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Daily MCQs: 23-10-2024

1. With reference to the National Commission for Women (NCW), consider the following statements.

- 1) NCW is a constitutional body.
- 2) NCW has the powers of a 'Civil Court'.
- 3) The chairperson of the NCW is appointed by a committee containing the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India..

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

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

2. 'Exercise Malabar' is a/an

- A. Joint cybersecurity dialogue between G20 countries
- B. Joint military exercise of QUAD countries
- C. Naval symposium organised by BIMSTEC
- D. Annual disarmament conference led by India

3. With reference to the UDAN Scheme, consider the following statements.

- 1) The objective of the scheme is to provide connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country..
- 2) UDAN aims to achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters.

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. With reference to Iodine, consider the following statements.

- 1) Iodine is an essential component of the thyroid hormones.
- 2) Excess intake of iodine can lead to goitre.
- 3) In infants and children, iodine deficiency can cause neurodevelopmental deficits.

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 pollutants are considered while measuring Air Quality Index (AQI)?

- 1) Carbon Monoxide
- 2) Lead
- 3) Ammonia
- 4) Arsenic
- 5) Benzene

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

About NCW

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a **statutory body** formed in **1992** under the **National Commission Act 1990**. It is the apex national level organisation of India with the mandate of protecting and promoting the interests of women. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- It provides the government with advice to make policies and laws that are more prone to protect and safeguard the rights of women. The commission also has the powers that are vested upon with a **civil court**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Objectives of NCW:

1. To suggest the government regarding policies regarding women,
2. A platform to redress the grievances,
3. To make recommendations relating to legislation measures,
4. To review legal and constitutional safeguards for women.

Powers of NCW

1. Provide consultation on all major policy matters that affect women,
2. Issuing summons for the examination of documents and the witnesses,
3. It has the power to make any public record,
4. Receiving evidence on affidavits,
5. Discovery and production of documents,
6. Summoning and enforcement.

Composition of NCW

- The commission consists of a **chairperson, a member secretary and five other members**.
- The chairperson of the NCW is **nominated by the Central Government**. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect**. The Central Government also nominates the member secretary.

Plot No: 935, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai-40

Ph: 044-40483555, 9677120226, 9677174226

Web: www.officersiasacademy.com

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- The member secretary should be an **expert in the field of management**. The five members nominated by the Central Government should be individuals with ability, standing and integrity. They should have experience in law, legislation, management, women voluntary organisation, economic social development and so on.

2. Answer: B

Explanation

About Exercise Malabar

- Exercise Malabar, which began in **1992** as a bilateral naval drill between **India and the U.S.**, has evolved into a key **multilateral event** aimed at enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding, and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region.
- The Quad countries carried out 'Exercise Malabar' off the coast of Visakhapatnam. Hence, **answer is option B.**

Quad grouping

- The grouping of four democracies – **India, Australia, US and Japan** – known as the **quadrilateral security dialogue or quad**, was first mooted by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in **2007**. Quad was revived in **2017**.
- The QUAD partners share a **commitment towards a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region** based on shared values and principles and respect for international law.
- There is a focus on practical cooperation in the areas of connectivity and infrastructure development, and counter-terrorism, cyber security, maritime security, humanitarian and disaster relief, with the objective of promoting peace, security, stability and prosperity in an increasingly inter-connected Indo-Pacific region.
- With growing concerns in all four quad countries about **Chinese foreign policy and regional influence**, the group has found renewed relevance.

Why in News?

- The Harbour Phase was held in Visakhapatnam, followed by the Sea Phase in the Bay of Bengal.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- In 2017, the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) "UDAN" (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) to **provide connectivity to un-served and under-served airports** of the country. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to achieve its objective through **revival of existing air-strips and airports** to make **flying affordable** to the common man who wants to travel to and from the Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of the country.
- UDAN has a unique market-based model. Airline routes are allocated to operators selected through a **competitive bidding mechanism.**

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- Under the scheme, nearly **half of the seats in UDAN flights are offered at subsidised fares**, and the participating carriers are provided a certain amount of **viability gap funding (VGF)** - an amount shared between the Centre and the concerned states.
- The scheme also offers **waiver of certain statutory charges and taxes on jet fuel** to companies in order to offer affordable connectivity.
- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is designated as the Implementing Agency under this Scheme.
- Following four successful rounds of the scheme, the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched **UDAN 5.0 in 2023 to further enhance the connectivity to remote areas and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Why in News?

- Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu said that the government will extend the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN for 10 more years.
- As many as 601 routes and 71 airports have been operationalised under the regional air connectivity scheme.

4. Answer: B

Explanation

Iodine deficiency

- Iodine is an **essential component of the thyroid hormones**, thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), which **regulate metabolism** and are **crucial for fetal and infant development**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Found in **foods and iodized salt**, iodine exists in **several forms**, including **sodium and potassium salts, inorganic iodine (I₂), iodate, and iodide**.
- **Iodide**, the **most common form**, is **quickly absorbed** in the stomach and **used by the thyroid for hormone production**. **Most excess iodide is excreted** through urine.
- **Iodine deficiency** arises when the **body lacks sufficient iodine**.

Adverse effects

- Iodine deficiency has **multiple adverse effects on growth and development** and is the **most common cause of preventable intellectual disability** in the world.
- If a person's iodine intake falls below approximately 10–20 mcg/day, **hypothyroidism** occurs, a condition that is frequently accompanied by **goitre**. Goitre is usually the earliest clinical sign of iodine deficiency. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect**.
 - *Goiter is swelling in the neck that occurs when the thyroid gland enlarges.*
- In **pregnant women**, iodine deficiency of this magnitude can cause **major neurodevelopmental deficits and growth retardation** in the fetus as well as **miscarriage and stillbirth**.
- In **infants and children**, iodine deficiency can also cause **neurodevelopmental deficits**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Why in News?

- World Iodine Deficiency Day, also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, is observed annually on 21st October.

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- The day aims to raise awareness about the essential role of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the consequences of iodine deficiency.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

About Air Quality Index (AQI)

- AQI is a **number**, which is a **measure of air quality**. The **higher the AQI, the worse the air**.
- The **colour-coded AQI index** was launched by the Government of India in **2014**, and it helps the public and the government understand the condition of the air and what subsequent measures are to be taken to combat the situation, based on its severity.
- There are **six categories of AQI**, namely '**Good**' (0-50), '**Satisfactory**' (51-100), '**Moderately polluted**' (101-200), '**Poor**' (201-300), '**Very Poor**' (301-400), and '**Severe**' (401-500).
- The pollutants measured include **PM 10, PM 2.5, Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Ammonia**. Hence, **answer is option B**.

What is the impact of these pollutants?

- Among the more harmful pollutants are those of a **smaller size**, such as **particulate matter (PM) 2.5**, which is an atmospheric particulate matter of diameter smaller than 2.5 micrometres.
- It causes **respiratory problems and reduces visibility**. The particles can only be detected with the help of an electron microscope because they are so small.
- Due to their size, the PM 2.5 particles can **easily bypass the nose and throat and can easily enter the circulatory system**. The particles can also lead to **chronic diseases** such as asthma, heart attack, bronchitis and other respiratory problems.