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Daily MCQs: 16-10-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

1. The agency was established under the NIA Act, 2008.
2. The NIA has been constituted mainly for investigation of crimes of corruption, economic offences and serious and organized crimes other than terrorism.
3. The law under which NIA operates extends to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), consider the following statements.

1. NPCI has been incorporated as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
2. It is an initiative of SEBI.
3. NPCI has been incorporated as a “Not for Profit” Company under the Companies Act.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

3. The World Press Freedom Index is published annually by which of the following organizations?

- A) UNESCO
- B) Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- C) Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)
- D) International Press Institute (IPI)

4. Arrange the various forms of coal in the increasing order of the carbon content they possess

1. Lignite
2. Anthracite
3. Peat
4. Bituminous

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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- A) 2-4-1-3
- B) 3-4-1-2
- C) 3-1-4-2
- D) 2-3-1-4

5. Consider the following

- 1) Pulicat Lake
- 2) Rann of Kutch
- 3) Chilika Lake

How many of the above are notable sites where flamingoes can be found in India?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation:

What is the NIA?

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is functioning as the **Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency** in the country.
- It is mandated to investigate all the **offences**:
 - **affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, and**
 - **the offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations.**
- These include **terror acts and their possible links with crimes** like smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency and infiltration from across the borders.
- The agency has the power to search, seize, arrest and prosecute those involved in such offences.
- Headquartered in **Delhi**, the NIA has its branches in several parts of the country.

When did the NIA come into being?

- In the wake of the **26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008**, which shocked the entire world, the central government decided to establish the NIA.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The agency came into existence on **December 31, 2008 under the NIA Act, 2008**, and started its functioning in **2009**.
- NIA was created mainly to specialize in investigations into **incidents of terrorist attacks and bomb blasts** in various parts of the country. Majority of such incidents were found to

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have **complex inter-state and international linkages** while at the same time being **linked to drug and arms smuggling** among other activities.

- The NIA Act was amended in the year **2019** to **enlarge the mandate** of the NIA by inclusion of **offences related to human trafficking, manufacture/sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908** and **expanded its jurisdiction beyond India.**

How wide is the NIA's jurisdiction?

- The law under which the agency operates extends to:
 - **whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country;**
 - **persons in the service of the government** wherever they are posted;
 - **persons on ships and aircraft registered in India** wherever they may be;
 - **persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Difference between the nature of cases investigated by NIA and CBI:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The NIA has been constituted after the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008 mainly for investigation of incidents of terrorist attacks, funding of terrorism and other terror related crime, whereas CBI investigates crime of corruption, economic offences and serious and organized crime other than terrorism.

2. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was incorporated in 2008 as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is an initiative of **the RBI and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It has been incorporated as a **"Not for Profit" Company** under the Companies Act 2013.
- It has changed the way payments are made in India through a bouquet of retail payment products such as **RuPay card, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), BHIM Aadhaar, National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC Fastag) and Bharat BillPay.**

3. Answer: B

Explanation

What's in the news?

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- Reporters Without Borders (RSF, short for Reporters sans frontières in French) has released its World Press Freedom Index 2024.
 - RSF is an **international non-profit organization** based in **Paris, France**.

About the Index

- The index puts together an annual index of freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions.
- The press freedom questionnaire covers **five categories** — **political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and security**.

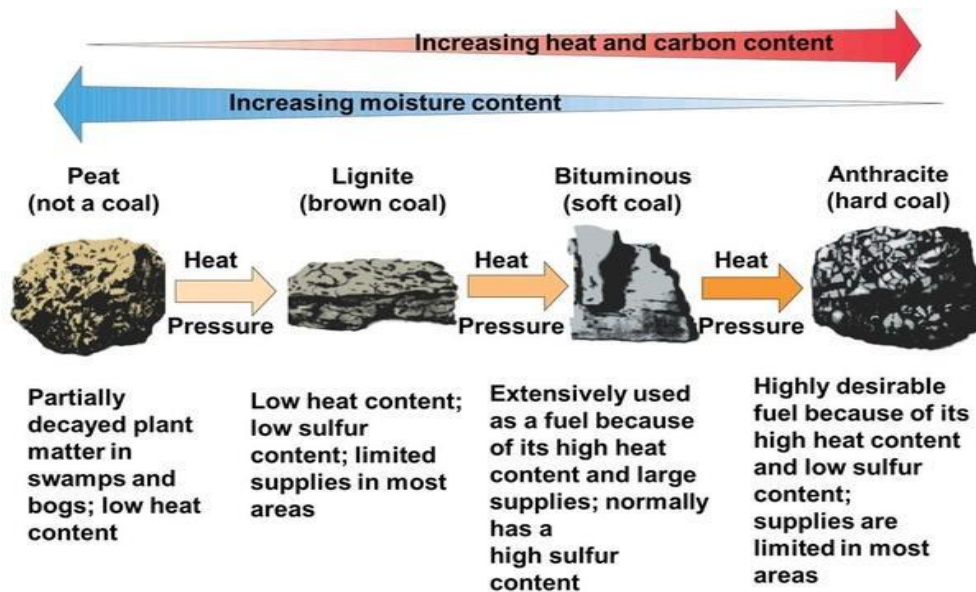
Highlights of the 2024 Index

- **India's score fell** over the last year, from 36.62 to 31.28.
- **India's rank improved** from 161 in 2023 to **159** in 2024, but this was because other countries had slipped in their rankings.
- **Norway and Denmark** topped the RSF table while **Eritrea** was at the bottom, with **Syria** just ahead of it.
- Scores for India dropped in all but the security indicator.
- The Government of India has in the past dismissed international rankings of freedoms in India as misinformed and propaganda driven.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

- Coal is formed due to the compression of plant material over millions of years. Coal, therefore, is found in a variety of forms depending on the degrees of compression and the depth and time of burial.
- Decaying plants in swamps produce peat, which has a low carbon and high moisture contents and low heating capacity.
- Lignite is a low grade brown coal, which is soft with high moisture content. The principal lignite reserves are in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu and are used for generation of electricity.
- Coal that has been buried deep and subjected to increased temperatures is bituminous coal. It is the most popular coal in commercial use. Metallurgical coal is high grade bituminous coal which has a special value for smelting iron in blast furnaces. Anthracite is the highest quality hard coal.
- In the process of transformation (coalification), **peat is altered to lignite, lignite is altered to sub-bituminous, sub-bituminous coal is altered to bituminous coal, and bituminous coal is altered to anthracite.**



5. Answer: C

Explanation

- Flamingos are naturally gray or white, and their pink color comes from the **carotenoid pigments in the organisms they consume, such as algae, crustaceans, and small invertebrates**. The carotenoids are broken down in the flamingo's liver and then deposited in their feathers, skin, and beaks, giving them their distinctive pink hue.
- **Pulicat Lake in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, and Chilika Lake in Odisha** are indeed notable sites where flamingos can be found in India. These locations provide the suitable conditions, such as brackish or saline water, for flamingos to feed and breed.
- Flamingos are **filter feeders**, using their unique bills with specialized structures called **lamellae to filter small organisms** such as shrimp, algae, and insects from the water. They often feed in shallow waters by stirring up mud and water with their bills and then using their lamellae to filter out the food.
- In India, flamingos are commonly **found in both freshwater lakes and coastal areas**. Pulicat Lake, for example, is a brackish water lagoon, and flamingos are frequently observed in coastal regions, including estuaries and mudflats.

Other important points about Flamingo

- Flamingos are social birds that live in groups of varying sizes, from a few pairs to sometimes thousands or tens of thousands.
- There are 6 species of Flamingos. Caribbean flamingos, the lesser, greater, James's (or Puna), Chilean and Andean flamingos.
- In order to fly, flamingos need to run a few paces to gather speed.

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- Of the six species of flamingos in the world, two are found in India: the tallest of them, the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and the smallest one, the lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*).
- Both these species of Flamingos are resident species and **breeds in the Little Rann of Kachchh in Gujarat.**

