

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

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Consider the following statements.

1. The Gangetic river dolphin can only live in freshwater.
2. They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds.
3. It is categorized as “Endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) in the Red Data Book.

Which of the above given statements is/ are correct?

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

The Gangetic river dolphins were officially discovered in 1801 and are one of the oldest creatures in the world along with some species of turtles, crocodiles and sharks, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). They once lived in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh, but are now mostly extinct from many of its early distribution ranges. Today, their numbers have dwindled mainly because of direct killing, habitat fragmentation by dams and barrages and indiscriminate fishing.

**Statement 1 and 2 are correct.**

The Ganges river dolphin can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind. They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds, which bounces off of fish and other prey, enabling them to “see” an image in their mind. They are frequently found alone or in small groups, and generally a mother and calf travel together.

**Statement 3 is correct.**

Dolphins have been categorised as ‘**Endangered**’ on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List. The Gangetic dolphins have also been included in **Schedule -I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, which means they have the highest degree of protection against hunting.

Why in the news?

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A video of a group of men and boys in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh district beating to death a Gangetic river dolphin surfaced on social media recently.

Killing the Gangetic River Dolphin is a punishable offence under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

#### 2. Consider the following statements about Institutions of Eminence

- 1) Under Institutions of Eminence, both public and private institutions are identified to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions.
- 2) University Grants Commission (UGC) inspection shall not apply to Institutions of Eminence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Both the statements are correct**

**About Institutions of Eminence scheme:**

- Institutes of Eminence (IoE) is a recognition scheme for higher education institutes in India, set by the University Grants Commission.
- Institutions of Eminence scheme has been launched in order to implement the commitment of the Government to empower the Higher Educational Institutions and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions.
- Both public and ten private institutions identified emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.

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- This will enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians.

#### Objectives of the Scheme:

- To provide for higher education leading to excellence and innovations in such branches of knowledge as may be deemed fit at post-graduate, graduate and research degree levels and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions;
- To provide for high quality teaching and research and for the advancement of knowledge
- To pay special attention to teaching and research in unique and emerging areas of knowledge, including interdisciplinary areas, which are regarded as important for strategic needs of the country but are not being pursued by conventional or existing institutions so far, and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions.
- To aim to be rated interNationally for its teaching and research as a top hundred Institution in the world over time.

#### Key Benefits of Institutions of Eminence

1. Government Institutions to get additional funding upto 1000 Cr.
2. The selected Institutions under IoE shall have complete academic and administrative autonomy.
3. Freedom to enter into academic collaborations with other Institutions within the country.
4. Freedom to have its own transparent merit based system for admission of students.
5. Freedom to admit additionally foreign students on merit subject to a maximum of 30% of the strength of admitted domestic students.
6. Freedom to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction.
7. **UGC Inspection shall not apply to Institutions of Eminence.**

**Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Why in the news?**

Indian universities and colleges with the Institutions of Eminence (IOEs) tag, which include several IITs, will now be able to set up campuses in foreign countries with the University Grants Commission (UGC) issuing fresh guidelines on the same.

The new guidelines have been issued in line with the new National Education Policy (NEP) as per which foreign universities will be allowed to set up campuses in India and top Indian institutes in foreign countries.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-institutions-of-eminence-can-now-set-up-campus-in-foreign-countries/article33535784.ece?homepage=true>

**3. For which of the following Public Health Emergency of International Concern has been declared by the World Health Organisation so far?**

- 1) H5N1 (Bird Flu)
- 2) H1N1 (Swine Flu)
- 3) Polio
- 4) Ebola

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Public Health Emergency of International Concern** is defined as an extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response.
- A PHEIC is meant to **mobilize international response to an outbreak**. It's an opportunity for the **World Health Organization**, with guidance from its **International Health Regulations Emergency Committee**, to implement "**non-binding but practically & politically significant measures that can address travel, trade, quarantine, screening, treatment**."

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- The procedures to declare a PHEIC were implemented in 2005, as a response to the outbreaks of SARS and H5N1 (bird flu) in the early 2000s.
- Recently WHO declared the Novel Coronavirus outbreak as PHEIC.

### The International Health Regulations (2005)

- IHR (2005), represents a binding international legal agreement involving 196 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of the WHO.
- Their aim is to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.

Six emergencies have been declared since then:

- H1N1 virus (better known as a strain of "swine flu") that caused an influenza pandemic (2009),
- West Africa's Ebola outbreak (2014-2016),
- Polio (2014),
- Zika virus (2016),
- Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2019), and the
- current new coronavirus outbreak (starting at the end of 2019).

**The coronavirus outbreak is the sixth time an emergency has been declared.**

4. It is a long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas. It is a transboundary lake that is expanded between India and China for almost 134 kms. During winter, the lake freezes completely, despite being saline water.

**The above description refers to?**

- a) Tso Moriri lake
- b) Pangong Tso lake
- c) Wular lake

d) Chandra Taal lake

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

**Pangong Tso lake**

- Pangong Tso is a **long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) lake** situated at a height of more than **14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas**.
- The western end of Pangong Tso lies 54 km to the southeast of Leh. The 134 km-long lake sprawls over 604 sq km in the shape of a boomerang, and is 6 km wide at its broadest point.
- Pangong is a **transboundary lake** that is expanded between India and China for almost 134 kms. Approximately **60% of the length of the lake lies within the Tibetan Autonomous Region**.

During **winter the lake freezes completely, despite being saline water**. It is **not a part of the Indus river basin area** and geographically a separate landlocked river basin

**Strategic significance**

- **The Line of Actual Control (LAC) cuts through the lake**, but India and China do not agree on its exact location.
- As things stand, a **45 km-long western portion of the lake is in Indian control**, while the rest is under China's control.
- Most of the **clashes between the two armies occur in the disputed portion** of the lake.
- The difference in perception over where the LAC lies on the northern bank of the lake, makes this **contested terrain**.
- In 1999, when the **Army unit from the area was moved to Kargil** for Operation Vijay, China took the opportunity to **build 5 km of road inside Indian territory** along the lake's bank.

**Line of Actual Control (LAC)**

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- The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is a **demarcation line that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory** in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir
- It is to be noted that this **border is not a legally recognised international boundary**, but rather it is the practical boundary.
- Conventionally, India considers the Johnson line of 1865, marked by a civil servant W.H. Johnson, which put **Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- On the other hand, **China recognizes the Macartney-Macdonald Line** as the actual boundary which puts **Aksai Chin in Xinjiang region of China**

5. The 'Sahel Region', sometimes mentioned in the news, is located in which of the following?

- a) South-East Asia
- b) Arctic polar
- c) Caribbean islands
- d) North Africa

**Ans: D**

#### Explanation

**Africa's Sahel**, a region running across the breadth of the continent, **between the Sahara in the north and the Sudanian Savanna in the south**, has become the latest battleground between the **Islamic State and al-Qaeda**.