



## Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 20-12-2021 - (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements regarding the Horseshoe Crabs:

1. It is found in deep seas and is known as marine living fossil.
2. The state of Odisha is the largest habitat of horseshoe crabs in India.
3. It is protected under the Schedule IV of the wildlife protection act 1972.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : b

### Horseshoe Crab

- It is a marine chelicerate arthropod living in shallow coastal waters on soft sandy or muddy bottom and spawns (release or deposit eggs) mostly on intertidal beaches at summer spring high tides.
- Subphylum Chelicerata is a division within the Phylum Arthropoda containing animals such as spiders, scorpions, harvestmen, mites and ticks. Like all arthropods, they have a segmented body and segmented limbs and a thick chitinous cuticle called an exoskeleton.
- Other than the marine horseshoe crabs, the Chelicerata are found primarily in terrestrial environments worldwide.
- It is regarded as a marine 'living fossil'.
- There are four extant horseshoe crab species:
- The American horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) along the eastern coast of the USA and in the Gulf of Mexico.
- The tri-spine horseshoe crab (*Tachypleus tridentatus*)
- The coastal horseshoe crab (*Tachypleus gigas*)
- The mangrove horseshoe crab (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*)
- The last three are Indo-pacific species found in the coastal waters of India, southeast Asia, China and Japan.
- Odisha is their largest habitat in India.
- It is in the Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, under which the catching and killing of a horseshoe crab is an offence.
- IUCN Status:
  1. American horseshoe crab: Vulnerable.
  2. Tri-spine horseshoe crab: Endangered.
- The crackdown on horseshoe crab poachers requires superior, inter-state coordination among police and wildlife authorities of Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand and other states.
- The Zoological Survey of India has suggested declaring the habitat of horseshoe crabs as Eco-Sensitive Zones for their conservation and proper management.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Parvovirus:

1. It is a highly contagious viral disease that affects the intestinal tract of birds.
2. There is no cure for the disease but inoculating the birds can help them fight the virus.

Which of the above statement is correct?

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

Answer : d

### **Parvovirus**

- It is highly contagious viral disease that can also be life-threatening in puppies and dogs.
- It affects the intestinal tract of canines with puppies being more susceptible.
- Bloody diarrhea, vomiting, drastic weight loss, dehydration and lethargy are some of the symptoms.
- The virus has reported a 90 percent mortality rate.
- It spreads through direct contact with an infected dog or by indirect contact with contaminated object.
- It has no cure and inoculating a puppy or a dog gives them a fighting chance against the infection.
- The first dose is given at 45days old and the second 21 days after the first dose.

3) Consider the following statements regarding the National Litigation Policy (NLP):

1. It was formulated by the Ministry of Law and Justice.
2. It created empowered committees at national and regional levels to regulate the allocation of litigations in each court.
3. It provides for an impact assessment to evaluate the actual impact on reducing government litigation.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : a

### **National Litigation Policy**

- National Litigation Policy is formulated by the Ministry of Law and Justice of the Government of India.
- It aims to bring down the litigation from government agencies by making them more responsible in filing cases.
- It is based on the recognition that government and its various agencies are the predominant litigants in courts and tribunals in the country.
- The policy idealistically states that there should be greater accountability regarding governmental litigation, and mandates "suitable action" against officials violating this policy.
- It created "Empowered Committees" at the national and regional levels, apparently to regulate the implementation of the policy.

- There is ambiguity about the role and powers of empowered committees, resulting in lack of transparency in their functioning.
- It also lacks any form of impact assessment to evaluate actual impact on reducing government litigation.

4) Which of the following indices are assessed by the Global Gender Gap Report in ranking countries on their progress towards gender parity?

1. Economic Participation
2. Political Participation
3. Education
4. Health and Nutrition

Select the correct answer.

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer : d

### Global Gender Gap Report

- It was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum.
- It benchmarks 156 countries on their progress towards gender parity in four dimensions:
  - Economic Participation
  - Political Participation
  - Education
  - Health and Nutrition
- Over the Index, the highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality).
- India is ranked at 140 out of 156 countries with a score of 0.625 (out of 1).

5) Consider the following statements regarding the peace clause of Agreement on Agriculture:

1. India's procurement for rice and wheat, even if it violates the *de minimis* limit, will enjoy legal immunity under this agreement.
2. India will not be able to apply the peace clause to defend procuring crops that are not part of the food security programme such as cotton, groundnut, and sunflower seed.

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

### Peace Clause of WTO

- The peace clause forbids bringing legal challenges against price support-based procurement for food security purposes even if it breaches the limit on domestic support.
- The peace clause can be availed by developing countries for the support provided to traditional staple food crops to pursue public stockholding programmes for food security.

(Procuring food to provide free ration through the Public Distribution system).

- The peace clause is applicable only for programmes that were existing as of the date of the decision and are consistent with other requirements.
- Countries are also under an obligation to notify the WTO if their subsidies exceed the permissible level.
- India's procurement for rice and wheat, even if it violates the *de minimis* limit, will enjoy legal immunity.
- India will not be able to employ the peace clause to defend procuring those crops that are not part of the food security programme (such as cotton, groundnut, and sunflower seed).
- India can move away from price-based support in the form of MSP to income-based support, which will not be trade-distorting under the AoA provided the income support is not linked to production.



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