

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 06-11-2024

1. The Living Planet Report is published by

- A. World Wide Fund for Nature
- B. The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- C. United Nations Environment Programme
- D. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

2. With reference to the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements.

- 1) The membership of the grouping is restricted to countries which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- 2) The ISA is guided by 'Towards 1000' strategy'

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to the Anti-defection law, consider the following statements.

- 1) The law applies to only Parliament.
- 2) The law specifies a time period for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification plea.
- 3) It led to the creation of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

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

4. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).

- 1) It aims to impart digital literacy in the rural areas.
- 2) Its target is to empower at least one person per rural household with crucial digital literacy skills.
- 3) The scheme has special emphasis on marginalised sections of society.

How many of the above statements(s) is/are correct?

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

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

5. Consider the following events.

- 1) Outflow of foreign investments from India
- 2) Weakening of Indian rupee
- 3) Imports become cheaper
- 4) Volatility in Indian stock markets

Which of the above events can be a consequence of U.S. Fed increasing interest rates?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- The Living Planet Report is a **biennial report** published by the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) since 1998**. Hence, **answer is option A**.
- It is the world's leading, science-based analysis, on the health of our planet and the impact of human activity.
- It is based on the **Living Planet Index** and **ecological footprint calculations**.
 - *The Living Planet Index (LPI) is a measure of the state of the world's biological diversity based on population trends of vertebrate species from terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats.*
 - *The Ecological Footprint is an aggregate measure of the demands that resource consumption places on ecosystems and species.*

2. Answer: B

Explanation:

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a **joint effort by India and France** to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of **solar energy solutions**.
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the **21st Conference of Parties (COP21)** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in **Paris** in **2015**.
- The **Paris Declaration** that established the ISA states that the alliance is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for **increased deployment of solar energy technologies** as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- The ISA is headquartered in **Gurugram, Haryana**.

Membership

- ISA was conceived as a **coalition of solar-resource-rich countries** (which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn) to address their special energy needs.
- The first general assembly of the ISA, held in 2018, adopted the amendment to its framework agreement to **expand the scope of membership to all member states of the United Nations**. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- Currently, 100+ countries are signatories, with 90+ countries having ratified to become full members.

Objectives

- The ISA is guided by its **'Towards 1000' strategy** which aims to **mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments** in solar energy solutions by 2030, while **delivering energy access to 1,000 million people** using clean energy solutions and resulting in **installation of 1,000 GW** of solar energy capacity. This would help **mitigate global solar emissions** to the tune of **1,000 million tonnes of CO2 every year**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Why in News?

The Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly, under the presidency of India and co-presidency of France, is set to be held in New Delhi.

3. Answer: D

Explanation

Anti-defection Law

- The **Tenth Schedule** of the Constitution, commonly known as the **anti-defection law**, was introduced in **1985** with a view to curb the tendency among legislators to switch loyalties from one party to another and facilitate the toppling of regimes and formation of new ones. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect**.
- The law applies to **both Parliament and state assemblies**. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It provides for the **Presiding Officer** of the legislature to disqualify any defector on a petition by another member.

Effectiveness of the Law

- What was introduced as a panacea for the menace of floor-crossing and toppling of elected regimes by engineering defections has **proved largely ineffective in many cases**. Recent instances give an idea of the various ploys adopted by parties, legislators and Speakers to either evade the law against defection or to achieve partisan political ends.
- The most common these days is for a ruling party with a big majority to poach the main Opposition parties without any regard for the anti-defection law. When the aggrieved party moves for disqualification, **Speakers choose not to act, thus formalising the defection**. The law **does not specify a time period** for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification plea. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect**.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

- In order to **impart digital literacy in the rural areas**, PMGDISHA was launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** with the aim to **empower at least one person per rural household with crucial digital literacy skills**. Hence, **statements 1 and 2 are correct**.
- Launched in 2017, the Scheme envisages to **make six crore persons in rural areas**, across States/UTs, **digitally literate**, reaching to around 40% of rural households.
- The scheme aims at **bridging the rural-urban digital divide**, with special emphasis on marginalised sections of society. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The Scheme would empower the citizens in rural areas by training them to operate computer or digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones etc.), send and receive e-mails, browse Internet, access Government services, search for information, undertake digital payment etc. and hence enable them to use Information Technology and related applications especially Digital Payments to actively participate in the process of nation building.
- The scheme is implemented by **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited**, a Special Purpose Vehicle set up by the **Ministry of Electronics & IT**, with active collaboration of all the State Governments and UT Administrations.

5. Answer: C

Explanation:

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

What happens when the US Fed increases interest rates?

- When the US Federal Reserve (Fed) **increases** its interest rates, the **difference between the interest rates of the two countries reduces** (known as **interest rate differential**), thus making India less attractive for foreign investors.
- It results in **outflow of foreign investments from India and other emerging economies**. Hence, **event 1 is correct**.
 - As investors pull out money, the demand for the US dollar increases, causing the **Indian rupee to weaken**. Hence, **event 2 is correct**.
 - A weaker rupee **increases the cost of imports like crude oil, contributing to inflationary pressures** in India. Hence, **event 3 is incorrect**.
 - Higher US rates make it **more expensive for Indian companies with dollar-denominated debt to repay loans**, impacting their balance sheets.
 - Global investors rebalancing their portfolios in response to Fed rate hikes can lead to **volatility in Indian stock markets**. Hence, **event 4 is correct**.

When US Fed reduces interest rates

- Similarly, when the US Federal Reserve **decreases** its interest rates, the **interest rate differential widens** resulting in capital inflows into emerging markets like India, as investors seek higher returns.
- Increased capital inflows can lead to an **appreciation of the Indian rupee, making imports cheaper and reducing inflationary pressures**.