



UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS 03-01-2024

1. Consider the following statements regarding Konark Sun Temple:

1. It was built by King Narasimha Deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in 1244.
2. It was given the status of a World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO.
3. The government has launched a scheme for 100% solarisation of the temple.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation: The Konark Sun Temple is a 13th century temple dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya, located on the coast of Odisha. It was built by King Narasimha Deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in 1244. It was given the status of a World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO. It is a classic example of the Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga Architecture. The temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot high solar chariot, with 24 wheels and pulled by six horses, all carved from stone. The temple, built from Khondalite rocks, is also known as 'BLACK PAGODA' due to its dark colour. In May 2020, the Government of India launched a scheme for 100% solarization of the Konark Sun Temple and Konark town in Odisha. The scheme aims to meet all of the town's energy needs with solar energy. Hence, all statements are correct.

2. Consider the following passage:

A pioneer who challenged oppressive social norms in her quest for women's education, equality and justice, she is formally recognised as India's first woman teacher. She was a social reformer, educationalist and poet from Maharashtra. In 1852, she established a women's rights advocacy organisation, Mahila Seva Mandal. She published *Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar* ('The Ocean of Pure Gems'), in 1892.

The above passage is related to which of the following personalities?



- (a) Savitribai Phule
- (b) Durgabai Deshmukh
- (c) Ahilyabai Holkar
- (d) Sarojini Naidu

Answer: (A)

Explanation: A pioneer who challenged oppressive social norms in her quest for women's education, equality and justice, Savitribai Phule is formally recognised as India's first woman teacher. A Dalit woman from the Mali community, Savitribai was born on January 3, 1831, at Naigaon in Satara District. In 1840, at the tender age of 9, she was married to Jyotirao (also known as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule one of the leading social reformers and anti-caste activists of India) is said to have educated her at home and later on admitted her to a teacher's training institution in Pune. At a time when education was limited mostly to the upper-class, affluent men, and women were not deemed eligible for going to school, the Phules established a girls' school in Bhidewada, Pune, in 1848. This was the first girls' school in India. In 1852, she established a women's rights advocacy organisation, Mahila Seva Mandal. In 1873, the Phules set up the Satyashodhak Samaj ('Truth-seekers' society'), a platform open to all, irrespective of their caste, religion or class hierarchies, with the sole aim of bringing social equity. Savitribai Phule published her first collection of poems, called Kavya Phule ('Poetry's Blossoms'), at the age of 23 in 1854. She published Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar ('The Ocean of Pure Gems'), in 1892. Hence, option (a) is correct.

3. 'Desert Cyclone' exercise often seen in news is conducted between India and which of the following country?

- (A) Indonesia
- (B) UAE
- (C) Egypt
- (D) Oman

Answer: (B)

Explanation: Recently, India - UAE joint military exercise 'desert cyclone' commences in Rajasthan. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability by learning & sharing best practices in Urban Operations. This exercise is marking a significant milestone in the strategic partnership. Hence, option (b) is correct.

4. With reference to Bubble Baby Syndrome, consider the following statements:

1. 'Bubble baby syndrome,' known medically as Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) is a very rare genetic disorder that causes life-threatening problems with the immune system.
2. SCID is a pediatric emergency. Without treatment, babies are not likely to survive past their first birthday.

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: A two-month-old girl with bubble baby syndrome underwent bone marrow transplant (BMT) in Mumbai recently. 'Bubble baby syndrome,' known medically as Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) is very rare genetic disorder that causes life-threatening problems with the immune system. It is a type of primary immune deficiency. The disease is known as “living in the bubble” syndrome because living in a normal environment can be fatal to a child who has it. In SCID, the child's body has too few lymphocytes or lymphocytes that don't work properly. Because the immune system doesn't work as it should, it can be difficult or impossible for it to battle the germs—viruses, bacteria, and fungi—that cause infections.

Causes:

- Inherited mutations in more than a different genes cause SCID.
- This means one or both birth parents pass down the disease to their child.

SCID is a pediatric emergency. Without treatment, babies are not likely to survive past their first birthday. The most common treatment is a stem cell transplant (also called a bone marrow transplant). This means the child receives stem cells from a donor. The hope is that these new cells will rebuild the child's immune system. Hence, both statements are correct.



5. Consider the following statements regarding e-SCR portal:

1. It is an initiative to provide the digital version of the apex court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report.
2. It will provide free access to lawyers, law students and the common public.

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: It is an initiative to provide the digital version of the apex court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report. The Supreme Court has developed a search engine with the help of the National Informatics Centre. It comprises elastic search technique in the database of e-SCR and the search facility in e-SCR provides for free text search, search within search, case type and case year search, judge search, year and volume search and bench strength search options. It will provide free access to it's about 34,000 judgements to lawyers, law students and the common public. These verdicts will be available on the apex court website, its mobile app and on the judgment portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Hence, both statements are correct.