



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Large migration of Common Grass Yellow butterfly seen in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Source: IE

Context: For the first time, a large-scale migration of Common Grass Yellow was observed during the three-day butterfly survey which concluded at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) recently.

Common Grass Yellow:

It is a small, charming butterfly species that can be found across Asia, North America, Africa, and Australia.

Scientific Name: Eurema hecabe

Habitat: They like to fly quickly, close to the ground, and are found in open grassy or bushy terrain, hence their name.

Features:

- They have vibrant yellow wings that can range from a sultry sulphur shade to a lush lemon yellow, shifting with the seasons and their location. This is known as 'seasonal polyphenism'.
- There is a black, broad, irregular outer marking on the forewing. The underside of the wing has various black marks with a yellow centre.
- They are often seen in large groups, and the females usually fly about by themselves to find nectar from a wide variety of plants.
- They are migratory in behaviour and are found migrating in large numbers across the entire Africa, throughout most of Asia south of the Himalayas.

Conservation Status:

IUCN Red List: Least Concern

This species is not legally protected in India under any schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. World's oldest cave painting in Indonesia shows a pig and people

Context: On the ceiling of a limestone cave on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, scientists have discovered artwork depicting three human-like figures interacting with a wild pig in what they have determined is the world's oldest-known confidently dated cave painting - created at least 51,200 years ago.

Leang Karampuang Cave:

- It is a limestone cave located on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

Key findings

- A scene of humans interacting with a pig painted on a cave wall is found in the cave.



- The scene, dominated by a representation of a pig that is standing upright along with three smaller human-like figures, is painted in a single shade of dark red pigment.
- One figure seems to be holding an object near the pig's throat. Another is directly above the pig's head in an upside-down position with legs splayed out.
- The third figure is larger and grander in appearance than the others; it is holding an unidentified object and is possibly wearing an elaborate headdress.
- This painting predates the cave paintings of Europe, which is at El Castillo in Spain, dating to about 40,800 years ago.
- The researchers interpreted the painting as a narrative scene, which they said would make it the oldest-known evidence of storytelling in art.
- The earliest Sulawesi rock art is not 'simple, it is quite advanced and shows the mental capacity of people at the time.



GS II

3. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announces results of Australia-India Strategic Research Fund

Context: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology unveiled the results of the 15th round of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF).

News: Australia-India Strategic Research Fund:

- It is a bilateral program that supports collaborative research projects between Australia and India.
- It aims to strengthen the scientific relationship between the two countries and address common challenges through joint research efforts.
- It is a platform for bilateral collaboration in science, jointly managed and funded by the governments of India and Australia.
- **Objectives**
 - To increase the uptake of leading-edge science and technology (S&T) by supporting collaboration between Australian and Indian researchers in strategically focused, leading-edge scientific research and technology projects, and strengthening strategic alliances between Australian and Indian researchers;
 - Facilitate India's and Australia's access to the global S&T system.
 - The priority areas for collaborative research projects in Round Fifteen of the Indo-Australian S&T Fund are Artificial Intelligence and machine learning, New and Renewable energy technologies (particularly ultra-low-cost solar and clean hydrogen), and Urban mining and electronic waste recycling.



4. Ahom 'Moidam' recommended for inclusion in UNESCO World Heritage List

Context: Ahom era 'Moidams', resting place of royal families, in Assam's Charaideo district have been recommended for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List by its international advisory body ICOMOS. **International Council on Monuments and Sites:**

- It was established in 1965 in Warsaw (Poland) as a result of the Venice Charter of 1964 and offers advice to UNESCO on World Heritage Sites.
- It is an international non-governmental organisation that is comprised of professionals, experts, representatives from local authorities, companies and heritage organisations, and is dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of the architectural and landscape heritage throughout the world.

Key facts about Moidams

- The Moidams (also Maidams) are the mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty (13th century-19th century).
- The mound-burial system of the royals of the Ahom dynasty in Assam's Charaideo district can be likened to the royal tombs of ancient China and the Pyramids of the Egyptian pharaohs (kings of ancient Egypt).
 - The Ahom rule lasted for about 600 years until the British annexed Assam in 1826.
 - Charaideo, more than 400 km east of Guwahati, was the first capital of the Ahom dynasty founded by Chao Lung Siu-Ka-Pha in 1253.
- However, after the 18th century, the Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation, entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a Moidam at Charaideo.
- The Moidams enshrine the mortal remains of Ahom royalty and are highly venerated.
- With the shift of Ahom capital south and eastwards, Moidams have been seen in different parts of Northern Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Northern Burma, Southern China and Northeast India - together defining the region where Tai-Ahom culture prevailed.



GS III

5. Bengaluru: State government forms committee to address Kaveri River contamination

Source: Vartha Bharti

Context: The Karnataka state government has established a nine-member committee to investigate the contamination of the Kaveri River.

Kaveri River:

- Kaveri River, also known as the Cauvery River, is one of the major rivers of southern India, which is considered sacrosanct by the Hindus.
- **Course:**
 - It rises on Brahma Giri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka, at an elevation of 1,341m (4,400 ft.) above mean sea level.
 - It flows in the south and east through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and then across the southeastern lowlands, and finally surrenders in the Bay of Bengal through two principal mouths.
 - The total length of the river from origin to outfall is 800 km.
- It is bounded by the Western Ghats on the west, by the Eastern Ghats on the east and south and by the ridges separating it from the Krishna Basin and Pennar Basin on the north.
- The Cauvery basin extends over the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry, draining an area of 81,155 Sq.km
- **Tributaries:** Its important tributaries joining from left are the Harangi, the Hemavati, the Shimsha, and the Arkavati, whereas the Lakshmantirtha, the Kabbani, the Suvarnavati, the Bhavani, the Noyil, and the Amaravati joins from right.
- **Dams:** Dams constructed across the river are Krishna Raja Sagara Dam and Mettur Dam and the Banasura Sagar Dam on the Kabini River, which is a tributary of Kaveri River.

6. New model of Producer Price Index to capture input prices better on the anvil

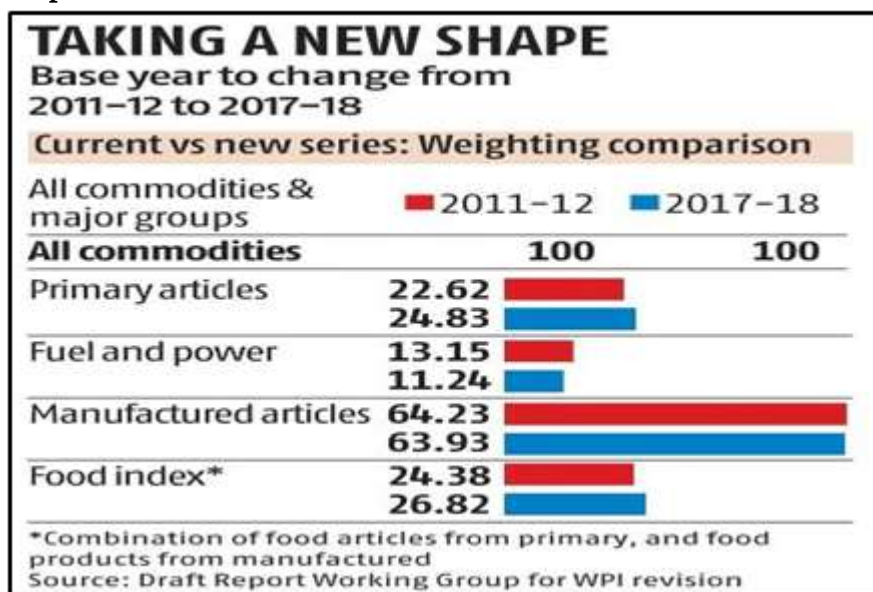
Context: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is close to finalising a model to launch a Producer Price Index (PPI) in India that may eventually replace the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)?

- **Definition:** WPI represents the price of goods at a wholesale stage e. goods that are sold in bulk and traded between organisations instead of consumers, and is used as a measure of inflation in some economies.
- How is it calculated?



- WPIs are reported monthly in order to show the average price changes of goods.
- The total costs of the goods being considered in one year are then compared with the total costs of goods in the base year.
- The total prices for the base year are equal to 100 on the scale. Prices from another year are compared to that total and expressed as a percentage of change.
- **WPI in India:**
 - It is used as an important measure of inflation in India and takes into account the change in price of goods only.
 - WPI data is published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
 - The current series of WPI - with base year of 2011-12 - was the seventh revision of WPI and implemented from 2017 onwards.
- **Major components of WPI:**



- Primary articles, which is subdivided into Food Articles and Non-Food Articles (Oil Seeds, Minerals and Crude Petroleum).
- Fuel & Power, which tracks price movements in Petrol, Diesel and LPG.
- Manufactured goods comprise the biggest basket (Textiles, Apparels, Chemicals, Cement, Metals, Sugar and Tobacco Products, Vegetable and Animal Oils, etc)
- WPI Food Index: **Significance of WPI:** It is an easy and convenient method to calculate inflation and Fiscal and monetary policy changes are greatly influenced by changes in WPI.
- **Criticism of WPI:** It is a sub-index within WPI, and includes Food Articles from the Primary Articles basket and the food products from the Manufactured Products basket.
- - It does not account for inflation at the level of the ordinary public because they do not buy products at wholesale prices.
 - WPI excludes the service sector, which covers about 55% of GDP.
 - WPI has an inbuilt bias due to double counting of the same product and doesn't include exports and imports.

What is the Producer Price Index (PPI)?



- PPI measures wholesale prices from the point of view of producers of goods and services by tracking prices at different stages of production.
- It looks at inflation from the viewpoint of industry and business and measures price changes before consumers purchase final goods and services.
- It has replaced WPI in most countries as it is conceptually in line with the internationally agreed System of National Accounts (SNA) to compile measures of economic activity.

Challenges in Shifting from WPI to PPI:

- Likely to take more time: This is because the government would have to address the issues of -
 - Preparing the right samples,
 - Assigning the weighting, and
 - Deciding on the periodicity (whether monthly or weekly) of the price collection.
- The biggest issue - To identify which services to include: What sort of services will serve as the correct representative of the sector?
- WPI is still the most widely followed measure of inflation:
 - It is used as one of the deflators along with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to calculate real GDP from nominal GDP.
 - The government is separately working towards changing the current base year of 2011-12 for WPI.

7. 50k villages in 310 districts: Govt prepares plan for climate resilient farming

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Union government plans to unveil a framework to promote climate-resilient agriculture in 50,000 villages located in climatically-vulnerable districts.

What's in Today's Article?

- About Climate Resilient Agriculture (Basics, Features, Benefits, Challenges, etc.)
- ICAR's Climate Smart Agriculture Program
- News Summary

About Climate Resilient Agriculture:

- Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) refers to farming practices and strategies designed to withstand and adapt to the changing climate.
- In India, where agriculture is a major part of the economy and livelihood for millions, CRA is essential to ensure food security, economic stability, and sustainable development.
- There are 11 National Missions as part of the Union Government's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture is one of them.

Key Components / Features of CRA:

- **Diversified Cropping Systems:**
 - Mixed Cropping: Growing multiple crops on the same land to reduce the risk of crop failure due to extreme weather.
 - Crop Rotation: Changing the type of crop grown in a particular field each season to improve soil health and reduce pests.



- **Improved Water Management:**
 - Rainwater Harvesting: Collecting and storing rainwater for use during dry periods.
 - Efficient Irrigation: Using methods like drip irrigation to minimize water wastage and ensure crops get the right amount of water.
- **Soil Health Enhancement:**
 - Organic Farming: Using natural fertilizers and pesticides to maintain soil fertility and health.
 - Conservation Tillage: Minimizing soil disturbance to maintain soil structure and reduce erosion.
- **Adoption of Stress-Tolerant Crop Varieties:**
 - Developing and planting crop varieties that can withstand drought, floods, and other climate extremes.
- **Agroforestry:**
 - Integrating trees and shrubs into farming systems to protect crops, enhance biodiversity, and improve soil and water quality.
- **Weather and Climate Services:**
 - Providing farmers with accurate weather forecasts and climate information to help them plan their activities better and reduce risks.
- **Risk Management and Insurance:**
 - Offering crop insurance schemes to protect farmers against losses due to extreme weather events.

Benefits of CRA:

- **Increased Productivity:** By using resilient practices, farmers can maintain or even increase their crop yields despite adverse weather conditions.
- **Enhanced Livelihoods:** Stable agricultural production ensures a consistent income for farmers and reduces poverty.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** CRA practices promote the sustainable use of natural resources, ensuring long-term agricultural productivity.
- **Food Security:** With reliable agricultural output, the availability of food is more secure, benefiting the entire population.

Challenges & Solutions:

- **Awareness and Education:** Educating farmers about CRA practices is crucial. Extension services and farmer training programs can bridge this gap.
- **Access to Resources:** Ensuring farmers have access to resilient crop varieties, efficient irrigation systems, and other necessary inputs.
- **Policy Support:** Government policies and programs that support CRA initiatives, provide subsidies, and facilitate research and development in climate-resilient technologies.

ICAR's Climate Smart Agriculture Program:



- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is running a research program called the "Consortium for Scaling-Up Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in South Asia (C-SUCSeS)." This program aims to:
 - Increase agricultural production and productivity in a sustainable way.
 - Improve food security, nutrition, and income in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region.
- The program also brings together agricultural research centers and extension agencies in the SAARC region to develop and share knowledge about climate-smart technologies and best practices.
- South Asian governments have agreed to explore the idea of a regional seed bank, regional testing and certification of seeds, and a framework for sharing plant genetic material and seeds.
- India collaborates with both SAARC and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). To help SAARC countries develop their skills, ICAR and SAARC organize regional training programs together.
- The government has committed to increasing investment, promoting research and development, facilitating technical cooperation, and applying innovative and reliable technologies in agriculture.
- These efforts aim to boost productivity and ensure food and nutritional security in the South Asian region.

Climate-resilient agriculture in 50,000 villages:

- The Union government plans to unveil a framework to promote climate-resilient agriculture in 50,000 villages located in climatically-vulnerable districts.
- Officials will select 50,000 villages from 310 districts that have already been identified as climatically-vulnerable. These 310 districts are spread across 27 states, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for the most districts (48), followed by Rajasthan (27).
- The initiative is part of a national programme on climate-resilient agriculture, which the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare plans to launch as part of a 100-day agenda.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed more than 2,000 such varieties for improving food production.

8. Norms issued for funding of testing facilities, infra for National Green Hydrogen Mission

Context: The ministry of new and renewable energy has issued guidelines for funding of testing facilities, infrastructure, and institutional support for development of standards and regulatory framework under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

National Green Hydrogen Mission:

- It was approved by the Union Cabinet on January 4, 2023.



- Aim: To make India a Global Hub for producing, utilising and exporting Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

What are the components of the scheme?

- The Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT): Under this two distinct financial incentive mechanisms will be provided
 - Targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and
 - Production of Green Hydrogen
- The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways.
- Regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilization of Hydrogen will be identified and developed as Green Hydrogen Hubs.
- A public-private partnership framework for R&D (Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership – SHIP) will be facilitated under the Mission.
- A coordinated skill development programme will also be undertaken under the Mission.

Norms issued for funding testing facilities

- The Scheme will be implemented with a total budgetary outlay of 200 Crores till the financial year 2025-26.
- The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) will be the Scheme Implementation agency (SIA).
- The scheme encompasses the development of robust quality and performance testing facilities to ensure quality, sustainability, and safety in GH₂ production and trade.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

9. EAM Jaishankar attends Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit: What the grouping is, why it matters

Source: IE Explained

Context: Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kazakhstan's capital Astana.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation, created in June 2001 in Shanghai (China).
- Founding members included Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
 - The five countries had come together to work on regional security, reduction of border troops, and terrorism in the post-Soviet era in 1996.
 - In 2001, the Shanghai Five inducted Uzbekistan into the group and named it the SCO outlining its principles in a charter that promoted what was called the Shanghai spirit of cooperation.
- This organisation represents approximately 42% of the world's population, 22% of its land area and 20% of its GDP.
- Official working languages: Chinese, Russian
- SCO Secretariat: Beijing, China
- Members, Observers and dialogue partners
 - 10 member states – China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.
 - India and Pakistan became full members at the Heads of State Council meet in Astana in 2017.
 - Iran became the 9th member of the SCO in 2023 under the chairmanship of India.
 - During this year's summit (in 2024), Belarus become the 10th member of the organization.
 - 2 Observer members – Afghanistan, Mongolia
 - 9 Dialogue Partners – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Sri Lanka.
 - In 2022, the procedure for granting the status of Dialogue Partners to Bahrain, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar and the United Arab Emirates was initiated at the SCO Summit in Samarkand.
 - Organisational Structure of SCO



- The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO, it meets once a year.
- The Council of Heads of Government is the second-highest council in the organisation.
- The Council of Foreign Ministers hold regular meetings, where they discuss the current international situation.
- Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), based in Tashkent, is established to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- India's association with SCO
 - India joined the SCO in 2005 as an observer country and became a full member of the group at the Astana Summit in 2017.
 - India created five new pillars and focus areas of cooperation in SCO -- Startups and Innovation, Traditional Medicine, Digital Inclusion, Youth Empowerment and Shared Buddhist Heritage.
 - Two new mechanisms in SCO -- Special Working Group on Startups and Innovation and Experts Working Group on Traditional Medicine -- were created at India's initiative.
 - Kashi/ Varanasi was celebrated as the 1st SCO Tourist and Cultural Capital of SCO 2022-23.

Significance of SCO

- SCO is one of the few international organisations which deal with security issues and primarily has Asian members.
- Regional heavyweights Russia and China have stressed its position as an alternative to a Western international order.
- Along with the BRICS grouping, which has India, South Africa and Brazil as well, the two countries are seen positioning against US influence.
- SCO's recent expansion is influenced by deteriorating US relations with Russia and China, highlighted by the 2022 Russia-Ukraine War and US-China trade tensions.
- Iran's inclusion in the SCO in 2023 was seen as a move to enhance the organisation's influence and counter US diplomatic efforts.

Relevance of SCO for India

- SCO membership allows India to cooperate more with Central Asian countries and address common security issues, despite historically weak relations since 1991.
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a key SCO component, aiding in counter-terrorism exercises, intelligence analysis, and sharing information on terrorist movements and drug trafficking.
- However, the effectiveness of the SCO is questioned due to tensions among its members. India currently has strained relations with China and Pakistan.
 - Last year, India opted for a virtual SCO summit during its presidency and refused to support a paragraph endorsing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the New Delhi Declaration.



- India's opposition stems from the BRI's China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which India views as a violation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Criticism of SCO

- Competition between Russia and China
 - Despite declarations of "limitless friendship" between China and Russia, there is competition between them for influence, especially in Central Asia.
 - Traditionally considered part of Russia's sphere, Central Asian nations have also seen significant Chinese investment through the Belt and Road Initiative.
 - The inclusion of India and Pakistan in the SCO in 2017 reflects this rivalry, with Russia supporting India and China backing Pakistan to maintain a balance of power.
- Chinese hegemony
 - SCO as a platform is seen by the West as an organisation to forward Chinese interests.
- Rivalries between members
 - According to experts, the SCO may not yield significant outcomes due to its vague initiatives, allowing countries to overlook their rivalries without resolving them.
 - For instance, India and Pakistan, as well as India and China, have tense relationships.
 - The SCO's broad language enables countries to nominally support initiatives while prioritising their own interests when conflicts arise.

In Brief

10. Sampoonata Abhiyan

Source: PIB

Context: Recently, NITI Aayog launched the 'Sampoonata Abhiyan' witnessing significant participation from citizens across the country.

Sampoonata Abhiyan:

- It is a 3-month campaign to undertake a sustained effort to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts and 6 key indicators in Aspirational Blocks across the country.
- It seeks to achieve saturation in each of the 6 identified indicators in the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- **Key indicators of Aspirational Blocks include:**
 - Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care (ANC) within the first trimester;
 - Percentage of persons screened for Diabetes against the targeted population in the Block;
 - Percentage of persons screened for Hypertension against the targeted population in the Block;
 - Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly;



- Percentage of Soil Health Cards generated against the soil sample collection target; and
- Percentage of SHGs that have received a Revolving Fund against the total SHGs in the block.
- **Key indicators of Aspirational Districts include:**
 - Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care (ANC) within the first trimester;
 - Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly;
 - Percentage of children fully immunised (9-11 months) (BCG+DPT3+OPV3+Measles 1)
 - Number of Soil Health Cards distributed;
 - Percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level; and
 - Percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within 1 month of the start of the academic session
- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the relevant Central Ministries and Departments, as well as the Governments of States and Union Territories, will work together to ensure the effective and rapid development of these Districts and Blocks.



Daily Quiz

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding the Common Grass Yellow butterfly:

1. The Common Grass Yellow butterfly is found only in Asia and Africa.
2. The wings of the Common Grass Yellow butterfly exhibit seasonal polyphenism.
3. The Common Grass Yellow butterfly is legally protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in India.

Q2. Consider the following statements about the cave painting discovered in the Leang Karampuang Cave:

1. The painting is believed to be at least 51,200 years old.
2. It depicts a scene with three human-like figures interacting with a wild pig.
3. It is the oldest-known cave painting found in Europe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q3. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Leang Karampuang Cave painting?

1. The painting is done in a single shade of dark red pigment.
2. The painting predates the oldest-known cave paintings of Europe, such as those at El Castillo in Spain.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF):

1. The AISRF is a bilateral program that supports collaborative research projects between Australia and India.
2. The fund is jointly managed and funded by private organizations in India and Australia.
3. It aims to address common challenges through joint research efforts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q5. Consider the following statements about the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):

1. ICOMOS was established in 1965 in Warsaw, Poland.
2. It is an international governmental organization.
3. It offers advice to UNESCO on World Heritage Sites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3



Q6. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Moidams in Assam's Charaideo district?

1. Moidams are the mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty.
2. The Ahom rule in Assam lasted for about 600 years until the British annexed Assam in 1826.
3. Moidams can only be found in the Charaideo district of Assam.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Kaveri River:

1. The Kaveri River originates on BrahmaGiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka.
2. It flows through the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
3. The total length of the Kaveri River from origin to outfall is 500 km.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India:

1. WPI represents the price of goods at a wholesale stage and is used as a measure of inflation.
2. The current series of WPI in India has a base year of 2011-12.
3. WPI includes the service sector which covers about 55% of GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA):

1. Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) refers to farming practices designed to withstand and adapt to climate change.
2. The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture is one of the 11 National Missions under India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
3. CRA primarily focuses on increasing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides to boost crop production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the National Green Hydrogen Mission:

1. The mission aims to make India a global hub for producing, utilising, and exporting green hydrogen and its derivatives.
2. The mission includes the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT), which provides financial incentives for domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and the production of green hydrogen.
3. The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) is the Scheme Implementation Agency for the mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3



Q.11 Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the components of the National Green Hydrogen Mission?

1. The mission supports pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways.
2. Green Hydrogen Hubs will be developed in regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilization of hydrogen.
3. The mission does not include any public-private partnership framework for research and development.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding the Sampoonata Abhiyan launched by NITI Aayog:

1. The campaign aims to achieve saturation in 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts and 6 key indicators in Aspirational Blocks across India.
2. Key indicators for Aspirational Blocks include the percentage of schools with functional electricity at the primary level.
3. NITI Aayog will solely implement the campaign without collaboration with Central Ministries or State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3



ANSWERS

Answer 1: (B) 2 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Common Grass Yellow butterfly is found across Asia, North America, Africa, and Australia.

Statement 2 is correct. The wings of the Common Grass Yellow butterfly exhibit seasonal polyphenism, changing colours with the seasons and their location.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Common Grass Yellow butterfly is not legally protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in India.

Answer 2: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the painting is at least 51,200 years old. Statement 2 is also correct as it depicts three human-like figures interacting with a wild pig. Statement 3 is incorrect because the painting is found in Sulawesi, Indonesia, not in Europe.

Answer 3: (C) Both 1 and 2

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the painting is in a single shade of dark red pigment. Statement 2 is also correct as the painting predates the El Castillo cave paintings in Spain, which date to about 40,800 years ago.

Answer 4: (B) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the AISRF supports collaborative research projects between Australia and India. Statement 2 is incorrect because the fund is jointly managed and funded by the governments of India and Australia, not private organizations. Statement 3 is correct as one of the aims is to address common challenges through joint research efforts.

Answer 5: (B) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct as ICOMOS was established in 1965 in Warsaw, Poland. Statement 2 is incorrect because ICOMOS is an international non-governmental organisation, not a governmental one. Statement 3 is correct as it offers advice to UNESCO on World Heritage Sites.

Answer 6: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as Moidams are the mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty. Statement 2 is also correct as the Ahom rule lasted for about 600 years until the British annexed Assam in 1826. Statement 3 is incorrect because Moidams have been seen in different parts of Northern Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Northern Burma, Southern China, and Northeast India.



Answer 7: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the Kaveri River originates on BrahmaGiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka. Statement 2 is also correct as it flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry. Statement 3 is incorrect because the total length of the Kaveri River from origin to outfall is 800 km, not 500 km.



Answer 8: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as WPI represents the price of goods at a wholesale stage and is used as a measure of inflation. Statement 2 is also correct as the current series of WPI has a base year of 2011-12. Statement 3 is incorrect because WPI excludes the service sector, which covers about 55% of GDP.

Answer 9: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as CRA refers to farming practices designed to withstand and adapt to climate change. Statement 2 is also correct as the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture is one of the 11 National Missions under the NAPCC. Statement 3 is incorrect because CRA focuses on sustainable practices, including organic farming, rather than increasing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Answer 10: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the mission aims to make India a global hub for producing, utilising, and exporting green hydrogen and its derivatives. Statement 2 is also correct as the SIGHT program provides financial incentives for the domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and the production of green hydrogen. Statement 3 is incorrect because the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) is the Scheme Implementation Agency, not the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE).

Answer 11: (B) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the mission supports pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways. Statement 2 is also correct as regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilization of hydrogen will be developed as Green Hydrogen Hubs. Statement 3 is incorrect because the mission includes a public-private partnership framework for R&D known as the Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership (SHIP).

Answer 12: (A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the Sampoonata Abhiyan aims to achieve saturation in 6 key indicators in both Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks. Statement 2 is incorrect because key indicators for Aspirational Blocks do not include the percentage of schools with functional electricity at the primary level; the correct indicators are related to health, nutrition, soil health, and SHGs. Statement 3 is incorrect because NITI Aayog will collaborate with relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, and Union Territories for effective implementation of the campaign.





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