



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz - 17-12-2019 - (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian pangolin*

1. Of the eight extant species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin and Chinese Pangolin occur in India.
2. The species is understood to occur only in tropical evergreen forests.
3. The species also occurs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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

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

Answer : c

- In a bid to deter traffickers from trying to trade the pangolin, the **Odisha Forest department** has announced a cash reward for people who provide information about the smuggling of the species in the state.
- A cash reward of Rs. 10,000 will be given to people providing leads.
- The Forest department has meanwhile started placing posters at different places to encourage locals to participate in pangolin rescue operations.

Indian pangolin

- It has been categorised as **endangered** by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature**.
- The species is understood to occur in **various types of tropical forests** as well as **open land, grasslands** and **degraded habitats**, including in close proximity to villages.
- The species can adapt well to modified habitats, provided its ant and termite prey remains abundant.
- Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East.
- It can be found at elevation up to 2500 m.
- The species also occurs in **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka**.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Matrutva Vandana Yojna (PMMVY)*

1. Under the scheme, the mother is entitled to a cash incentive of Rs. 5,000 in three instalments.
2. The scheme covers all Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.
3. It was implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the provisions of Maternity benefit (amendments) Act, 2017.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only

- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 2 and 3 only

Answer : a

- Pradhan Mantri **Matru** Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) or Pradhan Mantri **Matritva** Vandana Yojana, was formerly known as **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)**.
- It is a social welfare maternity benefit programme implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** under the provisions of **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- The programme is run by the Government of India and was introduced in 2016.
- All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), **excluding those in regular employment with the Government or PSUs** or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being are eligible.
- Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who are eligible will receive a cash benefit of Rs.5,000/- in three instalment.
- The cash incentive is payable in three instalments for the **first live birth**, as normally, the first pregnancy of a woman exposes her to new kind of challenges and stress factors.

3) *Article 6 of Paris Agreement* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Emissions trading system
- b. Global stocktake Process
- c. Capacity building activities
- d. Principle of common but differentiated responsibilities

Answer : a

- **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** talks about setting up a market mechanism for **trading of carbon emissions**.
- A carbon market allows countries, or industries, to earn carbon credits for the emission reductions they make in excess of what is required of them.
- These carbon credits can be traded to the highest bidder in exchange of money.
- The buyers of carbon credits can show the emission reductions as their own and use them to meet their own reduction targets.
- Article 6 creates two types of **Carbon market**.
- Article 6.4 creates a centralised global market referred to as the Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM).
- This is a successor to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol.

4) *Global Gender Gap Report 2020* was released recently by which of the following?

- a. UNESCO
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. UN Development Programme
- d. Organization for economic cooperation and development

Answer : b

- **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, 2020** was released recently.
- According to the report, India **moved down** the ladder **from** its **108th** position last year to rank below countries like China (106th), Sri Lanka (102nd), Nepal (101st), Brazil (92nd), Indonesia (85th) and Bangladesh (50th).
- India is **112th** among nations ranked in terms of the gap between genders, and it was among the bottom five for women's health and survival and economic participation.
- **Iceland** remained the **world's most gender-neutral country**.
- Yemen is ranked the worst (153rd), while Iraq is 152nd and Pakistan 151st.

1. **Gender Inequality Index - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

2. **Global Gender Gap Index - World Economic Forum**
3. **Gender Parity Index - UNESCO**
4. **Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Report - Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD)**

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre*

1. It would deal with cybercrimes such as financial frauds, circulation of communal and pornographic contents.
2. It works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre** works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It would deal with cybercrimes such as financial frauds, circulation of communal and pornographic contents.
- The centre would maintain a list of suspects and the leads generated during investigations in cybercrime cases.
- This would be shared with law enforcement agencies through a "secured internal network".

6) Consider the following statements with respect to **Compensation Cess in GST**

1. It is levied only on products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods.
2. The collected Compensation cess flows directly into the Consolidated Fund of respective states' as compensation.

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 : a

- As per reports, there's high expectation among State Finance Ministers that the issue of **Compensation Cess** will be discussed at length in the **GST Council meeting** this week.
- **Compensation cess** was **introduced as relief for States** for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.
- States, in lieu of giving up their powers to collect taxes after local levies were subsumed under the GST, were guaranteed a 14% tax revenue growth in the first 5 years after GST implementation by the Central government.
- **Compensation cess is levied on 5 products** considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods.
- The sin or luxury goods list will be notified from time to time.
- The **collected compensation cess flows into the Consolidated Fund of India**.
- Then it is transferred to the **Public Account of India**, where a GST compensation cess account has been created.
- **States are compensated bi-monthly** from the accumulated funds in this account.

7) Consider the following statements with respect to **Samagra Shiksha**

1. It is an overarching programme which treats school education holistically without any

segmentation from Pre-school to Class 12

2. It is a Central sector scheme by the Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD.
3. It subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : c

- **Samagra Shiksha** - an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.
- It **treats school education holistically without segmentation** from **pre-nursery to Class 12**.
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, through a single State Implementation Society (SIS) at the State/UT level.
- At the National level, there would be a Governing Council headed by Minister of Human Resource Development.
- The **fund sharing pattern** for the scheme between Centre and States is at present in the ratio of 90:10 for the 8 North-Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States, 60:40 for all other States and Union Territories with Legislature.
- It is 100% centrally sponsored for Union Territories without Legislature.
- It **subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes** of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

8) Consider the following statements with respect to ***Destruction of public property*** as directed by the Supreme Court

1. The prosecution should be required to prove that public property had been damaged in direct action called by an organisation.
2. The burden of proof can be shifted to the accused to prove his innocence.
3. The Nariman Committee dealt with extracting damages for destruction of public properties.

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

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

Answer : d

- While agreeing to hear petitions on alleged police excesses on students in Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University, a Supreme Court Bench headed by **CJI expressed displeasure over rioting and destruction of public property**.
- The **Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984** punishes anyone "who commits mischief by doing any act in respect of any public property" with a jail term of up to five years and a fine or both.
- However, the **Supreme Court** has on several earlier occasions found the law inadequate, and has attempted to fill the gaps through guidelines.
- Supreme Court issued **guidelines based on the recommendations of the 2 expert Committees**.
- The **Thomas Committee recommended reversing the burden of proof against protesters**.

- Accepting the suggestion, the court said that the prosecution should be required to prove that public property had been damaged in direct action called by an organisation, and that the accused also participated in such direct action.
- From that stage the **burden can be shifted to the accused to prove his innocence.**
- Such a reversal of the burden of proof is applicable in cases of sexual violence, among others.
- Generally, the law presumes that the accused is innocent until the prosecution proves its case.
- The **Nariman Committee's recommendations dealt with extracting damages for destruction.**
- Accepting the recommendations, the court said **the rioters would be made strictly liable for the damage**, and compensation would be collected to "make good" the damage.

9) '**CROWN Act**' which was in news recently is related to?

- To protect the indigenous tribes of Africa against discrimination
- Call to respect and protect LGBTQ rights
- To protect people of colour from being discriminated against for their natural hair
- None of the above

Answer : c

- In July this year, **California** became the first state in the **US** to make discrimination over natural hair illegal.
- **New York** followed suit and now **New Jersey** has become the latest US state to pass such a legislation, called **Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act.**
- **CROWN aims to protect people of colour from being discriminated against for their natural hair**, especially at the workplace.
- A study conducted **recently** by Unilever-owned brand Dove concluded that black women were 80% more likely to change their natural hair in order to meet social norms or expectations at work.
- It also said that black women are 50% more likely to be sent home or to know of another black woman who has been sent home from the workplace because of her hair.

10) Consider the following statements with respect to **Sexed Semen**

- Sexed Semen is specially processed semen of bulls which ensure that a female calf is always born.
- It gives 100% accuracy as compared to conventional semen straws where male: female ratio is about 50:50.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : d

- During the recently held **14th Progressive Dairy Farmers Association (PDFA), International Dairy and Agri Expo 2019**, Union Minister for Animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries had said that, the **plan is to provide dairy farmers with "Sexed semen"** for cattle for as cheap as Rs 100 per straw by 2020.
- Semen having **sperms to produce more progenies of a 'desired sex'** either **female or male** is known as **Sexed semen.**
- Sexed semen is **specially processed semen of bulls** from which 'Y' chromosomes in sperm cells, which lead to the birth of a male calf are either removed through a 'sorting' process or killed.
- Semen which has only 'X' chromosomes can ensure that a female calf is born.
- **Cows carry XX chromosomes while bull semen carries both X and Y.** If the egg fertilises

with an 'X' chromosome, a female calf is born and if with 'Y', a male is born.

- There are **2 techniques** to produce sexed semen: One is the '**sorting process**' in which 'X' and 'Y' chromosomes are separated. 'X' are retained and 'Y' discarded or vice versa.
- The other is in which 'Y' chromosomes are altogether killed.
- Cows are impregnated using sexed semen through the artificial insemination process with consumption of one straw per cow.
- Considered a financial burden, male calves are either killed or abandoned on the roads by farmers as they do not give milk.
- This had led to an increasing number of cattle roaming the streets, which has caused fatal road accidents as well.
- The **guarantee of a desired calf being born is never 100%**.
- It is reported that use of **Sexed semen gives 80-90% accuracy** as compared to conventional semen straws where male: female ratio is about 50:50.
- However, as sperm concentration in sexed semen straw is far less than the conventional semen straw and the sorting procedure itself damages the sexed sperm, conception rate is 10 to 20 % less with sexed semen as compared to normal semen.



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