



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 21-08-2024 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Hay-flick Limit

1. It refers to the maximum number of times a cell can divide before entering senescence.
2. Hay-flick found that normal somatic cells can only divide a limited number of times.

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

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

Answer : c

Hay-flick Limit

- In the early 1960s, Hay-flick found that normal somatic cells can only divide a limited number of times (about 40-60).
- This challenged the previous belief that cells were potentially immortal and that aging was solely due to external factors.
- **The Hay-flick limit** - It refers to the maximum number of times a cell can divide before entering senescence (stopping division).
- This limit varies among species, correlating with their lifespans.
- For humans, the "ultimate Hay-flick limit" is around **125 years**.
- **Telomeres and aging** - Telomeres are protective DNA sequences at the ends of chromosomes.
- They shorten with each cell division, eventually reaching a critical point where division stops.
- While telomere shortening is related to aging, the exact relationship is not fully understood.
- **Implications and future research** - Cancer cells can overcome the Hay-flick limit by activating telomerase.
- While telomerase synthesis has shown promise in slowing telomere loss in vitro, practical applications remain distant.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to National Geoscience Awards

1. It is awarded to individuals or team(s) in recognition of meritorious contribution in disciplines such as basic geosciences and natural hazard investigations.
2. National Young Geoscientist Award is one of the categories under it.
3. The Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Young Geoscientist Award can be awarded only to the individuals and not teams.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two

- c. All three
- d. None of the above

Answer : c

National Geoscience Awards

President of India recently conferred National Geoscience Awards- 2023 to the awardees.

- The National Mineral Awards Scheme was instituted in the year 1966 by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
- The scope of the awards has been expanded and the name changed to National Geoscience Awards (NGA) from 2009.
- The objective of the scheme is to honour individuals and teams for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in the field of fundamental / applied geosciences mining and allied areas.
- **Eligibility** - Any citizen of India with significant contribution in any field of earth sciences is eligible for the Award.
- The Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Young Geoscientist Award can be awarded only to the individuals and not teams.
- **Categories** - There are **3 categories** of awards under National Geoscience Awards:
 1. National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement
 2. National Geoscience Award and
 3. National Young Geoscientist Award
- The awards are given only for the following disciplines:

Broad Disciplines	Fields
Mineral Discovery & Exploration	1. Mineral Discovery & Exploration 2. Coal, Lignite and Coal Bed Methane Discovery & Exploration
Mining, Mineral Beneficiation & Sustainable Mineral Development	1. Mining Technology 2. Mineral Beneficiation 3. Sustainable Mineral 4. Development
Basic Geosciences	Basic Geosciences including Stratigraphy, Structural geology & Paleontology, Geodynamics, Geochemistry, geochronology and Isotope Geology, Ocean Development.
Applied Geosciences	1. Applied Geology 2. Geophysics / Applied Geophysics 3. Natural Hazard Investigations

- **National Geoscience Awards, 2023:**
- It was awarded to 21 Geoscientists, including academicians and professionals from across the country, were honoured under 3 categories in various specialized fields of geosciences such as:
 - National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement (01 award),
 - National Geoscience Award (10 awards) and
 - National Young Geoscientist Award (01 award)

Awards	Recipients or Teams	Contributions
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National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement	Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee	Distinguished and pioneering work on phosphorites, isotope geology, and organic geochemistry of Precambrian sedimentary rocks of India.
National Young Geoscientist Award	Dr. Ashutosh Pandey	For his research on the Eastern Dharwar Craton and Paleoproterozoic Lesser Himalayan mafic rocks.
National Geoscience Award	Two teams from the Geological Survey of India (GSI).	Mineral Discovery & Exploration (excluding fossil fuels) of economic and/or strategic importance and application of innovative techniques.
National Geoscience Award	Pawan Dewangan	Strategic importance and application of innovative techniques and Oil, Natural Gas, Shale Gas and Gas Hydrates Discovery & Exploration
National Geoscience Award	Harsh Kumar Verma	Development and application of new methods and technologies, research & development. Conservation of mineral resources, systematic mine planning, mine safety, mine fires, mine hazards, mine reclamation & rehabilitation.
National Geoscience Award	Narasimha Mangadoddy	Mineral processing, project development for utilization of low-grade ores & production of value-added mineral products and mineral economics) and Sustainable Mineral Development

3) Consider the following statements with respect to PROMPT Portal

1. It automates the process for newspaper registration and related procedures.
2. It serves as a unified bilingual platform hosting videos on the government's development and citizen welfare measures.

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

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

Answer : d

PROMPT (Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects - Thermal) Portal

The Union Minister of Power has recently launched a new online platform named PROMPT Portal to enable transparent, coordinated, and effective working of the power sector in the country.

- Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects - Thermal (PROMPT) is part of a broader effort to enhance the efficiency and transparency of thermal power project management in India.
- The PROMPT portal is introduced **to streamline the monitoring process for thermal power projects**.
- It aims to facilitate *real-time tracking, transparent reporting, and coordinated efforts among stakeholders* to address project issues promptly.
- **Key Features of the PROMPT:**
 - **Real-Time Tracking** - Allows for centralized monitoring and swift identification of issues.
 - **Transparency** - Enhances accountability and project management efficiency.
 - **Resource Optimization** - Helps in managing resources predictably, aiding in maintaining a balance between demand and supply.
 - **Press Sewa Portal** - Developed under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act, 2023).
 - **It automates the process for newspaper registration and related procedures.**
 - **NaViGate Bharat Portal** - Is developed by the New Media Wing of the Ministry.
 - **It serves as a unified bilingual platform hosting videos on the government's development and citizen welfare measures.**

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Exotic Animals

1. It refers to a species not found in a concerned habitat or geographical area.
2. They are listed under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Asiatic Lion is an exotic species that can be found only in India.

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

Exotic Animals

The Union government has recently stated that the last date for declaring Exotic animals listed under Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is 28 August 2024

- 'Exotic species' is a term used to refer to a species not found in a concerned habitat or geographical area and hence it is non-native.
- The trade of exotic species occurs globally, with a growing market for the species.
- While the trade negatively impacts habitat, the targeted species are often extracted from their natural habitats in the wild.
- These living specimens of exotic animals **listed under Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** are to be reported and registered by the concerned individuals, organizations and zoos.
- The registration of these exotic animal species is to be done in the PARIVESH 2.0 portal.
- Anyone who owns or keeps an animal species listed in Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection)

Act 1972 must do two things:

1. Report details about these animals
 2. Apply for registration
- They need to do this online through the PARIVESH 2.0 website.
 - The application should be sent to their state's Chief Wild Life Warden.
 - There are two deadlines to remember:
 - If you already have the animal: Within 6 months after the official notice is published
 - If you get the animal later: Within 30 days of getting the animal
 - This rule helps track protected species and ensures they're properly registered with wildlife authorities.
 - Exotic wildlife species can be found only in India are:
 - One-horned rhino, Assam
 - Great Indian Bustard, Gujarat and Rajasthan
 - Nilgiri Tahr, Kerala and Tamil Nadu
 - Andaman Cobra, Andaman Islands
 - Barasingha, Assam and other locations
 - Asiatic Lion, Gujarat
 - Snow Leopard, Himalayan National Park

5) Hema Committee, sometimes seen in the news is associated with?

- a. Reforms in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- b. To examine stalled real estate projects and to recommend ways to complete the stalled projects.
- c. To study the challenges faced by women in the Malayalam film industry.
- d. To recommend a roadmap for implementation of Euro norms based on emission standards for India.

Answer : c



Hema Committee

The Justice Hema Committee recently published a report revealing sexual exploitation in the Malayalam film industry seven years after the brutal rape of an actress in Kochi.

- Hema Committee was formed to *study the challenges faced by women in the Malayalam film industry*.
- **Key findings from the report:**
- **Systemic sexual harassment** – The report revealed a pervasive culture of sexual harassment within the Malayalam film industry, often perpetrated by those in positions of power.
- **Casting couch culture** – The report highlighted the prevalence of the casting couch, where aspiring actors and actresses are expected to engage in sexual favours in exchange for roles.
- **Gender inequality** – Deep-rooted gender inequalities were identified, with women facing discrimination and limited opportunities compared to their male counterparts.
- **Powerful 'boys' club'** – The report pointed to a dominant 'boys' club' that controls the industry, making it difficult for women to succeed.
- **Recommendations from the report:**
- **Mandatory written contracts** – To ensure transparency and protect the rights of artists and technicians.
- **Internal complaint committees** – On all film sets to address complaints of harassment and discrimination.
- **Tribunal with judicial powers** – To handle cases related to sexual harassment, service conditions, and contract breaches.
- **Government's role:**
- **Delayed release** – The government's delay in releasing the report was criticized, as it

hindered the process of addressing the issues.

- **Investigation** - The government should have investigated the allegations raised in the report, even if legal action was not possible.
- Industry bodies' response:
- **Guarded silence** - The Association of Malayalam Movie Artists and Film Employees Federation of Kerala were criticized for their lack of action and transparency.
- **Opportunities for change:**
- **Correct systemic issues** - The release of the report presents an opportunity to address the deep-rooted problems within the industry.
- **Implement recommendations** - The government and industry bodies should work together to implement the recommendations of the Hema Committee.
- **Create a more equitable environment** - The goal is to create a Malayalam film industry where women have equal opportunities and are treated with respect.
- Overall, the Hema Committee report is a significant step towards addressing the systemic issues plaguing the Malayalam film industry.
- By implementing the recommendations and fostering a culture of accountability, the industry can strive to create a more equitable and inclusive environment for all.



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