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Daily MCQs: 19-02-2025

1. Consider the following statements about the Gulf Cooperation Council.

1. It is a political and economic union of states bordering the Gulf of Mexico.
2. Its headquarters is in Havana, Cuba.

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 "Classical languages" in India.

1. These are languages with a high degree of antiquity, with a significant impact on the cultural and intellectual development of the region.
2. All languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution have been accorded classical status.
3. Sanskrit was the first language to be declared as "Classical" in India.

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. Which ministry is responsible for implementing the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)?

- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

4. Identify the correctly matched pairs of Martial art forms in India with their states:

1. Thang-ta - Meghalaya
2. Kalaripayattu - Kerala
3. Mallakhamb - Madhya Pradesh
4. Gatka - Punjab

Select the correct answer from the below codes

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

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5. **Methanogens are an important part of the carbon cycle because they**

- A. Convert carbon dioxide into glucose.
- B. Break down organic matter to produce methane.
- C. Convert methane into carbon dioxide.
- D. Fix atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia.

Solutions:

1. Answer: D

Explanation:

Gulf Cooperation Council:

- The Gulf Cooperation Council is a **political and economic union of Arab states bordering the Persian Gulf. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It was established in 1981 and its 6 members are the **United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain.**
- The official language is **Arabic.**
- The GCC aims to effect coordination, integration and inter-connection between Member States in all fields, strengthening ties between their peoples, and formulating similar regulations in various fields.
- The **headquarters** of the GCC is in **Saudi Arabia. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**



2. Answer: A

Explanation:

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Classical language:

- A classical language in India is defined as a language with a high degree of antiquity, a rich and original literary heritage, and a significant impact on the cultural and intellectual development of the region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Criteria for declaring a language as 'Classical' in India

- The guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:
 - High antiquity of (its) is early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years.
 - A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
 - Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
 - The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots.

How are the Classical languages promoted?

- Two major **annual international awards** for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages;
- A **Centre of Excellence** for studies in Classical Languages;
- The University Grants Commission is requested to create a certain number of **Professional Chairs** for the Classical Languages so declared.

Current status

- At present, **eleven languages** enjoy the 'Classical' status and not all languages from the Eighth schedule. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
 - Tamil (declared in 2004), **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
 - Sanskrit (2005),
 - Kannada (2008),
 - Telugu (2008),
 - Malayalam (2013), and
 - Odia (2014).
 - Marathi (2024)
 - Pali (2024)
 - Prakrit (2024)
 - Assamese (2024)
 - Bengali (2024)

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- The 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' or the 'Drugs-Free India Campaign' is a campaign against substance abuse flagged off on 15th August 2020 by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- The campaign focuses on **272 districts in 32 states & UT's which are identified as most vulnerable in terms of usage of drugs** and launches a **three-pronged attack** combining

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efforts of the Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Department.

Components of the action plan

- Awareness generation programmes;
- Focus on Higher Educational Institutions, University Campuses and Schools;
- Community outreach and Identification of dependent population;
- Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings; and
- Capacity Building Programmes for Service Providers.

4. Answer: B

Explanation

Gatka

- Gatka is the name of an Indian martial art associated with the **Sikhs of the Punjab** who practiced an early variant of the martial art.
- It is a **style of stick-fighting**, with wooden sticks.
- After the fifth Sikh guru, **Guru Arjan Dev**, was killed by the Mughals, **Guru Hargobind**, his son, propagated the idea of learning Gatka to fight oppression. Later, in the 17th century, **Guru Gobind Singh**, known as the master of weaponry, developed it further.

Kalaripayattu

- It is a form of martial art and fighting style that **originated in Kerala**.
- Considered to be among the **oldest martial arts**, its origin dates back to at least the 3rd century BC.
- Kalaripayattu includes strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry and healing methods. Practitioners of Kalaripayattu also possess intricate knowledge of pressure points on the human body and healing techniques that incorporate the knowledge of **Ayurveda and Yoga**.
- Unlike other parts of India, **warriors in Kerala belonged to all castes**.
- **Women** also underwent training in Kalaripayattu, and still do so to this day.

Thang-Ta

- It is an indigenous martial art popular in **Manipur**.
- It is dedicated to fighting skill and worship.

Mallakhamba

- Mallakhamb is a traditional sport in which a gymnast performs aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling grips in concert with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane, or rope.
- **Madhya Pradesh (state sport) and Maharashtra** have been the hotspots of this sport.
- The name Mallakhamb derives from the terms malla, meaning wrestler, and khamb, which means a pole.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

- Methanogens refer to **microorganisms which produce methane in an oxygen deficit environment** such as the digestive tracts of animals, wetlands, rice paddies, landfills, and the sediments of lakes and oceans. Example: **Archaea** (single-celled microorganisms).

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- They play a crucial role in the **global carbon cycle** by converting organic matter into methane.
- While methane is a **potent greenhouse gas**, its production by methanogens is an **essential part of natural ecosystems**.
- Wetlands, ruminants, rice fields, landfills are sources of methane produced by the action of methanogens.
- They play an important role in **anaerobic wastewater treatments**. Methanogens **utilize organic pollutants** found in wastewater as sources of energy, and **produce methane gas** as a byproduct. Here the organic matter is broken down into simpler compounds, thereby resulting in **enhanced removal from water**.

