

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 21-01-2025

1. Consider the following statements about India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

1. Its primary objective is to promote economic development by fostering integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.
2. It aims to create an entirely railway based connection from India to Europe.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements about Judges in the High courts.

1. The Collegium for the appointment and transfer of High Court judges are the same in composition.
2. Distinguished jurists in the opinion of the President can be appointed as a judge in the High court.
3. Based on Collegium's recommendation, the Governor of the particular state appoints a High Court Judge.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements about the University Grants Commission (UGC).

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It works under the Union Ministry of Education.
3. It provides grants to all Universities and Colleges.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

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- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

4. Consider the following statements about the Clemency powers available to the President and the Governors.

1. The President alone can pardon a sentence given by a Court martial.
2. The President and the Governors can commute a death sentence.
3. Respite refers to the postponement of a punishment.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

5. Consider the following statements about Orangutans

- 1) Orangutans are great apes native to the rainforests of India.
- 2) Orangutans are known to use sticks as tools to scrape insects from hollow surfaces of trees.

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation:

India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- During the G20 Summit held in India last year, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among the **Governments of India, the U.S., Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the UAE, France, Germany, and Italy** to establish the **India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

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- IMEC is envisioned as a **network of transportation routes encompassing railways and sea lanes. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Its primary objective is to **promote economic development by fostering integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.**
- This project falls under the umbrella of the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)**, an initiative led by Western nations to support infrastructure projects worldwide.
 - *The PGII seeks to finance infrastructure projects in developing countries by leveraging a combination of public and private investments.*
 - *It was initially introduced during the G7 summit in the UK in 2021.*
- The IMEC corridor hopes to become a **viable alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, which has steadily established global connectivity linkages with the Chinese market through extensive shipping, rail, and road networks, since its conception 10 years ago.

2. Answer: D

Explanation:

As per the s Judges case and Memorandum of Procedure, the Collegium process for appointment of the High Court Judges is summarised below:

- The Collegium for appointment of the High Court judges consists of the Chief Justice of India and other two senior Judges of the Supreme Court.
- The process for filling up any vacancy in a High Court shall be initiated by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court in consultation with other two senior Judges of the High Court. The proposed list of names for appointment is sent by the Chief Justice of the High Court to the Governor of the State, the Union Government and the Supreme Court Collegium.
- The State Government may provide its inputs on the proposed list of names to the Union Government. The Union Government with its comments forwards the same to the Supreme Court Collegium.
- The Supreme Court Collegium consisting of the Chief Justice of India and other two senior Judges then make the final recommendation for appointment of Judges to a High Court.
- The President appoints the Judges to a High Court. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Transfer of Judges:

- The President may, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, transfer a Judge from one High Court to any other High Court [Art 222].

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- This process of transfer is also based on recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium. The Collegium for transfer of Judges consists of the Chief Justice of India and four other senior judges of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Chief Justice of India shall also consult the Chief Justices of concerned High Courts i.e., the High Court from which the transfer is to be made and the High Court to which the transfer is to be made before recommending transfer of a Judge to the President.

Qualification for a High Court Judge

As per Article 217(2), a person shall be qualified for appointment as a Judge of a High Court if he/she fulfils the following conditions:

- He/she is a citizen of India and,
- For at least 10 years held a judicial office in the territory of India; or 3. Has for at least 10 years been an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession.
- Distinguished jurists can be appointed as judge only in the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

3. Answer: B

Explanation:

University Grants Commission (UGC):

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) is a **statutory body** established to **oversee and advance higher education** within the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was created through an Act of Parliament (UGC Act) in 1956 and operates under the **Ministry of Education. Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- It was established for the **promotion and co-ordination of University education** and for the **determination and maintenance of standards** of teaching, examination and research in Universities, and for the purpose of **performing its functions** under the UGC Act.
- In addition to providing **grants to eligible universities and colleges**, the Commission provides **recognition to universities** in India, and also **advises** the Central and State Governments on the measures which are necessary for the development of Higher Education. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Head office: **New Delhi.**

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

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Extent of pardoning power - President versus Governor

- The President alone has the pardoning power in respect of punishment or sentence by court-martial. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.** A court-martial refers to the military court for Armed forces that conduct the trial against a member of the armed forces. The pardoning power in respect of any punishment or sentence by court-martial is exclusively available to the President of India as he/she is Commander-in- chief of the armed forces. This power is not available to a Governor of a State.
- The President shall have the power to grant pardon, commutation, remission, respite or reprieve where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against a law to which the executive power of the Union extends. This basically means that in respect of offences against the laws made under the Union and Concurrent list, the President shall have pardoning power.
- Similarly, the Governor shall have the power to grant pardon, commutation, remission, respite or reprieve where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against a law to which the executive power of the State extends.
- The President alone has the power to grant pardon in respect of a death sentence. However, the Governor can commute a sentence of death (into any other form of punishment). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Remission:** It reduces the amount of sentences without changing its character. For example, 10 years of rigorous imprisonment may be remitted to 5 years of rigorous imprisonment.
- **Respite:** This indicates awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact like pregnancy of a woman offender, physical disability of the offender etc. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- **Reprieve:** This is a postponement of a punishment. For example, the stay of execution of a sentence given due to a pending proceeding for pardon.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: Orangutans are great apes native to the rainforests of Indonesia and Malaysia.**
 - *Ape is a large primate (an order of mammals) that lacks a tail, including the gorilla, chimpanzees, orangutan, and gibbons.*
- Orangutans were originally considered to be **one species**. From **1996**, they were divided into two species: the **Bornean orangutan** and the **Sumatran orangutan** . A third species, the **Tapanuli orangutan** , was identified definitively in **2017**.

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- They have proportionally **long arms** and **short legs**, and have **reddish-brown hair** covering their bodies.
- Some adult male orangutans develop **flaps of fatty tissue on both sides of their face** known as **flanges**.
- **Orangutans** are the **most solitary** of the great apes. **Social bonds** occur primarily between **mothers** and their **dependent offspring**.
- They are **arboreal** creatures.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Orangutans are known to use **sticks** as **tools** to **scrape insects** from **hollow surfaces** of trees.



Threats

- Habitat loss and fragmentation caused by **logging for timber materials** is **threatening the survival of orangutans**.
- Frequent **forest fires** threaten to reduce **tree cover** available for orangutans.
- **Encroachment of forest land for palm oil cultivation** is also affecting the population of **Orangutans**.

Conservation status

- All the three species of Orangutan are listed as **critically endangered** as per **IUCN red List**
- All the three species of Orangutan are listed in **Appendix I** of **CITES**.

Why in the news?

- Recently, scientists observed a unique animal behavior where an orangutan was found using its fingers to apply medicinal plant juices to heal wounds on the skin.