



30 Days Revision Module Day 10 - Feb 2021 Current Affairs (UPSC Prelims 2021)

1) Which of the following are found to be causative agents of Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES)?

1. Viruses
2. Bacteria
3. Fungus
4. Parasites
5. Chemical and Toxins

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer : d

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)

- AES is characterized by an acute onset of fever and clinical neurological manifestation that includes mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma.
- Viruses have been mainly attributed to be the cause of AES in India although other sources such as bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemical, and toxins have been reported over the past few decades.
- In some cases, encephalitis may be the result of an immune system disorder.
- The causative agent of AES varies with season and geographical location, and predominantly affects population below 15 years.
- Mild cases may cause no symptoms or mild flu-like symptom and severe cases can be life-threatening.

2) Several major discoveries of woolly rhinos, mammoths, cave lion cubs and ice age foal have been made in recent years. Why?

- a. Availability of Solar Winds hack Technology
- b. Effect of Global warming on Permafrost
- c. Efforts towards Net Zero emissions
- d. Both a and b

Answer : d

3) Consider the following statements

1. Vertical Reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community
2. Horizontal reservation refers to Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

Which of the following statements given above is/are **incorrect**?

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

Answer : c

Vertical and Horizontal Reservations

- Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as vertical reservation.
- It applies separately for each of the groups specified under the law.
- Horizontal reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.
- The horizontal quota is applied separately to each vertical category, and not across the board.
- For example, if women have 50% horizontal quota, then half of the selected candidates will have to necessarily be women in each vertical quota category — i.e., half of all selected SC candidates will have to be women, half of the unreserved or general category will have to be women, and so on.

4) Virunga National Park is located in which of the following?

- a. Iran
- b. Sri Lanka
- c. Cote d'Ivoire
- d. Democratic Republic of Congo



Answer : d

Virunga National Park

- Virunga National Park is located in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- Virunga National Park stretches from the Virunga mountains in the south, to the Rwenzori mountains in the north.
- It borders Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda and Rwenzori Mountains National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda.
- Established in 1925, it is Africa's first national park, which is famous for its mountain gorillas.
- It is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (UNESCO)-designated World Heritage Site since 1979.

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Lithium

1. It is an alkali metal, key for the lithium-ion rechargeable batteries that power electric vehicles (EVs), laptops and mobile phones.
2. Lithium can be extracted either through solar evaporation of large brine pools or by hard-rock extraction of the ore.
3. India currently meet all its lithium needs through imports.

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

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : d

6) Consider the following statements about Sigur plateau

1. It connects Eastern and Western Ghats.
2. It is situated near Nagarhole National Park.
3. It is a part of Nilgiris biosphere reserve

Which of the given statement above is/are correct?

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

Answer : a

Sigur Plateau is a plateau in the north and east of Nilgiri district in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Chandrayaan-3

1. It is mission to lunar North Pole with lander, orbiter and a rover.
2. Its lander will be equipped with a Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV).

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



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Answer : b

Chandrayaan-3

- The Chandrayaan-1 Moon Mission, launched in 2008, data indicates that the Moon's poles are home to water.
- Chandrayaan-2, aimed at landing a rover on uncharted Lunar South Pole, was launched in 2019 on board the country's most powerful geosynchronous launch vehicle.
- Chandrayaan 3 lander will land at the same location as the Chandrayaan 2, the lunar South Pole, which is a singularly promising part of the moon's surface.
- Unlike its predecessor, Chandrayaan-3 will not have an orbiter, but will only include a lander and rover.

Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV)

- It is the technique of using the Doppler shift in a laser beam to measure the velocity in transparent or semi-transparent fluid flows or the linear or vibratory motion of opaque, reflecting surfaces.
- The measurement with laser Doppler anemometry is absolute and linear with velocity and requires no pre-calibration.

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Blank Cheque Company

1. It is an entity specifically set up with the objective of acquiring a firm in a particular sector.

2. Money raised through this company is kept in a current account, which can be accessed while making the acquisition.

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

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

Answer : b

Blank Cheque Company

- Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC), or a blank-cheque company aims to raise money in an Initial Public Offering (IPO), and at this point in time, it does not have any operations or revenues.
- Money raised through this company is kept in an Escrow account, which can be accessed while making the acquisition.
- If the acquisition is not made within two years of the IPO, the SPAC is delisted and the money is returned to the investors.
- These are attractive to investors, despite them essentially being shell companies, as the blank-cheque companies are people sponsoring.

Escrow Account

- It is a legal concept describing a financial instrument whereby an asset or escrow money is held by a third party on behalf of two other parties that are in the process of completing a transaction.
- The third-party holds the funds until both parties have fulfilled their contractual requirements.
- Escrow is associated with real estate transactions, but it can apply to any situation where funds will pass from one party to another.

9) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to Findings on Sun's Rotation

1. Sun rotates more quickly at its equator than at its poles.
2. Sun's differential rotation rates cause its magnetic field to become twisted and tangled.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer : c

Findings on Sun's Rotation

- The scientists have estimated how the Sun has rotated over a century from data extracted from old films and photographs that have been digitized.
- The tangles in the magnetic field lines can produce strong localized magnetic fields and when the Sun's magnetic field gets twisted, there are lots of sunspots.
- The sunspots which form at the surface with an 11-year periodicity are the only route to probe the solar dynamo or solar magnetism inside the Sun and measure the variation in solar rotation.

- The team compared the consistent digitized data with manual data of rotation taken earlier and said that they have been able to differentiate the behaviours of the bigger and smaller solar spots.
- Recently, the researchers from the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) have used the digitized data of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in order to probe Sun's rotation over the Century.

Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

- It is a Solar Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, located in Palani range of hills.
- It was established in 1899 as a Solar Physics Observatory.

10) Consider the following statements about Tholpavakkoothu

1. It is a form of string puppet popular in the State of Kerala.
2. It is performed at the specially constructed theatre called Koothu Madam in front of the Bhagavati temple.
3. It uses Tamil epic Kambaramayana as its basic text.
4. It is also known as Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu.

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

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

Answer : b

Tholpavakkoothu



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- Tholpavakkoothu is a shadow leather puppet theatre form, popular in the Palakkad and neighbouring regions.
- It is preserved as a family tradition by the Pulavars.
- For the first time, the famous shadow leather puppets will be shown with the help of robots.
- The first such robotic leather puppet was installed at the Palakkad District Heritage Museum.