



### **Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 04-05-2021 - (Online Prelims Test)**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Building Code of India*

1. It has been published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
2. The code will not be applicable to the Union territory of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
3. Under the Code, Hospitals are classified under the hazardous category.

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

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

Answer : a

### ***National Building Code of India, 2016***

- The code is a national instrument providing guidelines for regulating the building construction activities **across the country**.
- It serves as a Model Code for adoption by all agencies involved in building construction works be they Public Works Departments, other government construction departments, local bodies or private construction agencies.
- It was published by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.

### ***Frequent Hospital fires and the implementation of NBC***

- Part 4 of the Code deals with Fire and Life Safety.
- The document provides specifications and guidelines for design and materials that reduce the threat of destructive fires.
- Under the Code, all existing and new buildings are classified by nature of use, such as residential, educational, institutional, assembly (like cinemas and auditoria), business, mercantile, industrial, storage and hazardous.
- **Hospitals come under the institutional category.**
- National Building Code (NBC) is a “recommendatory document”, and States have been asked to incorporate it into their local building bylaws, making the recommendations a “mandatory requirement”.
- Evidently, fire safety rules exist in every State, but the provisions of the Code are ignored in practice, and even mandatory certifications do not reflect compliance.

2) With respect to *Wood snakes*, consider the following statements:

1. They are harmless, sub-fossorial and often found while digging soil in farms and under the logs in the Western Ghat forests.

2. They feed on earthworms and possibly other invertebrates.

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

Answer : c

- *Scientists have recently discovered a new species of wood snake in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu.*

### ***Xylophis deepaki***

- It is a tiny snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales.
- First stumbled upon in a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari, is now reported to be an endemic species of Tamil Nadu and has been sighted in a few locations in the southern part of the Western Ghats.
- The species is named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan for his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.

### ***Wood snakes***

- Wood snakes are harmless, sub-fossorial and often found while digging soil in farms and under the logs in the Western Ghat forests.
- They feed on earthworms and possibly other invertebrates.
- Interestingly, their close relatives are found in northeast India and Southeast Asia and are known to be arboreal.

3) Which of the following is *not* located in the state of Sikkim?

- 1. Nathu La
- 2. Gurudongmar Lake
- 3. Mt. Khangchendzonga
- 4. Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 4 only
- b. 2 and 4 only
- c. 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. None of the above

Answer : a

- Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary is situated at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar District of northern West Bengal.

4) *Asian Development Outlook, 2021* was released recently by?

- a. New Development Bank
- b. Asian Development Bank
- c. SCO Interbank Consortium
- d. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Answer : b

### **Asian Development Outlook 2021**

- It was released recently by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- According to the report, the ongoing 'second wave' of COVID-19 pandemic could put India's economic recovery at risk.
- The report said excluding the second wave, India's economy, was expected to grow 11 per cent in fiscal year 2021, which ends March 31, 2022, amid a strong vaccine drive.
- India's gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to expand 7 per cent in 2022.
- The report said that the pandemic was the biggest threat to Asia and the Pacific (including India).
- This was mainly due to delay in vaccine rollouts or major new outbreaks.

5) *Lag B'omer Festival*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is annually celebrated in?

- a. Egypt
- b. Israel
- c. Bhutan
- d. Turkey

Answer : b

- *At least 44 people were crushed to death in a stampede as tens of thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews gathered in northern Israel to celebrate the annual Lag B'Omer festival.*

### **Lag B'Omer festival**

- It is an annual Jewish festival observed during the Hebrew month of Iyar.
- It is celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot.
- Lag B'Omer is the only day during the 49-day period when celebration is permitted.
- Hence, it is common for Jews to schedule weddings on this day every year.
- Young boys, who have reached the age of three, are also traditionally brought here for their first hair cut.

6) Which of the following statement(s) is/ are *incorrect* with respect to *Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)*?

1. It is launched in Paris One Planet Summit in 2017 which includes central banks and financial supervisors.
2. Reserve Bank of India is a member of NGFS to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer : d

### **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member.

- NGFS launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017.
- It is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector.
- It also seeks to mobilise mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.
- The secretariat is hosted by the Banque de France.

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Consolidated Sinking Fund*?

1. The fund should be maintained outside the consolidated fund of the States and the public account.
2. It should not be used for any other purpose, except for redemption of loans.
3. It is administered by Department of economic affairs and respective State treasuries.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 & 2 only
- c. 1 & 3 only
- d. 2 & 3 only

Answer : b

### ***Consolidated Sinking Fund***

- CSF was set up in 1999-2000 by the RBI to meet redemption of market loans of the States.
- Initially, 11 States set up sinking funds. Later, the 12th Finance Commission (2005-10) recommended that all States should have sinking funds for amortisation of all loans, including loans from banks, liabilities on account of National Small Saving Fund (NSSF), etc.
- State governments maintain a CSF with the Reserve Bank as a buffer for repayment of their liabilities.
- As per the scheme, State governments could contribute 1-3% of the outstanding market loans each year to the Fund.
- The Fund is administered by the Central Accounts Section of RBI Nagpur.

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sedition Law*?

1. The law was inserted into the Section 124A of Indian Penal Code in 1870, by the British.
2. Lala Lajpat Rai was first freedom fighter to get prosecuted under this law in 1919.

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

Answer : a

### ***Sedition Law***

- It is defined as any action that brings or attempts to bring hatred or contempt towards the government of India and has been illegal.
- Sedition laws were enacted in 17th century England when lawmakers believed that only good opinions of the government should survive, as bad opinions were detrimental to the government and monarchy.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was first to prosecute under this law in 1897 .

- In 1962, the Supreme Court decided on the constitutionality of Section 124A in *Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar*.
- It upheld the constitutionality of sedition, but limited its application to “acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order, or incitement to violence”.
- It distinguished these from “very strong speech” or the use of “vigorous words” strongly critical of the government.
- In 1995, the Supreme Court, in *Balwant Singh v State of Punjab*, held that mere sloganeering which evoked no public response did not amount to sedition.
- Recently Supreme Court to agree to examine the constitutional validity of sedition law.

9) What is the following purpose of NASA's *GRACE Mission*?

- a. Mapping heat variation in Sun's outer layer
- b. Estimates of glacier loss and groundwater pumping.
- c. Measuring climatic changes due to anthropogenic activities.
- d. Mapping variations in the Earth's gravity

Answer : d

### ***Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) mission***

- It was selected as the second mission under the NASA Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP) Program in May 1997.
  - It is a joint partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States and Deutsche Forschungsanstalt für Luft und Raumfahrt (DLR) in Germany.
  - It was aimed at accurately mapping variations in the Earth's gravity field over its 5-year lifetime.
  - Its objective was to map the Earth's gravity fields by making accurate measurements of the distance between the two satellites, using GPS and a microwave ranging system.
  - The gravity variations that GRACE were:
1. Changes due to surface and deep currents in the ocean;
  2. Runoff and ground water storage on land masses;
  3. Exchanges between ice sheets or glaciers and the oceans; and
  4. Variations of mass within the Earth.

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *SUTRA Model*?

1. It is a model for saturated-unsaturated, variable-density ground-water flow with solute or energy transport.
2. It has been used to simulate the effects of saltwater intrusion, contaminant transport, and thermal pollution.

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

Answer : c

### ***SUTRA Model***

- It was first released in 1984, a three-dimensional groundwater model that simulates solute transport (i.e. salt water) or temperature in a subsurface environment.

- The SUTRA (Saturated-Unsaturated Transport) is a computer program that simulates fluid movement and the transport of either energy or dissolved substances in a subsurface environment.
- It employs a weight grid that is based on a finite element and integrated finite difference hybrid method framework.
- Ministry of Science & Technology has announced that the scientists are working on SUTRA model for charting the trajectory of COVID-19.



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