Daily MCQ: 15.08.2026

1) Which of the following are included in India's Foreign Exchange Reserves?
   1. Foreign Currency Assets
   2. Monetary Gold
   3. Special Drawing Rights
   4. Reserve Tranche Position in the IMF
   5. Government securities issued by the Government of India

   Select the correct answer using the code given below.
   (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
   (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
   (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
   (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

2) Consider the following statements with reference to the Chips to Start-up Programme:
   1. It aims to develop industry-ready professionals in the semiconductor sector.
   2. It provides access to chip-design tools, laboratories, mentorship and technical support.
   3. It is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 and 2 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1 and 3 only
   (d) 1, 2 and 3

3) Consider the following statements regarding Tiger Reserves in India:
   1. A Tiger Reserve is notified by the central government.
   2. The Buffer Area, notified by the State Government around the Core Area, permits regulated and sustainable human activities, including eco-tourism.
   3. The Chief Wildlife Warden may permit the capture, tranquilisation or killing of a specified wild animal if it is considered dangerous to human life.
   4. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) directly notifies Tiger Reserves and grants permission for the killing of problem tigers.

   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1 and 4 only
   (d) 2 and 4 only

4) Consider the following statements with reference to India's Current Account Deficit:
   1. A rise in the merchandise trade deficit can widen the Current Account Deficit.
   2. A surplus in services exports can help reduce the Current Account Deficit.
   3. A Current Account Deficit necessarily implies that India's overall Balance of Payments is in deficit.

   Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?
   (a) All the three statements are correct.
   (b) There are two correct statements, that include Statement 3.

(c) There are two correct statements, that include Statement 2.
(d) There is only one correct statement.

5) With reference to mineral regulation in India, consider the following statements:
   1. The Central Government has the power to make rules regarding mineral concessions for major minerals.
   2. State Governments have the power to make rules regarding minor minerals.
   3. Taxation of mineral rights is a subject under the State List, subject to limitations imposed by Parliament by law.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

1) Answer: (B)

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's Foreign Exchange Reserves officially consist of four major components:

1. **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA):** Denominated in major foreign currencies (USD, EUR, GBP, etc.) and held in foreign central banks, Treasury bills, and government securities of foreign nations.
2. **Monetary Gold:** Gold held by the RBI as part of its reserve assets.
3. **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):** International reserve assets allocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to member countries.
4. **Reserve Tranche Position (RTP):** A member country's quota-based reserve position with the IMF that can be drawn upon on demand.

Why Item 5 is incorrect:

- **Government securities issued by the Government of India** are domestic debt instruments denominated in Indian Rupees (INR) and are liabilities of the government, not external foreign exchange assets held by the central bank.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (D)

- The **Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme** aims to develop **industry-ready professionals** in the semiconductor sector. It targets the development of **85,000 industry-ready professionals** across undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels. **Hence Statement 1 is Correct .**
- The programme provides students with hands-on exposure to **chip design, fabrication and testing**. It facilitates access to **advanced chip-design tools, laboratory/fabrication facilities, testing resources, mentorship and technical support**. **Hence Statement 2 is Correct.**
- The **C2S Programme was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in 2022** as an umbrella capacity-building initiative. **Hence Statement 3 is Correct.**
- **Therefore , Option D is the correct answer.**

3) **Answer: (B)**

- **Statement 1: INCORRECT:** Under Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, a Tiger Reserve is notified by the **State Government** (not the Central Government) on the recommendation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- **Statement 2: CORRECT:** Section 38V classifies a Tiger Reserve into two zones:
    - **Core / Critical Tiger Habitat:** Maintained as inviolate for tiger conservation (minimal human interference).
    - **Buffer / Peripheral Area:** Surrounding zone designed to promote co-existence with local communities. It permits regulated human activities, sustainable land use, livelihood support, and eco-tourism.
- **Statement 3: CORRECT:** Under Section 11(1)(a) of the Act, the **Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW)** of a state holds the exclusive statutory authority to permit the hunting, capture, tranquilisation, or killing of a Schedule I animal if satisfied that it has become dangerous to human life or is diseased/disabled beyond recovery *(killing is permitted strictly as a last resort).*
- **Statement 4: INCORRECT:** Notification is issued by the **State Government** on NTCA's recommendation, and the statutory power to order the capture or killing of a dangerous animal rests solely with the **Chief Wildlife Warden** of the state, while the NTCA only provides guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs).

4) **Answer: (C)**

A rise in the **merchandise trade deficit** means that the value of goods imported exceeds the value of goods exported by a larger margin. Since merchandise trade forms an important component of the Current Account, such a rise can widen the **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**, other things remaining constant. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

A **surplus in services exports** means that India earns more from its exports of services than it spends on importing services. This surplus adds to current-account receipts and can partly offset the deficit arising from merchandise trade. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

A **Current Account Deficit does not necessarily imply an overall Balance of Payments deficit**. The CAD can be financed or offset by **capital and financial account inflows**, such as FDI, FPI and external borrowings. Therefore, the overall Balance of Payments can remain balanced or even be in surplus despite a CAD. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Therefore, Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

5) **Answer: (d)**

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
  Under the MMDR Act, the **Central Government** has the power to make rules regarding mineral concessions for major minerals under **Section 13**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
  For **minor minerals**, States have the power to frame rules regarding quarry leases, mining leases and other concessions under **Section 15**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**

- Under **Entry 50 of the State List**, States have the power to tax mineral rights. However, **Parliament can impose limitations** on this power through legislation.
- Therefore **Option(d) is the correct answer**