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1. It is a Wildlife Sanctuary located in the state of Kerala. It is now an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It is part of the Deccan Plateau and the vegetation is predominantly of the south Indian moist deciduous teak forests. Also, the sanctuary has pastures of the west-coast semi-evergreen trees. The wildlife sanctuary comes under Project Elephant. It holds the largest tiger population in the State.

The above description refers to which of the following Wildlife Sanctuary ?

- a) Mudumalai
- b) Bandipur
- c) Nagarhole
- d) Wayanad

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is an animal **sanctuary in Wayanad, Kerala**. It has an extent of 344.44 km² with four ranges namely **Sulthan Bathery, Muthanga, Kurichiat and Tholpetty**
- Established in 1973, the sanctuary is **now an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**. It is bounded by the protected area network of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka in the northeast, and on the southeast by Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu.
- It is **part of the Deccan Plateau and the vegetation** is predominantly of the south Indian moist deciduous teak forests. Also, the sanctuary has pastures of the west-coast semi-evergreen trees. The wildlife sanctuary comes under Protect Elephant and one can spot a herd of elephants roaming in the area.
- Wayanad district has the **largest population of Adivasi in Kerala**. Scheduled tribes here include Paniyas, Kurumas, Adiyans, Kurichiyas, Ooralis and Kattunaikkans.
- A monitoring programme of the Forest Department for 2017-18 has found that the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS), **holds the largest tiger population in the State**.

2. With reference to the International Solar Alliance, consider the following statements.

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1. It is a coalition of solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. The ISA is a treaty-based intergovernmental international organization that doesn't put any legal obligations on member countries.
3. UN member countries which are located beyond the Tropics can also join the ISA as "Partner Countries" with the right to vote.

Which of the above statements is\are correct?

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

Answer:B

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a coalition of solar resource rich countries **lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn** to specifically address energy needs by harnessing solar energy.

The Alliance aims to provide a platform for prospective member countries to collaborate and address the identified gaps through a common agreed approach.

ISA has been envisioned as a dedicated platform that aims to contribute towards the common goal of increasing utilization and promote solar energy and solar applications in the prospective member countries **to help the world transform to a low-carbon and greener society.**

Statement 2 is correct: The ISA Framework Agreement has a total of 14 articles.

There are **no targets or legal obligations imposed on member-countries.**

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Members take coordinated actions through Programmes and activities launched on a voluntary basis, aimed at better harmonizing and aggregating demand for, inter alia, solar finance, solar technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

- UN member countries which are **located beyond the Tropics can join the ISA as “Partner Countries”**.
- Organizations that have potential to help the ISA achieve its objectives including regional intergovernmental economic integration organizations constituted by sovereign states at least one of which is a member of the ISA can join the ISA as a “Partner Organization”.
- United Nations including its organs can join the ISA as “Strategic Partners”.

Structure of the ISA and How are decisions taken?

- The ISA will have a two-tier structure – the Assembly and the Secretariat. Each member-country is represented on the Assembly, which meets annually at the Ministerial level at the seat of the ISA. The Assembly may also meet under special circumstances.
- The Assembly makes all necessary decisions regarding the functioning of the ISA, including the selection of the Director General and approval of the operating budget.
- Each Member has one vote in the Assembly.
- **Partner Countries, Partner Organizations, Strategic Partners, and Observers may participate without having the right to vote.**

Why in the news?

India and France re-elected as President and Co- President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the third assembly of the ISA.

Source: <http://isolaralliance.org/Objective.aspx>

<http://isolaralliance.org/docs/ISA%20FAQs.pdf>

3. Consider the following about STARS programme

- 1) It aims to improve the quality and governance of school education through the Samagra Shiksha in all the states.
- 2) It is aided by the World Bank.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The STARS Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing and evaluating interventions with direct linkages to **improved education outcomes**. It aims to improve the quality and governance of school education through the Samagra Shiksha 6 states namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha. (not all the states) Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- The total project cost is 5,718 crore rupees with the **financial support of the World Bank** amounting to 500 million US dollar. **Statement 2 is correct**.
- The STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Why in the news?

- The Union Cabinet has approved World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States -STARS project.

4. Which of the following is/are advantages of 5G technology?

- 1) Faster speed
- 2) Ultra Low latency

3) Increased connectivity

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The fifth generation of mobile communication networks is 5g technology.

5G is projected to bring three main benefits:

Faster speed: Data transfer speeds are projected to be about 10 times higher with 5G than is possible with 4G. That means significantly faster transmission of images and videos. With 4G/LTE, downloading a high-definition movie might take about 10 minutes. With 5G, it should take less than a second.

Shorter delays: Though it's not always noticeable, there is often a brief lag in time from when data is sent to when it's received. 5G should reduce this so-called latency, making it possible, for example, to watch high-speed virtual reality video with no delays or glitches.

Increased connectivity: Cell towers equipped with 5G technology would have greatly increased capacity over 4G/LTE. That means more people — and more devices — should be able to communicate at the same time.

Hence all three are advantages of 5G technology.

5. Consider the following statements about National Rural Livelihood Mission

- 1) National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- 2) The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income.
- 3) It is a Central sector scheme aided in part through investment support by the World Bank.

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Select the correct answers using the code below

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

About:

- Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in 2011.**

Aim:

- The Mission aims at **creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor**, enabling them to **increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements** and improved access to financial services.

Coverage;

- NRLM set out with an agenda to cover **7 Crore rural poor households**, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through **self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a **period of 8-10 years.**

Features:

- The poor would be facilitated to **achieve increased access to rights**, entitlements and public services, diversified risk and better social indicators of empowerment.
- DAY-NRLM believes in harnessing the innate capabilities of the poor and complements them with capacities (information, knowledge, skills, tools, finance and collectivization) to participate in the growing economy of the country.

Funding:

- **Central sector scheme** aided in part through investment support by the **World Bank.**

In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).

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