

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

21-08-2023

Ques:1

With reference to *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, consider the following statements

- 1.It is a White-Bellied Sea Eagle that is found throughout Southeast Asia.
- 2.They exhibit sexual dimorphism, with females being slightly larger than males.
- 3.White-bellied Sea Eagles are primarily piscivorous, meaning they primarily feed on fish.

It is categorised as 'Endangered' in the IUCN red list.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Solution: c

White-Bellied Sea Eagle is a large diurnal bird of prey. It's Scientific Name is *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. They are found throughout Southeast Asia. They range from north to south from southern China to Australia and Tasmania, and west to east from India to New Guinea.

They exhibit sexual dimorphism, with females being slightly larger than males.

Diet: White-bellied Sea Eagles are primarily piscivorous, meaning they primarily feed on fish. They may also prey on water birds, small mammals, and carrion (dead animals).

Conservation Status: IUCN: Least Concern.

Ques:2

- 1.With reference to Megaliths, consider the following statements
- 2.These were constructed either as burial sites or commemorative memorials.
- 3.In India, archaeologists trace the majority of the megaliths to the Iron Age(1500 BC to 500 BC).



4. In India, these are concentrated in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Solution: c

Megaliths were constructed either as burial sites or commemorative (non-sepulchral) memorials. The former are sites with actual burial remains, such as dolmenoid cists (box-shaped stone burial chambers), cairn circles (stone circles with defined peripheries) and capstones (distinctive mushroom-shaped burial chambers found mainly in Kerala). Non-sepulchral megaliths include memorial sites such as menhirs.

In India, archaeologists trace the majority of the megaliths to the Iron Age (1500 BC to 500 BC). In India, these are concentrated in the states of Maharashtra (mainly in Vidarbha), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Ques:3

With reference to Land Subsidence, consider the following statements

1. It is the downward, vertical movement of the Earth's surface, which can be brought both by natural and human forces.
2. Mining and extraction of excessive groundwater can be the reasons of land subsidence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c



Land subsidence is defined as the downward, vertical movement of the Earth's surface, which can be brought on by both natural and human forces. Land subsidence differs from slope movement in that it requires little to no horizontal movement. Subsidence can be caused by mining, pumping subsurface fluids like groundwater or petroleum, or tectonic forces that bend the Earth's crust.

Ques:4

With reference to Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, consider the following statements

- 1.It was launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- 2.Under this scheme, the exports will get the refund of embedded central, state, and local duties or taxes that were not rebated or refunded yet.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products is the full form of the acronym RoDTEP. It was announced in 2019 and launched on 1st January 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Under this scheme, the exports will get the refund of embedded central, state, and local duties or taxes that were not rebated or refunded yet. This will be a major boost to India's export and the domestic sector as it will provide Indian competitors with a level playing field with the global competitors.

Ques:5

What is NBRI-Nihar recently mentioned in news?

- a) A variety of Lotus developed by CSIR.
- b) A variety of Aloe Vera.
- c) A variety of transgenic plant.
- d) A plant derived Vaccine.

Solution: b



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Dr Jitendra Singh unveils new variety "Lotus" flower developed by Lucknow Institute CSIR-NBRI (National Botanical Research Institute): Named 'Namoh 108', the new Lotus has 108 petals. S&T Minister also launches and releases a slew of initiatives and publications including the new variety of Aloe vera named 'NBRI-Nihar', having approximately 2.5 times high gel yield in comparison to Aloe vera.