

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs 14-01-2024

1. Question

Consider the following statements about Congo River

- It is the longest river in the African continent
- It rises in the highlands of north-eastern Zambia between Lake Victoria and Tana.
- Its course through the rainforest causes it to cross the equator twice.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None of the above

Solution (a)

It is a River in west-central Africa.

It is also called the Zaire River.

With a length of 2,900 miles (4,700 km), it is the continent's second-longest river, after the Nile, and the ninth-longest in the world.

The river gets its name from the ancient Kongo Kingdom, which existed near the mouth of the river.

It rises in the highlands of northeastern Zambia between Lake Tanganyika and Nyasa (Malawi) as the Chambeshi River at an elevation of 5,760 feet (1,760 metres).

Its course then takes the form of a giant counterclockwise arc, flowing to the northwest, west, and southwest before draining into the Atlantic Ocean at Banana (Banane) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Congo River system runs through the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, western Zambia, northern Angola, and parts of Cameroon and Tanzania.

Its course through the rainforest causes it to cross the equator twice.



It is the deepest river in the world. It reaches depths of over 750 feet (230 meters).

The river also has the second-largest flow in the world, with a discharge of 1.5 million cubic feet of water per second, trailing only the Amazon, and the second. It drains an area of 3.7 million square kilometers (1.4 million square miles) known as the Congo Basin.

Context: The Congo River has risen to its highest level in more than 60 years, causing flooding throughout the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Congo Republic that has killed more than 300 people recently.

2. Question

Consider the following statements about Zero Effect, Zero Defect Scheme (ZED)

1. Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of MSME, the scheme is an integrated and comprehensive certification system for MSME.
2. Quality Council of India has been appointed as the National Monitoring & Implementing Unit for implementation of ZED.
3. The ZED certification is valid for five years and it is applicable for manufacturing MSMEs only.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solution (b)

Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of MSME, the scheme is an integrated and comprehensive certification system.

The scheme accounts for productivity, quality, pollution mitigation, energy efficiency, financial status, human resource and technological depth including design and IPR in both products and processes.



Its mission is to develop and implement the 'ZED' culture in India based on the principles of Zero Defect & Zero Effect.

Implementation Agency of the Scheme:

Quality Council of India (QCI) has been appointed as the National Monitoring & Implementing Unit (NMIU) for implementation of ZED.

The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

The scheme provides financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the total cost of certification, with a maximum subsidy ceiling of Rs 50,000, along with up to Rs 2 lakh in support for handholding/consultancy to achieve the next certification level.

For technology upgradation, the scheme offers assistance of up to Rs 3 lakhs for moving towards zero effect solutions/pollution control measures/cleaner

MSMEs are charged Rs 10,000 for bronze certification, Rs 40,000 for silver certification, and Rs 90,000 for gold certification.

In December 2023, the MSME Ministry made the ZED scheme free for women-led MSMEs.

In addition, the government will now make guarantee payment of 100 percent financial support for the certification costs under the scheme.

The ZED certification is valid for three years, and the MSME units are required to re-apply for the certificate as per the validity of the scheme.

Currently, the scheme is applicable for manufacturing MSMEs only.s

Context: The Zero Effect, Zero Defect scheme (ZED) by the MSME Ministry has achieved the 1 lakh certification milestone, the ministry said recently.

3. Question

Consider the following statements about Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

1. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) was established by him as the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875.



2. Tahzebul Akhlaq, a magazine founded by him, tried to awaken people's consciousness on social and religious issues.

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution (c)

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)

It is a government-run education institution situated in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

History:

It was originally established by social reformer Sir Syed Ahmad Khan as the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875.

In the aftermath of the 1857 Indian War of Independence, the College was built on Khan's conviction that it was important for Muslims to gain education and become involved in public life and government services in India.

Raja Jai Kishan helped Sir Syed establish the college.

Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College became AMU in 1920, following the Aligarh Muslim University Act.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was born in 1817 in a family that was close to the Mughal court, he was a man of many distinctions, a civil servant, journalist, educationist, social reformer and historian among others.

Social Reformer: He also pushed for social reforms and was a champion of democratic ideals and freedom of speech.

He was against religious intolerance, ignorance and irrationalism. He denounced purdah, polygamy and easy divorce.

Tahzebul Akhlaq (Social Reformer in English), a magazine founded by him, tried to awaken people's consciousness on social and religious issues in a very expressive prose



Context: The Supreme Court recently said that over the last hundred years, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has continued to be an institute of national importance, without the minority tag, and asked how it matters for the people whether it is a minority institution or not.

4. Question

Consider the following statements about Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) Mission

1. It is NASA's first mobile robotic mission to the Moon that will analyze ice on the surface and subsurface of the Moon.
2. It is a 200-day Mission and it is a part of NASA's Artemis mission.

Choose the incorrect statements:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution (b)

The Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER will get a close-up view of the location and concentration of ice and other resources at the Moon's South Pole.

It is NASA's first mobile robotic mission to the Moon.

It will directly analyze ice on the surface and subsurface of the Moon at varying depths and temperature conditions within four main soil environments.

Mission duration: 100 Earth days, covering 3 cycles of lunar day and night.

It will land at the South Pole of the Moon in late 2024.

The rover will study the Moon's water and understand the environment where it plans to land the first woman and first person of color under its Artemis program.



Context: NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.

5. Question

Which of the following statement about Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is not correct?

- a) He started living in India after 2nd Battle of Tarain (1192).
- b) He established the Chishti order Qadiriyya in India.
- c) Urs festival is an annual festival held in Rajasthan to commemorate his death anniversary.
- d) None of the above

Solution (b)

Khwaja Chishti is also known by different names as, Khawaja Gharib Nawaz, 'Sultan-Ul-Hind' (Benefactor of the Poor).

Birth – Sijistan (modern-day Sistan) in Iran in 1141-42 CE.

Visit to India – He started living and preaching in Ajmer after 2nd Battle of Tarain (1192), where Mohammed Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan.

His Mission – To establish the kingdom of God on Earth.

Popularity – He was popular among the locals, kings, nobles, and peasants for his instructive discourses full of spiritual insights.

He established the Chishti order of 'fakirs' in India.

Doctrines – It emphasised the unity of being with God (waḥdat al-wujūd) and members of the order were also pacifists.

They rejected all material goods as distractions from the contemplation of God.

They abstained from connection with the secular state.

Urs festival is an annual festival held at Ajmer in Rajasthan to commemorate his death anniversary.



Other Sufi Orders in India

Suhrawardi Order – It was founded by Sheikh Shahabuddin Suharwardi Maqtul and unlike the Chishtis, accepted maintenance grants from the Sultans.

Naqshbandi Order – It was founded by the Khwaja Baha-ul-din Naqsh band, stressed on the observance of the Shariat.

Qadiriyya Order – Sheikh Abdul Qadir of Badaun founded this in the 14th century who were supporters of the Mughals under Akbar.

Context: PM presents sacred Chadar to be placed during the Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti at Ajmer Sharif Dargah.