

Current Affairs, including GK – Session 3



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Passage 1

At the end of 50 years of tuberculosis control activities, the disease remains a major health challenge in India. As per new estimates, the number of new cases every year has risen to 2.8 million and mortality is put at 4,80,000 each year. These figures may go up when the national TB prevalence survey is undertaken in 2017–18. Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in its national strategic plan for tuberculosis elimination (2017–2025), has set a highly ambitious goal of “achieving a rapid decline in burden of TB, morbidity and mortality while working towards elimination of TB by 2025.”

Question 1

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by:

- a. Bacteria – Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- b. Virus – Mycocelli tuberculosi
- c. Protozoan – Trypanosoma brucei gambiense
- d. Fungi – Candida auris

Answer: (a)



Question 2

The objective of the National Strategic Plan to end TB by 2025 is:

- a. Prevent and Cure
- b. Detect – Treat – Build – Prevent
- c. Increase vaccination program
- d. Rural Strategic Planning development

Answer: b



Question 3

Ensuring 'Good health and well being' is an objective of the Sustainable Development Goals under:

- a. SDG 1
- b. SDG 2
- c. SDG 3
- d. SDG 4



Answer: c



Question 4

From which of the following international institutions have India recently obtained a loan of \$400 million for the Program towards elimination of TB?

- a. World Health Organization
- b. International Monetary Fund
- c. Asian Development Bank
- d. World Bank

Answer: d



Question 5

Which of the following schemes pertaining to health was launched by the Union Government following the recommendation of the National Health Policy, 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage?

- a. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- b. Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS)
- c. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
- d. Ayushman Bharat scheme

Answer: d



Passage 2

Take a deep breath in and breathe out slowly before you continue to read. According to the World Air Quality Report 2018, nine out of 10 people breathe polluted air. Statistically speaking, 91% of the world's population lives in places where air quality exceeds WHO guideline limits. Among the top 30 most polluted cities, India makes up for 22.

Now, are you rethinking the deep breath you just took?

To bring about awareness on air pollution, the United Nations has dedicated this year's World Environment Day to the theme of “__A__”.

World Environment Day, observed every year on June 05, is dedicated to “encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.”

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/children/what-are-you-breathing/article27412667.ece>)

Question 1

Fill in the blank A:

- a. Air Pollution
- b. Plastic Pollution
- c. Water Pollution
- d. Environmental Pollution

Answer: a



Question 2

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Central Government launched an initiative to promote afforestation. Identify the correct initiative from amongst the following.

- a. Planting trees for a green India
- b. #SelfiewithSapling
- c. Greener India, Greener world
- d. #greenIndia

Answer: b



Question 3

Which of the following was recently formulated and launched by India with the objective of prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network?

- a. National Strategy to reduce air pollution
- b. Clean Air India
- c. National Clean Air Program
- d. Swacch Anthrikshan

Answer: c



Question 4

Which of the following legislations provide for the establishment of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at the apex level and State Pollution Control Boards at the state level to advise the government on any matter concerning the improvement of the quality of the air and prevention, control and abatement of air pollution?

- a. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act
- b. Environmental Protection Act, 1986
- c. Vienna Convention on Air Pollution
- d. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

Answer: (d)



Question 5

World Environment Day is celebrated on ____ since 1974.

- a. June 2
- b. June 4
- c. June 5
- d. June 10



Answer: (c)



Question 6

Who is the Swedish environmental activist who has gained international recognition for promoting the view that humanity is facing an existential crisis arising from climate change?

- a. Greta Thunberg
- b. Julian Assange
- c. Donald Trump
- d. Wangari Maathai



Answer: a



Passage 3

The attack on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, which connects the Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz, a critical choke-point in one of the world's busiest shipping routes, has raised tensions between the U.S. and Iran. The crisis has also pushed up global oil prices as well as the cost of shipping insurance. Within hours of Thursday's attack on the vessels, one is Japanese-owned and the other Norwegian, the U.S. has blamed Iran for the incident. The U.S. Central Command, which is based in the Gulf, has also released a video footage that the U.S. claimed showed men on an Iranian boat removing a mine from one of the tankers.

This was the second time in two months oil tankers have come under attack in the region. On May 12, four vessels, owned by Saudi Arabia and Norway, were targeted off the UAE coast, just outside the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. had blamed Iran for that attack as well. Tehran has denied any role in the incidents. Whoever is responsible for these attacks, they are actually weaponising the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, both vital spots on the Gulf-Arabian Sea trade route.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/why-oil-vessels-are-attacked-in-the-gulf/article27950654.ece>)



Question 1

Strait of Hormuz connects:

- a. Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea
- b. Malay Peninsula and Sumatra
- c. Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea
- d. separates Russia and the United States

Answer: a



Question 2

Strait of Hormuz is the route used for nearly all the liquefied natural gas (LNG) produced by the world's biggest LNG exporter, X, located in this region. Identify X.

- a. UAE
- b. Qatar
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Oman

Answer: b



Question 3

The Indian Navy had launched 'Operation ___' in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels, following the recent maritime incidents in the region. Fill in the blank.

- a. Operation Vijay
- b. Operation Meghadooth
- c. Operation Sankalp
- d. Operation Sunrise

Answer: c



Question 4

The top oil producing country in the world is:

- a. USA
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Russia
- d. Canada



Answer: a



Question 5

Identify the organization.

X aims to manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries. It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

- a. OPEC
- b. QUAD
- c. ASEAN
- d. EU

Answer: a



Question 6

The non-OPEC countries which export crude oil are termed as _____.

a. GCC Council

b. Aramco

c. Shell Corp.

d. OPEC + countries



Answer: d



Passage 4

The NITI Aayog on Thursday released the results of a study warning that India is facing its 'worst' water crisis in history and that demand for potable water will outstrip supply by 2030 if steps are not taken.

Nearly 600 million Indians faced high to extreme water stress and about 2,00,000 people died every year due to inadequate access to safe water. Twenty-one cities, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad will run out of groundwater by 2020, affecting 100 million people, the study noted. If matters are to continue, there will be a 6% loss in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2050, the report says.

Moreover, critical groundwater resources, which accounted for 40% of India's water supply, are being depleted at "unsustainable" rates and up to 70% of India's water supply is "contaminated," the report says.

Envisioned as an annual exercise, the ___A___, to evaluate States, has been developed by the NITI Aayog and comprises 9 broad sectors with 28 different indicators covering various aspects of groundwater, restoration of water bodies, irrigation, farm practices, drinking water, policy and governance. "While Jharkhand and Rajasthan may have scored low, they have made remarkable improvement when compared over two years," said Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.

Other experts said that unless India woke up to its water crisis, disaster loomed. "There is great awareness now about air pollution, however, India's water crisis does not get that kind of attention," said Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/india-faces-worst-water-crisis-niti-aayog/article24165708.ece>)

Question 1

Fill in the blank A.

- a. Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)
- b. Water Management Index
- c. Clean Water Index
- d. Free Water Index

Answer: A



Question 2

Which of the following schemes was launched in 2019 to campaign for water conservation and ensure water security in the country?

- a. PM Jal Abhiyaan
- b. Jal Shakti Abhiyan
- c. Modicare
- d. PM Jal Surakshan Yojana



Answer: b



Question 3

The government has created a new Ministry called '____' after merging Ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation along with Drinking Water and Sanitation. Fill in the blank.

- a. Ministry of Water Resources
- b. Ministry of Water and water related resources
- c. Jal Shakti
- d. Jal Surakshan Ministry

Answer: c



Question 4

Identify the government mission which envisages renewed efforts to provide piped water supply to every household by 2024.

- a. Piped water mission
- b. PM Jal Yojana
- c. Water Supply mission
- d. Jal Jeevan Mission

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Passage 5

Today, India is host to over 200,000 refugees like her who have been forced to flee conflict and persecution in their home countries. On World Refugee Day , there is a need to reassess India's approach to refugee protection, particularly in light of the regional refugee crisis after the mass exodus of the __A__ from Myanmar.

Traditionally, India has hosted several persecuted groups such as Tibetans and Sri Lankans. While it is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and has no domestic asylum law, it has reiterated its commitment towards the protection of refugees at various international fora, including the UN General Assembly.

One of the most significant affirmations of this commitment was demonstrated by India becoming a signatory to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which was adopted by 193 countries in September 2016. In doing so, India has expressed its solidarity with those forced to flee and agreed that protecting refugees and supporting the countries that shelter them are shared international responsibilities that must be borne more equitably.

The Declaration sets the stage for a new framework for refugee protection — the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

Although India has hosted refugees of varying nationalities for decades, the country has done little beyond providing asylum. There have been some attempts to introduce a refugee law in the country, the latest being the Asylum Bill 2015, introduced as a private member's bill by Shashi Tharoor. However, none has gone the distance and the government continues to adopt an ad hoc approach towards this group. Given that most refugees have been unable to return to their countries, leading to protracted refugee situations, there is an urgent need for the government to develop a uniform framework for their management during their stay in India.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-imperative-to-offer-refuge/article24203930.ece>)

Question 1

World Refugee is celebrated annually on:

- a. June 5
- b. June 11
- c. June 15
- d. June 20



Answer: D



Question 2

Identify the UN Refugee Agency and a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting the rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

It was created in 1950 to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes; it is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland.

- a. UNGA
- b. UN SC
- c. UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- d. Trusteeship Council

Answer: c



Question 3

What was the theme of World Refugees Day 2019?

- a. Refugee Protection
- b. With the refugees
- c. Step with Refugees – Take a Step on World Refugee Day.
- d. For a better future for all

Answer: c



Question 4

Fill in the blank A in the passage.

- a. Rohingyas
- b. Asurs
- c. Brus
- d. Kurava



Answer: a



Passage 6

The Supreme Court on March 4 set aside an April 6, 2018, [circular of the Reserve Bank of India](#) (RBI) prohibiting banks and entities regulated by it from providing services in relation to virtual currencies (VCs). “Till date, RBI has not come out with a stand that any of the entities regulated by it namely, nationalised banks/scheduled commercial banks/cooperative banks/NBFCs, have suffered any loss or adverse effect directly or indirectly, on account of VC exchanges,” a Bench comprising Justices Rohinton Nariman, Aniruddha Bose and V. Ramasubramanian observed in a 180-page judgment.

(Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-sets-aside-rbi-ban-on-cryptocurrency-transactions/article30979301.ece>)

Question 1

X is a digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange that uses strong cryptography to secure financial transactions, control the creation of additional units, and verify the transfer of assets. Identify X.

- a. Bit coin
- b. Libra
- c. Block chain
- d. Cryptocurrency

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Answer: d



Question 2

The first block chain-based crypto currency is _____, which still remains the most popular and most valuable. Fill in the blank.

- a. Libra
- b. Crypto coin
- c. Bitcoin
- d. Rup-coin



Answer: c



Question 3

The SC held the ban on cryptocurrencies was unconstitutional due to violation of which of the following Fundamental Rights?

- a. Article 21
- b. Article 14
- c. Article 19(1)(g)
- d. Article 32



Answer: c



Question 4

Many crypto currencies are decentralized systems based on ____ technology, a distributed ledger enforced by a disparate network of computers. Fill in the blank.

- a. Block chain technology
- b. Bitcoin
- c. Libra
- d. Linux

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