Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 12-01-2026 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Zehanpora archaeological site is related to which one of the following?

a. Jainism
b. Palaeolithic fossils found here
c. Buddhism
d. Indus valley civilisation remains

Answer : c

Explanation

- **Option c is the correct answer** – The ongoing excavation at Zehanpora put the spotlight on the significance of Kashmir in Buddhist history.
- It is a ***Buddhist site*** d*ating back nearly 2,000 years to the Kushan period.* It is located in Baramulla district of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Zehanpora, situated on an ancient trade and pilgrimage corridor linking Gandhara and Kashmir, enabled the movement of monks, merchants, and religious ideas.

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2) Calamaria mizoramensis is sometimes seen in news is?

a. Snake species
b. Bird
c. Fish
d. Ant species

Answer : a

Explanation

- **Option a is the correct answer** – Calamaria mizoramensis is a ***non-venomous reed snake species*** discovered in Mizoram.
- It inhabits *humid, forested hill regions* between 670 and 1,295 metres in elevation, often near human settlements.
- It is confirmed in Mizoram, whereas the possible presence is in Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, and Chittagong (Bangladesh).
- It is small, secretive, with a dark brown to blackish body with faint stripes and a yellow underside.

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3) Consider the following statements with reference to Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996

1. Kothari Commission has recommended extending Panchayati Raj to tribal areas that led to the PESA Act, 1996.
2. Planning & management of minor water bodies, Management of village markets falls under the exclusive rights of Gram Sabha under the PESA Act.

Select the correct statements using the codes below:

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

Answer : d

Explanation

- **PESA Act** extends the Panchayati Raj system or the 73rd Constitutional Amendment provisions to the tribal-dominated Fifth Schedule Areas.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect – Kothari Commission (1964-66**) proposed a *national education framework*.
- ***Bhuria Committee, 1995***, has recommended extending Panchayati Raj to tribal areas, which led to the PESA Act, 1996.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** – **Exclusive Rights** of Gram Sabha include -
  - Consultation in land acquisition & rehabilitation.
  - Planning & management of minor water bodies.
  - Recommendations for mining licenses and concessions.
- **Gram Sabha has the authority to regulate** -
  - Sale/consumption of intoxicants
  - Ownership of minor forest produce (MFP)
  - Management of village markets etc.

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4) Where does the **Popocatepetl volcano** recently seen in news located?

a. Italy
b. Indonesia
c. Mexico
d. Russia

Answer : c

Explanation

- **Option c is correct** – ***Popocatepetl***, often referred to as "El Popo," is an active ***stratovolcano in central Mexico***. It is one of the world's most active volcano.
- It is the second-highest peak in the country, rising to 5,426 meters (17,802 ft).
- It is one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the Ring of Fire.
- It is part of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt and lies above a subduction zone where the Cocos Plate subducts beneath the North American Plate.

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5) The term **Mpemba Effect** best describes which one of the following?

a. Ecological shift where warming climates allow tropical species to expand into temperate zones

b. Change in the biodiversity as one moves from higher to lower altitudes.

c. Tangled network of numerous overlapping Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that complicate global trade rather than simplifying it.

d. Warmer water freezes faster than colder water comparatively under certain conditions.

Answer : d

Explanation

- **4 is correct – Mpemba Effect** is a phenomenon in which a hotter sample of water may freeze faster than a colder one, under certain conditions.
- The effect is named after Erasto Mpemba, who rediscovered the phenomenon. It dates back to an early reference by Aristotle in the Meteorological.
- **1 is incorrect – Tropicalisation** (or tropicalization) primarily means the ecological shift where warming climates allow tropical species to expand into temperate zones,
- While temperate species retreat, altering ecosystems globally, especially in the oceans.
- **2 is incorrect – Elevational diversity gradient (EDG)** Biodiversity changes with the changes in altitude. It increases as one moves from higher to lower altitudes.
- **3 is incorrect** - "**Spaghetti Bowl Effect**" refers to the confusing, tangled network of numerous overlapping Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and their different Rules of Origin (ROO).
- This complicate global trade rather than simplifying it. It is a term coined by economist Jagdish Bhagwati to criticize FTAs for creating discriminatory and contradictory trade policies.

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