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Daily MCQs: 30-11-2024

1. With reference to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC), consider the following statements:

1. It was created by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

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

2. Which of the following are the objectives of Biofuel Policy in India?

1. To reduce crude oil imports.
2. To divert excess sugarcane & sugar.
3. To promote solid waste management.
4. To reduce burning of agricultural residues.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

3. TRAFFIC, which works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature, is a

- A. Inter-governmental organisation
- B. Non-governmental organisation
- C. Specialized agency of UN
- D. International agency created under Convention on Biological Diversity

4. Consider the following statements about the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

1. It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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2. Enforcement Directorate enforces the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

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

5. Consider the following pairs:

Important ports sometimes mentioned in the news

1. Duqm : Oman
2. Changi : Myanmar
3. Chabahar : Iraq
4. Gwadar : Pakistan

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Created in 1988 by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the IPCC aims to provide **governments, at all levels, with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.**
- The IPCC provides **regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change**, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- The IPCC is an **organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO.** The IPCC currently has 195 members (including **India**).

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- For the assessment reports, IPCC scientists volunteer their time to assess the thousands of scientific papers published each year to provide a comprehensive summary of what is known about the drivers of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and how adaptation and mitigation can reduce those risks.
- An open and transparent review by experts and governments around the world is an essential part of the IPCC process, to ensure an objective and complete assessment and to reflect a diverse range of views and expertise.
- Through its assessments, the **IPCC identifies the strength of scientific agreement** in different areas and indicates where further research is needed. **The IPCC does not conduct its own research.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: IPCC is not a specialized agency of the UN.**

Related Information:

- UN Specialized Agencies are international organizations that coordinate their work with the United Nations through negotiated agreements.

There are 17 Specialized Agencies:

- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization
- IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO: International Labour Organization
- IMF: International Monetary Fund
- IMO: International Maritime Organization
- ITU: International Telecommunication Union
- UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNWTO: World Tourism Organization
- UPU: Universal Postal Union
- WHO: World Health Organization
- WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization
- WMO: World Meteorological Organization
- World Bank Group
 - IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - IDA: International Development Association
 - IFC: International Finance Corporation

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2. Answer: D

Explanation:

National Biofuel Policy 2018

- The National Biofuel Policy 2018 envisages an indicative target of **20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel by 2030.**

Salient Features

- i. The Policy **categorises biofuels as "Basic Biofuels" viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels" - Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.,** to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.
- ii. The Policy **expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production** by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
- iii. The Policy allows **use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol** with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- iv. With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a **viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries** of Rs. 5000 crores in 6 years in addition to additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1st Generation biofuels.
- v. The Policy encourages setting up of **supply chain mechanisms** for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.

Expected Benefits

- India is highly dependent on imports for meeting its energy requirements and imports around 85% of its crude oil domestic consumption requirements. Promotion of biofuels will lead to **reduction of this import dependency.**
- **Diversion of excess sugarcane & sugar to ethanol** is a correct way forward to deal with **surplus stocks.** Diversion of excess sugar would help in stabilizing the domestic ex-mill sugar prices and will also help sugar mills to get relieved from storage problems. It will improve their cash flows and facilitate them in clearance of cane price dues of farmers; and will facilitate mills to function in the coming years.
- Prolonged reuse of Cooking Oil for preparing food, particularly in deep-frying is a **potential health hazard and can lead to many diseases.** Used Cooking Oil is a **potential feedstock for biodiesel** and its use for making biodiesel will prevent diversion of used cooking oil in the food industry.

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

Ph: 044-40483555,9677120226,9677174226

Web: www.officersiasacademy.com

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- By adopting 2G technologies, agricultural residues/waste which otherwise are burnt by the farmers can be converted to ethanol and can **fetch a price for these waste** if a market is developed for the same.
- By reducing crop burning & conversion of agricultural residues/wastes to biofuels there will be **further reduction in greenhouse gas emissions**.
- The policy is also expected to **ensure waste management benefits and raise infrastructure** in rural areas.

3. Answer: B

Explanation:

- TRAFFIC is a leading **non-governmental organisation** working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- Founded in 1979, it is a **joint program of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- TRAFFIC's goal is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

About ED

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a specialized financial investigation agency under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**, which enforces the following laws: -
 - **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** - A Civil Law, with officers empowered to conduct investigations into suspected contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Laws and Regulations, adjudicate, contraventions, and impose penalties on those adjudged to have contravened the law.
 - **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)** - A Criminal Law, with the officers empowered to conduct investigations to trace assets derived out of the proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach/ confiscate the same, and to arrest and prosecute the offenders found to be involved in Money Laundering. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ED was established in 1956 with its headquarters at **New Delhi**.

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- The ED director is appointed as per provisions of the **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**. The Centre appoints the director on recommendation of a committee, with the Central Vigilance Commissioner as chairperson.

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

1. Duqm : Oman
2. Changi : Singapore
3. Chabahar : Iran
4. Gwadar : Pakistan

