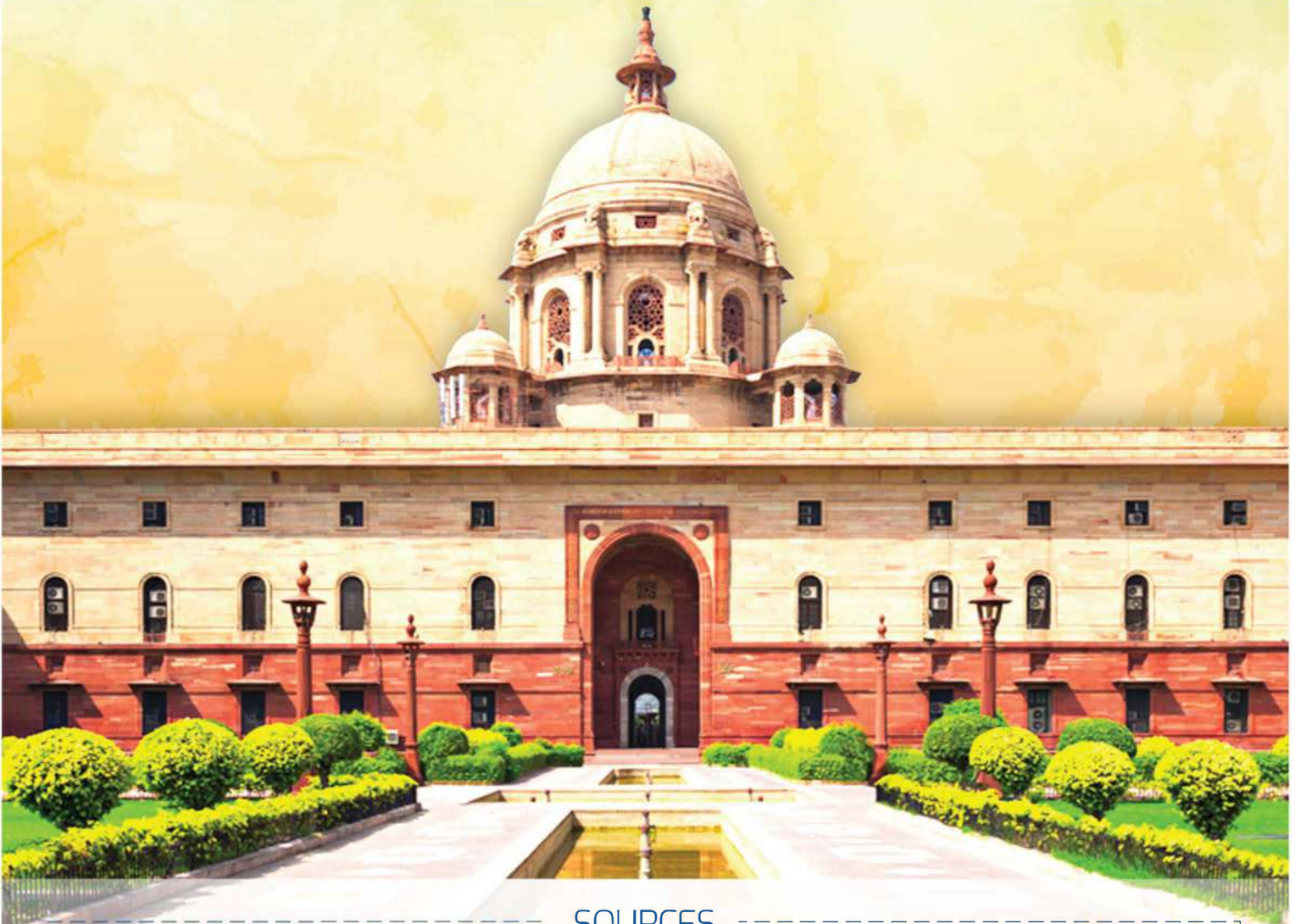




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10 July 2024



SOURCES



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GS I

1. Bad news for Indian crows in Kenya: Country vows to kill a million of them in next six months

Source: DOWN TO EARTH

Context: Kenyan government has announced an action plan to eliminate a million Indian House Crows (*Corvus splendens*) by the end of 2024.

This decision stems from the birds' significant negative impact on local ecosystems and their nuisance to the public, particularly in the Kenyan coastal region.

Kenyan Government Action Plan:

Invasive Species Issue:

- The Indian House Crow is described as an invasive alien species from India and parts of Asia, introduced to East Africa via shipping activities.
- IUCN Status: Least Concerned
- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule II
- The crows prey on endangered local bird species, destroy nests, and eat eggs and chicks, leading to a decline in indigenous bird populations.
- This decline disrupts the ecosystem, allowing pests and insects to proliferate, further harming the environment.



Historical Effort:

- A similar effort in Kenya over 20 years ago managed to reduce their numbers temporarily.

Key Facts About Indian House Crows:

- Species: *Corvus splendens*
- Common names: Indian house crow, house crow, Indian crow, grey-necked crow, Ceylon crow, Colombo crow
- Family: Corvidae
- Taxonomy: The nominate race of *Corvus splendens* (*C. splendens*) exists in India, Nepal and Bangladesh and has a grey neck collar.

Kenya:

- Kenya is located in East Africa. Its terrain rises from a low coastal plain on the Indian Ocean to mountains and plateaus at its centre.
- Kenya shares common borders with five countries namely: Tanzania in the South, Uganda in the West, South Sudan in the North West, Ethiopia in the North and Somalia in the East
- Kenya's is located between the Indian Ocean and Lake Victoria.
- Lake Turkana, the world's largest desert lake, is part of the Omo-Turkana basin, which stretches into four countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.
- UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya.



2. Committee proposes opening of Ratna Bhandar on July 14

Source: The Hindu, Page 5

Context: Recently the Odisha government formed a new panel to monitor the opening of Puri Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar (Treasury) by dissolving the old panel.

What is Ratna Bhandar(Treasury):

Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar:

- The Ratna Bhandar of the Jagannath Temple houses precious ornaments dedicated to Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra.
- These ornaments have been donated by devotees and erstwhile kings over centuries, making them historically significant.

Structure of the Ratna Bhandar:

The Ratna Bhandar consists of two chambers:

- **Bhitar Bhandar (Inner Chamber):** This chamber has not been opened for the past 38 years.
- **Bahara Bhandar (Outer Chamber):** Ornaments are regularly fetched from this chamber for use in rituals and festivals.

Current Issues and Demands: Demand for Opening: There is a growing demand to open the Ratna Bhandar due to concerns about the structural integrity of the inner chamber.

Reasons for Concern: Apprehensions about cracks in the walls of the inner chamber have prompted fears that these structural issues could jeopardise the safety of the priceless ornaments stored within.

Involvement of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

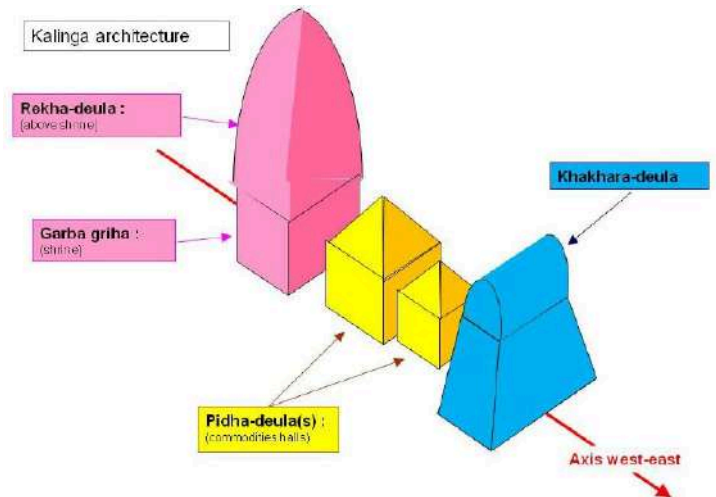
- **Role of ASI:** The Archaeological Survey of India, which oversees the temple's preservation, has requisitioned access to the Ratna Bhandar.
- **Purpose:** ASI aims to assess, repair, and conserve the chamber to ensure the safety and preservation of both the structural integrity and the valuable ornaments.

Significance and Cultural Importance:

- **Cultural Heritage:** The ornaments stored in the Ratna Bhandar represent not only religious significance but also cultural and historical heritage.
- **Preservation Efforts:** Opening and repairing the Ratna Bhandar are seen as crucial steps to safeguard this heritage for future generations.

Historical Background

- **Foundation:** The temple dates back to the 12th century and is a significant Hindu pilgrimage site.
- **Architectural Style:** Built in the Kalinga style of architecture, known for its pyramid-like spire (shikhar) and intricate carvings.



Structure and Layout

- **Main Temple:** The main temple structure, called the “Deula”, houses the sanctum sanctorum where the deities are enshrined.
- **Surrounding Complex:** The temple complex is enclosed by a high fortified wall known as the “Meghanada Pacheri”.

Rituals and Festivals

- **Rath Yatra:** The annual Rath Yatra (chariot festival) is the most famous festival, where the deities are placed on grand chariots and pulled through the streets of Puri.
- **Daily Rituals:** Elaborate rituals are performed daily, including offering of food (bhog), aarti, and various sevas (services) to the deities.

Administration and Custodianship

- **Administration:** The temple is managed by a body known as the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).
- **Custodianship:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) plays a role in the preservation and conservation of the temple’s architectural heritage.

3. Spotted hyenas outcompeting leopards in Tanzanian park with human, says study

Source: DOWN TO EARTH

Context: Danish researchers from the University of Copenhagen conducted a study in Tanzania’s Udzungwa Mountains, using camera traps to observe inter-species dynamics between spotted hyenas and leopards.

Key Findings of the study:

- Spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*), living in social groups (clans or cackles), are outcompeting leopards, who are solitary animals.
- Female leopards (approx. 20-43 kg.) are about half the size of male leopards (approx. 51-72 kg).
- Hyenas are in the middle in terms of weight (approx. 48-56 kg)
- Hyenas engage in kleptoparasitism, stealing kills from other predators, including leopards.
- Global leopard populations are declining, whereas hyena populations are increasing.

Human Influence:

- Hyenas are tolerated by locals as they scavenge on dead or sick livestock and usually do not attack people.
- Hyenas benefit from human presence, using humans as shields against leopards, and thrive in areas with human activity.
- Male leopards avoid human-dominated areas, while female leopards become diurnal to avoid nocturnal hyenas.
- Leopards are unpopular among locals due to livestock hunting and human attacks, leading to their retreat from human-dominated areas.
- Leopards retreat far from humans due to their unpopularity, which affects their access to food resources.

Ecological Impact:

- The increasing success of hyenas and the decline of leopards could disrupt the ecosystem balance.
- Without leopards to keep their populations in check, monkey species could spike, altering the entire ecosystem.



Spotted Hyenas:

- Also known as the laughing hyena.
- Native to sub-Saharan Africa.
- It is the only placental mammalian species where females have a pseudo-penis and lack an external vaginal opening.
- Highly successful animal, being the most common large carnivore in Africa.
- It is listed as being of least concern by the IUCN.

GS II

4. Putin accepts Modi's request to release Indian military recruits

Source: The Hindu, Page 1

Context: The Russian President has given instructions to discharge the Indian soldiers serving at the Ukraine war front after the PM's 'direct intervention'; release of recruits to take place within weeks from various places where they are serving or deployed.

Status of India-Russia Trade Ties:

- India's total bilateral trade with Russia stood at ~USD 13 Billion in 2021-22 and USD 8.14 Billion in 2020-21.
- Russia is India's seventh biggest trading partner, up from 25th position in 2021.
- The US, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Indonesia were the six countries that recorded higher volumes of trade with India during the first five months of 2022-23.

Concerns Related to Bilateral Trade:

Trade Imbalance:

- India's Imports from Russia accounted for USD 17.23 Billion, while India's exports to Moscow were only worth USD 992.73 million, resulting in a negative trade balance of USD 16.24 Billion in 2020-21.
- Russia's share in India's total trade has increased to 3.54%, up from 1.27% in 2021-22.
- While Russia's share in India's total trade was 2.1% in 1997-98, it has hovered below 2% for the last 25 years.

Factors Causing Trade Imbalance:

- The sudden jump in imports from Russia, mainly oil and fertilisers, which began to surge earlier in 2022, is the main driver behind this increase in bilateral trade.
- Petroleum oil and other fuel items accounted for 84% of India's total imports from Russia, while Fertilisers were second.
- Together, fertilisers and fuel accounted for over 91% of the total imports from Russia this year.



Historical Background:



During the Cold War, India and the Soviet Union had a strong strategic, military, economic and diplomatic relationship. After the Dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia inherited its close relationship with India which resulted in both nations sharing a Special Strategic Relation.

However, the relations have taken a steep downfall over the past few years, especially in the post-Covid scenario. One of the biggest causes for this is Russia's close relations with China and Pakistan, which have caused many geopolitical issues in the past few years for India.

Defence and Security Relations:

- Both countries regularly conduct the Tri-Services exercise 'INDRA'.

The joint military programmes between India and Russia include:

- BrahMos cruise missile programme
- 5th generation fighter jet programme
- Sukhoi Su-30MKI programme

The military hardware purchased/leased by India from Russia includes:

- S-400 Triumph
- Kamov Ka-226 200 to be made in India under the Make in India initiative
- T-90S Bhisma
- INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier programme

Nuclear Energy:

- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) is being constructed within the scope of the Russia-India Inter-Governmental Agreement.
- Both India and Russia are implementing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project in Bangladesh.

5. Patanjali tells SC it instructed stores to remove 14 unlicensed 'medicines'

Source: The Hindu, Page 1

Context: Supreme Court came down heavily on Baba Ramdev' Patanjali Ayurved for publishing misleading advertisements.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and seeks to widen its scope in addressing consumer concerns.
- The new Act recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisements.
- It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found "dangerous, hazardous or unsafe".
- The Act came into force in July 2020 and it will empower consumers and help them in protecting their rights through its various notified rules and provisions.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):

- The CCPA is a statutory body constituted under Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- Mandate: To protect the rights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices, and false and misleading advertisements that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers.
- Concerned Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Powers & Functions of CCPA:

It is empowered to conduct investigations into violation of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution, order recall of unsafe goods and services, order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and



misleading advertisements, impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements.

Legal argument against Patanjali's actions:

- The IMA claimed that the advertisement was in direct violation of the Drugs & Other Magical Remedies Act, 1954 (DOMA), and the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (CPA).
- The publishing of false and misleading advertisements is an offence under both statutes.
- Publishing a misleading advertisement under the DOMA is punishable with up to six months imprisonment, and/or a fine for the first offence.
- On the second offence, the period of imprisonment can extend to one year.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

- Section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 deals with the 'misleading advertisement'.
- Section 89 of the CPA contains more stringent punishments for false or misleading advertisements.
- First time violations may invite penalties up to Rs 10 lakh and imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years.
- Subsequent violations may attract penalties up to Rs 50 lakh and imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years.
- The CPA also provides the definition for a misleading advertisement.

It includes advertisements which:

give a false description of the product or service, partakes in unfair trade practices, deliberately conceals important information, or is likely to mislead the consumer about the nature, substance, quantity or quality of the product or service.

The Ministry of AYUSH agreed to identify misleading advertisements that may be in violation of the DOMA, and send complaints to the Council for review.

1986	VS	2019
PROVISIONS		
No separate regulator.	REGULATOR	Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to be formed.
District: up to Rs. 20 Lac State: Rs. 20 Lac - Rs. 1 Cr National: above Rs. 20 Lac	Pecuniary Jurisdiction	District: up to Rs. 1 Cr State: Rs. 1 Cr - Rs. 10 Cr National: above Rs. 10 Cr
Case could be filed where the defendant resides or works for personal gain.	Territorial Jurisdiction	Case can be filed where the complainant resides or works for personal gain.
No provision. Consumer can approach the civil courts but not consumer courts.	Product Liability	Consumer can also claim compensation for harm caused by the product or service.
No provision.	E-commerce	All rules of direct selling extended to e-commerce.
No legal provision.	Mediation cells	Court can refer settlement through mediation.
Within 30 days retaining the power to condone the delay.	Appeal to State Commission	Within 45 day, retaining the power to condone the delay.

6. Soumya Swaminathan appointed NTEP adviser

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Context: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research and Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization, has been appointed Principal Adviser at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

What is the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)?

The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), formerly known as the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), is India's strategic response to combat tuberculosis (TB). The programme aims to eliminate TB as a public health issue in India by 2025, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious target set in 2018.

What are the key components of the NTEP?



The NTEP focuses on early detection, regular and complete treatment of TB, prevention strategies, and strengthening TB care and control services. It includes:

- Universal Drug Susceptibility Testing (UDST) to identify drug-resistant TB cases early.
- Provision of free diagnosis and treatment for all TB patients across the country.
- Nikshay, a case-based web-enabled TB information system for monitoring and case management.
- Engagement with private sector healthcare providers to ensure standardised care.

What are drug-sensitive and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB)?

- Drug-sensitive TB refers to TB infections that can be treated with the standard regimen of anti-TB drugs.
- Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) refers to TB infections that are resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampicin, the two most powerful anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB requires a longer and more complex treatment regimen.

Why is the elimination of TB a priority for India?

- India accounts for a significant proportion of the global TB burden.
- TB is a leading cause of mortality among infectious diseases in India, making its elimination critical for improving public health, reducing poverty, and achieving sustainable development goals.

What challenges does the NTEP face?

The NTEP faces several challenges, including:

- Recurrent drug shortages for both drug-sensitive and MDR-TB.
- Delays in diagnosis and treatment initiation.
- Management inefficiencies and supply chain disruptions.
- Ensuring treatment adherence and completion among patients.

GS III

7.A new trend- India needs more than troops to combat militants in Jammu

Source: The Hindu, Page 6

Context: The recent Reasi terrorist attack on the day the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, took his oath of office for a third term points to the serious challenge of cross border terrorism in India.

The attack in Reasi was similar to the attack on the Consulate General of India (CGI), Herat, Afghanistan on May 23, 2014, three days prior to the first swearing-in of the Prime Minister.

All these cross-border terrorist attacks on such important days have been to embarrass and enrage India on days of great political significance.

What is cross-border Terrorism? What are the sources of cross-border terrorism in India?

- Cross Border Terrorism- Cross-Border Terrorism is a form of terrorism in which the soil of one country is used to create terror in bordering countries.
- It is considered to be the highest form of strategy to bleed a nation for a prolonged period by small efforts.



- During the last several years thousands of civilians have lost their lives in acts of cross border terrorism.
- Apart from thousands of defence, paramilitary and police personnel who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

Sources of Cross Border Terrorism:

Indo-Pakistan Border:

- The Indo-Pakistan Border (3,323 Km) runs along the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and J&K.
- Cross-Border Terrorism from Pakistan has been exacerbated due to the non-recognition of boundaries by its terrorist groups and their success in acquiring legitimacy due to religious or ethnic identity.
- Inadequate Cooperation from Pakistan has made the management of borders further difficult for India.

Indo-China Border:

- The Indo-China Border (3,488 Km) runs through the Indian states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- This border has also been a source of cross border terrorist activities in India. This border remains a cause of constant vigil for Indian forces.

Indo-Bangladesh Border:

- The Indo-Bangladesh Border (4,096 Km) passes through West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Illegal Migration across this border poses serious security threats and acts as a fertile ground for organisations like the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan to penetrate and expand their activities.
- Poor law and order situation at the border, has led to smuggling of arms and drugs. The Supply of arms helps in sustaining any conflict.

Indo-Nepal Border:

- India-Nepal Border (1,751 Km) is an open border to facilitate the free movement of people across the border.
- Anti-India organisations use this border to plant their people in the territory of India. Smuggling of gold, small arms, drugs and fake currency helps terrorists in executing an attack.

Indo-Myanmar Border

- The Indo-Myanmar Border (1,643) passes through the northeast states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
- The insurgents and terrorist groups like the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) and United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) operate from Myanmar, which threaten the security of India as well as Myanmar.

India-Bhutan:

- The Indo-Bhutan border (699 km) passes through states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim.



- Illicit establishment of camps by militant outfits in the dense jungles of south-east Bhutan helps insurgents from India in executing anti-India activities.

Maritime Borders:

- India's long coastline remains comparatively unguarded with minimal presence of coast guards.
- The 26/11 cross-border terrorist attack took place through maritime borders.

What are the reasons behind cross-border terrorism in India?

1. Pakistan sponsored terrorist groups-

- Cross-border terrorism from Pakistan has been exacerbated by Pakistani terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.
- These terrorist organisations view the border as illegitimate and continue to infiltrate into India to carry out attacks.

2. Lack of adequate cooperation from Pakistan-

- Pakistan has provided material support to secessionist militants in India's border states like Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast.



In Brief

8. Tuberculosis

Source: The Hindu

Context: Soumya Swaminathan appointed NTEP adviser

About Tuberculosis:

- TB is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, belonging to the *Mycobacteriaceae* family consisting of about 200 members.
- Some of *Mycobacteria* cause diseases like TB and Leprosy in humans and others infect a wide range of animals.
- In humans, TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other organs (extra-pulmonary TB).
- TB is a very ancient disease and has been documented to have existed in Egypt as early as 3000 BC.
- TB is a treatable and curable disease.



Transmission:

- TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.

Symptoms:

- Common symptoms of active lung TB are cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

BCG Vaccine:

- BCG was developed by two Frenchmen, Albert Calmette and Camille Guerin, by modifying a strain of *Mycobacterium bovis* (that causes TB in cattle). It was first used in humans in 1921.
- In India, BCG was first introduced in a limited scale in 1948 and became a part of the National TB Control Programme in 1962.
- In addition to its primary use as a vaccine against TB, it protects against respiratory and bacterial infections of the newborns, and other mycobacterial diseases like Leprosy and Buruli's ulcer.
- It is also used as an immunotherapy agent in cancer of the urinary bladder and malignant melanoma.



9. Panchganga

Source: The Hindu

Context: Since the last decade, its pollution level has been increasing fast. The pollution of the Panchganga River is due to the disposal of untreated municipal sewage from Kolhapur town.

- It is an ancient river and a tributary of the Krishna River.
- It emerges from the Sahyadri mountain ranges of Maharashtra.
- The river originates from Prayag Sangam. The birthplace of this river is called Chikhli Taluka, a small village in the district of Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
- The Five Rivers; the Kasari, the Kumbhi, the Tulsi, the Bhogawati, and the Saraswati convene at the Prayag Sangam to form Panchganga.
- The river flows into the Krishna River at Kurundwad, Maharashtra.
- The valley of the Panchganga River is very fertile and its sloping banks yield rich crops during the winter season.
- The Panchganga and its feeders are fordable in the hot season.

10. Classical Language

Source: The Hindu

Context: Amid a clamour for classical status for many languages, the Central government has decided to tweak the criteria for giving this special tag.

Currently there are six languages that enjoy the 'Classical' status in India:

- Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).
- All the Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The Ministry of Culture provides the guidelines regarding Classical languages.

Guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical':

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500–2000 years;
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community;
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Benefits of classical language:

- Once a language is notified as a Classical language, the Human Resource and Development Ministry provides certain benefits to promote it.
- Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages.
- A Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Languages is set up.
- The University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for the Classical Languages so declared.



Daily Quiz

1. Which of the following statements about Indian crows (*Corvus splendens*) is incorrect?

- A) They are known to use tools for extracting food.
- B) Indian crows exhibit complex problem-solving abilities.
- C) Their vocalisations include a repertoire of distinct calls for different situations.
- D) Indian crows are monogamous and mate for life.

2. What is the significance of Ratna Bhandar in Puri's Jagannath Temple?

- A) It houses the treasury of ancient manuscripts and scriptures.
- B) It contains a collection of rare gems and jewels donated by devotees.
- C) It stores the ceremonial attire and accessories of the presiding deities.
- D) It serves as a repository for the sacred vessels used in temple rituals.

3. Which of the following countries does not share a land border with Kenya?

- A) Uganda
- B) Ethiopia
- C) Tanzania
- D) Mozambique

4. Consider the following statements regarding spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*):

Statement I: Spotted hyenas are primarily scavengers, relying on carcasses for their diet.

Statement II: Spotted hyenas are highly social animals, living in clans dominated by females.

Statement III: Spotted hyenas have a unique genitalia structure where females have pseudo-penises.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- A) I and II only
- B) II and III only
- C) I and III only
- D) I, II, and III



5. Which of the following statements about India–Russia relations is correct?

- A) India and Russia signed the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in 1971.
- B) India and Russia conduct annual military exercises named "Indra."
- C) Russia is the largest importer of Indian software services.
- D) India and Russia are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

6. Which of the following statements about antibiotics is correct?

- A) Antibiotics are effective against viral infections.
- B) Antibiotics work by boosting the immune system's response to infections.
- C) Overuse of antibiotics can contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance.
- D) Antibiotics are always administered in the form of injections.

7. Which of the following statements about tuberculosis (TB) is correct?

- A) Tuberculosis is caused by a virus.
- B) The primary diagnostic test for TB is the sputum culture.
- C) BCG vaccine provides lifelong immunity against TB.
- D) Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is resistant to only one type of antibiotic.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Ganga (Ganges River):

Statement I: The Ganga originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the Indian state of Uttarakhand.

Statement II: The Ganga Basin is one of the most densely populated river basins in the world.

Statement III: The Ganga is considered sacred by Hindus and is worshipped as the goddess Ganga.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- A) I and II only
- B) II and III only
- C) I and III only
- D) I, II, and III



9. Which of the following languages has been designated as a classical language by the Government of India?

- A) Hindi
- B) Tamil
- C) Bengali
- D) Marathi

10. Consider the following statements regarding India's boundary countries:

Statement I: India shares its shortest land border with Afghanistan.

Statement II: India and Pakistan share a land border in the state of Rajasthan.

Statement III: Myanmar is the only Southeast Asian country that shares a land border with India.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) I and II only
- D) II and III only



Solutions

1- Answer:(D) Indian crows are monogamous and mate for life.

Explanation: Indian crows are not monogamous; they do not mate for life. Instead, they exhibit social monogamy where pairs form and cooperate in breeding, but they do not necessarily mate exclusively for life.

2- Answer:(B) It contains a collection of rare gems and jewels donated by devotees.

Explanation: The Ratna Bhandar in Puri's Jagannath Temple is known for containing a collection of rare gems and jewels donated by devotees over centuries. These treasures are considered extremely valuable and are closely guarded.

3- Answer:(D) Mozambique

Explanation: Mozambique does not share a land border with Kenya. Kenya is bordered by Uganda to the west, Ethiopia to the north, Tanzania to the south, and Somalia to the northeast.

4- Answer:(B) II and III only

Explanation:

- Statement I is incorrect because spotted hyenas are skilled hunters and primarily rely on hunting rather than scavenging.
- Statement II is correct. Spotted hyenas live in highly structured clans led by dominant females.
- Statement III is correct. Female spotted hyenas have a unique genitalia structure where their clitoris is elongated and resembles a penis, often referred to as a pseudo-penis.

5- Answer:(B) India and Russia conduct annual military exercises named "Indra."

Explanation:

- Statement A is incorrect. India and Russia signed the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation in 1971.
- Statement B is correct. India and Russia conduct joint military exercises named "Indra" regularly.
- Statement C is incorrect. India's largest importer of software services is the United States.
- Statement D is incorrect. India and Russia are not members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); however, both are members of the BRICS group.

6- Answer:(C) Overuse of antibiotics can contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance.

Explanation:

- Statement A is incorrect. Antibiotics are effective against bacterial infections, not viral infections.
- Statement B is incorrect. Antibiotics work by directly killing or inhibiting the growth of bacteria, not by boosting the immune system.
- Statement C is correct. Overuse or misuse of antibiotics can lead to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, posing a serious public health threat.



- Statement D is incorrect. Antibiotics can be administered in various forms including oral tablets, capsules, and sometimes injections, depending on the specific infection and patient condition.

7- Answer:(B) The primary diagnostic test for TB is the sputum culture.

Explanation:

- Statement A is incorrect. Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*), not a virus.
- Statement B is correct. The sputum culture is one of the primary diagnostic tests for TB, along with the TB skin test (Mantoux test) and chest X-rays.
- Statement C is incorrect. The BCG vaccine provides partial protection against severe forms of childhood tuberculosis but does not provide lifelong immunity against TB.
- Statement D is incorrect. Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is resistant to at least two first-line antibiotics used to treat TB.

8- Answer:(D) I, II, and III

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct. The Ganga originates from the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand, India.
- Statement II is correct. The Ganga Basin is indeed one of the most densely populated river basins in the world.
- Statement III is correct. The Ganga is considered sacred by Hindus, who worship it as the goddess Ganga.

9- Answer:(B) Tamil

Explanation:

Tamil is one of the languages that has been designated as a classical language by the Government of India. The classical status recognizes its rich literary tradition and ancient heritage.

10- Answer:(B) II only

Explanation:

- Statement I is incorrect. India shares its shortest land border with Afghanistan. India shares a longer land border with other countries like Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Statement II is correct. India and Pakistan share a land border in the state of Rajasthan.
- Statement III is incorrect. India shares land borders with multiple Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTIONS

1. The pollution of the Ganga River is a multifaceted environmental challenge that demands integrated and sustainable solutions." Discuss the causes, consequences, and measures needed to mitigate the pollution of the Ganga River in India. How can technological innovations and international cooperation play a role in addressing this issue?
2. Access to affordable and quality medicines remains a critical challenge in achieving universal healthcare in India." Discuss the key factors contributing to this challenge and suggest measures to improve access to medicines while ensuring their quality and affordability.





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