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Daily MCQs: 20-02-2025

1. Consider the following statements about National Investigation Agency (NIA)

1. It is functioning as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in the country.
2. It was created under the NIA Act, 2008.
3. It is headquartered at Bengaluru.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements about the James Webb Space telescope.

1. It is the largest and most powerful telescope ever built on Earth.
2. It was built in cooperation between NASA, European and Canadian Space agencies.
3. It is positioned at the Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point.

Which 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 with respect to State Emergency

1. A state emergency can be declared by the President in case of an administrative breakdown in a state.
2. The proclamation of President's Rule, must be approved and ratified by both the Houses of Parliament within 2 months from the date of its issue by a special majority.

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

4. The 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)' is related to

- A) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- B) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- C) Heart of Asia
- D) NATO

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5. Rafah is a city that straddles the border between which two regions?

- A) Gaza Strip and Egypt
- B) West Bank and Jordan
- C) Lebanon and Syria
- D) Israel and Lebanon

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

National Investigation Agency:

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is functioning as the **Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency** in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is mandated to investigate all the **offences:**
 - **affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, and**
 - **the offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations.**
 - These include **terror acts and their possible links with crimes** like smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency and infiltration from across the borders.
- The agency has the **power to search, seize, arrest and prosecute** those involved in such offences.
- Headquartered in **Delhi**, the NIA has its branches in several parts of the country. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

When did the NIA come into being?

- In the wake of the **26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008**, the central government decided to establish the NIA.
- The agency came into existence on **December 31, 2008 under the NIA Act, 2008. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- NIA was created mainly to specialize in investigations into **incidents of terrorist attacks and bomb blasts** in various parts of the country. Majority of such incidents were found to have **complex inter-state and international linkages** while at the same time being **linked to drug and arms smuggling** among other activities.
- The NIA Act was amended in the year **2019** to **enlarge the mandate** of the NIA by inclusion of **offences related to human trafficking, manufacture/sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908** and **expanded its jurisdiction beyond India.**

How wide is the NIA's jurisdiction?

- The law under which the agency operates extends to:
 - **whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country;**

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- persons in the service of the government wherever they are posted;
- persons on ships and aircraft registered in India wherever they may be;
- persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

James Webb Space Telescope

About JWST:

- In 2021, NASA launched its James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the **largest, most powerful space telescope** ever built. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The telescope, **optimised for infrared wavelengths**, is an **international collaboration led by NASA in partnership with the European and Canadian space agencies**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The science goals for the Webb can be grouped into **four themes**.
 - The first is to **look back around 13.5 billion years** to see the first stars and galaxies forming out of the darkness of the early universe.
 - Second, to **compare the faintest, earliest galaxies to today's grand spirals and understand how galaxies assemble** over billions of years.
 - Third, to **see where stars and planetary systems are being born**.
 - And fourth, to **observe the atmospheres of extrasolar planets** (beyond our solar system), and perhaps find the building blocks of life elsewhere in the universe.

Orbit

- Hubble orbits the Earth at an altitude of ~570 km. **Webb does not orbit the Earth, instead it sits at the Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point**, 1.5 million km away. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- This means that **Webb orbits the Sun along with the Earth**, but will **stay fixed at the same spot** in relation to the Earth and the Sun.
 - At the L2 point, Webb's solar shield will block the light from the Sun, Earth, and Moon, which will help it stay cool — important for an **infrared telescope**.

Significance

- JWST is **100x more powerful than its predecessor the Hubble telescope**, NASA's flagship telescope that has been in service for more than three decades now.
- It has **longer wavelength coverage** and **greatly improved sensitivity**. The longer wavelengths enable Webb to look further back in time to find the first galaxies that formed in the early Universe.
- **Hubble** was designed to look mainly into the **ultraviolet and visible regions** of the electromagnetic spectrum. **JWST** is primarily an **infrared telescope**, allowing it to peer through much deeper into the universe, and see through obstructions such as gas clouds.
- **Webb's mirror is much larger than Hubble's**; it can, therefore, **look farther back into time** than Hubble. Webb's primary mirror is approximately **6.5 metres in diameter** compared to Hubble's mirror has a diameter of 2.4 metres, which means Webb's collecting area is around 6.25 times that of Hubble's.

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3. Answer: D

Explanation

- The President can declare a State emergency, when the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. This is also known as breakdown of Constitutional machinery. Administrative breakdown cannot be the reason for declaration of State emergency. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The proclamation of President's Rule, must be approved and ratified by both the Houses of Parliament within 2 months from the date of its issue by a simple majority. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The President's Rule cannot extend beyond a period of 3 years in total.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was built on the '**Shanghai Five**' grouping of **Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**, which had come together in the post-Soviet era in 1996, in order to work on regional security, reduction of border troops, and terrorism. In 2001, the Shanghai Five inducted **Uzbekistan** into the group and named it the SCO.
- **India and Pakistan** joined the SCO as observers in 2005, and were admitted as **full members** in 2017.
- **Iran** has joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation as its ninth member.
- Iran has been an observer in the SCO since 2005, and almost after 15 years, its bid for full and permanent membership in the organization was approved at the 2021 Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia enjoy Observer status in the SCO, while six other countries — Azerbaijan, **Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka** — **have Dialogue Partner status.**
- The organization has **two permanent bodies** — the **SCO Secretariat** based in **Beijing** and the **Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure** in **Tashkent.**
- The **Heads of State Council** is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO. It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organization.

What are the main goals of the SCO?

- The SCO describes its main goals as:
 - strengthening **mutual trust and neighborliness** among the member states;
 - promoting their **effective cooperation** in politics, trade, economy, research and technology and culture as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas;
 - making joint efforts to **maintain and ensure peace, security and stability** in the region; and
 - moving towards the establishment of a **democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.**

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5. Answer: A

Explanation

- Rafah is a city that is **uniquely positioned along the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt**. This strategic location makes it a significant point of transit for people and goods moving between these two regions.
- The Rafah border crossing is the **only entry and exit point** for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip that is not controlled by Israel, making it crucial for travel and trade.



- Due to its location and importance, Rafah has been a focal point in the context of regional security and humanitarian issues, often affected by political tensions and conflicts.