



30 Days Revision Module Day 31 - Current Affairs (UPSC Prelims 2021)

1) Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Report was released recently by?

- a. CITES
- b. Financial Action Task Force
- c. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
- d. UN Office on Drugs and Crime

Answer : b

- Recently, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has released the first global report on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) namely, "Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Report".
- The report comes amid increasing international concern that the crime could lead to more zoonotic diseases in the future.
- The report has also described IWT as a global threat, which also has links with other organised crimes like modern slavery, drug trafficking and arms trade.
- It also highlighted that criminals are frequently misusing the legitimate wildlife trade, as well as other import-export type businesses, as a front to move and hide illegal proceeds from wildlife crimes.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Forest Resources Assessment(FRA)

1. It is released by the World Wide Fund for Nature.
2. India ranked one among the top countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade.

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 : b

- The latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) has brought out by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN.
- India has ranked 3rd among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade, 2010-2020.
- This report assesses the state of forests, their conditions and management for all member countries.
- The Asian continent reported the highest net gain in forest area in 2010-2020, according to the report.
- The top 10 countries that have recorded the maximum average annual net gains in forest area are China, Australia, India, Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.
- The forest area managed by local, tribal and indigenous communities in India increased from zero in 1990 to about 25 million ha in 2015.
- However, the naturally regenerating forest rate is disappointing, according to the assessment.

3) Nature Index 2020, released recently, is a database compiled by?

- a. Nature Research
- b. Green Peace International
- c. UN Environment Programme
- d. International Union for Conservation of Nature

Answer : a

- The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an independently selected group of 82 high-quality science journals.
- The database is compiled by Nature Research.
- The Nature Index provides a close to real-time proxy of high quality research output and collaboration at the institutional, national and regional level.

4) Which of the following are part of *E9 countries* which was led by the United Nations (UN)?

1. India
2. Egypt
3. China
4. Pakistan
5. Bangladesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. All except 1 and 5
- b. All except 3 and 4
- c. All except 2, 3 and 4
- d. All of the above



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Answer : d

- Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre has recently attended a consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries.
- The consultation is the first of a three-phased process to co-create an initiative on digital learning and skills, targeting marginalised children and youth, especially girls.

E9 Initiative

- The initiative aims to accelerate recovery and advance the Sustainable Development Goal 4 agenda by driving rapid change in education systems.
- Spearheaded by the UN, the E9 countries includes Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- The E9 countries will have the opportunity to benefit from this global initiative and accelerate progress on digital learning.

5) Consider the following statements regarding Human Freedom Index

1. The report takes into account indicators of personal, civil, and economic freedoms to rank countries from 2008 to 2018.
2. The institutes noted that the world has seen a notable decline in personal freedom since 2008.

Select the correct code:

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

Answer : c

6) What is the Academic Freedom Index (AFI) about?

- a. It measures the quality of life of citizens based on the circumstances in the country to get their free education.
- b. It measures the performance of the Indian States and UTs in the school education sector.
- c. It ranks countries for their levels of spending on free education and health care.
- d. It compares levels of academic freedom worldwide and enhances the understanding of its curtailments.

Answer : d

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Solar Bank*

1. The Bank would cater to the need for dedicated financing window for solar energy projects across the members of ISA.
2. It is an initiative of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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

International Solar Alliance (ISA) has recently launched two new initiatives

1. World Solar Bank
2. One Sun One World One Grid Initiative

World Solar Bank

- The proposed *World Solar Bank* would cater to the need for dedicated financing window for solar energy projects across the members of ISA.
- It is expected to provide low-cost financing at favorable terms for solar energy projects as well as engage in co-financing with other multilateral/bilateral development financial institutions.

One Sun One World One Grid Initiative

- The '*One Sun One World One Grid*' vision was laid down by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at the first assembly of the ISA.
- The initiative aims to create an interconnected green grid that will enable solar energy generation in regions with high potential and facilitate its evacuation to demand centers.

8) Depsang Plains, often seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?

- a. Assam
- b. Sikkim
- c. Ladakh
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : c

9) Factors like guaranteed sales of sugarcane and public distribution of sugar have helped India become

the second-largest producer of sugar worldwide. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Sugar production in India?

1. North India produces sugar canes with higher sucrose content and higher yield per unit area due to nutrient rich soil.
2. About 60% of the sugar production comes from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
3. South India's co-operative sugar mills are better managed when compared with north India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer : b

Sugar production in India

- Sugar industry is broadly distributed over two major areas of production- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab in the north and Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in the south.
- South India has tropical climate which is suitable for higher sucrose content giving higher yield per unit area as compared to north India.
- The crushing season is also much longer in the south than in the north.
- For example, crushing season is of nearly four months only in the north from November to February, whereas it is of nearly 7-8 months in the south where it starts in October and continues till May and June.
- The co-operative sugar mills are better managed in the south than in the north.
- Most of the mills in the south are new which are equipped with modern machinery.
- Over half of sugar mills are located in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and about 60 per cent of the production comes from these two states.

10) Among the following which one is **not the seven pillars** of the Global Innovation Index (GII)?

- a. Infrastructure
- b. Human capital and research
- c. Getting credit for your business
- d. None of the above

Answer : c

- India ranks 48th amongst 131 countries in terms of its innovation performance as measured using the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020.
- India entered the top 50 innovating countries for the first time in 2020 since its inception in 2007, by improving its rank from 81 in 2015 to 48 in 2020.
- India ranks first in Central and South Asia, and third amongst lower middle-income group economies.
- The GII is co-published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- It seeks to assist economies in evaluating their innovation performance.

Seven Pillars of GII and India's ranking

1. Knowledge and technology outputs (KTO) - 27
2. Market sophistication - 31

3. Business sophistication - 55
4. Human capital and research (HCR) - 60
5. Institutions - 61
6. Creative output - 64
7. Infrastructure - 75

