



UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS 17-11-2023

1. Consider the following statements, with reference to INDUS-X Initiative:

1. It will enable the defence industries of India and the US to come together to jointly develop and produce military equipment, including the transfer of technology.
2. The Gurukul initiative is aimed to help the innovators and start-ups to navigate in the defence ecosystem of the US and India.
3. INDUS-X was launched in 2023 to expand strategic technology partnership and define industrial cooperation between India and US.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (C)

Explanation: Recently the 1st INDUS-X Investors Meet was held at Delhi ahead of 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue. INDUS-X stands for enhanced strategic and defence partnership between India and the US. It is aimed at deepening the partnership between the US and Indian defence innovation sectors. INDUS-X was launched in June 2023 to expand strategic technology partnership and define industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions of India and US. INDUS-X will focus on advancing high-tech cooperation and fostering joint research, development, and production opportunities in the defence sector. The INDUS-X initiative will enable the defence industries of both India and the US to come together to jointly develop and produce military equipment, including the transfer of technology. INDUS-X Investors Meet was organised by the Innovations for Defence Excellence



(iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence. The INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul) was also launched during the event. INDUS-X Educational Series is named as Gurukul that aims to help the innovators and start-ups to navigate in the defence ecosystem of the US and India. Hence, all statements are correct.

2. Consider the following statements, with reference to Nayi Chetna 2.0:

1. It is a campaign that aims to advance the rights of women and gender-diverse individuals.
2. It is led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation:

The Nayi Chetna Campaign aims to advance the rights of women and gender-diverse individuals, for a life without fear, and gender-based discrimination and violence. Campaign activities will deepen awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) amongst self-help group members and encourage GBV reporting. It will also address social norms which sanction and help such forms of violence to prevail. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The campaign is to be launched on 25 November which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It will be observed across 34 Indian states and UTs till 23 December. The annual campaign will be led by DAY-NRLM's self-help groups network of over 9.8 crore rural women members with the spirit of a Jan Andolan or people's movement. Participating ministries includes: Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Women and child development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry



of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Education and Literacy Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

3. Apophis, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- (a) A metric for measuring the global warming potential of a gas.
- (b) A landmark deal by UNEP that aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.
- (c) A near-Earth object (NEO) that was identified as one of the most hazardous asteroids that could impact Earth.
- (d) A monitoring initiative by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to monitor greenhouse gases.

Answer: (C)

Explanation: NASA probe to observe Apophis, an asteroid as wide as Empire State Building near-Earth encounter. Asteroid 99942 Apophis is a near-Earth object (NEO) estimated to be about 1,100 feet (340 meters) across. Apophis was identified in 2004 as one of the most hazardous asteroids that could impact Earth. It is a stony asteroid believed to consist mostly of silicate materials along with iron and nickel. A radar observation campaign in March 2021, combined with precise orbit analysis, allowed astronomers to conclude that there is no risk of Apophis impacting our planet for at least a century. Its next approach in 2029 will bring the asteroid within a cosmic cat's whisker of Earth - less than one-tenth the moon's distance. OSIRIS-Rex has been rebranded as OSIRIS-APEX to probe the Apophis by NASA. The spacecraft is set to observe the asteroid's Earth flyby as it nears and ultimately catches up with Apophis. Tidal forces could trigger landslides on Apophis and dislodge rocks and dust particles to create a comet-like tail. Hence, option (c) is correct.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Kashmiri saffron:

- 1. It is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.



2. It is one of the only 3 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) of India recognised so far.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (C)

Explanation: Kashmiri saffron, also known as Saffron or Kesar, is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir, especially Pampore. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by the FAO recognizes 3 agricultural heritages in India:

1. Koraput Traditional Agriculture, Odisha
2. Kuttanad below Sea Level Farming System, Kerala
3. Pampore Saffron Heritage, Jammu & Kashmir Hence, both statements are correct.

5. The animals that are extinct now include which of the following?

1. Sumatran Elephant
2. Bali tiger
3. Japanese sea lion
4. Syrian wild ass

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1, 2 and 3
- (B) 2, 3 and 4
- (C) 1, 3 and 4



(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (B)

Explanation: The animals that are extinct now include Formosan clouded leopard, Bali tiger, Schomburgk's deer, Japanese sea lion and Syrian wild ass.

The Sumatran elephant is not extinct and is present between 2,400 and 2,800 in numbers. In 2012, the Sumatran elephant was changed from “Endangered” to “Critically Endangered.”

Formosan clouded leopard – A leopard species was first described in 1862. Within the next 120 years, it went extinct in its home range in Taiwan. An extensive 15-year survey from 1997 to 2012 also failed to find any individuals.

Bali tiger – It is a tiger species that was believed to have gone extinct in the 1950s. The species was described as being the smallest tiger on the Sunda Islands. After a 2017 reform in taxonomy, this species was brought under *Panthera tigris sondaica*, which includes the extant Sumatran tiger.

Schomburgk's deer – This species of deer was endemic to Thailand and resembled the barasingha. It was described in 1863. The deer's population dwindled after Thailand intensified rice cultivation, and was last recorded in 1938.

Japanese sea lion – This species of aquatic mammal went extinct in the 1970s. Until 2003, it was thought to be a subspecies of the California sea lion, but has since been classified as a separate species. It was driven to extinction by over-hunting and possibly submarine warfare during World War II.

Syrian wild ass – This equine species was also called the hemippe. It was rendered extinct by 1927 by overhunting as well as by the consequences of World War I. It was the smallest equine species and couldn't be domesticated.