



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. **With reference to the Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON), consider the following statements:**

- I. It is being developed under the **Mission Mausam** initiative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- II. It aims to generate long-term, high-precision climate datasets through sustained atmospheric observations.
- III. It monitors only greenhouse gases and excludes meteorological parameters.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements **I** and **II** are correct, while Statement **III** is incorrect.

The **Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)** is being established under **Mission Mausam** of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** through collaboration between **IITM Pune** and **ARIES Nainital**. The programme aims to create a **long-term (over 50 years)** climate observation network for generating **high-quality, high-precision datasets** to support climate research and policy formulation. BCON monitors a wide range of climate variables including **meteorological parameters, greenhouse gases, short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), atmospheric chemistry** and **soil moisture**.

2. **Which one of the following is NOT proposed to be monitored under the Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)?**

- (a) Atmospheric chemistry
- (b) Soil moisture
- (c) Greenhouse gases
- (d) Marine fisheries stock**

Answer: (d)

Explanation

The **BCON** is designed as a long-term climate observation network that continuously records critical atmospheric and terrestrial variables. These include **meteorological parameters, greenhouse gases, short-lived climate pollutants, atmospheric chemistry** and **soil moisture**. Such observations are essential for improving climate modelling, validating climate projections and supporting

evidence-based environmental policymaking. **Marine fisheries stock** falls under marine resource assessment and is outside the observational mandate of the BCON.

3. **With reference to the Dongria Kondh community, which one of the following is correctly matched?**

- (a) Toda — Nilgiris Hills — Terrace cultivation
- (b) Dongria Kondh — Nimaigeri Hills — Podu cultivation**
- (c) Bonda — Satpura Hills — Wet rice cultivation
- (d) Jarawa — Aravalli Hills — Pastoralism

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The **Dongria Kondh** are a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** inhabiting the **Niyamgiri Hills** of **Rayagada and Kalahandi districts in Odisha**. Their livelihood is closely linked to the forest ecosystem. They primarily practice **Podu (shifting) cultivation**, undertake horticulture and depend extensively on **Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)** such as honey, bamboo, medicinal plants and tamarind. They worship **Niyam Raja** as the presiding deity of the Niyamgiri Hills, reflecting their deep cultural and spiritual association with the landscape.

4. **With reference to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:**

Statement I: FATF was established by the G7 countries in 1989.

Statement II: One of its objectives is to develop global standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.**
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Both statements are correct, and Statement II explains the purpose behind the establishment of the FATF. The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** was created by the **G7 in 1989** and is headquartered in **Paris, France**. It functions as an **inter-governmental standard-setting body** that formulates international recommendations to combat **Anti-Money Laundering (AML)**, **Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)** and **proliferation financing of weapons of mass destruction**. Countries are periodically evaluated for compliance with these global standards.

5. **Which one of the following best distinguishes the FATF Grey List from the FATF Black List?**

- (a) Grey-listed jurisdictions are under increased monitoring, whereas Black-listed jurisdictions are identified as high-risk and subject to a call for action.**

- (b) Grey-listed jurisdictions are suspended from the United Nations, whereas Black-listed jurisdictions are suspended from the World Bank.
- (c) Grey-listed jurisdictions are prohibited from receiving foreign investment, whereas Black-listed jurisdictions are prohibited from international trade.
- (d) Grey-listed jurisdictions have fully complied with FATF recommendations, whereas Black-listed jurisdictions have not been evaluated.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

The **FATF Grey List** includes jurisdictions placed under **increased monitoring** because they have committed to addressing identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timelines. In contrast, the **FATF Black List** comprises **high-risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action** due to serious deficiencies in combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. Inclusion in these lists can significantly affect a country's **international financial reputation, investment climate, cross-border transactions** and access to global financial markets.

6. With reference to the constitutional protection of pedestrian rights in India, consider the following statements:

- I. The Supreme Court has held that the right to walk safely on designated footpaths forms part of the right to life under Article 21.
- II. The Court observed that the right of pedestrians takes precedence over the privilege of motorised transport.
- III. The Constitution expressly guarantees the right to safe footpaths under Article 19(1)(d).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements **I** and **II** are correct, whereas Statement **III** is incorrect.

The Supreme Court held that the **right to walk safely on well-maintained footpaths** is an integral part of **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)**. It further observed that **pedestrian rights outweigh the privilege of motorised transport** while planning urban infrastructure. Although **Article 19(1)(d)** guarantees the **freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India**, it does **not expressly mention footpaths**. The protection of pedestrian infrastructure has instead been read into Article 21 through judicial interpretation.

7. Which one of the following Fundamental Rights is most directly invoked when the Supreme Court recognises the right to walk safely on public footpaths?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 19(1)(a)

(c) Article 21

(d) Article 32

Answer: (c)

Explanation

The Supreme Court has recognised that **safe, dignified and unhindered pedestrian movement** forms an essential component of **Article 21**, which guarantees the **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**. Over the years, Article 21 has been interpreted expansively to include various rights necessary for living with dignity, such as a clean environment, safe drinking water, privacy and now safe pedestrian infrastructure. The judgment also noted that effective enjoyment of several freedoms under **Article 19** often depends upon citizens being able to move safely in public spaces.

8. **With reference to India's first commercial-scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project, consider the following statements:**

- I. The project is being developed by Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL).
- II. It utilises indigenously developed coal gasification technology of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).
- III. The project primarily aims to replace imported crude oil for transportation fuels.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements **I** and **II** are correct, while Statement **III** is incorrect.

India's first commercial-scale **Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project** is being implemented by **Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL)**, a joint venture of **BHEL** and **Coal India Limited (CIL)**. The project employs **indigenously developed coal gasification technology** to convert domestic coal into ammonium nitrate. Its objectives include **value addition to coal, import substitution, industrial self-reliance, employment generation** and promoting cleaner coal utilisation. It is **not intended to produce transportation fuels or replace crude oil imports**.

9. **Which one of the following correctly describes the strategic significance of India's first commercial-scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project?**

(a) It aims to phase out domestic coal production by replacing it with imported natural gas.

(b) It seeks to improve value addition to domestic coal through advanced gasification technology while promoting industrial self-reliance.

(c) It primarily focuses on expanding offshore petroleum production.

(d) It has been established exclusively for the export of ammonium nitrate.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The project represents a significant milestone in India's **coal gasification programme**. By converting coal into value-added industrial products using **advanced gasification technology**, it enhances the productive utilisation of India's abundant coal reserves. The initiative supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by reducing import dependence on key industrial inputs, strengthening domestic manufacturing capability, encouraging indigenous technology development and creating employment opportunities. It also serves as a demonstration model for future coal gasification projects in sectors requiring chemical feedstocks.

10. Consider the following pairs:**Joint Venture****Associated Project**

I. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) + Coal India Limited (CIL)	Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited
II. IITM + ARIES	Bharat Climate Observation Network
III. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Financial Action Task Force

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Pairs **I** and **II** are correctly matched, whereas Pair **III** is incorrect.

Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL) is a joint venture between **BHEL** and **Coal India Limited** for implementing India's first commercial-scale coal-to-ammonium nitrate project. Similarly, **IITM** and **ARIES** have entered into a long-term collaboration under **Mission Mausam** to establish the **Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON)**. However, the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is an **inter-governmental organisation established by the G7**, headquartered in **Paris**, and has **no institutional connection with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.