Daily MCQ: 20.08.2026

1) Consider the following statements with reference to the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund:
    1. The RDI Fund provides concessional financing at an interest rate of around 2–4% to support high-risk research, development and innovation activities.
    2. The Fund is intended to encourage greater private-sector participation in R&D and support the development of deep-tech startups and innovative technologies
    3. The Fund primarily provides short-term commercial financing at market-determined interest rates to support routine business operations.

    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.

2) Consider the following statements with reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):
    1. CITES is an international agreement between governments administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
    2. CITES is not legally binding on its Parties, which are required to frame domestic legislation to implement its provisions.
    3. CITES originated as a subsidiary initiative under the IUCN.

    Which of the statements given above 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 Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad):
    I. The member countries frequently hold diplomatic meetings focusing on a free and open Indo-Pacific.
    II. There is an absence of any formal mutual defence treaty among the member nations.
    III. The grouping has recently launched a "Cancer Moonshot" initiative providing HPV vaccines in the region.
    Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements?
    Statement I suggests that the grouping aims to promote regional stability and cooperation.
    Statement II suggests that the Quad operates as a formal military alliance similar to NATO.
    Statement III suggests that the grouping is working towards the elimination of cervical cancer.
    Select the answer using the code given below:
    (a) 1 and 2 only
    (b) 2 and 3 only
    (c) 1 and 3 only
    (d) 1, 2 and 3

4) Consider the following statement with reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):
    1. More than 50% of the total members of the Monetary Policy Committee are required to be present to constitute the quorum for a meeting.

2. The Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, determines the CPI inflation target once every five years.
3. The decisions of the Monetary Policy Committee are taken on the basis of consensus among its members.
4. Failure to keep CPI inflation within the target band for three consecutive months constitutes failure of the monetary policy framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All of the above

5) Consider the following statements with reference to Urban Local Bodies in India:

I. The Constitution provides that the Chairperson of a Municipality shall be directly elected by the people of the municipal area.
II. The Municipal Commissioner is the elected political head of a Municipal Corporation and is directly elected by the ward councillors.
III. The Municipal Council performs deliberative and policy-making functions, while the Municipal Commissioner primarily exercises executive and administrative function

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only

Explanation

1) Answer: (C)

The RDI Fund provides **concessional financing at an interest rate of around 2–4%** to support high-risk research, development and innovation activities. Such concessional financing helps reduce the cost and risk of undertaking R&D projects that may not attract conventional commercial funding. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

The RDI Fund is intended to encourage **greater private-sector participation in research and development**, particularly in areas such as **deep-tech and high-impact technologies**, where long-term financing is often required. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

The RDI Fund is designed to provide **long-term, concessional support for innovation**, rather than short-term commercial financing at market-determined interest rates for routine business operations. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

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

2) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1: Correct.** CITES is an international agreement between governments that is administered by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, with its Secretariat located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** CITES **is legally binding** on the member states (Parties) that adhere to it. However, it does not replace national laws; instead, it provides a

legal framework that requires each participating country to adopt its own domestic legislation to implement and enforce its provisions.

- **Statement 3: Correct.** The origin of CITES dates back to a resolution adopted at a meeting of the members of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** held in 1963.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

3) Answer(C)

Inference 1 is correct: Statement I highlights the diplomatic focus on a "free and open Indo-Pacific," which logically suggests the Quad's primary goal is regional stability and strategic cooperation.

Inference 2 is incorrect: Statement II explicitly states the absence of a mutual defence treaty. Therefore, inferring that the Quad is a formal military alliance like NATO directly contradicts the statement.

Inference 3 is correct: Statement III mentions the "Cancer Moonshot" initiative and HPV vaccines. Since the HPV vaccine is the primary preventive measure against cervical cancer, it correctly infers the health security goals of the Quad.

4) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) consists of six members. More than 50% of the total members must be present to constitute the quorum for a meeting. Therefore, **at least four members must be present.**
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Under the RBI Act, 1934, the Central Government determines the inflation target once every five years, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. The target is expressed in terms of CPI inflation. The current target is 4%, with a tolerance band of ±2 percentage points, i.e. 2%–6%.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** MPC decisions **are not based on consensus**. Each member has one vote, and decisions are taken by majority voting. In case of a tie, the RBI Governor has a casting vote.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect:** Failure of the monetary policy framework is not defined as inflation remaining outside the target band for three consecutive months. Under the RBI Act, it is considered a failure when the average inflation remains outside the tolerance band **for three consecutive quarters.**
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

5) Answer: (D)

Statement I – Incorrect: The statement is incorrect because Article 243R does not mandate direct election of the Chairperson (Mayor) by the people. The manner of election of the Chairperson is determined by the State Legislature through law.

Statement II – Incorrect: The Mayor is the elected political head of the corporation. The Municipal Commissioner is the chief executive officer, generally appointed by the State Government.

Statement III – Correct: The Council performs deliberative and policy-making functions, whereas the Commissioner heads the executive/administrative machinery.