



UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS 11-01-2024

1. Question

Consider the following statements about Sisal Plants

1. It is native to African Rainforest region and is used in making ropes, paper and cloth.
2. Each leaf of sisal plant has about a thousand fibres that have high absorption capacity.
3. The ancient Aztec and Mayan civilisations were the first to begin making paper out of sisal leaves.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solution (b)

Sisal (*Agave sisalana*) is a plant of the family Asparagaceae and its fibre, the most important of the leaf fibre group.

The lifespan of a sisal plant is about 7-10 years, during which it produces 200-250 usable leaves.

The plant is native to Central America, where its fibre has been used since pre-Columbian times, hence Statement 1 is incorrect.

Each leaf has about a thousand fibres that can be used to make ropes, paper, and cloth. Now, it could be used to make a highly absorbent material as well, hence Statement 2 is correct.

The absorption capacity of the material is high and found to be higher than those found in commercial menstrual pads.



The ancient Aztec and Mayan civilisations were the first to begin making paper out of sisal leaves, hence Statement 3 is correct.

The plant itself is also used to make mezcal, a distilled alcoholic beverage.

Context: Recently researchers at Stanford University has found that the absorption capacity of a sisal-based material to be higher than commercial menstrual pads that could make sanitary napkins more sustainable in India.

2. Question

Consider the following statements about NUTEC Plastics, sometimes seen in news?

1. NUTEC Plastics is a flagship initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. It aims to address the global challenge of plastic pollution.
3. India is not a part of the NUTEC Plastics Initiative.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Solution (a)

NUTEC Plastics is a flagship initiative by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), hence Statement 1 is incorrect.

It aims to address the global challenge of plastic pollution, hence Statement 2 is correct.

It brings together countries and partners from around the world to fight plastic pollution on 2 fronts:

At point of source, by introducing new technologies to improve plastic recycling.



In the ocean, where the bulk of plastic waste ends up. 63 countries are participating in marine monitoring of micro-plastics and 30 around the world are developing innovative recycling technology.

India is part of the NUTEC Plastics Initiative, hence Statement 3 is incorrect.

Context: Recently the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Argentine Antarctic Institute (IAA), under the IAEA's NUTEC Plastics Initiative conducted a study about effects of micro-plastics in the Antarctic.

3. Question

Consider the following statements about Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Warfare/Disasters

1. The CBRN defence teams of the National Disaster Response Force are the first respondent of any disaster related to CBRN in India.
2. TARKASH is an exercise between Russia and India to address the terror threat related to CBRN.

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Solution (b)

CBRN is the acronym for nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical agents.

These agents include:

Material from nuclear fission or fusion, or other radioactive material with the potential to affect human health,

Biological agents causing infection or disease and Toxic chemicals that can cause poisoning.



CBRN emergency can occur as a result of industrial disaster, occupational exposure, natural catastrophe, warfare or acts of terrorism.

The CBRN teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is the first respondent of any disaster related to CBRN in India.

TARKASH – Is a joint exercise by the National Security Guard (NSG), India and US Special Operations Forces (SOF), USA, hence Statement 2 is incorrect.

It aims to address the threats related to the CBRN terror attacks.

Context: The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) teams reached the spot of the Chlorine leak in Dehradun with detectors and rescue equipment.

4. Question

Consider the following pairs

Channel	Location
8 Degree Channel	Minicoy Island and Maldives
9 Degree Channel	Little Andaman and Nicobar
10 Degree Channel	Laccadive Islands and Minicoy Island

How many of the above given pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Solution (a)

Context: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has proposed to set up a forward fighter airbase in Minicoy Islands, to safeguard the sea lanes of communications and to keep the Arabian Sea free from non-state actors in the region.



5. Question

Ugram, recently seen in news is?

- a) It is an all-weather indigenously manufactured Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.
- b) It is a state-of-the-art indigenous assault rifle.
- c) An expedition vessel chartered by India from Cape Town to Antarctica.
- d) An initiative facilitating screening for mental health

Solution (b)

‘Ugram’ is a state-of-the-art indigenous assault rifle.

·It has been developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a unit of DRDO, in collaboration with a private industry partner. It was developed in less than 100 days.

It has been developed as per the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR) of the army into consideration.

Features:

The rifle will deploy rounds of 7.62 mm calibre, making it more ferocious than rifles that use 5.62 mm calibre rounds, like the INSAS rifle, which is popularly used by the armed forces in India, including paramilitary forces. It has an effective range of 500 metres.

It weighs less than four kilograms.

The rifle has a 20-round magazine that fires robust and in full auto mode.

Context: The Defence Research and Development Organisation recently launched an indigenous assault rifle named ‘Ugram’.