



## Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 11-08-2023 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to SATAT Scheme

1. The scheme aims to produce compressed biogas (CBG) from Waste and Bio-mass sources like agricultural residue and cattle dung.
2. The scheme encourages entrepreneurs to produce & supply Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

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

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

Answer : c

### SATAT Scheme



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- **SATAT - Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation.**
- SATAT scheme was launched on 2018.
- The scheme envisages to target production of 15 MMT (million tons) of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) by 2023 from 5000 Plants.
- Under the scheme, entrepreneurs shall set up CBG plants, produce & supply CBG to OMCs for sale as automotive & industrial fuels.
- In order to facilitate financing and access to funds to the entrepreneurs, CBG plants have been included under **priority sector lending** by Reserve Bank of India.
- The initiative aims to produce compressed biogas (CBG) from Waste and Bio-mass sources like:
  - Agricultural residue,
  - Cattle dung,
  - Sugarcane press mud,
  - Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and
  - Sewage treatment plant waste.
- The initiative offers an efficient solution for treatment and disposal of municipal solid waste management and help in tackling problem urban air pollution due to farm stubble-burning.
- It will also help to bring down nation's dependency on natural gas and crude oil imports and act as a buffer against crude oil and gas price fluctuations.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to EG.5 or Eris

1. EG.5 or Eris is a variant of SARS-CoV-2.
2. EG.5 is a descendent lineage of Omicron subvariant XBB.1.9.2.
3. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified the EG.5 as "variants of concern".

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None of the above

Answer : b

### EG.5 or Eris

*Recently the World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified the EG.5 as a "variant of interest".*

- **EG.5 or Eris is a variant of SARS-CoV-2** was first reported on February 2023 and designated as a variant under monitoring (VUM) on July 2023 by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- In August 2023, the WHO designated EG.5 and its sub-lineages as a variant of interest (VOI).
- Variants are broadly categorised by WHO into 3 categories:

1. "variants of interest"
2. "variants of concern"
3. "variants of high consequence"

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified the EG.5 as a "variant of interest".**

- **EG.5 is a descendent lineage of Omicron subvariant XBB.1.9.2.**

- It carries an additional mutation in the spike protein which the SARS-CoV-2 uses to enter and infect the human cells compared to the parent subvariant.
- Within the EG.5 lineage, the subvariant EG.5.1 has an additional spike mutation and represents 88 % of the available sequences for EG.5 and its descendent lineages.
- The largest portion of EG.5 sequences are from China (30.6%, 2,247 sequences).
- In India, only one case of EG.5 has been reported so far from Pune in May this year.
- Globally, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of EG.5.

3) Maui Island is located in which of the following countries?

- a. United States of America
- b. China
- c. Taiwan
- d. Indonesia

Answer : a

### Maui Island

*The rapidly spreading wildfires that swept through Maui in recent days had devastating consequences for both people and property.*

- **Maui is located in Hawaii** which belongs to United States of America.
- The recent Wildfire in Maui, Hawaii leaves destruction and death, with at least 53 people dead and over 1,000 structures destroyed.



4) *Takakia*, sometimes seen in the news is related to?

- a. Most distant star ever discovered by Webb telescope
- b. A rare DNA Binding Protein
- c. Longest river system in southern Africa
- d. A rare genus of moss

Answer : d

## **Takakia**

*Takakia is being threatened by climate change.*

- Takakia is a rare genus of moss and Oldest surviving plant species.
- Takakia looks like a later of moss or green algae on the rocks where it grows.
- But closer inspection would reveal slender turf around 1centimetre in length with an arrangement of short, finger-like leaves.
- Takakia is a genus that only has **two species** and both of them are found together only in one place which is the **Tibetan Plateau**.
- It combines features found in mosses, liverworts and green algae.

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Convention on Cluster Munitions

1. The convention envisages banning the possession, transfer, supply and use of cluster bombs.
2. The convention is signed by 112 member countries which include India, Canada, France and China.
3. Countries are legally bound to develop a victim assistance programme to provide support to the cluster bomb victims.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None of the above

Answer : b

## **Cluster Munitions or Cluster Bombs**

- Cluster munitions or cluster bombs are weapons that release multiple explosive sub munitions, also called bomblets, into the air.
- These sub munitions explode as soon as they hit the ground, killing and maiming people in the area.
- Many bomblets do not blow up instantly and remain dormant for years (also known as the dud rate).
- These inactive bomblets act as precarious landmines, posing a grave threat to the civilian population, including women and children, for a long time.
- They were used in the Second World War.
- Since then, cluster bombs have been used on multiple occasions including by the U.S. in the wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq.
- The international campaign against cluster bombs led by the civil society organisations such as Human Rights Watch also gathered momentum.
- This resulted in an international treaty called the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was enacted on 2008.

## Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

- **The convention envisages banning the possession, transfer, supply and use of cluster bombs.**
- The treaty is not universal but 112 countries have acceded to the including many North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members such as Canada, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.
- **Other important countries such as the U.S., Russia, China, Israel, and India have not signed the CCM.** Ukraine is not a member of the convention.
- Since these countries are not signatories to the CCM, they are not bound by international law banning cluster bombs.
- Countries are also legally bound to develop a victim assistance programme to provide support the cluster bomb victims.



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