



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 26-09-2024 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Pralay Missile

1. It is a canisterized, short-range ballistic missile that was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It can carry a variety of warheads, including high-explosive preformed fragmentation, penetration-cum-blast (PCB).

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

Pralay Missile



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT

India is now considering a request from Armenia to supply the Pralay tactical ballistic missile.

- Pralay Missile has been developed for deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Line of Control (LoC).
- It is a canisterized, short-range ballistic missile that was designed for battlefield use.
- **Developed by** - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Range** - 150 km to 500 km.
- **Features** - It can carry a variety of warheads, including high-explosive preformed fragmentation, penetration-cum-blast (PCB), and runway denial penetration submunitions (RDPS).
- It is capable of targeting critical enemy infrastructure such as radar installations, communication centres, command posts and airfields.
- **Armenia** - Armenia had approached India seeking to procure the Pralay tactical ballistic missile to counter Azerbaijan's acquisition of the **Israeli LORA** long-range surface-to-surface missile system.
- **LORA system** was allegedly used by Azerbaijan against Armenia In October 2020 during a military conflict.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh** is a disputed region between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

2) Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG), sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- a. An NGO that provides financial assistance to farmers during distress.
- b. A weekly meeting to review the status of crops and weather conditions.
- c. An initiative of Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) to forecast weather.
- d. A group that provides drought indicator assessment using satellite data.

Answer : b

Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG)

- A weekly meeting of Crop Forecast Coordination Centre (CFCC) to review the status of crops and weather conditions.
- During the meeting the following are reviewed:
 - Status of area coverage under different crops and their conditions, rainfall and weather situation and
 - Reservoir status, inputs availability, price and procurement situation of agricultural commodities.
- Crop Forecast Coordination Centre (CFCC) is a division under the *Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare*.
- Under the RTISA (Real Time Information System on Agriculture), CFCC provides monthly assessment of major crops by integrating the output of various organisations.
- In conjunction with this MNCFC provides forecast for 9 crops and IEG provides forecast for 13 crops.
- Coordinating efforts with various organisation to enhance the existing crop forecast.

3) Consider the following statements with respect to High Integrity Forest Investment Initiative (HIFOR)

1. It is a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme designed by United Nations Environment Programme.
2. It serves as a tool to be used by all those interested in the conservation of high integrity tropical forests.

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 : b

High Integrity Forest Investment Initiative (HIFOR)

- High Integrity Forest Investment Initiative (HIFOR) is a new nature finance initiative, bridging the gap between climate and biodiversity.
- HIFOR initiative is a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme designed by the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**. **(Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- It serve as a tool to be used by all those interested in the conservation of high integrity tropical forests. **(Statement 2 is correct)**
- HIFOR units represent one hectare of well maintained, high integrity tropical forest located within a large well-conserved landscape.
- Investments in HIFOR directly support tropical forest conservation and help maintain the critical biodiversity and ecosystem services that they provide.
- **A single investment, with multiple benefits:**
- **Claims** - Purchasers of HIFOR units can make claims related to land conservation, climate, biodiversity, wildlife populations, and socio-economics.
- **Long-term investment** - HIFOR is an investment, not an offset. Maintaining high integrity areas is the cost efficient form of conservation.
- **Climate and biodiversity de-risking** - Improves outcomes across the whole investment portfolio by accounting for systemic risk (climate regulation and nature loss).
- Between 35% and 54% of assets held by financial institutions are highly or very highly dependent on ecosystem services supported by biodiversity.

- **Geographically diversified** - Reduces the risk of natural capital investment portfolio from natural disasters through a geographically diversified portfolio.
- The HIFOR portfolio spans the geographic range where high integrity forests are found.
- **No greenwashing** - Maintenance of high integrity tropical forests can be demonstrated through easily accessible metrics. HIFOR claims rest on the idea of a global contribution, not a corporate offset.
- Africa's first HIFOR project was launched in **Nouabale-Ndoki National Park (NNNP)** in the Republic of the Congo by Congo's Minister of Forest Economy and WCS.
- NNNP is the best example of an intact forest ecosystem remaining in the Congo Basin.
- The park has never been logged, contains no roads within its borders, and still protects wildlife populations deep within its interior that have had little or no contact with people.
- The forest is part of the larger Sangha Tri-National Forest Landscape that in July 2012 was nominated as a World Heritage Site.

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Garlic

1. The nutrients present in garlic include manganese, selenium and vitamin B6.
2. India is the second largest producer of garlic.
3. Riya van is a variety of garlic that can be found only in China.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer : a



Garlic (*Allium sativum*)

- Garlic is a perennial plant of the amaryllis family (Amaryllidaceae), grown for its flavourful bulbs.
- It is a common cooking ingredient with numerous health benefits.
- It belongs to the **genus *Allium*** and has close ties with the onion, rakkyo.
- The plant is native to central Asia but grows wild in Italy and southern France and is a classic ingredient in many national cuisines.
- **Allicin** - Garlic contains **allicin**, which acts as an antibiotic and releases allicin when a person chops or crushes it.
- It is responsible for garlic's characteristic flavour, is produced when garlic is chopped, crushed, or chewed.
- Allicin interacts with receptors on sensory neurons in the trigeminal nerve.
- **Historical and cultural uses** - Garlic has been used in human diets for thousands of years.
- Sumerian clay tablets from 4000 years ago contain garlic recipes.
- In Ayurveda, warm garlic-infused milk known as *Lasuna Ksheerapaka* is used in various remedies for *respiratory conditions* and as a digestive aid.
- **Plant defence mechanisms** - Plants, being stationary, have developed chemical defences against predators.
- Underground parts of plants are particularly vulnerable to various threats.
- **Garlic's chemical composition** - Recent analysis has identified over 2,300 chemicals in garlic cloves.
- Only about 70 of these are currently included in nutrition charts.
- **Garlic is rich in manganese, selenium, and vitamin B6.**
- Other compounds include thiosulfinates, lectins, saponins, and flavonoids.
- **Garlic production in India** - **India is the second-largest producer of garlic globally.**

- Notable varieties include **Riya van from Madhya Pradesh**, Gadag local varieties from Karnataka, and Kashmiri varieties. **(Statement 3 is incorrect)**
- **Madhya Pradesh** is the *largest garlic-producing State in India*.
- **Potential health benefits** – Garlic compounds may influence inflammatory processes, blood pressure, and cardiovascular health.
- The flavonoid luteolin may inhibit the formation of amyloid beta plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease.
- **Consumption recommendations** – Moderation is key to avoid side effects like heartburn and diarrhea.
- Some health practitioners recommend about 4 grams of garlic per day.

5) Consider the following statements with respect to the Asia Power Index, 2024

1. It measures resources and influence to rank the relative power of states in Asia.
2. It is compiled annually and released by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
3. United States holds the top position, followed by the China in second place, with India securing the third spot.

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

Asia Power Index, 2024



India has overtaken Japan as Asia's third most powerful nation in the recently released Asia Power Index.

- The Asia Power Index measures resources and influence to rank the relative power of states in Asia.
- The Asia Power Index is compiled annually by the **Australian think tank Lowy Institute**, evaluates the power dynamics of countries across Asia. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- It maps out the existing distribution of power as it stands today and tracks shifts in the balance of power over time.
- The Index explores 131 indicators across 8 thematic measures of power.
- The 8 thematic measures of power include:
 1. Diplomatic influence
 2. Culture influence
 3. Economic capability
 4. Military capability
 5. Resilience
 6. Future resource
 7. Economic relationships
 8. Defence networks
- The Index ranks 27 countries and territories in terms of their capacity to shape their external environment.
- In the Asia Power Index, 2024, the *United States holds the top position*, followed by the *China in second place*, with **India securing the third spot**.
- India has overtaken Japan as Asia's third most powerful nation in the index.
- India's rise to the third position reflects its expanding capabilities in several key areas, including defence, diplomacy, and economic growth.

- Challenges on India's road to superpower status:
 1. Income disparities
 2. Infrastructure needs
 3. Geopolitical tensions

