provide a backstop line of funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or short-term balance of payments stress till longer term arrangements are made.*
- Under the agreement, the MMA is eligible for financing support from the RBI amounting to \$400 million under the US Dollar/ Euro Swap Window and ₹3000 crore under the INR (Indian Rupee) Swap Window. The agreement would be valid till 2027.
- This comes at a time when the Maldives is suffering a debt crisis, and previous Chinese loans are due.

### 3. Answer: B

#### Explanation

- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework was launched in 2018 by the Government with the aim to **foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace Sector** by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia to **promote self-reliance**. Hence, **answer is option B**.
- The underlying objective is to **make the country self-reliant and self-sufficient in matters of Defence**.
- Fundamentally, iDEX fosters the **culture of technology co-creation and co-innovation** within the Defence and Aerospace sectors.

#### Implementing Agency

- **Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)**, a **special purpose vehicle** under the aegis of the **Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence**, implements the iDEX framework.
- DIO has been formed as a **'not for profit' company** as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), both Defence Public Sector Undertakings.
- DIO acts as a bridge between the requirements of the Armed Forces and the solution providers.

### Why in News?

- The Defence Minister announced that 26 products have been developed under the iDEX initiative, with procurement orders exceeding ₹1,000 crore.

### 4. Answer: C

#### Explanation

- The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces are employed by the UN to maintain or re-establish peace in an area of armed conflict.

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- The UN may engage in conflicts between states as well as in struggles within states. The UN acts as an impartial third party in order to prepare the ground for a settlement of the issues that have provoked armed conflict.
- The **three basic principles** that guide U.N.'s Peacekeeping missions are:
  - **Consent of the parties**
  - **Impartiality**
  - **Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.**
- The UN Peacekeeping Forces may **only be employed when both parties to a conflict accept their presence**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Peacekeeping Forces are subordinate to the leadership of the United Nations. They are normally deployed as a consequence of a **UN Security Council** decision. However, on occasion, the initiative has been taken by the **General Assembly**. Operational control belongs to the **Secretary-General and his secretariat**. Hence, **statements 2 and 3 are correct**.
- **India** has been among the largest troop-contributing countries to the U.N. peacekeeping missions.
- The first UN peacekeeping mission was a team of observers deployed to the Middle East in 1948, during the **1948 Arab-Israeli War**.

5. Answer: C

### Explanation

- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a **diverse group of communicable diseases** that prevail in **tropical and subtropical conditions** in more than 140 countries.
- NTDs are caused by a **variety of pathogens** including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and toxins.
- NTDs often thrive in regions with **poor sanitation, scarce healthcare access, and challenging environmental conditions**, making them difficult to control.
- NTDs are most **prevalent in rural areas, conflict zones, and regions with limited access to clean water and sanitation**.
- They are called "neglected" because they generally afflict the world's poor and historically have not received as much attention and resources from global health initiatives as other diseases.
- NTD includes Dengue, Chikungunya, **Trachoma**, Human dog-mediated rabies, Leprosy (Hansen disease), Endemic treponematoses (yaws), Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Leishmaniasis, Lymphatic filariasis, etc. Hence, **answer is option C**.