

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Super cyclone

1. These are storms which get rapidly intensified and attain a speed much more than an extremely severe cyclonic storm
2. Unlike normal cyclone, these storms are formed due to the high-pressure systems that form over warm tropical waters
3. So far, India has never witnessed an occurrence of super cyclone

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 2 only

Ans: B

Explanation

What is a super cyclone?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Storms which **get rapidly intensified and attain a speed much more than an extremely severe cyclonic storm's** wind speed is considered as Super Cyclone.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** These storms are formed due to the **low-pressure systems** that form **over warm tropical waters**. Super cyclone refers to tropical storm, **where wind speeds cross 220kmph**
- These super cyclones are formed over **large bodies of warm water**, where the storm gains intensity from the water evaporation from the surface of the ocean.

Examples of super cyclones

Statement 3 is incorrect

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- The previous cyclone which hit India before this was the **Odisha cyclone of 1999**. The 1999 cyclone was considered to be the **strongest cyclone seen in the North Indian Ocean** after 1991 Bangladesh's cyclone.
- The 1999 Super cyclone in Odisha struck the coast of Odisha with a height of 26 feet. Approximately **275,000 homes were destroyed** and it affected another 19.5 million people.
- ❖ **Super Cyclone 'Amphan'** became the **strongest storm ever recorded in the Bay of Bengal** on May 18, after **intensifying with sustained wind speeds** of up to 270 kilometers per hour (165 miles per hours).
- ❖ **Cyclone 'Amphan' is set to make landfall** on the coast of West Bengal as it has moved closer to the mainland. **Lakhs of people in West Bengal and Odisha have been evacuated** from vulnerable areas and shifted to safer locations.

Tropical Cyclone

- A tropical cyclone is a **rapidly rotating storm system** characterized by a **low-pressure center**, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, and a **spiral arrangement of thunderstorms** that produce heavy rain.
- Depending on its location and strength, a tropical cyclone is **referred to by different names**, including hurricane, typhoon and simply cyclone
- A mature tropical cyclone is **characterised by the strong spirally circulating wind** around the centre which is called the **eye**. The eye is an area with calm weather descending air. It is characterized by **light winds and clear skies**.
- Around the eye is the eyewall, where there is a **strong spiralling rise of air** to a greater height reaching the tropopause. The wind reaches maximum velocity in this region and torrential rain occurs here.

Landfall

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- A tropical cyclone is classified as making **landfall when the center of the storm moves across the coast**; in strong tropical cyclones this is when the eye moves over land.
- This is where **most of the damage occurs** within a mature tropical cyclone, such as a typhoon or hurricane, as most of the **damaging aspects of these systems are concentrated near the eyewall**.
- Such effects include the **peaking of the storm surge**, the core of strong winds coming ashore, and heavy flooding rains.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/cyclone-amphan-bengal-kolkata-odisha-live-updates-weather-forecast-6417477/>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/north/story/super-cyclone-phailin-odisha-cyclone-1999-214015-2013-10-11>

<https://www.business-standard.com/about/what-is-super-cyclone#collapse>

2. 'SWAYAM', an initiative of the Government of India, aims at

- a) Promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas
- b) Providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs
- c) Promoting the education and health of adolescent girls
- d) Providing affordable and quality education to the citizens for free

Ans: D

Explanation

About SWAYAM

- SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and **designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality**.
- The objective of this effort is to take the **best teaching learning resources to all**, including the most disadvantaged. SWAYAM seeks to **bridge the digital divide for**

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students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

- This is done through a platform that **facilitates hosting of all the courses**, taught in classrooms from **Class 9 till post-graduation** to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.
- All the courses are interactive, **prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to any learner**. More than 1,000 specially chosen faculty and teachers from across the country have participated in preparing these courses.
- In order to ensure that best quality content is produced and delivered, nine National Coordinators have been appointed. They are:
 - AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) for self-paced and international courses
 - NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) for Engineering
 - UGC (University Grants Commission) for non technical post-graduation education
 - CEC (Consortium for Educational Communication) for under-graduate education
 - NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) for school education
 - NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) for school education
 - IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) for out-of-school students
 - IIMB (Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore) for management studies
 - NITTTR (National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research) for Teacher Training programme
- ❖ Recently, the Union Finance Minister has announced **several initiatives to boost education sector**
- A comprehensive initiative called PM **e-VIDYA will be launched which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education.**

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- This will enable multi-mode access to education, and includes: DIKSHA (one nation-one digital platform) which will now **become the nation's digital infrastructure** for providing quality e-content in school education for all the states/UTs;
- **SWAYAM online courses in MOOCS format for school and higher education** and study material for the differently abled developed on **Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY)** and in sign language on NIOS website

<https://swayam.gov.in/about>

3. It is a tiger reserve located in the state of Maharashtra. It is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park. It predominantly consists of tropical dry deciduous forest with dense woodlands. The climber kach kujali (velvet bean) found here is a medicinal plant used to treat Parkinson's disease.

The above description refers to?

- a) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- b) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve
- c) Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve
- d) Panna Tiger Reserve

Ans: C

Explanation

- Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in **Chandrapur district of Maharashtra**. It is Maharashtra's **oldest and largest national park**. Created in 1995, the Reserve includes the Tadoba National Park and the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Tadoba reserve is a predominantly **southern tropical dry deciduous forest** with dense woodlands comprising about eighty seven per cent of the protected area.

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- Teak is the predominant tree species. Other deciduous trees found in this area include ain (crocodile bark), bija, dhauda, hald, salai, semal and tendu
- Patches of grasses are found throughout the reserve. **Bamboo thickets grow throughout the reserve in abundance.** The climber kach kujali (velvet bean) found here is a medicinal plant used to treat Parkinson's disease. The **leaves of bheria are used as an insect repellent** and bija is a medicinal gum.
- Apart from the Bengal tiger, Tadoba Tiger Reserve is home to other mammals, including: **Indian leopards, sloth bears, gaur, nilgai, dhole**, striped hyena, small Indian civet, jungle cats etc
- ❖ A new prey and predator estimation in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur district has found the **presence of 115 tigers and 151 leopards** inside the 1,727 sq km of the reserve

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/prey-predator-estimation-presence-of-115-tigers-151-leopards-in-tatr-says-report-6418122/>

4. The Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities is an initiative which enables cities in India to gradually evolve into a model city with progressive improvements in their overall cleanliness. It is an initiative of

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI)
- d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Ans: B

Explanation

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- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA) has **launched the Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage Free cities** in January 2018. The star rating conditions have been designed in a way as to **enable cities to gradually evolve into a model (7-star) city**, with progressive improvements in their **overall cleanliness**.
- The star rating conditions are based on **25 key parameters** across the solid waste management spectrum and have been designed to both **help cities assess their progress** while encouraging them to move towards a better rating thereby improving their cities' overall cleanliness and aesthetics.
- The Star Rating is supported by a **robust verification mechanism** to ensure transparency and standardisation. Cities are required to carry out **self-assessment** and self-verification for achieving a certain star rating
- This self-declaration will be further **verified through an independent third-party agency** appointed by MoHUA for 1-star, 3-star, 5-star and 7-star garbage free ratings.
- Since **citizen participation** is a very crucial component of this survey, social media and other traditional media channels will be used strategically at both national, state and city levels in order to educate citizens about the objectives of the survey and survey methodology
- With a vision is to make **all 4,377 statutory towns/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** achieve "Garbage Free" status wherein at any point of time in the day, no garbage or litter is found in any public, commercial or residential locations (including storm drains and water bodies) in the city
- In order to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate the cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness. **A SEVEN STAR rating Protocol is defined for Garbage Free cities**, which builds on aspirations of cities to progress towards higher standards of "Swachhata"

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❖ The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has released the Star rating of garbage-free cities for the assessment year 2019-2020. A total of 141 cities have been rated — six of them 5-star, 65 of three-star, 70 one-star

❖ **5 Star Cities list is given below**

- Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)
- Rajkot (Gujarat)
- Surat (Gujarat)
- Mysore (Karnataka)
- Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
- Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)

<https://gfcstarrating.org/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajkot-indore-navi-mumbai-among-centres-5-star-garbage-free-cities-delhi-3-star/article31624089.ece>

5. Arrange the following capitals of Southeast Asian countries as one proceeds from south to north?

1. Phnom Penh
2. Kuala Lumpur
3. Bangkok

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 2-3-1
- b) 1-2-3
- c) 2-1-3
- d) 3-2-1

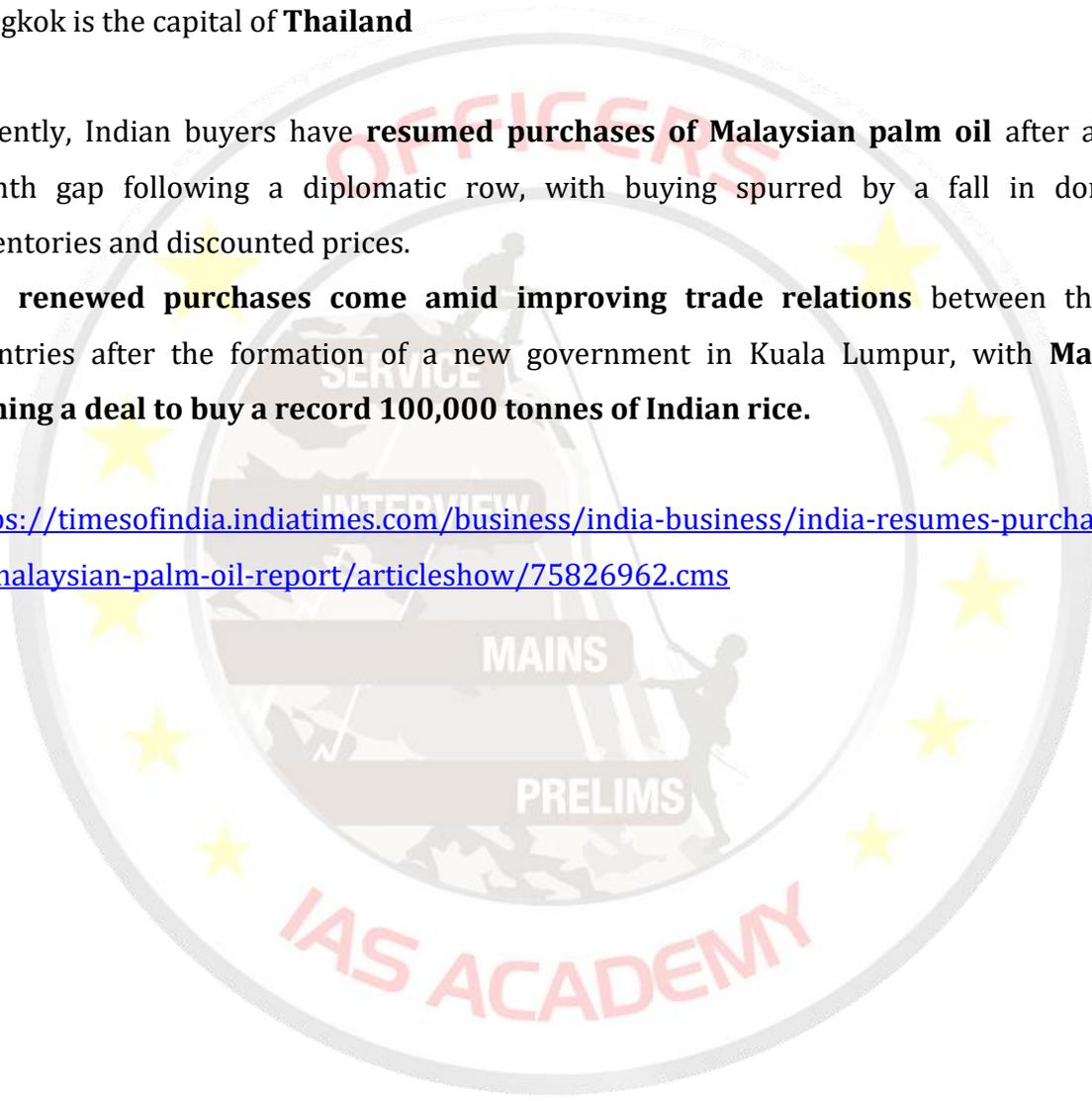
Ans: C

Explanation

- Phnom Penh is the capital of **Cambodia**
- Kuala Lumpur is the capital of **Malaysia**
- Bangkok is the capital of **Thailand**

- ❖ Recently, Indian buyers have **resumed purchases of Malaysian palm oil** after a four-month gap following a diplomatic row, with buying spurred by a fall in domestic inventories and discounted prices.
- ❖ The **renewed purchases come amid improving trade relations** between the two countries after the formation of a new government in Kuala Lumpur, with **Malaysia signing a deal to buy a record 100,000 tonnes of Indian rice.**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-resumes-purchases-of-malaysian-palm-oil-report/articleshow/75826962.cms>



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