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Daily MCQs: 14-02-2025

1. How many of the following statements about the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body established under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. The Tribunal shall be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
3. The Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Gangetic river dolphins.

1. It is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN red list.
2. It can be naturally found only in the Ganges river system including the tributaries of Ganga.

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

3. The "Right to Silence" is primarily associated with which Article of the Indian Constitution?

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 19
- C. Article 20
- D. Article 21

4. Consider the following

- | Ports | Located at |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. Deendayal Port | Gujarat |

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2. Ennore Port Andhra Pradesh
3. Paradip Port West Bengal

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
B. Only two pairs
C. Only three pairs
D. None of the pairs

5. Which of the following statements about the FATF is incorrect?

- A. FATF is an intergovernmental body established in 1989.
B. FATF monitors countries' progress in implementing necessary measures to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.
C. FATF maintains a "grey list" and a "blacklist" to identify countries with weak anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) measures.
D. None

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- It is a **statutory body** established in 2010 under the **National Green Tribunal Act 2010**. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to **handle environmental disputes** involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal **shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- The Tribunal is vested with the powers of a **civil court** under the **Code of Civil Procedure** for discharging its functions but it can make its own rules.
- It provides **speedy environmental justice** and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.

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- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.

Tribunal's composition

- The Tribunal has a presence in five zones- North, Central, East, South and West. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.
- The Central zone bench is situated in Bhopal, East zone in Kolkata, South zone in Chennai and West zone in Pune.
- The Tribunal is headed by the Chairperson who sits in the Principal Bench and has at least ten but not more than twenty judicial members and at least ten but not more than twenty expert members.

Tribunal's Jurisdiction

- The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
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 - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
 - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
 - The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
 - The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- Two important acts – Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Tribunal has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving a substantial question relating to the environment. Additionally, any person aggrieved by an order/direction of any of the Appellate Authorities under the legislations mentioned above can also challenge them before the National Green Tribunal.

Are decisions of the Tribunal final?

- The Tribunal has powers to review its own decisions. If this fails, the decision can be challenged before the Supreme Court within ninety days.

2. Answer: D

Explanation

Both the statements are incorrect.

- Gangetic river dolphin is among the four freshwater dolphins in the world which is found in parts of the **Ganges-Meghna-Brahmaputra and Karnaphuli-Sangu river** systems in **India, Nepal, and Bangladesh**. The Gangetic river dolphin is **India's national aquatic animal** and is popularly known as 'Susu'.
- Its presence **indicates the health of the riverine ecosystem**.
- The Gangetic Dolphins are generally blind and catch their prey in a unique manner. They emit an ultrasonic sound which reaches the prey. The dolphin then registers this image in its mind and subsequently catches hold of its prey.
- In addition to the species being India's national aquatic animal, the Gangetic dolphin has been notified by the Assam government as the state aquatic animal, too.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Gangetic dolphin **as an endangered species** (not critically endangered) in India.
- The Conservation Action Plan for the Gangetic Dolphin, 2010-2020, identified threats to these dolphins that include the impact of river traffic, construction of irrigation canals and depletion of their prey-base.
- It is classified under **Schedule 1, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** providing absolute protection as offenses under these are prescribed the highest penalties.
- **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS)** in Bihar's Bhagalpur district is India's only sanctuary for its national aquatic animal.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- The 'Right to silence' is rooted in **Article 20(3)** of the Indian Constitution, which stipulates that no one can be compelled to testify against themselves.
- This provision grants accused individuals **protection against self-incrimination**, constituting a fundamental right.
- It contains provisions related to **No ex-post-facto law, No double jeopardy, No self-incrimination**.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- Pair 1 is correct: Deendayal Port - Located in Gujarat.
- **Pair 2 is incorrect:** Ennore Port - Located in Tamil Nadu, not Andhra Pradesh.

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- **Pair 3 is incorrect:** Paradip Port - Located in Odisha, not West Bengal.



5. Answer: D

Explanation

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **intergovernmental organization** that designs and promotes policies and standards to **combat financial crime**.

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- The FATF sets standards or recommendations for countries to achieve in order to plug the holes in their financial systems and make them less vulnerable to illegal financial activities.
- Recommendations of the FATF target
 - **Money laundering**
 - **Terrorist financing**
 - **Other threats to the global financial system.**
- The FATF was created in **1989** by the **G7 countries** and is headquartered in **Paris**.
- There are **37 members**, including **India** and **two regional organizations - European Commission and the Gulf Cooperation Council**.
- The decision-making body of the FATF, known as its **plenary**, meets **thrice a year**. Its decisions are taken by **consensus**.

What are FATF's 'grey' and 'black' lists?

- At the end of every plenary meeting, FATF comes out with two lists of countries.
- The **grey list countries** are designated as “**jurisdictions under increased monitoring**”, working with the FATF to counter criminal financial activities.
 - For such countries, the watchdog does not tell other members to carry out due-diligence measures vis-a-vis the listed country but does tell them to consider the risks such countries possess. Currently, more than **20 countries** such as Bulgaria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Croatia, Philippines, South Africa, Vietnam, etc. are on the grey list.
- **Black list** means countries designated as ‘**high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action**’.
 - In this case, the countries have **considerable deficiencies in their AML/CFT** (anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing) regimens and the body calls on members and non-members to apply enhanced due diligence.
 - In the most serious cases, members are told to apply counter-measures such as **sanctions** on the listed countries. Currently, **North Korea, Iran and Myanmar** are on the black list.
- Being listed under the FATF's lists makes it **hard for countries to get aid from organisations** like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the European Union. It may also **affect capital inflows, foreign direct investments, and portfolio flows**.