

1. Consider the following statements with respect to organic farming

1. Usage of organic manure and natural pesticides instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
2. Genetic modification is done to increase the yield of the crop
3. It aims to protect the long term fertility of soil by encouraging soil biological activity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19.) Ans : B

Explanation

- Organic farming is a **method of farming system** which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as **to keep the soil alive and in good health** by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, aquatic wastes) and other biological materials along with **beneficial microbes (biofertilizers)** to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment.
- **Statement 1 is correct** : In this type of farming, **organic manure and natural pesticides are used instead of chemicals.**
- **statement 2 Is incorrect** : **No genetic modification is done** to increase the yield of the crop.

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- **Statement 3 Is correct** : Protecting the **long term fertility of soils by maintaining organic matter levels, encouraging soil biological activity**, and careful mechanical intervention
- Nitrogen self-sufficiency through the **use of legumes and biological nitrogen fixation**, as well as effective **recycling of organic materials** including crop residues and livestock manures
- Weed, disease and pest control **relying primarily on crop rotations, natural predators, diversity, organic manuring, resistant varieties** and limited (preferably minimal) thermal, biological and chemical intervention
- The **extensive management of livestock**, paying full regard to their evolutionary adaptations, behavioural needs and animal welfare issues with respect to nutrition, housing, health, breeding and rearing

Why in the news?

With the entire Lakshadweep group of islands being declared an organic agricultural area, the island administration is eyeing an expansion of the traditional business in coconuts and coconut products.

http://agritech.tnau.ac.in/org_farm/orgfarm_introduction.html

2. Consider the following statements with respect to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

1. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
2. It was initiated to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
3. Recently, WADA banned Russia from major international sporting events for four years, on charges of tampering with doping-related reports.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

WADA – World Antidoping Agency

- Established in **1999** as an **international independent agency**
- Its key activities include **scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code)** – the document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.
- The **38-member Foundation Board** is **WADA's supreme decision-making body**.
- It is composed equally of representatives from the **Olympic Movement** and **Governments**.
- The **Foundation Board delegates day-to-day running of the Agency** to the **Executive Committee**, WADA's ultimate policy-making body.
- The **12-member Executive Committee** is also composed **equally of representatives from the Olympic Movement and Governments**
- **WADA's Presidency** – a volunteer position – **alternates between the Olympic Movement and Governments**.

CAS

- CAS is an institution **independent of any sports organization**, which provides for services to facilitate the **settlement of sport-related disputes**, through arbitration or mediation.
- **WADA has a right of appeal to CAS** for doping cases under the jurisdiction of organizations that have implemented the Code.
- It is **located at Lausanne, Switzerland**. **Generally**, an arbitration is expected to take **six to 12 months**, which means that regardless of whether an appeal is filed, Russia will not be present at the Winter Youth Olympic Games that starts in Lausanne, Switzerland from January 9, 2020.

India:

- In India, WADA rules have been enforced by the Government-run **National Anti-Doping Agency**.
- It is mandated to conduct in-competition and out-of-competition tests on the athletes in its registered testing pool.

Why in the news?

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- Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports reiterated that India will provide all support to the World AntiDoping Agency to ensure integrity of sport in a webinar held recently on Anti-Doping and Sports Science.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1678848>

3. Consider the following pairs

Economic Integration	Meaning
1. Free Trade Area	- Common external tariffs
2. Common Market	- Factors of production are mobile among members
3. Economic Union	- Integration of monetary and fiscal policies

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: B

Explanation

- Economic integration is an **arrangement among nations** that typically includes the **reduction or elimination of trade barriers** and the coordination of monetary and fiscal policies. Economic integration aims to reduce costs for both consumers and producers and to **increase trade between the countries involved in the agreement**.
- Economic integration takes the form of Free Trade Area, Customs Union, Common Market and Economic Union.
 - A **free trade area** is the region encompassing a **trade bloc** whose member countries have signed a **free-trade agreement (FTA)**. Such agreements involve cooperation between at least two countries to **reduce/abolish trade barriers**. **Example:** The South Asian Free Trade Area (**SAFTA**)

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- A **customs union** is defined as a type of trade block which is composed of a **free trade area with no tariffs among members** (zero tariffs among members) with a **common external tariff**.
- A **common market** has the same features as a customs union but in addition, **factors of production (labour, capital and technology) are mobile among members**. Restrictions on immigration and cross-border investment are abolished. **Example:** European Common Market (ECM)
- An **economic union** is the last step in an economic integration process. In addition to free movement of goods, services and production factors, it also **requires integration of economic policies, both monetary and fiscal**. Under an economic union, members harmonize monetary policies, taxation and government spending. **Example:** European Union

4. Forest Fires pose a threat not only to the forest wealth but also to the entire regime to fauna and flora seriously disturbing the bio-diversity and the ecology and environment. Considering this, which of the following reasons could be the causes for Forest Fires?

1. Lightning
2. Low Atmospheric pressure
3. High Humidity
4. Jhum Cultivation
5. Swaying Bamboos

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1,3,4, and 5 only
- b) 1,2 and 4 only
- c) 1,4 and 5 only
- d) 1,2,3,4 and 5

Answer: C

Explanation:

The most common hazard in forests is forest fire. Forests fires are as old as the forests themselves. They pose a threat not only to the forest wealth but also to the entire regime to fauna and flora seriously disturbing the biodiversity, ecology and environment of a region. Forest fire causes imbalances in nature and endangers biodiversity by reducing faunal and floral wealth.

Causes of Forest Fire

Forest fires are caused by Natural causes as well as Man made causes

- **Natural causes-** Many forest fires start from natural causes such as lightning which set trees on fire. However, rain extinguishes such fires without causing much damage. **High atmospheric temperatures and dryness (low humidity) offer favorable circumstances for a fire to start.**
- **Man made causes-** Fire is caused when a source of fire like naked flame, cigarette or bidi, electric spark or any source of ignition comes into contact with inflammable material.

Causes of forest fires can be divided into two broad categories: environmental (which are beyond control) and human related (which are controllable).

Environmental causes are largely related to climatic conditions such as temperature, wind speed and direction, level of moisture in soil and atmosphere and duration of dry spells. Other natural causes are the **friction of bamboos swaying due to high wind velocity** and rolling stones that result in sparks setting off fires in highly inflammable leaf litter on the forest floor.

Human related causes result from human activity as well as methods of forest management. These can be intentional or unintentional, for example:

- graziers and gatherers of various forest products starting small fires to obtain good grazing grass as well as to facilitate gathering of minor forest produce like flowers of Madhuca indica and leaves of Diospyros melanoxylon
- **the centuries old practice of shifting cultivation (especially in the North-Eastern region of India and in parts of the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh).**
- the use of fires by villagers to ward off wild animals
- fires lit intentionally by people living around forests for recreation
- fires started accidentally by careless visitors to forests who discard cigarette butts.

Why in the news?

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) estimated that more than 60,000 koalas were killed, injured or displaced in Australian bushfires last summer.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/australias-black-summer-bushfires-harmed-more-than-60000-koalas-wwf/article33268123.ece>

5. Which of the following is/are objectives of One District One Product Scheme?

- 1) Preservation and development of local crafts
- 2) Increase in the incomes and local employment
- 3) Transforming the products in an artistic way
- 4) To connect the production with tourism
- 5) To resolve the issues of economic difference and regional imbalance.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1,2 and 3 only
- b) 1,2,3 and 5 only
- c) 1,3 and 4 only
- d) 1,2,3,4 and 5

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh** has initiated “One District, One Product” Scheme to **encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts of the state.**
- The scheme aims to capitalize the rich heritage of Uttar Pradesh by reviving them through **modernization and publicisation** to enhance the reach of these products
- ODOP is aimed at giving a **major push to traditional industries** synonymous with the respective districts of the state.

The main objectives of the One District One Product Programme of Uttar Pradesh are as follows:

- **Preservation and development of local crafts** / skills and promotion of the art.
- **Increase in the incomes and local employment** (resulting in decline in migration for employment).
- Improvement in product quality and skill development.
- **Transforming the products in an artistic way** (through packaging, branding).
- **To connect the production with tourism** (Live demo and sales outlet – gifts and souvenir).
- To resolve the issues of economic difference and regional imbalance.
- To take the concept of ODOP to national and international level after successful implementation at State level.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1656130>

<http://odopup.in/en/page/objective>

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