



## UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs 01-09-2023

Ques:1

Recently, Johannesburg Declaration was in news, it is related to

- a) Expansion of BRICS membership
- b) Raising the collective voice of developing nations at World trade organisation forum
- c) Providing agriculture subsidies to Africans nations
- d) Strengthening the bilateral relation between India and South Africa.

Solution: (a)

Recently, the 15th BRICS Summit concluded in Johannesburg last week with the membership of the grouping going from 5 to 11, after the induction of four countries from the Gulf and West Asia — Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as Ethiopia and Argentina from Africa and South America, respectively.

The expansion was carried out under the Johannesburg Declaration which refers to “consensus” being reached on “the guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures of the BRICS expansion process”, details of which have not been made public so far.

Ques:2

Consider the following statements.

1. Indian constitution does not mention about minimum numbers of parliamentary sessions.
2. The power to convene a session of Parliament lies with the government.

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

Solution: (c)

Statement 1 is correct:



Indian constitution does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar and number of sessions. Traditionally, Parliament meets for three sessions in a year:

Budget Session (February-May)

Monsoon Session (July-August)

Winter Session (November-December)

The Constitution, under Article 85, mandates that Parliament should meet at least twice a year, and the gap between two sessions should not exceed six months.

Statement 2 is correct:

The power to convene a session of Parliament lies with the government.

This decision is made by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, which is then formalised by the President, who summons the MPs for a session.

Ques:3

Mahendragiri, Indian Navy's Stealth Frigate, is manufactured under which project

- a) Project 75 (I)
- b) Project 17A
- c) Project 15 B
- d) Project 11 A

Solution: (b)

The Indian Navy's final stealth frigate constructed as part of Project 17A, 'Mahendragiri', is scheduled for launch at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in Mumbai on Friday. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar will be present at the launch ceremony.

Named after a prominent peak in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha, INS 'Mahendragiri' marks the seventh addition to the fleet of Project 17A frigates. Distinguished by enhanced stealth characteristics, advanced weaponry, and cutting-edge sensors, these vessels are a continuation of the Project 17 frigate series.



Ques:4

With reference to Mekedatu Project, consider the following statements

- 1.It is a multipurpose project involving the construction of a balancing reservoir in Karnataka.
- 2.It is situated at the confluence of the rivers Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi.
- 3.Its primary objectives are to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and neighboring areas.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: (c)

The Mekedatu project is a multipurpose project involving the construction of a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district, Karnataka. Mekedatu, meaning goat's leap, is a deep gorge situated at the confluence of the rivers Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi. Its primary objectives are to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and neighboring areas, totaling 4.75 TMC, and generate 400 MW of power.

Ques:5

With reference to Red Sand Boa, consider the following statements

- 1.It is a venomous snake species found throughout the dry parts of the Indian subcontinent.
- 2.Also known as the "Two-headed Snake".
- 3.The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 lists the snake in Schedule IV, trade and possession of the red sand boa is an offense.
- 4.It is illegally traded for medicinal purpose and black magic.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only two



- b) Only three
- c) All four
- d) None

Solution: (b)

The scientific name of the snake is *Eryx johnii*. It is a non-poisonous snake. Also known as the “Two-headed Snake” as it has a very thick tail having a rounded end which gives it the look of a head. The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 lists the snake in Schedule IV, trade and possession of the red sand boa is an offense. The species is listed in CITES Appendix II. IUCN status: Near Threatened.

The snake is native to Iran, Pakistan, and India. In India, it is found in all of India excluding the northeast states. It is also not found in Indian islands. There are different names for this snake in the region. It is known by the names Indian sand boa, John’s sand boa, red sand boa, and brown sand boa. These are the largest sand boas in the world. These are ovoviviparous (the eggs hatch inside the mother’s body and are nourished inside until the baby snake is born). These are nocturnal (active during the night) and spend the majority of their time under the ground. It is traded for medicinal purpose and black magic. It is demanded in the illegal market and generally sold for lakhs of rupees.