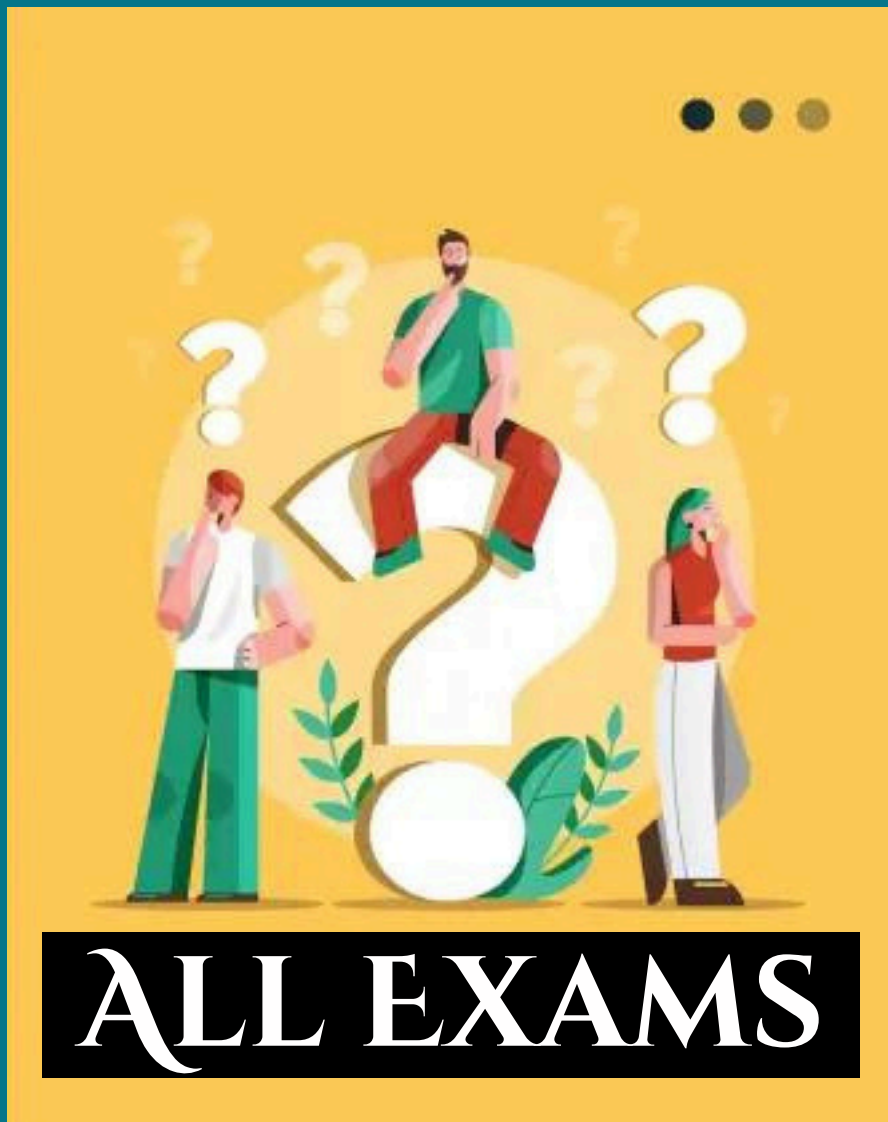


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Q.1

According to the new findings, in which century BCE did the Tamil-Brahmi script originate?

1. 5th Century BCE
2. 6th Century BCE
3. 7th Century BCE
4. 8th Century BCE

Answer:

C

Sol:

• Recent scientific analysis has pushed back the origin of the Tamil-Brahmi script to the 6th century BCE.

Key points:

- New Scientific Dates: Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating has pushed the origin of the Tamil script back by a hundred years.
- Previous Belief: Initially thought to date back to the 6th Century BCE based on 2019 AMS dating.
- Revised Date: New findings indicate the script originated in the 7th Century BCE.
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- Significance of the Discovery: • Challenges the earlier belief that Brahmi scripts were introduced during Asokan times.
- Literacy Evidence: Inscribed potsherds found across Tamil Nadu show the penetration and level of literacy during Early Historic times.
- Widespread Use: Inscriptions engraved with personal names by common people reflect widespread script use.
- Impact on India's History: • Historical Timeline: Implications for India's historical timeline, pushing back the Sangam era by three hundred years.
- Efforts to Rewrite History: Scientific efforts to rewrite India's history from Tamil Nadu gained momentum after findings in 2019 and 2021.

Q.2

What new scientific method has pushed back the origin of the Tamil-Brahmi script?

1. Carbon-14 Dating
2. Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) Dating
3. Thermoluminescence Dating
4. Radiocarbon Dating

Answer:

B

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Q.3

The concept of the two-state solution dates back to the early 20th century, notably with the:

1. 1937 Peel Commission and the 1947 UN Partition Plan
2. 1917 Balfour Declaration and the 1947 UN Partition Plan
3. 1967 Six-Day War and the 1993 Oslo Accords
4. 1987 Intifada and the 2000 Camp David Summit

Answer:

A

Sol:

Two-state solution:

- The two-state solution refers to the proposal to establish two separate states for Israelis and Palestinians, aiming to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Historical Context: • The concept dates back to the early 20th century, notably with the 1937 Peel Commission and the 1947 UN Partition Plan.
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- Roadmap for Peace (2003): A plan proposed by the Quartet (UN, EU, US, and Russia) that envisioned a two-state solution by 2005.
- Main Components: • Borders: Establishment of recognized borders between Israel and a future Palestinian state, likely based on the pre-1967

boundaries with mutually agreed land swaps.

- Jerusalem: Jerusalem's status as the capital of both states, with special arrangements for holy sites.
- Security: Measures to ensure security for both states, addressing Israeli concerns about terrorism and Palestinian concerns about sovereignty.
- Refugees: A solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, balancing the right of return with practical resettlement and compensation.

Q.4

Which agreement aimed to achieve a peace treaty based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the establishment of a Palestinian state?

1. Camp David Summit (2000)
2. Roadmap for Peace (2003)
3. Madrid Conference (1991)
4. Oslo Accords (1993-1995)

Answer:

D

Sol:

Two-state solution:

- The two-state solution refers to the proposal to establish two separate states for Israelis and Palestinians, aiming to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Historical Context: • The concept dates back to the early 20th century, notably with the 1937 Peel Commission and the 1947 UN Partition Plan.
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- Main Components:
 - Borders: Establishment of recognized borders between Israel and a future Palestinian state, likely based on the pre-1967 boundaries with mutually agreed land swaps.
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 - Security: Measures to ensure security for both states, addressing Israeli concerns about terrorism and Palestinian concerns about sovereignty.
- Refugees: A solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, balancing the right of return with practical resettlement and compensation.

Q.5

Where is Pampa Sarovar located?

1. Near Bangalore
2. Near Mysore
3. Near Hampi
4. Near Mangalore

Answer:

C

Sol:

Pampa lake:

- Location: Pampa Sarovar is located near Hampi in the state of Karnataka.
- Significance: It is one of the five sacred sarovars (lakes) mentioned in Hindu scriptures.
- Mythological Importance: Associated with the legend of Lord Rama and Sita from the Ramayana. It is believed to be the place where Shabari, a devotee of Lord Rama, met him and offered him berries.
- Nearby Attractions: Close to other significant sites in

Hampi, including the Virupaksha Temple and the Tungabhadra River.

Q.6

Which river is close to Pampa Sarovar

1. Kaveri River
2. Godavari River
3. Krishna River
4. Tungabhadra River

Answer:

D

Sol:

Pampa lake:

- Location: Pampa Sarovar is located near Hampi in the state of Karnataka.
- Significance: It is one of the five sacred sarovars (lakes) mentioned in Hindu scriptures.
- Mythological Importance: Associated with the legend of Lord Rama and Sita from the Ramayana. It is believed to be the place where Shabari, a devotee of Lord Rama, met him and offered him berries.
- Nearby Attractions: Close to other significant sites in Hampi, including the Virupaksha Temple and the Tungabhadra River.

Q.7

What is the primary purpose of the Colombo Process?

1. To manage overseas employment and contractual labor for countries of origin in Asia
2. To promote tourism in Asia
3. To establish trade agreements between Asian countries
4. To develop educational programs in Asia

Answer:

A

Sol:

• India has become chair of regional grouping Colombo Process for the first time since its inception in 2003.

About Colombo Process:

• Establishment: The Colombo Process was established in 2003.

• Purpose: It is a regional consultative process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labor for countries of origin in Asia.

• Member Countries: The member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

• Objective: The main objectives are to optimize the benefits of organized labor migration, protect migrant workers' rights, and prevent illegal migration.

• Key Areas of Focus: • Skills and Qualification Recognition

• Ethical Recruitment

• Pre-departure Orientation and Empowerment Remittance

• Return and Reintegration

• Chairmanship: The chairmanship of the Colombo Process rotates among member countries.

• Secretariat: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) serves as the secretariat for the Colombo Process.

• Collaborations: It collaborates with various international organizations, including the IOM, International Labour Organization (ILO), and United Nations (UN) agencies.

Q.8

Which organization serves as the secretariat for the Colombo Process?

1. United Nations (UN)
2. International Labour Organization (ILO)

3. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

4. World Health Organization (WHO)

Answer:

C

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Q.9

What type of behavior is exhibited by Hoolock Gibbons?

1. Nocturnal and terrestrial
2. Arboreal and diurnal
3. Aquatic and nocturnal
4. Terrestrial and diurnal

Answer:

B

Sol:

Hoolock Gibbons:

- Scientific Name: Hoolock hoolock (Western Hoolock Gibbon) and Hoolock leuconedys (Eastern Hoolock Gibbon).
- Family: Hylobatidae.
- Distribution: • Western Hoolock Gibbon: Found in northeastern India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon: Found in northeastern India and parts of Myanmar.
- Habitat: Primarily inhabits tropical and subtropical evergreen forests and occasionally in semi-evergreen forests.
- Behavior: • Arboreal and brachiating (swinging from branch to branch).
- Diurnal (active during the day).
- Highly territorial and live in monogamous pairs with their offspring.
- Conservation Status: • Western Hoolock Gibbon: Classified as Endangered by the IUCN.
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon: Classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

Q.10

What is the conservation status of the Western Hoolock Gibbon according to the IUCN?

1. Least Concern
2. Near Threatened
3. Vulnerable
4. Endangered

Answer:

D

Sol:

Hoolock Gibbons:

- Scientific Name: Hoolock hoolock (Western Hoolock Gibbon) and Hoolock leuconedys (Eastern Hoolock Gibbon).
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- Conservation Status: • Western Hoolock Gibbon: Classified as Endangered by the IUCN.
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon: Classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

Q.11

To which family does the Peacock Royal butterfly belong?

1. Nymphalidae
2. Pieridae
3. Lycaenidae
4. Papilionidae

Answer:

C

Sol:

• a 'peacock royal' butterfly, also known as Tajuria Cippus, was recently spotted in the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

About 'Peacock royal' butterfly:

- Scientific Name: Tajuria cippus
- Family: Lycaenidae (the family of gossamer-winged butterflies)
- Habitat: Prefers forested areas, gardens, and areas with dense vegetation.
- Distribution: Found in South and Southeast Asia, including India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Q.12

Swine flu primarily affects which part of the body?

1. Respiratory tract
2. Digestive tract
3. Circulatory system
4. Nervous system

Answer:

A

Sol:

Swine flu:

- Swine flu, also known as H1N1 influenza, is a respiratory disease caused by influenza viruses that infect the respiratory tract of pigs.
- Virus Strain: The H1N1 strain is a mix of genes from swine, bird, and human flu viruses.
- Transmission: • It spreads primarily through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It can also spread by touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Origin: The 2009 H1N1 outbreak was first detected in Mexico and quickly spread globally, leading to its

classification as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Q.13

When will the Jal Samruddhi mission commence?

1. June 5
2. June 21
3. August 15
4. October 2

Answer:

A

Sol:

Jal Samruddhi:

- Objective: To recharge wells, promote rainwater harvesting, and implement other water conservation measures.
- Launch Date: The mission will commence on World Environment Day, which falls on June 5.
- Target Villages: Over 400 villages and hamlets in the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district that rely on tankers for water supply during the summer months.
- Implementation Approach: • Groundwater Recharging: The mission will focus on recharging wells and bore-wells in vulnerable villages using scientific yet simple methods.
- Rainwater Harvesting: Rural homes will adopt rainwater harvesting techniques, including absorption pits and other measures.
- Awareness Drives: On World Environment Day, the district administration will organize workshops, lectures, and awareness campaigns at the Gram Panchayat level to sensitize locals about the mission and encourage public participation.

Q.14

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What is the name of the newly developed hybrid variety of pigeon pea by the Vasantnao Naik Marathwada Agricultural University?

1. BDNPH 14-20
2. BDNPH 08-24
3. BDNPH 18-5
4. BDNPH 11-24

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Vasantnao Naik Marathwada Agricultural University in Maharashtra has achieved a significant milestone by developing the first hybrid variety of pigeon pea in the state.

About Hybrid variety of pigeon pea:

- Hybrid Variety: The newly developed pigeon pea hybrid is named BDNPH 18-5.
- Origin: Scientists at the Agriculture Research Station in Badnapur, Jalna district, played a pivotal role in creating this hybrid.
- Productivity Range: BDNPH 18-5 exhibits a productivity range of 1759 kg per hectare to 2159 kg per hectare.
- Cultivation Duration: This hybrid variety matures within 155 to 170 days.
- Compatibility: BDNPH 18-5 seamlessly integrates into the existing cropping system.
- Disease Resistance: It is moderately resistant to two significant diseases that affect pigeon pea: wilt and sterility mosaic disease.
- Farmers' Benefit: The introduction of this hybrid is expected to be a boon for farmers, enabling them to achieve higher agricultural yields with relatively less effort.

Q.15

In which recent location was the first photographic record of the Spot-bellied Eagle Owl reported?

1. Kanha National Park
2. Jim Corbett National Park
3. Sundarbans National Park
4. Pench Tiger Reserve

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has recently reported the first photographic record of the spot-bellied eagle owl, also known as the forest eagle owl.

About Spot-bellied eagle owl:

- Scientific Name: *Bubo nipalensis*
- Distribution: Found in parts of South Asia, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- Habitat: Prefers dense forests, both deciduous and evergreen.
- Diet: Carnivorous, primarily preys on small mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects.
- Behavior: • Nocturnal and solitary.
- Known for its deep, booming calls.
- Conservation Status: Listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, but faces threats from habitat destruction and deforestation.

Q.1

According to the new findings, in which century BCE did the Tamil-Brahmi script originate?

1. 5th Century BCE
2. 6th Century BCE
3. 7th Century BCE
4. 8th Century BCE

Answer:

C

Sol:

• Recent scientific analysis has pushed back the origin of the Tamil-Brahmi script to the 6th century BCE.

Key points:

- New Scientific Dates: Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating has pushed the origin of the Tamil script back by a hundred years.
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 - Significance of the Discovery: • Challenges the earlier belief that Brahmi scripts were introduced during Asokan times.
 - Literacy Evidence: Inscribed potsherds found across Tamil Nadu show the penetration and level of literacy during Early Historic times.
 - Widespread Use: Inscriptions engraved with personal names by common people reflect widespread script use.
- Impact on India's History: • Historical Timeline: Implications for India's historical timeline, pushing back the Sangam era by three hundred years.
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What new scientific method has pushed back the origin of the Tamil-Brahmi script?

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2. Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) Dating
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4. Radiocarbon Dating

Answer:

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Q.3

The concept of the two-state solution dates back to the early 20th century, notably with the:

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Answer:

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Sol:

Two-state solution:

- The two-state solution refers to the proposal to establish two separate states for Israelis and Palestinians, aiming to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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- Security: Measures to ensure security for both states, addressing Israeli concerns about terrorism and Palestinian concerns about sovereignty.

- Refugees: A solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, balancing the right of return with practical resettlement and compensation.

Q.4

Which agreement aimed to achieve a peace treaty based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the establishment of a Palestinian state?

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2. Roadmap for Peace (2003)
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Answer:

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Q.5

Where is Pampa Sarovar located?

1. Near Bangalore
2. Near Mysore
3. Near Hampi
4. Near Mangalore

Answer:

C

Sol:

Pampa lake:

- Location: Pampa Sarovar is located near Hampi in the state of Karnataka.
- Significance: It is one of the five sacred sarovars (lakes) mentioned in Hindu scriptures.
- Mythological Importance: Associated with the legend of Lord Rama and Sita from the Ramayana. It is believed to be the place where Shabari, a devotee of Lord Rama, met him and offered him berries.
- Nearby Attractions: Close to other significant sites in Hampi, including the Virupaksha Temple and the Tungabhadra River.

Q.6

Which river is close to Pampa Sarovar

1. Kaveri River
2. Godavari River
3. Krishna River
4. Tungabhadra River

Answer:

D

Sol:

Pampa lake:

- Location: Pampa Sarovar is located near Hampi in the state of Karnataka.
- Significance: It is one of the five sacred sarovars (lakes) mentioned in Hindu scriptures.
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Q.7

What is the primary purpose of the Colombo Process?

1. To manage overseas employment and contractual labor for countries of origin in Asia
2. To promote tourism in Asia
3. To establish trade agreements between Asian countries
4. To develop educational programs in Asia

Answer:

A

Sol:

- India has become chair of regional grouping Colombo Process for the first time since its inception in 2003.

About Colombo Process:

- Establishment: The Colombo Process was established in 2003.
- Purpose: It is a regional consultative process on the

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management of overseas employment and contractual labor for countries of origin in Asia.

• Member Countries: The member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

• Objective: The main objectives are to optimize the benefits of organized labor migration, protect migrant workers' rights, and prevent illegal migration.

• Key Areas of Focus: • Skills and Qualification Recognition

• Ethical Recruitment

• Pre-departure Orientation and Empowerment Remittance

• Return and Reintegration

• Chairmanship: The chairmanship of the Colombo Process rotates among member countries.

• Secretariat: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) serves as the secretariat for the Colombo Process.

• Collaborations: It collaborates with various international organizations, including the IOM, International Labour Organization (ILO), and United Nations (UN) agencies.

Q.8

Which organization serves as the secretariat for the Colombo Process?

1. United Nations (UN)
2. International Labour Organization (ILO)
3. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
4. World Health Organization (WHO)

Answer:

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Q.9

What type of behavior is exhibited by Hoolock Gibbons?

1. Nocturnal and terrestrial
2. Arboreal and diurnal
3. Aquatic and nocturnal
4. Terrestrial and diurnal

Answer:

B

Sol:

Hoolock Gibbons:

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- Scientific Name: Hoolock hoolock (Western Hoolock Gibbon) and Hoolock leuconedys (Eastern Hoolock Gibbon).
- Family: Hylobatidae.
- Distribution: • Western Hoolock Gibbon: Found in northeastern India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon: Found in northeastern India and parts of Myanmar.
- Habitat: Primarily inhabits tropical and subtropical evergreen forests and occasionally in semi-evergreen forests.
- Behavior: • Arboreal and brachiating (swinging from branch to branch).
- Diurnal (active during the day).
- Highly territorial and live in monogamous pairs with their offspring.
- Conservation Status: • Western Hoolock Gibbon: Classified as Endangered by the IUCN.
- Eastern Hoolock Gibbon: Classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

Q.10

What is the conservation status of the Western Hoolock Gibbon according to the IUCN?

1. Least Concern
2. Near Threatened
3. Vulnerable
4. Endangered

Answer:

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Q.11

To which family does the Peacock Royal butterfly belong?

1. Nymphalidae
2. Pieridae
3. Lycaenidae
4. Papilionidae

Answer:

C

Sol:

• a 'peacock royal' butterfly, also known as Tajuria Cippus, was recently spotted in the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

About 'Peacock royal' butterfly:

- Scientific Name: Tajuria cippus
- Family: Lycaenidae (the family of gossamer-winged butterflies)
- Habitat: Prefers forested areas, gardens, and areas with dense vegetation.
- Distribution: Found in South and Southeast Asia,

including India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Q.12

Swine flu primarily affects which part of the body?

1. Respiratory tract
2. Digestive tract
3. Circulatory system
4. Nervous system

Answer:

A

Sol:

Swine flu:

- Swine flu, also known as H1N1 influenza, is a respiratory disease caused by influenza viruses that infect the respiratory tract of pigs.
- Virus Strain: The H1N1 strain is a mix of genes from swine, bird, and human flu viruses.
- Transmission: • It spreads primarily through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It can also spread by touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Origin: The 2009 H1N1 outbreak was first detected in Mexico and quickly spread globally, leading to its classification as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Q.13

When will the Jal Samruddhi mission commence?

1. June 5
2. June 21
3. August 15

4. October 2

Answer:

A

Sol:

Jal Samruddhi:

- Objective: To recharge wells, promote rainwater harvesting, and implement other water conservation measures.
- Launch Date: The mission will commence on World Environment Day, which falls on June 5.
- Target Villages: Over 400 villages and hamlets in the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district that rely on tankers for water supply during the summer months.
- Implementation Approach: • Groundwater Recharging: The mission will focus on recharging wells and bore-wells in vulnerable villages using scientific yet simple methods.
- Rainwater Harvesting: Rural homes will adopt rainwater harvesting techniques, including absorption pits and other measures.
- Awareness Drives: On World Environment Day, the district administration will organize workshops, lectures, and awareness campaigns at the Gram Panchayat level to sensitize locals about the mission and encourage public participation.

Q.14

What is the name of the newly developed hybrid variety of pigeon pea by the Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Agricultural University?

1. BDNPH 14-20
2. BDNPH 08-24
3. BDNPH 18-5
4. BDNPH 11-24

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Agricultural University in Maharashtra has achieved a significant milestone by developing the first hybrid variety of pigeon pea in the state.

About Hybrid variety of pigeon pea:

- Hybrid Variety: The newly developed pigeon pea hybrid is named BDNPH 18-5.
- Origin: Scientists at the Agriculture Research Station in Badnapur, Jalna district, played a pivotal role in creating this hybrid.
- Productivity Range: BDNPH 18-5 exhibits a productivity range of 1759 kg per hectare to 2159 kg per hectare.
- Cultivation Duration: This hybrid variety matures within 155 to 170 days.
- Compatibility: BDNPH 18-5 seamlessly integrates into the existing cropping system.
- Disease Resistance: It is moderately resistant to two significant diseases that affect pigeon pea: wilt and sterility mosaic disease.
- Farmers' Benefit: The introduction of this hybrid is expected to be a boon for farmers, enabling them to achieve higher agricultural yields with relatively less effort.

Q.15

In which recent location was the first photographic record of the Spot-bellied Eagle Owl reported?

1. Kanha National Park
2. Jim Corbett National Park
3. Sundarbans National Park
4. Pench Tiger Reserve

Answer:

D

Sol:

- The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has recently reported the first photographic record of the

spot-bellied eagle owl, also known as the forest eagle owl.

About Spot-bellied eagle owl:

- Scientific Name: *Bubo nipalensis*
- Distribution: Found in parts of South Asia, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- Habitat: Prefers dense forests, both deciduous and evergreen.
- Diet: Carnivorous, primarily preys on small mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects.
- Behavior: • Nocturnal and solitary.
- Known for its deep, booming calls.

• Conservation Status: Listed as Least Concern by the IUCN, but faces threats from habitat destruction and deforestation.

Q.1

What is the name of the event organized by CSIR to mark the milestone of concluding the first phase of the Phenome India project?

1. Phenome India Unveiling 1.0
2. Phenome India Launch 1.0
3. Phenome India Unboxing 1.0
4. Phenome India Summit 1.0

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has recently concluded the first phase of its longitudinal health monitoring project, Phenome India.
- To mark this milestone, CSIR organized a special event named "Phenome India Unboxing 1.0."

About 'Phenome India' Project:

- The Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase (PI-CheCK), launched by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- It is a pioneering initiative aimed at developing India-specific risk prediction models for cardio-metabolic diseases, including diabetes, liver

diseases, and cardiac diseases.

- Objective: To create risk prediction models tailored to the Indian population for cardio-metabolic diseases.
- Scope: This is the first pan-India longitudinal health monitoring study with a focus on these diseases.
- Importance: The study aims to understand the unique risk and incidence patterns of cardio-metabolic disorders in the Indian population, which may differ from Western populations due to ethnic diversity and varied lifestyle patterns.
- Precision Medicine: This initiative promotes Predictive, Personalised, Participatory, and Preventive (P4) healthcare, specifically tailored to Indian phenotypic and genetic profiles.

Q.2

Which diseases are the focus of the Phenome India project?

1. Cardio-metabolic diseases, including diabetes, liver diseases, and cardiac diseases
2. Respiratory diseases
3. Infectious diseases
4. Neurological disorders

Answer:

A

Sol:

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- Precision Medicine: This initiative promotes Predictive, Personalised, Participatory, and Preventive (P4) healthcare, specifically tailored to Indian phenotypic and genetic profiles.

Q.3

When was the International Air Transport Association (IATA) founded?

1. 1930
2. 1945
3. 1949
4. 1955

Answer:

B

Sol:

- India will host the annual general meeting (AGM) of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) after 42 years.
- About IATA:
- Founded: 1945, Havana, Cuba, with 57 founding members.
 - Mission: To represent, lead, and serve the airline industry.
 - Membership: Represents approximately 330 airlines, covering over 80% of global air traffic.
 - Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.
 - Members: Includes leading passenger and cargo airlines worldwide.
 - Functions and Advocacy: • Simplification and Standards: Creates industry standards to: • Simplify

processes.

- Increase safety.
- Enhance passenger convenience.
- Reduce costs.
- Improve efficiency.
- Achieve sustainability goals.

• Environmental Policy: Addresses environmental concerns.

• Regulatory Advocacy: Challenges arbitrary laws and charges, holding regulators and governments accountable, and striving for responsible regulation.

• Cost Reduction: Helps airlines reduce costs and improve efficiency by simplifying operations and boosting passenger convenience.

• IATA Annual General Meeting & World Air Transport Summit: Held in June each year to formalise industry positions on key issues and focus on emerging industry concerns.

Q.4

Where are the headquarters of IATA located?

1. Havana, Cuba
2. Montreal, Canada
3. Geneva, Switzerland
4. Washington, D.C., USA

Answer:

B

Sol:

• India will host the annual general meeting (AGM) of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) after 42 years.

About IATA:

- Founded: 1945, Havana, Cuba, with 57 founding members.
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Q.5

What are stromatolites?

1. Volcanic rocks
2. Sedimentary rocks
3. Crystalline mineral formations
4. Layered structures formed by microorganisms

Answer:

D

Sol:

• Scientists recently discovered living stromatolites, ancient geological structures formed by algae, on Sheybarah Island in the northeastern Red Sea in Saudi Arabia.

About Stromatolites:

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- Stromatolites, also known as stromatoliths, are layered structures formed in shallow waters by the trapping, binding, and cementation of sedimentary grains by biofilms of microorganisms, particularly cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).
- Historical Significance: • Stromatolites were common during the Precambrian era, more than 542 million years ago.
- Most stromatolites are marine, but some from Proterozoic strata, over 2.5 billion years old, are believed to have inhabited intertidal areas and freshwater ponds and lakes.
- Modern Occurrence: • Today, living stromatolites are rare, found only in a few salty lagoons or bays.
- Western Australia is internationally significant for its variety of stromatolite sites, both living and fossilized.
- Shark Bay in Western Australia is one of only two places in the world where living marine stromatolites exist.

Q.6

In which modern-day country were living stromatolites recently discovered on Sheybarah Island?

1. Australia
2. India
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Brazil

Answer:

C

Sol:

• Scientists recently discovered living stromatolites, ancient geological structures formed by algae, on Sheybarah Island in the northeastern Red Sea in Saudi Arabia.

About Stromatolites:

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- Shark Bay in Western Australia is one of only two places in the world where living marine stromatolites exist.

Q.7

Which organization has commercialized herbicide-tolerant (Ht) basmati rice varieties?

1. Indian Agricultural Research Institute
2. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
3. National Rice Research Institute
4. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

Answer:

B

Sol:

• The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has commercialized herbicide-tolerant (Ht) basmati rice varieties.

• These varieties are designed to control weeds in rice crops and promote water-saving practices through direct seeded rice (DSR) techniques.

About Direct Seeded Rice (DSR):

• Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) refers to the method of sowing rice seeds directly into the field rather than transplanting seedlings from a nursery.

- Types of DSR: • Wet DSR: Seeds are sown in wet fields.
- Dry DSR: Seeds are sown in dry fields, and irrigation is provided later.
- Benefits: • Water Savings: DSR requires less water compared to traditional transplanting methods.
- Labor Efficiency: Reduces the need for labor-intensive practices such as nursery preparation and transplanting.
- Reduced Methane Emissions: Lower methane emissions due to reduced anaerobic conditions.
- Early Maturity: Leads to earlier crop maturity and thus allows for timely planting of subsequent crops.

Q.8

How are rice seeds sown in the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) method?

1. Transplanted from a nursery
2. Sprayed onto the field
3. Directly into the field
4. Planted using seedlings

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has commercialized herbicide-tolerant (Ht) basmati rice varieties.
- These varieties are designed to control weeds in rice crops and promote water-saving practices through direct seeded rice (DSR) techniques.
- About Direct Seeded Rice (DSR):
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- Reduced Methane Emissions: Lower methane emissions due to reduced anaerobic conditions.
- Early Maturity: Leads to earlier crop maturity and thus allows for timely planting of subsequent crops.

Q.9

Who organized the inaugural United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum?

1. United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
2. World Health Organization (WHO)
3. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
4. World Trade Organization (WTO)

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The inaugural United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum, organized by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Government of Barbados, concluded successfully recently.
- About United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum:
- The forum aimed to address critical global issues such as disruptions, geopolitical tensions, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on global trade.
- Decarbonizing Global Shipping: • Focus on developing countries rich in renewable energy resources.
- Efforts to incentivize low- or zero-carbon fuels.
- Establishing safety frameworks for new fuels.
- Enhancing port readiness for handling various fuels.
- UN Trade-and-Transport Dataset: • Launch of a

comprehensive dataset developed in collaboration with the World Bank.

- Offers a holistic view of trade and transport costs.
- The next forum is scheduled to take place in Saudi Arabia in 2026.

Q.10

When and where is the next United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum scheduled to take place?

1. 2025 in Brazil
2. 2024 in Canada
3. 2024 in India
4. 2026 in Saudi Arabia

Answer:

D

Sol:

• The inaugural United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum, organized by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Government of Barbados, concluded successfully recently.

About United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum:

- The forum aimed to address critical global issues such as disruptions, geopolitical tensions, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on global trade.
- Decarbonizing Global Shipping: • Focus on developing countries rich in renewable energy resources.
- Efforts to incentivize low- or zero-carbon fuels.
- Establishing safety frameworks for new fuels.
- Enhancing port readiness for handling various fuels.

• UN Trade-and-Transport Dataset: • Launch of a comprehensive dataset developed in collaboration with the World Bank.

• Offers a holistic view of trade and transport costs.

• The next forum is scheduled to take place in Saudi Arabia in 2026.

Q.11

Where is Shivrajyabhishek Sohala celebrated?

1. Raigad Fort
2. Rajgad Fort
3. Shivneri Fort
4. Torana Fort

Answer:

A

Sol:

• June 6 is celebrated to mark the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

About Shivrajyabhishek Sohala 2024:

- Date: June 6, 2024
- Significance: • Commemoration of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire.

• Location: Raigad Fort, Maharashtra

• Organized By: Maharashtra Government and various cultural organizations

Q.12

Which city became the capital and cultural center during Ahilya Bai Holkar's reign?

1. Pune
2. Gwalior
3. Maheshwar
4. Indore

Answer:

C

Sol:

• The 300th birth anniversary of Maratha queen Ahilya Bai Holkar, renowned for her exceptional administration, visionary leadership, and spiritual inclination, was recently celebrated.

About Ahilya Bai Holkar:

- Early Life and Ascendancy: • Born on 31 May 1725.
- Husband Khanderao Holkar was killed in the battle of Kumbher in 1754.
- Father-in-law Malhar Rao Holkar died in 1766.
- Crowned queen of Malwa kingdom in 1767.

• Reign and Governance: • Capital Maheshwar became a center of literary, musical, artistic, and industrial pursuits.

• Welcomed notable figures like Marathi poet Moropant, Shahir Ananta Gandhi, and Sanskrit scholar Khushali Ram.

• Established a textile industry in Maheshwar, known today for Maheshwari sarees.

• Personally led armies into battle and appointed Tukoji Rao Holkar as Chief of Army.

• Contributions and Legacy: • Renovated and repaired the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in 1780.

• Removed traditional law confiscating property of childless widows.

• Known for her fair and just rule, earning the title 'The Philosopher Queen' by British historian John Keay.

Q.13

What project is the Nagpur-Hyderabad Expressway a part of?

1. Golden Quadrilateral
2. Bharatmala Pariyojana
3. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
4. National Highways Development Project

Answer:

B

Sol:

• The National Highway Authority of India (NHA) plans to commence a feasibility survey for a new expressway between Maharashtra's second capital, Nagpur, and Hyderabad.

Key points:

- This greenfield high-speed corridor, known as the Nagpur-Hyderabad Expressway, will serve as the first phase of the proposed Nagpur-Bengaluru Expressway project.
- It is a part of the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

Q.14

What milestone has the Panchgani Hill Municipal Council in Maharashtra achieved?

1. First municipal council to receive ISO certification
2. First municipal council to implement digital payments
3. First municipal council to introduce electric buses
4. First municipal council to ban plastic

Answer:

A

Sol:

• Panchgani Hill Municipal Council in Maharashtra has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first municipal council in the state to receive ISO certification.

Key points:

- Panchgani Hill Municipal Council received ISO 9001:2015 certification.
- The certification recognizes the excellent working practices implemented at the waste processing plant located at Swachh Bharat Point.
- At Swachh Bharat Point, wet waste is utilized to generate electricity and fertilizer, while dry waste is sorted and recycled.

Q.15

Which public sector bank was the fastest-growing in deposits among the 12 public sector banks in FY24?

1. State Bank of India
2. Bank of India
3. Canara Bank
4. Bank of Maharashtra

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Bank of Maharashtra experienced a 15.94% total domestic business growth in FY24.
- This growth rate was higher than the State Bank of India's (SBI) 13.12%.

Key points:

- Bank of Maharashtra led in deposit growth among public sector banks with a 15.66% increase.
- This growth outpaced SBI, Bank of India, and Canara Bank.
- It was the fastest-growing in deposits among the 12 public sector banks.
- Bank of Maharashtra had the highest growth rate in Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits at 52.73% by the end of March 2024.

Q.1

What is the objective of Tele MANAS?

1. To provide general healthcare support and care through telecommunication
2. To provide physical health support and care through telecommunication
3. To provide mental health support and care through telecommunication
4. To provide educational support and care through telecommunication

Answer:

C

Sol:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to collaborate on operating a special cell of Tele MANAS.

Key points:

- Full form: Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States.
- Launch Date: October 10, 2022 (World Mental Health Day).
- Objective: To provide mental health support and care through telecommunication.
- Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Target Audience: Individuals experiencing mental health issues across India, especially in remote and underserved areas.
- Accessibility: Available via a toll-free helpline number (14416) and a mobile app.

Q.2

Which ministry is responsible for Tele MANAS?

1. Ministry of Defence
2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
3. Ministry of Home Affairs
4. Ministry of Education

Answer:

B

Sol:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to collaborate on operating a special cell of Tele

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Q.3

Which two space agencies are collaborating on the TRISHNA mission?

1. ISRO and CNES
2. ISRO and NASA
3. CNES and NASA
4. ISRO and ESA

Answer:

A

Sol:

- ISRO announced details of its collaboration with the French national space agency CNES for the upcoming TRISHNA mission.
- About TRISHNA mission:
 - TRISHNA stands for Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment.
 - Purpose: The mission aims to monitor water usage and management, surface temperature, and vegetation stress by capturing high-resolution thermal infrared images.
 - Launch Year: The mission is planned to be launched in 2024.
 - Orbit: TRISHNA will be placed in a low Earth orbit (LEO) to provide detailed data on a global scale.

- Applications:
 - Agriculture: Monitoring crop health, irrigation practices, and water stress.
 - Water Resources: Assessing and managing water bodies, including lakes and rivers.
 - Urban Planning: Analyzing urban heat islands and helping in urban planning.
 - Climate Studies: Contributing to climate change research by providing accurate surface temperature data.

Q.4

What is the primary purpose of the TRISHNA mission?

1. To explore outer space
2. To monitor water usage and management, surface temperature, and vegetation stress
3. To study planetary surfaces
4. To provide internet connectivity

Answer:

B

Sol:

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 - Water Resources: Assessing and managing water bodies, including lakes and rivers.

- Urban Planning: Analyzing urban heat islands and helping in urban planning.
- Climate Studies: Contributing to climate change research by providing accurate surface temperature data.

Q.5

In which constituency did NOTA become the runner-up with a record-breaking number of votes in the General Election 2024?

1. Bhopal
2. Jabalpur
3. Indore
4. Gwalior

Answer:

C

Sol:

• The "None of the Above" (NOTA) option has become the runner-up in Madhya Pradesh's Indore constituency, receiving a record-breaking 2,18,674 votes, the highest-ever tally for NOTA.

About NOTA:

- The concept of None Of The Above (NOTA) allows voters to reject all candidates in an election.
- Implementation in India: • NOTA was first used in the 2013 Assembly elections in five states: Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh.
- It was subsequently used in the 2014 General Elections.
- The introduction of NOTA followed a 2013 Supreme Court directive in the PUCL vs. Union of India case.

- Purpose: • To provide voters with a choice to not vote for any of the candidates listed.
- Encourages participation from voters who are dissatisfied with all available candidates.

Q.6

Which Supreme Court case led to the introduction of NOTA in Indian elections?

1. Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India
2. Vishaka vs. State of Rajasthan
3. Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India
4. PUCL vs. Union of India

Answer:

D

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- Purpose: • To provide voters with a choice to not vote for any of the candidates listed.
- Encourages participation from voters who are dissatisfied with all available candidates.

Q.7

Which of the following is NOT a member country of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iraq

3. Kuwait
4. Bahrain

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The United States and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have announced a new phase of defense working groups, to be established in Saudi Arabia.
- This initiative aims to enhance US-GCC cooperation and integrate missile defense systems to counter shared air and maritime threats.
- About GCC:
 - Establishment: Founded on May 25, 1981.
 - Member Countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.
 - Headquarters: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
 - Objective: • To promote cooperation between the six states in economic, security, cultural, and social sectors.
 - Additionally, an annual summit is held to discuss regional affairs and enhance collaboration.

Q.8

Where are the headquarters of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) located?

1. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
2. Doha, Qatar
3. Manama, Bahrain
4. Abu Dhabi, UAE

Answer:

A

Sol:

- The United States and the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC) have announced a new phase of defense working groups, to be established in Saudi Arabia.

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- Additionally, an annual summit is held to discuss regional affairs and enhance collaboration.

Q.9

Who discovered the novel protein 'Neo'?

1. Stephen Tang and Samuel Sternberg
2. Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur
3. Alexander Fleming and Jonas Salk
4. James Watson and Francis Crick

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Recent research has discovered a novel protein named "Neo," which is crucial in bacterial defense against viral infections, particularly bacteriophages.

About Neo:

- Researchers Stephen Tang and Samuel Sternberg, while working on *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, reported the discovery of 'Neo' in a 2023 preprint paper on bioRxiv.
- 'Neo' represents a potential biotechnological tool for controlling viral infections.

Q.10

In which bacterial species was the protein 'Neo' discovered?

1. Escherichia coli
2. Staphylococcus aureus
3. Klebsiella pneumoniae
4. Bacillus subtilis

Answer:

C

Sol:

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About Neo:

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- 'Neo' represents a potential biotechnological tool for controlling viral infections.

Q.11

Sant Tukaram was born in which village?

1. Pandharpur
2. Alandi
3. Dehu
4. Paithan

Answer:

C

Sol:

Sant Tukaram:

- Full Name: Tukaram Bolhoba Ambile
- Birth: 1608 CE in Dehu, a village near Pune, Maharashtra

• Death: 1649 CE

• Bhakti Movement: Sant Tukaram was a prominent figure in the Bhakti movement, a devotional trend that emerged in medieval Hinduism.

• Influence of Vitthala: His devotion was primarily towards Lord Vitthala (a form of Krishna) of Pandharpur.

• Teachings: Emphasized the importance of a personal god and the expression of love and devotion to God through bhajans and kirtans (devotional songs).

• Abhanga: Known for his Abhanga (devotional poetry)

• Gatha: His collected works are known as Tukaram Gatha, which is revered in Marathi literature.

• Equality and Social Justice: Advocated for equality and criticized the caste system and ritualistic practices.

• Humanism: Preached compassion, humility, and the welfare of all beings.

• Festivals: His life and works are celebrated in festivals such as Tukaram Beej and Ashadhi Ekadashi.

Q.12

Under which order are the symbols allocated to political parties in India?

1. Representation of the People Act, 1951
2. Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968
3. Political Parties Act, 1970
4. Election Procedures Act, 1965

Answer:

B

Sol:

Allocation of Symbols:

• Authority and Guidelines: The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for the allocation of symbols to political parties as per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

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- Categories of Symbols:
 - Reserved Symbols: Assigned to recognized national and state parties.
 - Free Symbols: Available for candidates of registered but unrecognized parties and independent candidates.
- Symbol Allocation Process:
 - National and State Parties: Automatically allocated their reserved symbols.
 - Registered but Unrecognized Parties: Must choose from the list of free symbols.
 - Independent Candidates: Also choose from the list of free symbols.
- Symbol Reservation Criteria:
 - A political party must fulfill specific criteria related to the percentage of votes polled or the number of seats won in previous elections to retain its symbol.

Q.13

What are the two branches of the Southwest Monsoon?

1. Arabian Sea Branch and Bay of Bengal Branch
2. Arabian Sea Branch and Indian Ocean Branch
3. Bay of Bengal Branch and Indian Ocean Branch
4. Arabian Gulf Branch and Bay of Bengal Branch

Answer:

A

Sol:

Southwest monsoon:

- Seasonal Timing: The Southwest Monsoon typically begins in early June and lasts until the end of September.
- Geographical Coverage: It affects the Indian subcontinent, including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and parts of Pakistan.
- Monsoon Winds: These winds originate from the southern hemisphere and move northwards towards the Indian subcontinent.

- Two Branches: The monsoon has two branches –
 - Arabian Sea Branch: Hits the western coast of India, including Kerala, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.
 - Bay of Bengal Branch: Travels through the Bay of Bengal and affects the northeastern states and eastern India.
- Monsoon Trough: A low-pressure area that extends from the northwest to the Bay of Bengal, influencing the intensity and distribution of rainfall.
- Withdrawal: Starts from northwest India around the beginning of September and recedes completely from the country by mid-October.

Q.14

In which state does the Namami Goda project primarily target the stretches of the Godavari River?

1. Gujarat
2. Karnataka
3. Maharashtra
4. Andhra Pradesh

Answer:

C

Sol:

Namami Goda project:

- Objective: To rejuvenate and clean the Godavari River, addressing pollution and conserving water resources.
- Initiation: Launched as part of the larger "Namami Gange" initiative which focuses on cleaning major rivers in India.
- Geographical Scope: Primarily targets the stretches of the Godavari River in the state of Maharashtra.
- Key Components:
 - Pollution Abatement
 - Afforestation
 - Riverfront Development
 - Water Quality Monitoring

Q.15

Which institution is now the top-ranked in India according to the latest QS World University Rankings?

1. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D)
2. Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc)
3. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
4. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)

Answer:

D

Sol:

• In the latest QS World University Rankings, 61% of Indian universities have shown significant improvement.

• The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) is now the top-ranked institution in India, climbing from 149th to 118th globally.

Key points:

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained its position as the best institute in the world for the 13th consecutive year.
- IIT-Delhi also saw a significant rise, improving by 47 ranks to 150th globally.
- This is the first time in 13 years that IIT-B has been ranked within the top 150.

Q.1

Which countries and regions are part of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance?

1. South Korea, China, the United States, Japan, and the European Union
2. India, Russia, the United States, Japan, and the European Union
3. South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union
4. South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and Australia

Answer:

C

Sol:

• South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU) have launched an alliance to build a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector.

• The inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance was held in San Diego during the Bio International Convention 2024.

About Biopharmaceutical Alliance:

- Purpose: The alliance was established in response to drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Coordination: The participating countries will coordinate their bio policies, regulations, and research and development support measures.
- Supply Chain Mapping: They plan to create a detailed pharmaceutical supply chain map to enhance reliability and sustainability.
- Expansion: Initially formed by South Korea and the U.S., the alliance expanded to include Japan, India, and the EU.

Q.2

What is the primary purpose of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance?

1. To promote pharmaceutical trade among member countries.
2. To respond to drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. To standardize pharmaceutical pricing across member countries.
4. To develop new vaccines for emerging diseases.

Answer:

B

Sol:

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Q.3

Which entity introduced the Special Category Status (SCS) in India?

1. Fifth Finance Commission
2. Planning Commission
3. National Development Council
4. Ministry of Rural Development

Answer:

A

Sol:

Special category status (SCS):

- Special Category Status (SCS) is a classification given to states in India that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.

- Historical Background: • Introduced in 1969 by the Fifth Finance Commission of India.

- Initially granted to three states: Assam, Nagaland, and Jammu & Kashmir.

- Criteria for SCS: • Hilly and difficult terrain.

- Low population density and/or sizeable tribal population.

- Strategic location along borders with neighboring countries.

- Economic and infrastructural backwardness.

- Non-viable nature of state finances.

- States with SCS:

- As of now, 11 states have been granted SCS: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir (now split into two Union Territories), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and Uttarakhand.

Q.4

As of now, how many states have been granted Special Category Status (SCS)?

1. 9
2. 10
3. 11
4. 12

Answer:

C

Sol:

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Q.5

Which organization initiated the 'State of the Ocean Report'?

1. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
3. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)
4. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The UNESCO 'State of Ocean Report, 2024' highlights the significant challenges faced by global oceans due to climate change and human activities.
- The report provides crucial insights into the current state of our oceans.

About State of Ocean Report, 2024:

- The UNESCO 'State of the Ocean Report' was initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) during the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference.
- It provides an accessible overview of the ocean's current status and supports the monitoring of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).
- Upper Ocean Warming: The upper 2,000 meters of the oceans have experienced significant warming.

- Energy Absorption and Impact: • Oceans absorb about 90% of Earth's excess energy.
- This leads to increased deoxygenation, threatening marine ecosystems and human economies dependent on them.

- Ocean Acidification: • Ocean acidification is rising globally, especially in the open ocean.

- Sea Level Rise: • Sea levels have risen consistently since 1993.

- Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR): • There is growing interest in mCDR technologies.
- Their ecological impacts and effectiveness

Q.6

When was the UNESCO 'State of the Ocean Report' initiated?

1. 2021 United Nations Ocean Conference
2. 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference
3. 2023 United Nations Ocean Conference
4. 2024 United Nations Ocean Conference

Answer:

B

Sol:

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- Their ecological impacts and effectiveness

Q.7

What significant aspect of early Earth do the findings from zircon crystal studies challenge?

1. Theories about early Earth's atmosphere.
2. Theories of early Earth's magnetic field.
3. Theories about early Earth's volcanic activity.
4. Theories of a water-covered Earth.

Answer:

D

Sol:

- Study of zircon crystals reveals Earth had conditions to support life earlier than previously thought.
 - Findings show early interaction of water and land.
 - This challenges the theories of a water-covered Earth.
- About Zircon mineral:
- Basic Information: • Type: Nesosilicate mineral
 - Chemical Name: Zirconium silicate
 - Chemical Formula: ZrSiO₄

- Properties: • High refractive indices
- Strong lustre
- Occurs in various colours: clear, green, red, yellow, and brown
- Significant Findings: • Oxygen Isotopes: • Reveal fresh water and dry land on early Earth.
- Challenge theories of an entirely water-covered early Earth.
- Indicate a functioning water cycle at least 4 billion years ago, possibly creating conditions conducive to life.

Q.8

What type of mineral is zircon classified as?

1. Nesosilicate
2. Sulfide
3. Oxide
4. Carbonate

Answer:

A

Sol:

- Study of zircon crystals reveals Earth had conditions to support life earlier than previously thought.
 - Findings show early interaction of water and land.
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fresh water and dry land on early Earth.

- Challenge theories of an entirely water-covered early Earth.
- Indicate a functioning water cycle at least 4 billion years ago, possibly creating conditions conducive to life.

Q.9

What is the main purpose of the "Air of the Anthropocene" project?

1. To create sculptures depicting air pollution.
2. To visualize air pollution and highlight severe health risks.
3. To develop new air purification technologies.
4. To promote the sale of low-cost air pollution sensors.

Answer:

B

Sol:

• The "Air of the Anthropocene" project uses light painting to visualize air pollution in India, Ethiopia, and the UK, highlighting severe health risks and sparking global discussions on air quality.

About The Air of the Anthropocene project:

- The "Air of the Anthropocene" project is an international initiative that combines art and science to visualize air pollution.
- Artists and researchers collaborated, using digital light painting techniques and low-cost air pollution sensors, to create photographic evidence of air pollution.

Q.10

What techniques are used in the "Air of the Anthropocene" project to visualize air pollution?

1. Digital light painting and low-cost air pollution sensors
2. Traditional painting and sculpture
3. Virtual reality and 3D printing
4. Animation and graphic design

Answer:

A

Sol:

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About The Air of the Anthropocene project:

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- Artists and researchers collaborated, using digital light painting techniques and low-cost air pollution sensors, to create photographic evidence of air pollution.

Q.11

Where is the Secretariat of CITES based?

1. New York
2. London
3. Paris
4. Geneva

Answer:

D

Sol:

CITES:

- CITES is an international agreement between governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does

not threaten their survival.

- The convention has three appendices, each providing a different level of protection: • Appendix I: Species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

- Appendix II: Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but trade must be controlled to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

- Appendix III: Species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling trade.

- CITES is administered through a Secretariat, which is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Q.12

Which organization has published its first-ever Climate Budget Report for the financial year 2024-25?

1. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)
2. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)
3. Chennai Municipal Corporation
4. Kolkata Municipal Corporation

Answer:

B

Sol:

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has published its first-ever Climate Budget Report, also known as the Green Budget book, for the financial year 2024-25.

- This is a significant step as Mumbai becomes the fourth city globally, after Oslo, London, and New York, to launch a climate budget.

Key points:

- The budget aims to strengthen the governance system to deal with the challenges of climate change in Mumbai.

- The BMC is also updating Mumbai's greenhouse gas emissions inventory as per its commitments in the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP).

- This initiative by the BMC is a significant step towards tackling climate change and its impacts on the city.

Q.13

What is the target year for Mumbai to achieve net-zero carbon emissions according to the MCAP?

1. 2030
2. 2040
3. 2050
4. 2060

Answer:

C

Sol:

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has published its first-ever Climate Budget Report.

- The BMC is also updating Mumbai's greenhouse gas emissions inventory as per its commitments in the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP).

About MCAP:

- Objective: To create a roadmap for Mumbai to achieve sustainable and climate-resilient development.

- Launch Date: The plan was officially launched in 2022.

- Lead Agency: Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is responsible for the implementation of the plan.

- Targets: • Net-Zero Emissions: Aim to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

- Renewable Energy: Increase the share of renewable energy in the city's energy mix.

- Public Transport Usage: Boost public transport usage to reduce reliance on private vehicles.

- Green Cover: Increase the city's green cover significantly to improve air quality and urban biodiversity.

Q.14

What is the main objective of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme?

1. To provide vocational training to boys and girls
2. To promote education among girls from disadvantaged backgrounds
3. To offer scholarships to students from urban areas
4. To build new schools in metropolitan cities

Answer:

B

Sol:

• The Maharashtra Primary Education Council (MPSP) has proposed the closure of 43 government-run 'Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay' (KGBV) girls' schools.

About KGBV:

- KGBV is a residential school scheme launched by the Government of India to promote education among girls from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly from SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities.
- Launch Year: The scheme was launched in July 2004.
- Objective: To provide quality education and residential facilities to girls in educationally backward blocks where female literacy is low.
- Target Group: • Girls from disadvantaged sections of society.
- Girls belonging to SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities.
- Girls who are out of school or have dropped out before completing elementary education.
- Grade Levels Covered: Classes 6 to 12.
- Implementation: The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with state governments.

Q.15

Who is the chairperson of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)?

1. Chief Minister of Maharashtra
2. Mayor of Mumbai
3. Municipal Commissioner of BMC
4. Minister of Urban development

Answer:

A

Sol:

• The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is facing significant challenges in acquiring land for the expansion of Metro 6 beyond the Kanjurmarg depot.

About MMRDA:

- Established: 1975
- Jurisdiction: Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)
- Headquarters: Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai
- Chairperson: Chief Minister of Maharashtra
- Objective: To plan, promote, and implement policies and projects for the development of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
- Functions: • Urban planning and development
- Infrastructure development (roads, bridges, metro, etc.)