



30 Days Revision Module Day 4 - Nov 2020 Current Affairs

1) Which of the following countries is/are members of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?

1. Iraq
2. Iran
3. Pakistan
4. Bangladesh
5. Afghanistan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 3 only
- b. 1, 3 and 5 only
- c. All except 1 and 2
- d. All of the above

Answer : d

Organization of Islamic Cooperation



- It is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states.
- Its administrative centre is located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Turkey currently holds the chairmanship of the organization.
- The organisation works to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony.
- India is not a member to this organisation but was invited to the meeting as a guest of honour in 2019.
- However, Pakistan skipped the meeting citing the Indian minister's presence.
- **Recent Developments** - The 47th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers was held at Niamey, Niger.
- India hit out at the OIC for making factually incorrect and unwarranted references to J&K; this necessitates a closer look at India's relations with OIC and its member nations.

2) Protests were started in July 2020, seeking the removal of Prime Minister and demanding reform of the monarchy. A large inflatable yellow rubber duck has become a symbol of these protests.

Which one of the following countries is being referred here?

- a. Brunei
- b. Thailand
- c. Myanmar
- d. Indonesia

Answer : b

- Protests were started in Thailand in July, 2020, seeking the removal of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and demanding reform of the Thai monarchy.

- A large yellow rubber duck has become a symbol of Thailand's protest.
- The inflatable ducks had initially been brought out onto the streets as a joke and to mock the government and the monarchy.
- But they took on a new role as the Thai government's crackdown on the protests intensified.
- The protestors had used these ducks as shields and advanced towards police lines when police forces began firing water cannons.
- Thai social media users around the world have also taken to various platforms to share content related to the protests using the hashtag #RubberDuck.

3) Consider the following statements with respect to UNESCO Global Geo Park

1. It is a status given for a single, unified geographical area for four years.
2. Certain economic activities are prohibited inside the UNESCO Global Geo Park.
3. India does not have any UNESCO Global Geo Park as of now.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : b

- INTACH is pushing to get recognition of a UNESCO Global Geo Park for Visakhapatnam consisting of:

1. ErraMattiDibbalu (red sand dunes),
2. Natural rock formations at Mangamaripeta,
3. Million-years-old Borra Caves,
4. Volcanic ash deposits in Araku Valley.

UNESCO Global Geoparks

- They are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.
- A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues.
- A UNESCO Global Geopark is given this designation for a period of four years after which the functioning and quality of each UNESCO Global Geopark is thoroughly re-examined during a revalidation process.
- UNESCO Global Geopark status does not imply restrictions on any economic activity inside a UNESCO Global Geopark where that activity complies with indigenous, local, regional and/or national legislation.
- UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area.
- India does not have any UNESCO Global Geo Park as of now.

4) Yarkovsky effect, sometimes seen in the news recently, refers to?

- a. A sharp surge in brightness seen around collapsing black holes
- b. A minuscule push on a small body in space, imparted by sunlight
- c. A change in frequency of a wave in relation to an observer who is moving relative to the source
- d. When light falls on a metal, it kicks out electrons from their orbits around atomic nuclei

Answer : b

- The Asteroid Apophis was discovered in 2004 and since then it was revealed that the probability of a collision are almost negligible.
- It was earlier predicted to pass really close to Earth in 2068.
- But, according to the new calculations, the asteroid is drifting away from its original orbit now.

Yarkovsky Effect

- The asteroid's orbit has been disturbed by the heat it is taking from the Sun.
- This phenomenon is called Yarkovsky effect as it celestial object's path changes due to heat energy being radiated asymmetrically.
- Basically, the heat that an asteroid radiates gives it a very tiny push.
- The warmer hemisphere [of the asteroid] would be pushing slightly more than the cooler hemisphere, and that causes the asteroid to drift away from what a purely gravitational orbit would predict.

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Tarballs

1. They are small light-absorbing, carbonaceous particles.
2. They are formed from brown carbon, emitted during the burning of fossil fuels.
3. It deposits on snow and ice and could potentially contribute to hastening of glacial melt and global warming.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering

Answer : d

- A study has found that nearly 28 per cent of particles collected from the air samples from a research station in the Himalaya-Tibetan Plateau were tarballs.

Tarballs

- Tarballs are formed from brown carbon, emitted during the burning of biomass or fossil fuels.
- Black Carbon (BC) is emitted mainly by high-temperature combustion processes (diesel engines, etc.) whereas Brown Carbon (BrC), emitted mainly by biomass combustion.
- Tarballs are small light-absorbing, carbonaceous particles that deposit on snow and ice.
- The percentage of the tarballs increased on days of higher levels of pollution and could contribute to hastening of glacial melt and global warming, the study said.
- Until now, black carbon was found to be transported long distances by wind to the Himalayan atmosphere; there was not sufficient direct evidence for Primary brown carbon (BrC) in the Himalayan atmosphere.
- Primary BrC co-emitted with black carbon (BC) from biomass burning is an important light-absorbing carbonaceous aerosol.
- The black carbon from the Indo-Gangetic Plain can reach the Himalaya region and influence glacial melting and climatic change.
- They suggested future climate models to consider the long-range transport of tarballs to the Himalayas to arrest climate change developments.

6) Consider the following statements with respect to saffron

1. The pH level of the soil is an important factor for saffron production.
2. Areas in Jammu & Kashmir are the only places in India suitable for saffron cultivation.
3. Kashmiri Saffron was given Geographical Indication tag in 2020.

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

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

Answer : c

- So far, the cultivation of saffron – the most expensive spice – in India has been limited to a few areas in Jammu and Kashmir such as Pampore, Budgam, Srinagar and Kishtwar districts.
- The North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, supported a pilot project to explore the feasibility of growing saffron in the northeast region of the country with same quality and in higher quantity.
- The project has yielded successful results in Yangyang village of South Sikkim because of its **matching climatic and geographical conditions** between Pampore (Kashmir) and Yangyang (Sikkim).
- Kashmiri Saffron was given GI Tag recently in July 2020.

Conditions for Saffron Production

- Saffron needs to remain underground for about 45 days at sub-zero temperatures.
- It also requires adequate rain, especially once sown in August.
- The pH level of the soil was a particularly important factor.

7) Which of the following countries declared the climate emergency in the recent past?

1. United Kingdom
2. New Zealand
3. Spain
4. France
5. Italy



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering

Select the correct code

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 3, 4 and 5 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer : d

8) The bloom of *Noctiluca scintillans* on Karnataka coast has displaced microscopic algae. In this context, which one of the following is correct?

- a. It was found to accumulate toxic mercury.
- b. It is caused due to exposure cosmic radiation from the space.
- c. It acts as both plant and animal.
- d. It brightened the sea water during day time.

Answer : c

Noctiluca Scintillans

- The bloom of *Noctiluca Scintillans*, known as “sea sparkle” has been witnessed in the Karnataka coast.

- The bioluminescent green dinoflagellate *N. Scintillans* also brightened the sea water during night.
- It has displaced microscopic algae called diatoms (basis of the marine food chain), which has deprived food for the planktivorous fish.
- The species was found to accumulate toxic levels of ammonia.
- It is then excreted into the surrounding waters, possibly acting as the killing agent in blooms.
- *N. Scintillans* acts as both a plant and an animal.
- It grazes on other micro-organisms such as larvae, fish eggs, and diatoms.
- The phytoplankton that live inside it can photosynthesise, turning sunlight into energy.

9) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance?

1. The member group comprises heads of states, current and former ministers of different countries, leaders from the private sector and civil society.
2. It takes action to preserve antimicrobial medicines and avert the consequences of antimicrobial resistance.
3. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is an ex-officio member of the group

Select the correct code

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

Answer : a

10) Consider the following on FELUDA paper strip test.

1. It is an indigenously developed test for Covid-19
2. It uses CRISPR-Cas technology for the detection of genes specific to the SARS-CoV-2 virus
3. It resembles a home pregnancy paper-strip test and delivers results in around 40 minutes

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : d

- The FELUDA paper strip test has been developed by CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for a commercial launch.
- FELUDA is an acronym for FNCAS9 Editor-Limited Uniform Detection Assay.
- It uses CRISPR-Cas technology for the detection of genes specific to SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Feluda resembles a home pregnancy paper-strip test and delivers results in around 40 minutes.