

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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07/10

1. Consider the following statements about Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve

1. It is located in Western Ghats
2. It is the first biosphere reserve in India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was the first biosphere reserve in India established in the year 1986.** It is located in the Western Ghats and includes 2 of the 10 bio-geographical provinces of India. Wide ranges of ecosystems and species diversity are found in this region. Thus, it was a natural choice for the premier biosphere reserve of the country. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve falls under the biogeographic region of the Malabar rain forest. The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wyanaad Wildlife Sanctuary Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley are the protected areas present within this reserve.
- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is one of the critical catchment areas of peninsular India. Many of the major tributaries of the river Cauvery like the Bhavani, Moyar, Kabini and other rivers like Chaliyar, Punampuzha, etc., have their source and catchment areas within the reserve boundary. Many hydroelectric power projects are present in the Kundah, Bhavani and Moyar basins.
- The sholas and grasslands play a very important role in retaining water and supplying it to these streams. A drastic decline in the sholas and grasslands is one of the reasons for the recent water scarcity in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/residents-fear-sillahalla-hydro-electric-project-will-lead-to-loss-of-farmlands-impact-wildlife/article31970473.ece>

2. The term “Event Horizon”, sometimes seen in news is related to

- A. New turning point in History
- B. Marking of a new key species
- C. Sunrise/Sunset
- D. Black holes

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **A black hole** is an astronomical object with a gravitational pull so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape it. A black hole's "surface," called its **event horizon**, defines the boundary where the velocity needed to escape exceeds the speed of light, which is the speed limit of the cosmos.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/nobel-for-black-hole-physics-6705863/>

3. Consider the following statements about Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan

1. It covers all the Indian states
2. Aspirational Districts are also added in this

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The scheme will empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens who have returned to their home states due to the Covid. **A total of 116 districts across six states**, namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha (where maximum migrant workers have returned) **have been chosen**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Aspirational Districts are those districts in India which are affected by poor socio-economic indicators. **The chosen districts include 27 Aspirational Districts.**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/migrant-workers-crisis-coronavirus-employment-mgnrega-6705781/>

4. Which of the following wars marked the end of Dutch East India Company's dominance in India?

- A. Battle of Ambur
- B. Battle of Swally

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- C. Battle of Chaul
- D. Battle of Colachel

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Colachel was the location of the **battle** between **the Travancore** (Anglicised form of Thiruvithaamkoor) King Marthanda Varma (1729–1758) forces led by Anantha Padmanaban Nadar **and the Dutch East India Company** forces led by Admiral Eustachius De Lannoy on 10 August 1741. It was the **first time in Indian history that an Asian country defeated a European naval force**
- Twenty-eight high level Dutch officers, including Admiral D'lennoy, were captured. The defeat of the Dutch in Colachael was the turning point of the Travancore-Dutch War. D'lennoy went on to serve the Travancore kingdom for the next two decades and was promoted to the post of the Valiya kappithan (Senior Admiral) of the Travancore forces. He modernised the Travancore army, and built the Nedumkottai, a line of fortifications in the north of the kingdom, which held up the army of Tipu Sultan in 1791, during his ill-fated invasion of Travancore. D'lennoy is buried in the Udayagiri Fort, also known as Dillanai kottai (D'lennoy's fort)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/conservation-work-just-in-time-saves-udayagiri-fort/article32786736.ece>

5. Which of the following countries is the largest consumer of Gold?

- A. China
- B. India
- C. USA
- D. UK

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- **China** consumes roughly 984 metric tons of gold per year and India consumes approximately 849 metric tons of gold per year. **India is the second largest** consumer of the precious metal
- <https://www.thehindu.com/business/gold-imports-plunge-59-to-4-month-low/article32786473.ece>