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Daily MCQs: 21-12-2024

1. Which of the following countries are all part of The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity?

- A. Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore
- B. Republic of Korea, Malaysia, China, the Philippines, Singapore
- C. Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Iran, Singapore
- D. North Korea, Malaysia, Russia, the Philippines, Singapore

2. Consider the following statements about The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- 1) UNFCCC currently has near-universal membership.
- 2) UNFCCC endorses the concept of common and equal responsibility.
- 3) The Baku Workplan, an outcome of COP29, aims to elevate the voices of Multinational Companies in climate action.

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

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

3. Consider the following statements about Antimicrobial resistance.

- 1) Antimicrobial Resistance can occur when microbes evolve to become resistant to the drugs designed to kill them.
- 2) Misuse of antibiotics in animals can contribute to antimicrobial resistance.
- 3) To contain Antimicrobial resistance, patients must be advised to complete prescribed antibiotic courses.

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

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

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.

- 1. BBNJ is a treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- 2. BBNJ emphasizes long-term protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas.
- 3. India is not a signatory to the treaty.

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

- A. Only one

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

5. Consider the following statements about The Asian Development Bank.

1. The Bank is headquartered in Wuhan, China.
2. China is the largest shareholder of the bank.

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

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was launched in **Tokyo (Japan)** by **the US and other Indo-Pacific countries** in 2022.
- IPEF aims to **strengthen economic engagement and cooperation** among partner countries with the goal of advancing growth, economic stability and prosperity in the region.
- The framework includes 14 countries — **Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Fiji and the United States.** Hence answer is option A.
- Together, the participants account for **about 40 percent of global GDP and 30 percent of trade.**

2. Answer: C

Explanation:

About UNFCCC

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), signed in **1992** at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development** (also known as the **Rio Earth Summit**), constitutes the **foundational climate agreement** that has provided the platform for most subsequent international climate agreements.
- The UNFCCC entered into force in **1994**. Today, it has **near-universal membership**. The **198 countries** (including **India**) that have ratified the Convention are called **Parties to the Convention.** Hence **statement 1 is correct.**
- The ultimate objective of the Convention is to **stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations** at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

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- The UNFCCC endorses the **concept of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR)** in the climate context. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
 - This means that while developing country parties are expected to contribute to climate mitigation, because of superior capacity to undertake mitigation and greater contribution to the problem of climate change as a result of historical emissions, **developed countries are expected to take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.**

Outcomes of COP 29

- **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG):**
 - The NCQG is the **amount that must be mobilised by developed countries every year from 2025 onward to finance climate action in developing countries.**
 - **Developed countries** have agreed to **triple finance to developing countries**, from the previous goal of USD 100 billion annually, to **USD 300 billion annually by 2035.**
- **Carbon Markets:**
 - COP 29 agreed on the **rules and methodologies** for the **international carbon trading system** envisioned by **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.**
 - *Article 6 sets out a system in which countries can trade emission reduction credits between themselves so that an emission reduction in one country can be counted against the emissions generated in another country.*
- **Baku Workplan:**
 - The Baku Workplan adopted at COP29 aims to **elevate the voices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in climate action.** **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**
- **COP29 Hydrogen Declaration:**
 - It endorsed the **commitment to scale up renewable, clean/zero-emission and low-carbon hydrogen production** and accelerate the decarbonisation of existing hydrogen production from unabated fossil fuels.
- **COP 29 Declaration on reducing methane from organic wastes:**
 - Around **30 countries**, collectively **responsible for nearly 50% of global methane from organic waste emissions**, endorsed the COP29 declaration on reducing methane from organic waste.
 - It aims to set **sectoral targets to reduce methane from organic waste.**
 - **India is not a signatory** to the Declaration.

3. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** occurs when microbes, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, evolve to become resistant to the drugs designed to kill them, **rendering these medications ineffective.** **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Causes for AMR

- **Irrational Use of Drugs:** Overuse or misuse of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agriculture. Over-the-counter availability of antibiotics without prescriptions helps this overuse of antibiotics. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Incomplete Treatment:** Patients not completing prescribed antibiotic courses and stopping antibiotics after the subsidence of symptoms. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

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- **Environmental Contamination:** Effluents from healthcare facilities and pharmaceutical manufacturing units contaminating water sources can lead to AMR.
- **Lack of Infection Control:** Poor sanitation, hygiene, and infection control measures such as disease surveillance in healthcare facilities and communities.

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **BBNJ Agreement, or the 'High Seas Treaty'**, is an international treaty under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
 - *'High Seas' are sea areas beyond national jurisdiction and are global common oceans open to all for internationally lawful purposes such as navigation, overflight, laying submarine cables and pipelines, etc.*
- It aims to address the growing concerns over the **long-term protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas**. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.
- It sets precise mechanisms for the sustainable use of marine biological diversity through international cooperation and coordination.
- Parties **cannot claim or exercise sovereign rights over marine resources derived from the high seas** and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- It follows an inclusive, integrated, ecosystem-centric approach based on the precautionary principle and **promotes using traditional knowledge** and the best available scientific knowledge.
- It helps minimise impacts on the marine environment through area-based management tools and establishes rules for conducting environmental impact assessments.
- It would also contribute to achieving several SDGs, particularly **SDG14 (Life Below Water)**.
- The BBNJ Agreement was agreed upon in March 2023 and is open for signature for two years starting September 2023.
- It will be an international legally binding treaty after it enters force 120 days after the 60th ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
- As of October 2024, 105 countries have signed this agreement and 15 countries have ratified it.
- India has **signed the treaty in September 2024**. Hence **statement 3 is incorrect**.

5. Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was founded in **1966** with the primary mission of **fostering growth and cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region**.
- ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- It is headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.

Members & Shareholding

- At present, ADB comprises 68 members (including **India**) - of which 49 are from within **Asia and the Pacific** and 19 **outside**.

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- The ADB was **modeled closely on the World Bank**, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
- ADB's **five largest shareholders** are **Japan** and the **United States** (each with 15.6% of total shares), the **People's Republic of China** (6.4%), **India** (6.3%), and **Australia** (5.8%). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- ADB is an official **United Nations Observer**.

