

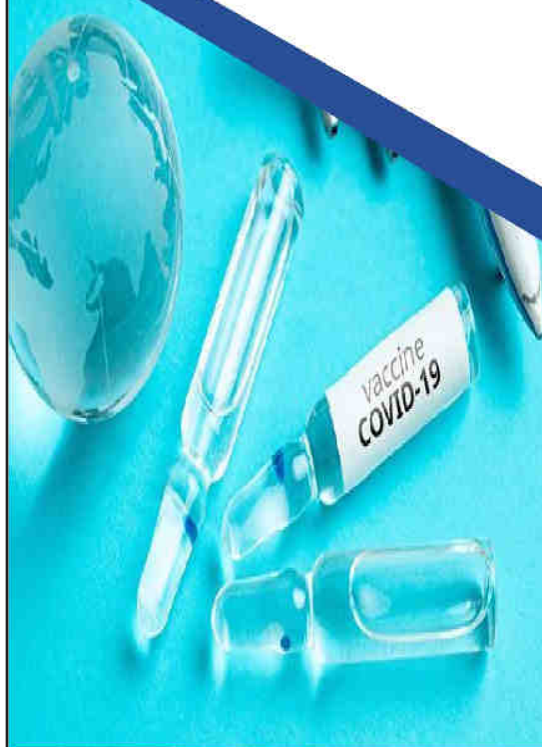
The Best Weekly Current Affairs Magazine for Civil Services Exam

PERFECT

7

Weekly Current Affairs

May 2021 | ISSUE 04



May 20
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DHYEYA IAS : AN INTRODUCTION



Vinay Kumar Singh
Founder & CEO

The guiding philosophy of the institute, throughout, has been creation of knowledge base.

Dhyeya IAS inculcates human values and professional ethics in the students, which help them make decisions and create path that are good not only for them, but also for the society, for the nation, and for the world as whole. To fulfill its mission in new and powerful ways, each student is motivated to strive towards achieving excellence in every endeavor. It is done by making continuous improvements in curricula and pedagogical tools.

The rigorous syllabi not only instills in them, a passion for knowledge but also attempts to teach them how to apply that knowledge in real-life situations. The programmes lay emphasis on well-rounded personality development of the students and also in inculcating the values of honesty and integrity in them.



Q.H. Khan
Managing Director

Dhyeya IAS is an institution that aims at the complete development of the student.

Our faculty are hand-picked and highly qualified to ensure that the students are given every possible support in all their academic endeavors. It is a multi-disciplinary institution which ensures that the students have ready access to a wide range of academic material.

Our brand of education has broad horizons as we believe in exposure. Our students are encouraged to widen their knowledge base and study beyond the confinements of the syllabus. We aim to lend a gentle guiding hand to make our students recognize their inner potential and grow on their own accord into stalwarts of tomorrow's society.

PERFECT 7 : AN INTRODUCTION



Kurban Ali
Chief Editor

With immense pleasure I would like to inform you that the new version of 'Perfect 7', from the Dhyeya IAS, is coming with more information in a very attractive manner. Heartily congratulations to the editorial team. The 'Perfect 7' invites a wider readership in the Institute. The name and fame of an institute depends on the caliber and achievements of the students and teachers. The role of the teacher is to nurture the skills and talents of the students as a facilitator. This magazine is going to showcase the strength of our Institute. Let this be a forum to exhibit the potential of faculties, eminent writers, authors and students with their literary skills and innovative ideas.

Please do visit our website www.dhyeyaias.com and our youtube channel for regular and updated information on current affairs.



Ashutosh Singh
Managing Editor

We have not only given the name 'Perfect 7' to our magazine, but also left no stone unturned to keep it 'near to perfect'. We all know that beginning of a task is most vital and full of challenges. So we met the same fate.

Publishing 'Perfect 7' provided us various challenges because from the beginning itself we kept our bar too high to ensure the quality. Right from the very first issue we had a daunting task to save aspirants from the 'misinformation' or 'overdose of information'. Focussing on civil services examination 'Perfect 7' embodies in itself perfect friend and guide in your preparation. This weapon is built to be precise yet comprehensive. It is not about bombardment of mindless facts, rather an analysis of various facets of the issues, selected in a systematic manner. We adopted the 'Multi Filter' and 'Six Sigma' approach, in which a subject or an issue is selected after diligent discussion on various levels so that the questions in the examination could be covered with high probability.

Being a weekly magazine there is a constant challenge to provide qualitative study material in a time bound approach. It is our humble achievement that we feel proud to make delivered our promise of quality consistently without missing any issue since its inception.

Your suggestions and popular demands always motivate us and keep our morale high.

May this version of 'Perfect 7' instill a new energy and a new spirit in you. We wish that the bond of affection between you and Dhyeya IAS reaches at a new height.



Send us your suggestions, comment, views and feedback for guiding us on

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PREFACE



Dhyeya family has decided to bring a new colourful and vibrant version of **'Perfect 7'** – a panacea for current affairs, which will add positive and dynamic energy in your preparation.

'Perfect7' is an outstanding compilation of current affairs topics as per the new pattern of Civil Services Examination (CSE). It presents weekly analysis of information and issues (national and international) in the form of Articles, News Analysis, Brain Boosters, PIB Highlights and Graphical Information, which helps to understand and retain the information comprehensively. Hence, **'Perfect 7'** will build in-depth understanding of various issues in different facets.

'Perfect7' is our genuine effort to provide correct, concise and concrete information, which helps students to crack the CSE. This magazine is the result of the efforts of the eminent scholars and the experts from different fields. **'Perfect 7'** is surely a force multiplier in your effort and plugs the loopholes in the preparation.

We believe in environment of continuous improvement and learning. Your constructive suggestions and comments are always welcome, which could guide us in further revision of this magazine.

Omveer Singh Chaudhary

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

As a proud jewel of Dhyeya IAS, **'Perfect 7'** now comes in a new coloured avatar. **'Perfect 7'** is a quintessential part of your preparation strategy for Civil Services Examination. A regular and manageable dose of current affairs will now reach you in new format, making it more reader friendly. Our humble attempt to serve you is surely rewarded by your appreciations. It encourages us to innovate and provide the best as per our ability.

A dedicated team of experts at Dhyeya IAS toils night and day to make your dream of Civil Services come true. I heartily thank and express my gratitude to the esteemed readers and all the people involved in making this magazine a shining star in the galaxy of Dhyeya IAS.

Rajat Jhingan

Editor
Dhyeya IAS

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Weekly Current Affairs

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(Ex. Editor Rajya Sabha, TV) & by Team Dhyeya IAS
(Broadcasted on YouTube & Dhyeya-TV)

Issues of the Week

GS Paper-1

- ◆ Six Indian Sites have been added to Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites
 - ◆ Lunar Eclipse 2021
 - ◆ Cyclone 'Yaas'
-

GS Paper-2

- ◆ Lithuania Quits China-CEEC 17+1 Bloc
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- ◆ Shahi Litchi

GS Paper-1

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

1. Six Indian Sites have been added to Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Why in News?

- ◆ Ministry of Culture has recently announced that, six Indian sites have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites.

Key Points

- ◆ As per Operational Guidelines, 2019, it is mandatory to put any monument/site on the tentative list before it is considered for the final nomination dossier.
- ◆ India has 48 sites in the tentative list as of now.

Six Sites

- ◆ The six sites are namely Satpura Tiger Reserve, Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi, Megalithic site of Hire Benkal, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur, and temples of Kanchipuram.

1. Satpura Tiger Reserve

- ◆ Satpura Tiger Reserve is located in Madhya Pradesh. It is home to 26 species of the Himalayan region including reptiles, and 42 species of Nilgiri areas.
- ◆ It is the largest tiger-occupied forest and also has the largest tiger

population. It has more than 50 rock shelters with paintings that are 1500 to 10,000 years old.

2. Ghats of Varanasi

- ◆ The ghats date back to the 14th century but most were rebuilt, along with Varanasi, in the 18th century by Maratha rulers.
- ◆ They have special significance in Hindu mythology, and are primarily used for bathing and Hindu religious rituals.

- ◆ It falls "into the second category of cultural properties, i.e: groups of buildings, groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science."

3. Megalithic site of Hire Benkal

- ◆ This 2,800-years-old megalithic site is one of the largest prehistoric megalithic settlements where some funerary monuments are still intact.
- ◆ The granite structures are burial monuments that may also have served many ritual purposes. Due to the extremely valuable collection of Neolithic monuments, the site was proposed for recognition.

4. Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra

- ◆ There are 12 forts in Maharashtra dating back to the era of the 17th century Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji.
 - ◆ They are namely Shivneri (the birthplace of Shivaji); Raigad (the capital fort rebuilt for the coronation of the Maratha king), Torna (the first fort of the Maratha empire), Rajgad, Salher-Mulher, Panhala, Pratapgad, Lohagad, Sindhudurg, Padmadurga (Kasa), Vijaydurg and Kolaba.
 - ◆ These forts offer new insight in various forms of architecture including rock cut features, construction of perimeter walls in layers on hill tops and slopes, temples and almost every form of medieval architecture.
- #### 5. Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur
- ◆ Bhedaghat, referred to as the Grand Canyon of India, is a town in the Jabalpur district. It is known for its marble rocks and their various morphological forms on either side of the Narmada river which flows through the gorge.
 - ◆ Several dinosaur fossils have been found in the Narmada valley, particularly in the Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat area of Jabalpur.

6. Temples of Kanchipuram

- ◆ Kanchipuram is known for its spirituality. It is situated on the banks of River Vegavathi.
- ◆ This historical city once had 1,000

temples, of which only 126 (108 Shaiva and 18 Vaishnava) now remain.

- ◆ Its rich legacy has been the endowment of the Pallava dynasty, which made the region its capital between the 6th and 7th centuries.

UNESCO Heritage Sites in India

- ◆ India has 38 world heritage sites. It includes 30 cultural sites, 7 natural sites and 1 mixed as recognised by UNESCO.

2. Lunar Eclipse 2021

Why in News?

- ◆ The first lunar eclipse of 2021 took place on 26 May.

What is Total Lunar Eclipse?

- ◆ A total lunar eclipse takes place when the Earth comes between the sun and the moon, blocks the sun's rays from directly reaching the satellite.
- ◆ The moon is fully in the Earth's shadow and this is why it is a total lunar eclipse.

Why is this Lunar eclipse a 'Blood Moon' and a 'Super Moon'?

- ◆ This was a superlunar event, as it was a supermoon, a lunar eclipse and a red blood moon all at once.
- ◆ This was a Super Blood Moon, where the moon appears reddish orange in colour and really big as well. It was big because this was a full moon and the satellite is closest to Earth.
- ◆ However, NASA also said that not all Supermoons are Blood moons or red in appearance, because an eclipse is not taking place at the same time in all cases. But this one was different.
- ◆ According to NASA, sunlight bends and scatters as it passes through Earth's atmosphere, and during a lunar eclipse, this filtered sunlight makes its way through the Earth's atmosphere, and does reach the lunar surface.



- ◆ A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest (perigee) to Earth at the same time the Moon is full.

What is Full Moon?

- ◆ A full moon occurs when the side of the Moon facing Earth is fully lit up by the Sun.
- ◆ There are a few different types of unusual full moon types, which include blood moons, supermoons, blue moons, and harvest moons, and others.

Blood Moon

- ◆ A "blood moon" happens when Earth's moon is in a total lunar eclipse.
- ◆ During a total lunar eclipse, Earth lines up between the Moon and the Sun. This hides the Moon from the sunlight.
- ◆ When this happens, the only light that

reaches the Moon's surface is from the edges of the Earth's atmosphere.

- ◆ The air molecules from Earth's atmosphere scatter out most of the blue light.
- ◆ The remaining light reflects onto the Moon's surface with a red glow, making the Moon appear red in the night sky.

Supermoon

- ◆ A "supermoon" appears to us as a larger-than-usual Moon in our night sky.
- ◆ A supermoon looks larger just because it's a bit closer to Earth.
- ◆ "Supermoon" is actually just a nickname for what astronomers call a perigean full moon – a moon that is full and at its closest point in its orbit around Earth.

3. Cyclone 'Yaas'

Why in News?

- Recently, very severe cyclonic storm Yaas has made landfall in north Odisha.

Key Points

- The name 'Yaas' was suggested by Oman and refers to a tree with good fragrance and in English, the word is similar to Jasmine.
- This is the second cyclone to hit the country in a week, after Cyclone Tauktae killed more than 150 people.

What is a Tropical Cyclone?

- A tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterised by low atmospheric pressure, strong winds followed by heavy rainfall. Tropical cyclones always have an eye, a central region of clear skies and warm temperatures.

Classification of Cyclones

- Cyclones are classified on the basis of the wind speed.
- Depression: The lowest official classification used in the North Indian Ocean is a Depression, which has 3-minute sustained wind speeds of between 31–49 km/h (20–31 mph).
- Deep Depression: If the depression intensifies further then it will become a Deep Depression, which has speeds of between 50–61 km/h (32–38 mph).
- Cyclonic storm: If the Deep Depression develops gale force wind speeds of between 62–88 km/h (39–54 mph), it



is called a Cyclonic storm and the IMD assigns a name to it.

- Severe Cyclonic Storm: Severe Cyclonic Storms have storm force wind speeds of between 89–117 km/h (55–72 mph)
- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm: Very Severe Cyclonic Storms have hurricane-force winds of 118–166 km/h (73–102 mph).
- Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm: Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storms have hurricane-force winds of 166–221 km/h (104–137 mph).
- Super Cyclonic Storm: The highest classification used in the North Indian Ocean is a Super Cyclonic Storm, which have hurricane-force winds of above 222 km/h (138 mph).

Naming of Cyclone

- Tropical cyclones are officially named by one of its warning centres spread across the globe under the aegis of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- The World Meteorological Organisation and UN Economic

and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN ESCAP) led Panel on Tropical Cyclones – a global body which also includes regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMC) as well as tropical cyclone warning centres -- prepares the names of the cyclones.

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is among six RSMCs in the world, is mandated to issue advisories and name tropical cyclones in the north Indian Ocean region.
- The panel comprising 13 countries, including India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Maldives, Oman, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, name cyclones in the region.
- In 2020, a new list of names was released that had 169 names of cyclones, having 13 suggested names each from 13 countries.

Name of the Next Cyclone

- The next cyclone in the region will be called 'Gulab' as recommended by Pakistan.

GS Paper-2

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

1. Lithuania Quits China-CEEC 17+1 Bloc

Why in News?

- ◆ Lithuania has withdrawn from the 17+1 cooperation mechanism between China and Central and Eastern Europe Countries (China-CEECs).

Key Points

- ◆ Lithuania has called the “17+1” platform ‘divisive’ from the European Union’s (EU) perspective.
- ◆ It has also urged the EU members to pursue a “much more effective 27+1 approach and communication” with China.
- ◆ As the relations between China and the EU experienced hiccups over the latest freezing of the China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI), Lithuania, which is a relatively small market in the China-CEEC cooperation mechanism, took this occasion to stand up against China.
- ◆ Lithuania is challenging China not only on trade and business but also on the questions concerning Beijing’s core interests.
- ◆ For instance, Lithuania's parliament passed a resolution recently to



describe China’s treatment of Uyghur as “genocide” and “crimes against humanity.”

- ◆ In March, Lithuania announced that it would open a trade representative office on the island to promote its relations with Taiwan, a region which China regards as an inalienable part of the Chinese territory.
- ◆ This also ignited the firm objection from China, which urged the Baltic nation to stay true to the one-China principle.

Relations between China and CEECs

- ◆ The trade between China and the Central and Eastern European

countries has been booming in recent years.

- ◆ In 2020, China’s trade with the 17 countries in Central and Eastern Europe in overall increased by 8.4 percent, reaching \$100 billion for the first time.

About 17+1 Bloc

- ◆ China and the Central and Eastern European countries first held their summit in Poland in 2012, launching the 16+1 platform for boosting cooperation and trade.
- ◆ When Greece joined the platform in 2019, it was renamed 17+1 and became an important supplement to China’s ties with the EU.

2. China's Strategic Highway in Tibet

Why in News?

- ◆ China has completed construction of a strategically significant highway through the world's deepest canyon in Tibet along the Brahmaputra river.
- ◆ Construction is part of a wider infrastructure push in border areas in Tibet

Key Points

- ◆ The construction, which began in 2014, is part of a wider infrastructure push in border areas in Tibet.
- ◆ The highway took seven years to complete and passes through the Grand Canyon of the Yarlung Zangbo river, as the Brahmaputra is called in Tibet.
- ◆ This is the “second significant passageway” to Medog county that borders Arunachal, directly connecting the Pad township in Nyingchi to Baibung in Medog county.
- ◆ The highway will reduce the distance between Nyingchi city and Medog from 346 km to 180 km and will cut the travel time by eight hours.

Other Projects

- ◆ In November, China began work on a strategically important railway line — its second major rail link to Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet railway that opened in 2006 — that will link Sichuan province with Nyingchi.
- ◆ The first segment of the line within the Sichuan province, from Chengdu to Yaan, was completed in December 2018. Work on the 1,011-km section



from Yaan to Nyingchi will be finished in 2030.

- ◆ Another part of the border infrastructure push is the construction of new civilian settlements — along with the expansion of existing smaller hamlets — along border areas, some of which lie in disputed territories claimed by India and Bhutan, to strengthen China's control over the land.
- ◆ In 2017, the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) government launched a plan to build “moderately well-off villages” in border areas, under which 628 “first line and second line villages” — referring to those right on the border and others in remote areas slightly further within — would be developed in the prefectures of Ngari, Shigatse, Shannan and Nyingchi, along China's borders with India, Bhutan and Nepal.
- ◆ In 2020, satellite images emerged showing a new village called Pangda built 2-3 km into what Bhutan sees as its land.
- ◆ On January 18 this year, another village built newly 4-5 km into what

India sees as its territory in Arunachal came to light via satellite images.

Concerns for India

- ◆ The highway is close to the Indian border village of Bishing in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The village of Bishing is located in Arunachal's Gelling circle, which touches the McMahon Line, the de-facto Sino-India border in the region.
- ◆ The highway is part of China's ambitious plans to build roads and tunnels along the length of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, connecting far-flung areas to inland cities and airports.
- ◆ The highway is also expected to play a key role in the surveying of and planning for the mega Yarlung Zangbo hydro-power project China is planning to build at the canyon in the same Medog county, triggering unease among downstream countries like India.

3. India and Oman have renewed the MoUs on Military Cooperation

Why in News?

- ◆ India and Oman have renewed two key defence pacts focusing on maritime security and military cooperation.

Defence Cooperation

- ◆ Oman is India's oldest partner in the Gulf and has also been a key ally for India in the Indo-Pacific region which provides an anchor for the Persian Gulf, as well as eastern and southern Africa.
- ◆ In the recent past, the two countries have significantly strengthened and

deepened bilateral defence and security cooperation.

- ◆ The two nations had signed a maritime transport agreement in December 2019. The agreement enabled India to expand its footprint in the western and southern Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and East Africa.
- ◆ It was the first such agreement that India had signed with any gulf nation.
- ◆ Similarly, in 2018, the two nations signed another agreement which gave Indian Navy access to facilities at Oman's Duqm port.

- ◆ For India, Oman's Duqm port will serve as India's gateway to the wider West and East Africa.

Bilateral Relations

- ◆ India is among Oman's top trading partners. During 2018-19, bilateral trade was US\$ 5 billion.
- ◆ In 2018, India was the second largest importer of crude oil from Oman.
- ◆ There are over 7,80,000 Indian citizens in Oman, second largest expatriate community in the country.

4. India Israel Signs 3 Years Programme for Agriculture

Why in News?

- ◆ India and Israel have signed "a three-year work program agreement" for development in agriculture cooperation.
- ◆ India and Israel are implementing the "INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence" and "INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence (IIVOE)".

Key Points

- ◆ The three-year work program (2021-2023) reflects the strength of growing partnership and will benefit local farmers both through the Centers of Excellence (CoE's) and the Villages of Excellence.
- ◆ The work program will aim to grow existing Centres of Excellence,

establish new centers, increase CoE's value chain, bring the CoE's into the self-sufficient mode, and encourage private sector companies and collaboration.

INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence (IIVOE)

- ◆ As for the IIVOE, this is a new concept aimed at creating a model ecosystem in agriculture across eight states, alongside 13 CoEs within 75 villages.
- ◆ The program will promote the increase of net income and better the livelihood of the individual farmer, transforming traditional farms into modern-intensive farms based on IIAP standards.
- ◆ Large-scale and complete value chain approach with economic sustainability, embedded with Israeli novel

technologies and methodologies will be tailored to local conditions.

- ◆ The IIVOE program will focus on: (1) Modern Agriculture infrastructure, (2) Capacity Building, (3) Market linkage.

INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence (IIAP)

- ◆ India and Israel have had bilateral relations since 1993 in the agricultural sector. This is the 5th IIAP.
- ◆ The COEs established under these Israeli-based action plans are playing an important role in doubling farmers' income.
- ◆ The exchange of technology between India and Israel will greatly improve the productivity and quality of horticulture, thereby increasing the income of farmers".

5. Government and WhatsApp on Privacy Policy

Why in News?

- ◆ Facebook-owned messaging platform WhatsApp has approached the Delhi High Court with a plea challenging the provision of tracing the first originator of the message (as per traceability clause in the new IT Rules 2021).

Background

- ◆ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has warned WhatsApp once again to roll back its latest update in privacy policy. This time, the Ministry has also warned of legal action if it does not get a satisfactory reply by May 25.

WhatsApp's New Privacy Policy

- ◆ WhatsApp, early this year, updated its privacy policy, according to which users would no longer be able to stop the app from sharing data (such as location and number) with its parent Facebook unless they delete their accounts altogether.
- ◆ Its privacy updates are designed to make the business interactions that take place on its platform easier while also personalising ads on Facebook. That is how it will have to make its money.
- ◆ However, WhatsApp has reiterated that its messaging app is end-to-end encrypted and that it doesn't have access to your private chats or location. The company doesn't share private messages or other data with Facebook.

- ◆ But, the new update will enable WhatsApp to use some of the "business conversations" hosted with the social network for advertising.

WhatsApp's Argument

- ◆ WhatsApp is invoking the 2017 Justice K S Puttaswamy vs Union Of India case to argue that the traceability provision is unconstitutional and against people's fundamental right to privacy as underlined by the Supreme Court decision.
- ◆ The new IT rules include a traceability clause that requires social media platforms to locate "the first originator of the information" if required by authorities.
- ◆ As per WhatsApp, traceability would mean re-engineering the app just for the Indian market, which is unlikely to happen.
- ◆ End-to-end encryption ensures that no one can read the message, except for the sender and the receiver. This includes WhatsApp itself.
- ◆ WhatsApp's argument is that traceability, even if enforced, is not foolproof and could lead to human rights violations.

Government's Argument

- ◆ The Government of India is committed to ensure the Right of Privacy to all its citizens but at the same time it is also the responsibility of the government to maintain law and order and ensure national security.

- ◆ WhatsApp's attempt to portray the Intermediary Guidelines of India as contrary to the right to privacy is misguided. On the contrary in India, privacy is a fundamental right subject to reasonable restrictions.

About the Traceability Rule

- ◆ In February, the IT ministry had notified the guidelines for social media intermediaries, as a part of which they had asked instant messaging apps such as WhatsApp to make provisions to trace the first originator on their platform.
- ◆ The ministry had then said that such information would be sought from the intermediary only if there was a judicial order passed by a court of competent jurisdiction or under Section 69 of the IT Act.
- ◆ The platform will also be liable to disclose the originator of the message "only for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order".
- ◆ Social media intermediaries had been also asked to enable ways to trace originators of messages which call for incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years.

6. Vaccine Tourism

Why in News?

- ◆ According to the Reuters, the central European republic of San Marino has launched vaccine tourism with Sputnik V as the vaccine on offer.

What is Vaccine Tourism?

- ◆ Vaccine Tourism simply means travelling to another country for sightseeing with an included benefit of getting the jab.
- ◆ It is said that Russia and the Maldives are already working on programmes to offer people abroad the chance to get vaccinated during a visit; similar offerings are sprouting in the US as well.
- ◆ Meanwhile, South Africans are said to be flying to Zimbabwe, Canadians and South Americans are travelling to the US for jabs, while tour operators in Europe are offering trips to Russia for Sputnik V shots.
- ◆ In fact, vaccine tourism is an emerging trend in countries where vaccines are in short supply, or where certain groups are still restricted from being inoculated.
- ◆ Still, there are only a few countries in the world (parts of the US, Russia, Slovakia, Zimbabwe etc) that don't restrict their vaccination policy to local residents.

India and Vaccine Tourism

- ◆ According to the government, there may be no need for anyone from India



to go abroad for vaccination since all eligible Indians will be vaccinated in the country by the end of this year

- ◆ However, the idea of vaccine tourism is gaining momentum in India.
- ◆ Many Indians, who fled to Dubai just before international flight ban came into effect last month, are said to be availing the Chinese vaccine Sinopharm's shots in the UAE.
- ◆ In India, the term "vaccine tourism" became popular late last year when reports emerged of several tour operators offering packages to the US with the additional benefit of a vaccine shot.

Vaccine Passport

- ◆ Sometimes, vaccine tourism is confused with vaccine passport, which is a more regulated practice gaining currency around the world.

- ◆ Recently, Seychelles announced that only vaccinated visitors from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh who have completed two weeks after their second dose are permitted to travel to and enter the island nation, with proof of COVID-19 vaccination.
- ◆ The 27-member European Union (EU) has also decided to allow entry to fully vaccinated travellers from countries with low infection rates. The EU allows non-essential travel only from seven countries – Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Thailand, Israel, Rwanda and China.

Current Status

- ◆ Currently, it is not illegal to travel to a foreign country to get vaccinated if air travel is allowed.

7. Supreme Court on Migrant Workers

Why in News?

- ◆ The Supreme Court (SC) has ordered States across the country to distribute dry rations to stranded migrant workers without ration cards and run community kitchens for them.

Key Observations

- ◆ The court left it to the discretion of individual States to utilise either the Centre's Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme, which was implemented for giving dry rations to migrant workers in May and June of 2020, or any other alternative scheme.
- ◆ But the court underscored that “dry ration has to be distributed to the migrant workers throughout the country by the States”.
- ◆ The Bench held it was the responsibility of the States and Union Territories (UTs) to run community

kitchens for migrant labourers “who have lost their employment and are in need of two meals a day”.

- ◆ The Bench directed that “wide publicity” should be given about the various welfare schemes for migrant workers, including locations of community kitchens, so that needy persons would benefit.
- ◆ The migrant workers who are already beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act should be encouraged to use the facility of portability under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).
- ◆ However, SC has refused a plea to direct States to provide direct cash transfers to migrant workers, saying this was a matter of policy concerning individual States or UTs.
- ◆ The court had asked states and UTs to keep a record of migrant labourers who

have returned, including details about their skills, previous employment, etc., so that the administration can extend help.

- ◆ They were also directed to explore avenues to provide employment.

Centre's Stand

- ◆ The Centre said Delhi had “satisfactorily dealt” with the initial exodus of migrant workers. As on date, there is no problem regarding transportation of stranded migrant workers.
- ◆ The Railways were notified as early as on April 20 to “manage the exodus”.
- ◆ As on date, most of the industries are working and there is no such large scale of cessation of employment of workers in the second wave of COVID-19.

GS Paper-3

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

1. Net Zero by 2050

Why in News?

- ◆ The International Energy Agency has released its special report titled, 'Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector'.

Three Aims of the Report

- ◆ To examine the impacts of announced net-zero emissions pledges and what they might mean for the energy sector.
- ◆ To develop a new energy-sector pathway towards achieving net-zero emissions globally by 2050.
- ◆ To set out key policy recommendations for governments to act upon in the near-term, and a long-term agenda for change to achieve net-zero goals, including with a view to reaching other Sustainable Development Goals.

Key Highlights of the Report

- ◆ The world has a viable pathway to building a global energy sector with net-zero emissions in 2050, but it is narrow and requires an unprecedented transformation of how energy is produced, transported and used globally.
- ◆ Climate pledges by governments to date – even if fully achieved – would fall well short of what is required to

bring global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to net zero by 2050 and give the world an even chance of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 °C.

- ◆ The report is the world's first comprehensive study of how to transition to a net zero energy system by 2050 while ensuring stable and affordable energy supplies, providing universal energy access, and enabling robust economic growth.
- ◆ The report also examines key uncertainties, such as the roles of bioenergy, carbon capture and behavioural changes in reaching net zero.

Roadmap for Net Zero Emission

- ◆ The Roadmap sets out more than 400 milestones to guide the global journey to net zero by 2050.
- ◆ These include, from today, no investment in new fossil fuel supply projects, and no further final investment decisions for new unabated coal plants.
- ◆ By 2035, there are no sales of new internal combustion engine passenger cars, and by 2040, the global electricity sector has already reached net-zero emissions.

Pathways for Net Zero Emissions

- ◆ It requires the immediate and massive deployment of all available clean and efficient energy technologies, combined with a major global push to accelerate innovation.
- ◆ Annual additions of solar PV to reach 630 gigawatts by 2030, and those of wind power to reach 390 gigawatts. Together, this is four times the record level set in 2020.
- ◆ Most of the global reductions in CO₂ emissions between now and 2030 in the net zero pathway come from technologies readily available today.
- ◆ But in 2050, almost half the reductions come from technologies that are currently only at the demonstration or prototype phase.
- ◆ This demands that governments quickly increase and reprioritise their spending on research and development – as well as on demonstrating and deploying clean energy technologies – putting them at the core of energy and climate policy.
- ◆ Progress in the areas of advanced batteries, electrolyzers for hydrogen, and direct air capture and storage can be particularly impactful.

2. Havana Syndrome

Why in News?

- ◆ Nearly four years after a mysterious neurological illness, referred to as “Havana syndrome”, started to afflict American diplomats and intelligence operatives in Cuba, China, and other countries, a report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) has found “directed” microwave radiation to be its “plausible” cause.

Background

- ◆ In late 2016, US diplomats and other employees stationed in Havana reported feeling ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations in their hotel rooms or homes.
- ◆ The symptoms included nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems, and hearing loss, which have since come to be known as “Havana Syndrome”.
- ◆ Cuba had denied any knowledge of the illnesses even though the US

had accused it of carrying out “sonic attacks”, leading to an increase in tensions.

Key Points

- ◆ The study, however, does not mention that the “directed, pulsed radiofrequency energy” was delivered intentionally.
- ◆ Interestingly, neither the State Department nor the FBI have publicly pointed to “microwave weapons” as being the cause of the “syndrome” whose symptoms include nausea, dizziness, fatigue, and cognitive difficulties.

What are Microwave Weapons?

- ◆ “Microwave weapons” are supposed to be a type of direct energy weapons, which aim highly focused energy in the form of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.
- ◆ People exposed to high-intensity microwave pulses have reported

a clicking or buzzing sound, as if seeming to be coming from within your head.

- ◆ It can have both acute and long-term effects — without leaving signs of physical damage.

NASA on Havana Syndrome

- ◆ The NAS report, titled “An assessment of illness in US government employees and their families at overseas embassies”, has examined four possibilities to explain the symptoms — infection, chemicals, psychological factors and microwave energy.
- ◆ The report concluded that “directed pulsed RF energy appears to be the most plausible mechanism.
- ◆ By calling it “directed” and “pulsed” energy, the report leaves no room for confusion that the victims’ exposure was targeted and not due to common sources of microwave energy, such as, a mobile phone.

3. Kyasanur Forest Disease

Why in News?

- ◆ A new point-of-care test has been found to be highly sensitive in the rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur forest disease (KFD), also known as monkey fever, which is an emerging public health problem in the country.

Key Points

- ◆ It has been developed by ICMR-National Institute of Virology.
- ◆ The point-of-care test would be useful in quick patient management and controlling further spread of the virus.
- ◆ The use of such point-of-care tests would be beneficial for the diagnosis

of KFD as the outbreaks mainly happen in remote areas, where there is lack of well-equipped sample handling and laboratory testing facilities.

- ◆ The point-of-care test includes a battery-operated PCR analyser, which is a portable, lightweight and universal cartridge-based sample pre-treatment kit and nucleic acid extraction device that aid in sample processing at the point of care.

About Kyasanur Forest Disease

- ◆ KFD was first identified in Kyasanur forest of Shimoga district in Karnataka during an investigation of monkey mortalities in 1957.

- ◆ The disease is caused by a Kyasanur Forest disease virus, which primarily affects humans and monkeys.
- ◆ In nature, the virus is maintained mainly in hard ticks, monkeys, rodents and birds and transmitted via the bite of Haemaphysalis ticks and contact with carcasses of dead monkeys.
- ◆ The disease is characterised by chills, frontal headache, body ache, and high fever for five to 12 days with a case fatality rate of 3 to 5 per cent.
- ◆ After 2012, the presence of KFD has also been reported from adjoining states — Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.

4. White Fungus

Why in News?

- ◆ As the central government asks states to notify black fungus or mucormycosis an epidemic, an infection called 'white fungus' or 'candidiasis' has also been found to affect some people.
- ◆ These new cases of white fungus have been found in Patna, Bihar, and this infection is more dangerous than black fungus.

What is White Fungus?

- ◆ Candidiasis is an infection caused by a yeast (a type of fungus) called Candida.
- ◆ Candida normally lives on the skin and

inside the body, in places such as the mouth, throat, gut, and vagina, without causing any problems.

- ◆ Sometimes, Candida can multiply and cause an infection if the environment inside the mouth, throat, or esophagus changes in a way that encourages fungal growth.

Causes

- ◆ This infection can be caused due to low immunity, or if people come in contact with things that contain these moulds like water, etc.
- ◆ Like the black fungus, white fungus is also more likely to afflict people with

compromised immune systems, pre-existing medical conditions, AIDS, a recent kidney transplant or diabetes.

Symptoms

- ◆ Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative; the infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.
- ◆ White fungus can affect not just the lungs but also other parts of the body including nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth.
- ◆ Patients with the white fungus are currently being treated with known anti-fungal medication

5. Shahi Litchi

Why in News?

- ◆ In a major boost to export of geographical indications (GI) certified products, season's first consignment of Shahi Litchi from Bihar was exported to United Kingdom by air route.

Key Points

- ◆ Bihar government is making efforts in association with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and other agencies for creating required infrastructures such as customs clearance facility, laboratory testing facility, pack-houses, pre-cooling facilities, which would harness and boost agricultural exports potential of the State.

- ◆ APEDA has been facilitating Bihar government in formulating State agri-export plan.
- ◆ After the finalisation of State agri-export plan, the export potential of Makhana, mango, litchi and other fruits and vegetables can be harnessed.

About Shahi Litchi

- ◆ Shahi litchi was the fourth agricultural products to get GI certification from Bihar in 2018, after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan.
- ◆ Muzzafarpur, Vaishali, Samastipur, Champaran, Begusarai districts and adjoining areas of Bihar have favorable climate for growing Shahi Litchi.
- ◆ Bihar tops in terms of production of litchi.

- ◆ India is the second largest producer of litchi (Litchi chin) in the world, after China.
- ◆ The translucent, flavoured aril or edible flesh of the litchi is popular as a table fruit in India, while in China and Japan it is preferred in dried or canned form.

About APEDA

- ◆ APEDA was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.
- ◆ APEDA has been actively engaged in the development of markets besides upgradation of infrastructure and quality to promote the export of agro products.

- ◆ In its endeavour to promote agro exports, APEDA, under its Plan Scheme titled 'Agriculture Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA' provides financial assistance to the registered exporters under sub-components of the Scheme – Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development and Transport Assistance.

About GI Tag

- ◆ A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific

geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

- ◆ GI has been recognized by the World Trade Organization.
- ◆ Geographical Indications are part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- ◆ India became a signatory to this convention, when, as a member of the WTO, it enacted the Geographical

Indications (Registration and Protection Act), 1999, which came into effect from September 15, 2003.

- ◆ In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.
- ◆ Geographical indications are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.



Persons of the Week

David Attenborough



Shaji .N.M.



Narinder Batra



Yuan Longping



Sunderlal Bahuguna



Dr Srikumar Banerjee



M S Narasimhan



1. David Attenborough

- ◆ Sir David Attenborough, world-renowned broadcaster and natural historian, has been named COP26 People's Advocate for the U.K.'s Presidency of the UN climate change summit in Glasgow in November 2021.
- ◆ He will address world leaders at major international events over the next six months, including the G7 Summit in Cornwall in June, to firmly put climate and the protection of nature at the top of their agenda.
- ◆ He has also been invited to address world leaders and the public at the Glasgow Summit — dubbed the most important climate meeting since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015.



2. Shaji .N.M.

- ◆ Shaji .N.M., fondly called as 'Tuber Man' of Kerala has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2021 in the individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species'.
- ◆ The award, carrying ₹2 lakh cash prize and citation, was declared on May 22, 2021 during the International Day for Biological Diversity.
- ◆ Shaji, who conserves a wide array of around 200 tuber crops, including greater yam, lesser yam, elephant foot yam, arrow root, colocasia, sweet potato, cassava and Chinese potato, at his farm in Wayanad.



3. Narinder Batra

- ◆ Incumbent Narinder Batra of India has been re-elected as the International Hockey Federation (FIH) President for a second term.
- ◆ Batra, who is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association and an International Olympic Committee member, narrowly defeated his rival Marc Coudron, chief of Belgium Hockey Federation.
- ◆ Batra will hold the office until 2024.



4. Yuan Longping

- ◆ Yuan Longping, a Chinese agricultural scientist whose breakthroughs in hybrid rice brought food security to China and transformed agriculture worldwide, has passed away recently at the age of 91.
- ◆ He is also known as "Father of Hybrid Rice". He was awarded with the World Food Prize in 2004 and Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2001.
- ◆ In the early 1970s, Mr. Yuan and his team developed hybrid strains that typically yielded 20 percent more rice than conventional varieties, transforming Chinese agriculture after years of famine and scarcity.



5. Sunderlal Bahuguna

- ◆ Environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna, who was best known as the leader of the Chipko Movement, has passed away recently.
- ◆ He was one of the main leaders of the Chipko movement in northern India in the 1970s. In Hindi, chipko literally means "hugging".
- ◆ He also shared his experience of starting other movements with him such as Shrabbandi Aandolan (liquor prohibition andolan) in 1970, Askot-Aarakot foot march in 1974 and so on.
- ◆ His commitment to the cause was such that in 1981 he refused to accept the Padma Shri since the felling of trees was rampant in the Himalayas.



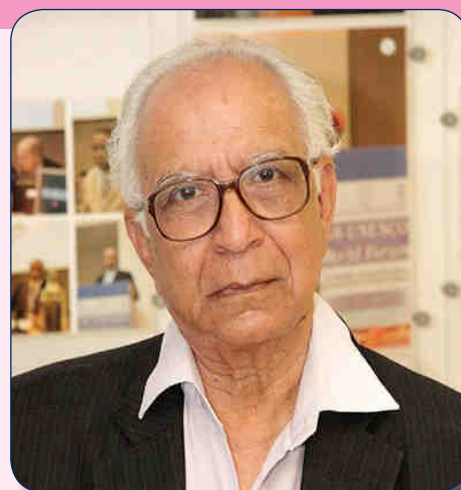
6. Dr Srikumar Banerjee

- ◆ Former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Dr Srikumar Banerjee has passed away recently due to a heart attack at his Mumbai residence.
- ◆ Dr Banerjee had retired as the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy in 2012. Prior to the Atomic Energy Commission, he served as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
- ◆ Alumni of IIT Kharagpur, Dr Banerjee had received the Padma Shri in 2005 and the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 1989 for his exceptional service in the field of science.



7. M S Narasimhan

- ◆ Distinguished mathematician Padma Bhushan Prof. M S Narasimhan has passed away recently.
- ◆ Famous for Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem, he made pioneering contributions to differential & algebraic geometry.
- ◆ He was the only Indian to be awarded with King Faisal International Prize for Science & First Chair of National Board for Higher Mathematics.
- ◆ Prof. M S Narasimhan contributions are in the areas of Algebraic Geometry, Differential Geometry, Representation Theory of Lie groups and Partial Differential Equations.
- ◆ In Algebraic Geometry he has made pioneering contributions to the development of the theory of moduli spaces of vector bundles on curves and higher dimensional projective varieties.



Places of the Week

**Mount Nyiragongo
Volcano**



**Kuno National
Park**



**Galwan
Valley**



Taiwan Strait



Satkosia Gorge, Odisha



Tigray Region



Pune



1. Mount Nyiragongo Volcano

- ◆ Democratic Republic of Congo's Mount Nyiragongo has unleashed lava that destroyed homes on the outskirts of Goma.
- ◆ Goma is a regional hub for many humanitarian agencies in the region, as well as the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission.
- ◆ Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m in the Virunga Mountains associated with the Albertine Rift.
- ◆ Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40 percent of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions.
- ◆ It is located inside Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



2. Kuno National Park

- ◆ Cheetah, the world's fastest land animal which was declared extinct in India in 1952, is expected to be re-introduced into the country in November this year at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- ◆ Kuno, located in the Chambal region, is spread over an area of over 750 sq km and has a conducive environment for the cheetah.
- ◆ The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and it was declared extinct in the country in 1952.
- ◆ Cheetah is considered vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of threatened species, with a declining population of less than 7,000 found primarily in African savannas.



3. Galwan Valley

- ◆ The Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh is once again in the news after a media report claimed that Indian Army soldiers and Chinese PLA troops had another 'face-off' in the no-patrolling zone in the region.
- ◆ The valley refers to the land that sits between steep mountains that buffet the Galwan River. The river has its source in Aksai Chin, on China's side of the LAC, and it flows from the east to Ladakh, where it meets the Shyok river on India's side of the LAC.



- ◆ The valley is strategically located between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin in the east, which is currently controlled by China as part of its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.
- ◆ The LAC lies east of the confluence of the Galwan and Shyok rivers in the valley, up to which both India and China have been patrolling in recent years.

4. Taiwan Strait

- China has accused the United States of threatening the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait after a US warship again sailed through the seas that separate Taiwan and its giant neighbour.
- The Taiwan Strait is a 180-kilometer (110 mi)-wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia.
- The strait is currently part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.
- Former names of the Taiwan Strait include the Formosa Strait or Strait of Formosa, from a dated name for Taiwan; the Strait of Fokien or Fujian, from the Chinese province forming the strait's western shore; and the Black



Ditch, a calque of the strait's name in Hokkien and Hakka.

5. Satkosia Gorge, Odisha

- After a gap of four decades, breeding of the endangered gharial species has been witnessed in the fresh waters of Mahanadi river in Satkosia gorge.
- Monitoring of the Gharial population was strengthened only after Satkosia was declared a tiger reserve in 2007 and protection of the core area enhanced in 2014 making the gorge a fishing free zone. Satkosia Gorge is a gorge in eastern Odisha, carved by the Mahanadi River. The gorge is located within the Satkosia Tiger Reserve which is a United nations Protected area.
- Geologically Satkosia gorge is part of the Eastern Ghats .It separates



the Chhota Nagpur Plateau from the Eastern Ghats.

6. Tigray Region

- More than 10,000 people have attended an anti-US rally in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, to denounce President Joe Biden's policy on the conflict in the country's northern region of Tigray.
- US President Joe Biden had called for a ceasefire in the conflict, now in its seventh month.
- The conflict began last November, when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ordered an attack on forces loyal to the region's former ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), after they had overrun federal army bases.
- Tigray Region is the northernmost regional state in Ethiopia. Tigray Region is the homeland of the



Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama peoples.

- Its capital and largest city is Mekelle.

7. Pune

- The Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), in association with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), has launched India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre.
- This Facilitation Centre will work as a one-stop-shop for the exporters in the agricultural sector.
- The Center would guide the prospective exporters on various relevant aspects through experts in areas like pesticide residue management, global gap certification, among others.
- It would also provide information about APEDA's schemes for exporters, the procedure to get APEDA support and information on Government of



India and State Government Schemes for export promotion.



International/National Days of the Week

International Museum Day 2021



World Metrology Day 2021



World Bee Day 2021



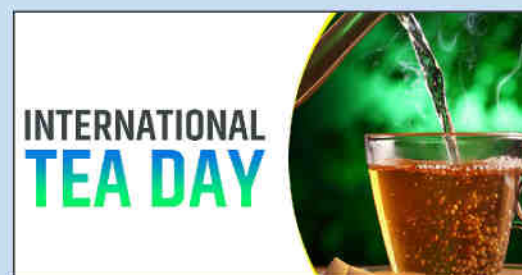
International Day for Biological Diversity 2021



World Turtle Day 2021



International Tea Day 2021



World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2021



1. International Museum Day 2021

- ◆ International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year to raise awareness among people about the museums.
- ◆ Museums are an important means of cultural exchange and the development of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among people.
- ◆ The theme for International Museum Day 2021 is "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine."
- ◆ International Museum Day was first held in 1977. Since then it has gained increasing attention.



2. World Metrology Day 2021

- ◆ 'World Metrology Day' is observed every year on May 20.
- ◆ The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is "Measurement for Health." This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in health, and thus in the wellbeing of every one of us.
- ◆ World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations.
- ◆ The Convention set the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and in its industrial, commercial and societal applications.
- ◆ The original aim of the Metre Convention - the world-wide uniformity of measurement - remains as important today as it was in 1875.



3. World Bee Day 2021

- ◆ 'World Bee Day' is observed every year on May 20.
- ◆ The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is: Bee Engaged - Build Back Better for Bees.
- ◆ To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day.
- ◆ The goal is to strengthen measures aimed at protecting bees and other



pollinators, which would significantly contribute to solving problems related

to the global food supply and eliminate hunger in developing countries.

4. International Day for Biological Diversity 2021

- ◆ The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated each year on May 22.
- ◆ "We're part of the solution" is the theme for this year.
- ◆ Earlier, December 29 was designated as the International Day for Biological Diversity but in 2000, the UN General Assembly chose May 22 to mark the day.
- ◆ The Secretariat of the Convention on



22 MAY 2021
BIODIVERSITY DAY
We're part of the solution #ForNature

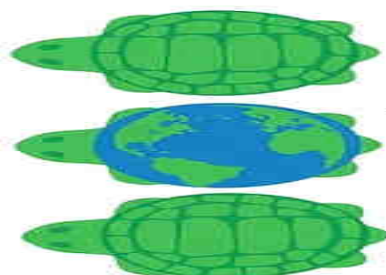
Biological Diversity (CBD) announces the theme each year.

- ◆ The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15,

October 2021) to the CBD will review the achievement and delivery of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

5. World Turtle Day 2021

- ◆ World Turtle Day is observed every year on May 23 with the purpose of increasing attention and knowledge about turtles and tortoises.
- ◆ World Turtle Day was founded in the year 1990 by the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) by husband and wife team Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson. It is a nonprofit organisation that rescues and rehabilitates all species of tortoise and turtle.



**WORLD
TURTLE DAY®**
May 23rd
AMERICAN
TORTOISE
RESCUE
tortoise.com

- ◆ The theme for this year "Turtles Rock!" encourages a worldwide audience to see turtles as more than just rocks with legs.
- ◆ These creatures date back to the time of

the dinosaurs, over 200 million years ago. There are a total of 300 species of turtles in the entire world, out of which 129 species are endangered.

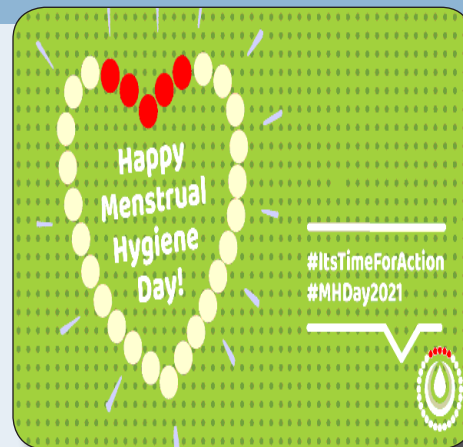
6. International Tea Day 2021

- ◆ International tea day is celebrated every year on the 21st of May.
- ◆ First-ever International Tea Day was on 21 May 2020. The UN General Assembly, in the year 2019, decided to celebrate International Tea Day on May 21st annually.
- ◆ International Tea Day is celebrated by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- ◆ The UN has said tea has medicinal value and has a potential of bringing health benefit[s] to people.
- ◆ Not only has the UN recognised the medicinal property of tea, but it has also considered the beverage as an important ingredient of its Sustainable Development Goal programme. It hoped tea will play a pivotal role in eradicating hunger and poverty across the world.



7. World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2021

- ◆ World Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed every year on May 28 with an aim to change the social stigma associated with menstruation.
- ◆ The date May 28 was chosen to observe the day because on an average the menstrual cycle for most women is 28 days and the menstruation period for most women is for five days. Hence, the date was chosen as 28/5.
- ◆ The theme for this year is: “Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health.”
- ◆ This day is celebrated to break taboos surrounding menstruation, raise awareness about periods, and understand the importance of good menstrual hygiene management worldwide.



Brain Boosters

01

Protected Planet Report 2020

1. Why in News?

- Recently, a report titled "Protected Planet Report 2020" has been issued by United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with support from the National Geographic Society.



2. Key Highlights of the Report

- The report underlined the progress the world has made toward the ambitious goals agreed by countries in 2010 at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.
- To conserve 17 per cent of land and inland water ecosystems and 10 per cent of its coastal waters and oceans by 2020, known as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, a set of 20 targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- As many as 82 per cent of countries and territories increased their share of protected area and coverage of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) since 2010.
- Since OECMs were first recorded in 2019, these areas have added a further 1.6 million km² to the global network. Despite being limited to only five countries and territories, the available data on OECMs already show that they make a significant contribution to coverage and connectivity. Of the area now covered by protected areas and OECMs, 42% was added in the past decade.
- OECM are a conservation designation for areas that are achieving the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas.
- On an average, 62.6 per cent of key biodiversity areas (KBA) either fully or partially overlap with protected areas and OECMs.
- KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- The average percentage of each KBA within protected areas and OECMs is 43.2 per cent for terrestrial; 42.2 per cent for inland water and 44.2 per cent for marine (within national waters).
- There was an increase of 5 percentage points or less in each case since 2010, the greatest growth in marine and coastal areas.

4. Way Forward

- A global network of effective and equitable protected and conserved areas will play a vital role in safeguarding the health of people and planet for generations to come.
- The report also called for existing protected and conserved areas to be identified and recognised by accounting for the efforts of indigenous peoples, local communities and private entities.

3. Challenges

- Governance is a key contributor to effective conservation. Both protected areas and OECMs can have a variety of governance regimes: government, private, governance by indigenous peoples and local communities, or any combination of these.
- Data are still poor on governance diversity and quality for protected areas and OECMs.
- Integrating protected areas and OECMs across landscapes and seascapes, and in development sectors, remains a crucial challenge for ensuring the persistence of biodiversity.
- Measurable targets for integrated land-use and marine spatial planning are needed to facilitate progress.

02

Islanders seek withdrawal of Land Norms in Lakshadweep

1. Why in News?

- ◆ A series of regulations proposed by an administrator Praful Khoda Patel in a set of islands in the Arabian Sea has caused widespread resentment and fear among its residents.



2. Key Points

- ◆ The regulation empowers the government, identified as the administrator, to constitute Planning and Development Authorities (PDAs) to plan the development of any area identified as having “bad layout or obsolete development”.
- ◆ An authority thus created would be a corporate body with a government-appointed chairman, a town planning officer and three “expert” government nominees besides two local authority representatives.
- ◆ Section 72 of the draft Planning and Development Authority proposal allows the administration to evict a person from a property that “he is not entitled to occupy”.
- ◆ The draft in some cases says the maximum period allowed will be three years. That means an islander can make her house standing for only three years.
- ◆ The draft law denies protection granted to the Scheduled Tribes – the islands’ indigenous people – by the constitution and violates the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ◆ Apart from the above proposals, the draft also talked about ban on beef, and disqualification of people with more than two children who wish to contest the village council elections.

3. Issues

- ◆ Islanders have pointed out that the legislation are out of sync with the social and environmental realities of the archipelago.
- ◆ The creation of the Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA), with extensive powers, including eviction of land owners, is widely read as having been pushed by the real estate lobby and against the interest of the islanders.
- ◆ The islanders opposing the plan have pointed out that the ecologically fragile islands are tiny and thickly populated. Therefore there is no scope or need for bigger roads.
- ◆ One of the petitions seeking the withdrawal of the regulation says the legislation vests extensive powers with the authority, allowing it to prepare comprehensive development plans for any area and relocate people.

4. About Lakshadweep

- ◆ Lakshadweep is an idyllic archipelago of 36 islands – 10 of them inhabited – spread over a 32-square-kilometre area in the sea, about 200 km off the southwestern coast of the Indian Peninsula.
- ◆ Residents in the smallest among India’s eight “Union Territories” (UTs), with a population of 65,000 people – 97 percent of them Muslims.

03

Mercury found in Rivers Linked to Greenland Ice Sheet

1. Why in News?

- ◆ According to the latest research report, high concentrations of mercury, a naturally occurring toxic metal, were found in the water bodies fed by the Greenland Ice Sheet.



2. Key Highlights of the Report

- ◆ The mercury content in the rivers and fjords of southwestern Greenland was similar to that found in the polluted inland rivers of China.
- ◆ The researchers collected water samples from three rivers and two fjords connected to the ice-sheet and found almost ten times the volume of mercury than normal rivers.
- ◆ Typical dissolved mercury content in rivers are about 1 – 10 ng L⁻¹ (the equivalent of a salt grain-sized amount of mercury in an Olympic swimming pool of water).
- ◆ In the glacier meltwater rivers sampled in Greenland, scientists found dissolved mercury levels in excess of 150 ng L⁻¹, far higher than an average river.
- ◆ Particulate mercury carried by glacial flour (the sediment that makes glacial rivers look milky) was found in very high concentrations of more than 2000 ng L⁻¹.

3. Reasons

- ◆ According to the scientists, the toxins did not end up in the meltwaters from industries or other anthropogenic activities, as is the case with most contaminants.
- ◆ Mercury-rich bedrock is weathered during the slow movement of glaciers down the slope of hills and the ground particles are carried into the streams as the glacier melts.

4. Concerns

- ◆ According to the researchers, mercury coming from climatically sensitive environments like glaciers could be a source that is much more difficult to manage.
- ◆ Water pollution caused similarly can be heightened as the Earth continues to heat up and ice-sheets and glaciers melt faster than ever before. The findings, thus, open a new chapter in understanding the impacts of global warming.
- ◆ The findings strengthen a growing body of research that dismisses the conception that glaciers have little or no influence on the Earth's geochemical and biological processes.
- ◆ The large volumes of the metal can find its way into the coastal food webs through bioaccumulation and impact the Arctic ecosystem. Greenland is a major seafood exporter.

04

New Consulate General of India in Maldives

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the opening of first Consulate General of India in Addu City, Maldives in 2021.



2. Key Highlights

- ◆ Opening of a consulate general in Addu City will help augment India's diplomatic presence in Maldives and make it commensurate with the existing and aspired level of engagement.
- ◆ Augmentation of India's diplomatic presence will provide market access for Indian companies and bolster Indian exports of goods and services.
- ◆ The opening of the consulate will also have a direct impact in augmenting domestic production and employment in line with Indian government's goal of a self-reliant India or Atmanirbhar Bharat.

3. India - Maldives Relations

- ◆ India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity.
- ◆ Indians are the second largest expatriate community in the Maldives, with an approximate strength of 22,000. About 25% of doctors and teachers in the Maldives are Indians.
- ◆ Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India.
- ◆ Bilateral relations have also benefited from President Ibrahim Solih's "India First" policy.
- ◆ India is currently implementing large infrastructure projects worth \$2 billion, such as ports, roads, bridges, water and sanitation, in the Maldives.
- ◆ The Maldives also received considerable assistance from India since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was the first country to receive made-in-India vaccines in January, when New Delhi gifted 100,000 doses.
- ◆ This was preceded by health and humanitarian assistance provided in 2020, including nearly 12 tonnes of medicines, and a soft loan of \$250 million for budgetary support.

4. India's Neighbourhood First Policy

- ◆ "Neighbourhood First Policy" is part of India's foreign policy that accords primacy to nations in India's periphery.
- ◆ It also includes in its ambit the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) —a grouping that includes almost all countries of South Asia and some in South-East Asia.

05

A High-level Expert Panel 'One Health' of WHO

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The World Health Organization (WHO) has formed a high-level expert panel 'One Health' to study the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases like H5N1, avian influenza, MERS, Ebola, Zika and possibly the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).



2. Key Highlights

- ◆ The panel will advise global agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on how future outbreaks, especially due to zoonotic diseases, can be averted.
- ◆ It will also develop a surveillance framework and global action plan for the same.
- ◆ The experts will also closely study various human activities which disturb the natural wildlife and environment.
- ◆ Activities like food production and distribution and urbanisation cause biodiversity loss and climate change.
- ◆ This damage, along with the increased pressure over natural resources, is a suspected reason behind the rapid emergence of various zoonotic diseases.

3. What are Zoonotic Disease?

- ◆ A zoonosis (zoonotic disease) is an infectious disease that is transmitted between species from animals to humans (or from humans to animals).
- ◆ Zoonotic diseases are caused by harmful germs like viruses, bacterial, parasites, and fungi.
- ◆ According to the experts, three of every four infectious diseases are caused by zoonosis. Scientists across the world suspect COVID-19 is also a zoonosis.

4. 'One Health' Approach

- ◆ 'One Health' is an approach to designing and implementing programmes, policies, legislation and research in which multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes.
- ◆ The areas of work in which a One Health approach is particularly relevant include food safety, the control of zoonoses (diseases that can spread between animals and humans, such as flu, rabies and Rift Valley Fever), and combatting antibiotic resistance (when bacteria change after being exposed to antibiotics and become more difficult to treat).

06

One-Stop Centres

1. Why in News?

- ◆ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) will set up 'One-Stop Centres' (OSC) in foreign missions in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

2. Key Highlights

- ◆ The first 10 OSCs will be introduced in Australia, Canada, Singapore, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.
- ◆ The countries have been identified by the MEA based on the Indian diaspora population and that these centres will be run by the MEA, though they will be funded by the WCD Ministry.



3. About One-Stop Centres

- ◆ One-Stop Centres is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of WCD Ministry.
- ◆ It is a subscheme of Umbrella Scheme for National Mission for Empowerment of women including Indira Gandhi Matritrav Sahyog Yojana.
- ◆ The ministry has established the centres across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in phased manner.
- ◆ There are currently 700 One-Stop Centres in the country. The WCD Ministry is also planning to add 300 more such centres across the country this year.
- ◆ The ministry also announced a fund of Rs 74 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for rape victims who are minors.
- ◆ Ministry of Finance, Government of India has established 'Nirbhaya Fund' with an initial corpus of Rs. 1000 cr. for women safety pertaining to the strategic areas of prevention, protection and rehabilitation.

4. What is Gender Based Violence?

- ◆ Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a global health, human rights and development issue that transcends geography, class, culture, age, race and religion to affect every community and country in every corner of the world.
- ◆ The Article 1 of UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence, 1993 provides a definition of gender-based abuse, calling it "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life".

07

UAE's Golden Visa

1. Why in News?

- ◆ Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt recently received his golden visa from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government.



2. What is Golden Visa?

- ◆ In 2019, the UAE implemented a new system for long-term residence visas, thereby enabling foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor and with 100 per cent ownership of their business.

3. Key Points of the Visa

- ◆ The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency (5 and 10 years) to people belonging to the following groups: investors, entrepreneurs, individuals with outstanding talents the likes of researchers, medical professionals and those within the scientific and knowledge fields, and remarkable students.
- ◆ For the 10-year visa, investors having no less than AED 10 million worth of public investment, either in the form of an investment fund or a company, can apply.
- ◆ However, at least 60 per cent of the total investment must not be in the form of real estate and the invested amount must not be loaned, or in case of assets, investors must assume full ownership.
- ◆ The investor must be able to retain the investment for a minimum of three years as well.
- ◆ Besides entrepreneurs, individuals with specialised talent can also apply for the visa. These individuals may be granted a 10-year visa following accreditations granted by their respective departments and fields and the visa will also be extended to their spouses and children.
- ◆ For the 5-year visa, the norms are largely similar for investors with the only difference being the amount of investment required is set at AED 5 million.
- ◆ In addition to the aforementioned, foreign nationals who are looking to set up their business in the UAE may also apply for permanent residency (5 years) through the Golden Business Visa scheme.

4. Other Programmes

- ◆ The UAE has also approved an amendment to its residency laws allowing foreign university students to bring their families with them to the UAE.
- ◆ In October 2020, Dubai also launched a unique residency programme which permitted overseas working professionals, who were working from home, to live in the UAE while continuing to serve their employers in their home country.
- ◆ In September 2020, the Dubai government also launched a five-year renewable Retirement Visa for foreigners aged 55 and over to live in the emirate.
- ◆ The programme, called Retire in Dubai, is open to all retirees as long as they earn a monthly income of at least \$5,500, have savings of \$275,000, or own a property in Dubai worth \$550,000.

Self Assessment (Objective Questions)



1. Six Indian Sites have been added to Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. India has 38 sites in the tentative list as of now.
2. India has 48 world heritage sites.
3. Satpura Tiger Reserve is the latest added site in the natural sites category.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 only
- d. None of the Above

Ans: (d)

2. Lunar Eclipse 2021

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Lunar Eclipse 2021':

1. Recent Lunar eclipse was a 'supermoon' and 'bloodmoon'.
2. A 'blood moon' happens when Earth's moon is in a total lunar eclipse.
3. A 'supermoon' looks larger just because it's a bit closer to

Earth.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

3. Cyclone 'Yaas'

Q. With reference to the 'Cyclone Yaas', consider the following statements:

1. The name 'Yaas' was suggested by Bangladesh.
2. The next cyclone in the region will be called 'Gulab' as recommended by Pakistan.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

4. Lithuania Quits China-CEEC 17+1 Bloc

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Lithuania is the latest entry in the 17+1 cooperation mechanism between China and Central and Eastern Europe Countries (China-CEECs).
2. 17+1 cooperation mechanism between China and Central and Eastern Europe Countries (China-CEECs) is lead by

European Union.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

5. China's Strategic Highway in Tibet

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. China has completed construction of a strategically significant highway through the world's deepest canyon in Tibet along the Brahmaputra river.
2. The highway is part of China's ambitious plans to build roads and tunnels along the length of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

6. India and Oman have renewed the MoUs on Military Cooperation

Q. With reference to the India-Oman relations, consider the following statements:

1. Oman is India's oldest partner in the Gulf and has also been a key ally for India in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. India and Oman have signed a agreement to construct the Oman's Duqm port.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

7. Agreement on Agriculture Cooperation between India and Israel

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the India-Israel:

1. India and Israel are implementing the "INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence" and "INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence (IIVOE)".
2. As for the IIVOE, this is a new concept aimed at creating

a model ecosystem in agriculture across eight states, alongside 13 CoEs within 75 villages.

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

Ans: (c)

8. Government and WhatsApp on Privacy Policy

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The new IT rules include a traceability clause that requires social media platforms to locate "the first originator of the information" if required by authorities.
2. The government of India wants to remove End-to-end encryption facility from the for social media platforms.
3. End-to-end encryption ensures that no one can read the message, except for the sender and the receiver.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

9. Vaccine Tourism

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'vaccine tourism':

1. Vaccine Tourism simply means travelling to another country for sightseeing with an included benefit of getting the jab.
2. Along with Russia, India is also offering vaccine tourism visa.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

10. Supreme Court on Migrant Workers

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The government of India is providing Rs. 500 per month to migrant workers from March 2020.
2. All states are also providing "dry ration" to the migrant workers throughout the country.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

11. Net Zero by 2050

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the report 'Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector':

1. It has been released by the United Nations Environment Programme.
2. The report is the world's first comprehensive study of how

to transition to a net zero energy system by 2050.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

12. Havana Syndrome

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Havana Syndrome':

1. Havana Syndrome, a viral infection was originated from Havana, Cuba.
2. The symptoms included nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems, and hearing loss.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

13. Kyasanur Forest Disease

Q. With reference to the 'Kyasanur forest disease', consider the following statements:

1. The disease is caused by a Kyasanur Forest disease virus, which primarily affects humans and monkeys.
2. In India, the presence of disease has been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

14. White Fungus

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'White Fungus':

1. 'White fungus' or 'Candidiasis' is an infection caused by a yeast (a type of fungus) called Candida.
2. This infection can be caused due to low immunity.

3. Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

15. Shahi Litchi

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Shahi Litchi':

1. 'Shahi Litchi' is the fourth GI certified agricultural product from West Bengal.
2. West Bengal tops in terms of production of Litchi in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)



Self Assessment (Subjective Questions)





- 01 What does it mean to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site? Also discuss the advantages of World Heritage Site status.
- 02 What's the difference between a blood moon, a supermoon and a blue moon?
- 03 Write a short note on 'Cyclone Yaas'.
- 04 What is the '17+1 cooperation mechanism between China and Central and Eastern Europe Countries'?
- 05 Why is China's new construction in Tibet near Arunachal Pradesh a concern for India? Explain.
- 06 Discuss the importance of Oman for India to expand its footprint in the western and southern Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and East Africa.
- 07 Write a short note on “INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence” and “INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence (IIVOE) ”.
- 08 Explain the controversy around government rules on WhatsApp and WhatsApp's new privacy rules.
- 09 What is Vaccine Tourism? Why is it becoming new normal in the tourism industry? Discuss.
- 10 Discuss the relief measures of central government towards the migrant workers during corona pandemic.
- 11 Discuss the key points of the report titled, 'Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector'.
- 12 Write a short note on 'Havana Syndrome'.
- 13 Write a short note on Kyasanur forest disease (KFD), also known as monkey fever.
- 14 What is White Fungus? Also discuss its causes.
- 15 Discuss the importance of GI tag for the specific agricultural products around the country.

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