

Current Affairs, including GK – Session 4

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Passage 1

The Centre has launched a major war against Japanese encephalitis which claims hundreds of young lives and causes high morbidity among children in several States across the country during monsoon.

Within weeks of taking over, Union Health and Family welfare Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan said that his priority would be to ensure 100 per cent immunisation against the killer disease. For this, JE vaccination is also included within the _____A_____ Program of the Government.

Japanese encephalitis is caused by a mosquito-borne ___B___ virus. Eastern India is the most-affected region by this killer disease, particularly Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam. However, more than 17 States are reporting cases of JE and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) which has high mortality and morbidity rates. Since the virus attacks the brain of the child, the chances of the child becoming mentally retarded are high.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/india-intensifies-war-against-japanese-encephalitis/article6242223.ece>)

Question 1

Which is the most appropriate option to fill in the blank A?

- a. India Immunization Drive
- b. National Scheme for Immunization
- c. Immunization India Program
- d. Universal Immunization Program

Answer: (d)

- **Immunization** is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines are substances that stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.
- Immunization Programme in India was **introduced in the year 1978** as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI)' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- In the year **1985**, the programme was modified as '**Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**'.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Question 2

The causative agent of Japanese encephalitis is a virus. Fill in the blank B in the passage.

- a. Rota virus
- b. Sapo virus
- c. Flavi virus
- d. Parvo virus



Answer: c



Question 3

Diseases which are transmitted from an animal or insect to a human are called _____.

- a. Toxoplasmosis
- b. Zoonotic diseases
- c. Q fever
- d. Plague



Answer: (b)



Question 4

Vectors who transmit the JE disease to humans are:

- a. Mosquitoes of the Culex species
- b. Mosquitoes of Aedes species
- c. female Anopheles mosquito
- d. Mosquitoes of Culiseta species

Answer: a



Question 5

In India, AES outbreaks in north and eastern India have been linked to children eating *unripe litchi fruit on empty stomachs*. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India. What is AES?

- a. Aggravated Encephalitis Syndrome
- b. Acute Encephalitis Syndrome
- c. Annoying Encephalitis Syndrome
- d. Alleviated Encephalitis Syndrome

Answer: (b)

- *Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES)* is a serious public health problem in India.
- It is characterized as *acute-onset of fever and a change in mental status* (mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma) and/or new-onset of seizures in a person of any age at any time of the year.
- The disease most *commonly affects* children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.
- *Viruses are the main causative agents* in AES cases, although *other sources* such as bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins and noninfectious agents have also been reported over the past few decades.

Passage 2

The last 2.5 years have been safest in the history of Indian Railways as there has been least number of accidents during this period, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday. Indian Railways awarded the unique strategy adopted by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) called __A__ to keep wild elephants away from train tracks, the 'Best Innovation Award' in Indian Railways for the fiscal year of 2018-19.

Replying to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the Minister also said a Real-time Train Information System (RTIS) developed in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is being installed on locomotives for automatic acquisition of train movement timings at stations, including arrival and departure or run-through.

Mr. Goyal said the government is proud of achievements of the ICF which manufactured the __B__, the Indian semi-high speed train that can run up to about 160 kmph. It is India's first indigenously built engineless semi-high speed train.

The entire rail network will be electrified in India which is the only country in the globe that is experimenting to convert diesel engines into electric, he said. This is being done in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment towards environment protection, Mr. Goyal said. The __C__ had commissioned the longest electrified tunnel of 6.6 km between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/last-25-years-have-been-the-safest-in-railways-history-says-piyush-goyal/article30115727.ece>)

Question 1

Fill in the blank A.

- a. HathiChalo
- b. Elephant elimination drive
- c. Plan Bee
- d. Safe railway plan



Answer: c



Question 2

Fill in the Blank B.

- a. Jan shatabdi
- b. Vande Bharat Express
- c. Rajadhani
- d. Durunto Express



Answer: b

- Earlier, it was known by the name Train 18.
- *It runs between Delhi and Varanasi* at a maximum speed of 160 kmph.
- It has been built by the *Integral Coach Factory*, Chennai, in a record time of 20 months.
- *The train is a 100% 'Make in India' project* and is claimed to be built at half the cost of a similar train set that is imported.
- It is *energy-efficient* as its coaches will be fitted with LED lights. Coaches will have automatic doors and retractable footsteps.
- It will be inter-connected with fully sealed gangways along with a GPS-based Passenger Information System. It is provided with Bio toilets.

Question 3

Fill in the blank C.

- a. North eastern railway
- b. Western Railway
- c. Central Railway
- d. South Central Railway



Answer: d



Question 4

Which was the initiative launched by Railway Protection Force to stop selling of un-authorized Packaged Drinking Water (PDW)?

- a. Operation Thirst
- b. Operation Sankalp
- c. Operation C
- d. Operation Meghadooth



Answer: a



Question 5

Which of the schemes aim at development of railway stations?

- a. Adarsh Station Scheme
- b. Adarsh Smarak Scheme
- c. Station Re-development Program
- d. Both a and c

Answer: d

- The Adarsh station scheme of Ministry of Railways aims to upgrade the **suburban stations** of India to Adarsh stations. Adarsh stations will be **beautified** and upgraded with **modern facilities**.
- Selection of railway stations under Adarsh Station scheme is based on the identified need for **up-gradation of amenities**.
- Under station redevelopment program of Indian railways, IRSDC (**Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited**) and other Government agencies are entrusted for undertaking the **techno-economic feasibility** based on which stations are planned to be taken up for redevelopment in phases especially the stations located in **major cities, pilgrimage centres** and important **tourist destinations**.

Passage 3

The ___A___ method of afforestation, which has revolutionized the concept of urban afforestation by turning backyards into mini-forests, is to come up on the government office premises, residential complexes, school premises, and puramboke land in Kerala.

The government intervention comes in the wake of the highly successful technique, pioneered by Japanese botanist ___B___, executed in the State by individuals to increase the green cover in urban and semi-urban areas.

By promoting natural vegetation on land destroyed by natural calamities and man-induced mistakes along the coastline of Japan, 'B' managed to raise mini-forests. The replication of the model across Kerala, which has suffered floods, landslips and soil erosion, assumes significance with the Rebuild Kerala initiative on.

This method is also being implemented by the Telangana government recently,

Question 1

Fill the blank A.

- a. Bonsai
- b. Agroforestry
- c. enviro-friendly
- d. Miyawaki



Answer: d



Question 2

Fill in the blank B.

- a. Marukami
- b. Akira Miyawaki
- c. Yoshimoto
- d. Kawabata



Answer: b

Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, that helps build dense, native forests in a short time of about 20 to 30 years, as opposed to conventional methods that take generally 200 to 300 years to grow a forest.



Question 3

Which of the following is implemented by the Central Government for the afforestation of degraded forest lands?

- a. EIA
- b. Environment Protection Act
- c. Green India Mission
- d. National Afforestation Program



Answer: d

The overall objective of the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) scheme is ecological restoration of degraded forests and to develop the forest resources with peoples' participation, with focus on improvement in livelihoods of the forest-fringe communities, especially the poor. NAP aims to support and accelerate the on-going process of devolving forest conservation, protection, management and development functions to the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level, which are registered societies.

Question 4

The objective of _____ is to increase green cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and improve quality of existing green cover on another 5 mha, improve eco-system services like carbon sequestration, hydrological services and biodiversity and provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non-timber forest produces (NTFPs).

- a. Green India Mission
- b. Greening India Mission

Answer: a



Question 5

India has been ranked ____ among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) – 2018. This report has been released on 23 January, 2018 on the sidelines of World Economic Forum meet in Davos.

- a. 187
- b. 177
- c. 105
- d. 7

Answer: b

- This index has been developed by Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and the Joint Research Centre.
- The index is calculated on the basis of data gathered from 24 individual metrics of environmental performance. These 24 individual metrics are then aggregated into a hierarchy that begins with 10 major environmental issues categories - Air Quality (household solid fuels and PM2.5 exposure), Water & Sanitation, Heavy Metals (lead exposure), Biodiversity & Habitat Forests (tree cover loss), Fisheries, Climate & Energy (CO₂, Methane and Black Carbon Emissions), Air Pollution (SO₂ and NO_x emission), Water resources (wastewater treatment), Agriculture (sustainable practices)
- Top 5 countries are Switzerland, France, Denmark, Malta and Sweden
- Worst performing countries are Nepal, India, Congo, Bangladesh, Burundi

Passage 4

India ranks 129 out of 189 countries on the 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) — up one slot from the 130th position last year — according to the Human Development Report (HDR) released by the ___A___ on Monday.

The HDI measures average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development — ___B___, ___c___ and ___D___.

___E___, Switzerland, Ireland occupied the top three positions in that order.

Germany is placed fourth along with Hong Kong, and Australia secured the fifth rank on the global ranking.

The report notes that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030 as per the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It forecasts that it may take 202 years to close the gender gap in economic opportunity — one of the three indicators of the GII.

The report also highlights that new forms of inequalities will manifest in future through climate change and technological transformation which have the potential to deepen existing social and economic fault lines.

Question 1

Fill in the blank A.

- a. United Nations Development Program
- b. UN Population Prospects
- c. UN HRC
- d. WHO



Answer: a



Question 2

The blanks B,C and D are:

- a. Education, health, mortality rate
- b. TFR, Literacy Rate, Mortality Rate
- c. Level of educational attainment,
- d. life expectancy, education and per capita income.

Answer: d



Question 3

The best performing country in HDI Index is E. Identify.

- a. Switzerland
- b. Norway
- c. Finland
- d. Sweden



Answer: c



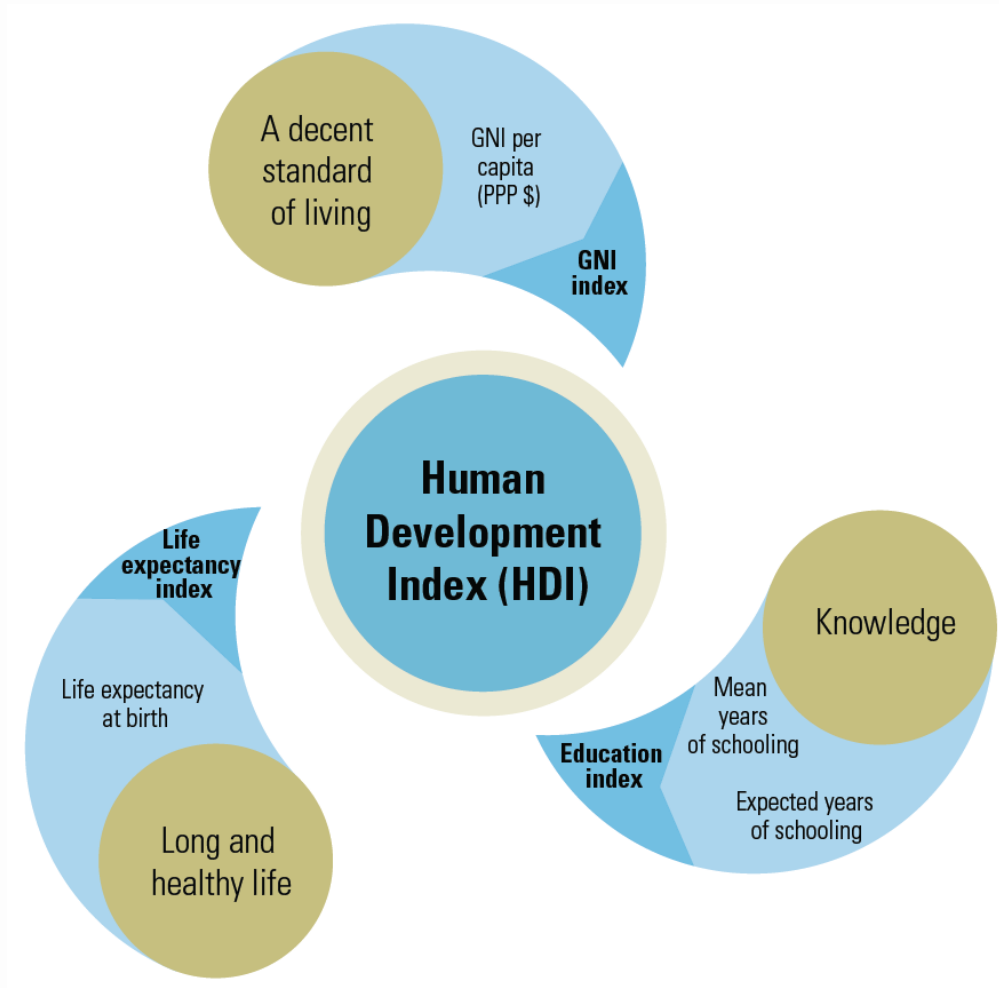
Question 4

The HDI index adopted by UNDP was developed by ____ in 1990:

- a. Abhijit Mukherjee
- b. Mahbub ul Haq
- c. Adam Smith
- d. Keynes



Answer: b



Question 5

The focus of HDR Report is _____.

- a. Equal rights for all
- b. Human development for all
- c. Equality in resources
- d. Inequality in Human Development

Answer: d

HDI emphasizes that **people and their capabilities** should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.

The **other indices** that form the part of the 2019 Report are:

- Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI),
- Gender Development Index (GDI),
- Gender Inequality Index (GII) and
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Extradition

- It is the formal process of one state surrendering an individual to another state for prosecution or punishment for crimes committed in the requesting country's jurisdiction.
- This is generally enabled through a bilateral or multilateral treaty.
- The legal basis for extradition with countries with whom India does not have an Extradition treaty is provided by **Section 3 (4) of the Indian Extradition Act, 1962.**

Extraditable Offences

- An extraditable offence means an **offence punishable under the laws of both the Parties with imprisonment for a period of one year or more severe punishment.**
- **Offences relating to taxation, or revenue or is one of a fiscal character** also fall within the scope of this Treaty.

Mandatory Grounds for Refusal Under the Treaty:

The offence involved is a **political offence**.

- The offence is a **military offence**.
- The request for prosecution has been made on **account of his race, sex, religion, nationality or political opinion**.

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Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Significance
June 29	International Day of Tropics	Its main goal is to raise public awareness of the tropical areas, the challenges they face, and the emerging opportunities they present.
June 29	National Statistics Day	To create public awareness among people about the importance of statistics in daily life and in the process of planning and development. The theme for the 13th edition of the day is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) .
June 30	International Day of Parliamentarism	It is observed every year on June 30 across the globe with an aim to recognise role of parliaments in national plans and strategies and in ensuring greater