

1.Consider the following statements with regards to vaccine hesitancy

- 1) Vaccine hesitancy refers to the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services.
- 2) Vaccine hesitancy is one of the greatest threat to human health which finds its place in ten global threats by WHO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans-C

Explanation:

As defined by WHO, Vaccine hesitancy is a “delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services. Hence statement 1 is correct.

More than 90% of countries in the world is facing the situation of vaccine hesitancy.

Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective ways of avoiding disease – it currently prevents 2-3 million deaths a year, and a further 1.5 million could be avoided if global coverage of vaccinations improved.

According to WHO report, **Vaccine hesitancy is on the WHO's list of 10 threats to global health in 2019. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

The 10 threats to Global Health includes:

- (i) Air pollution and Climate change
- (ii) Non communicable Diseases
- (iii) Global Influenza Pandemic
- (iv) Fragile and vulnerable settings

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- (v) Antimicrobial Resistance
- (vi) Ebola and other high threat pathogens
- (vii) Weak Primary Healthcare
- (viii) Vaccine hesitancy
- (ix) Dengue
- (x) HIV

2. Consider the following statements regarding "Aadi Mahotsav".

1. It is a major festival in Arunachal Pradesh as it marks the Tibetan New Year.
2. As a symbol of gesture cucumber is distributed to all.

Which of the following statements is /are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Aadi Mahotsav is a **National Tribal Festival being organized in New Delhi** by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED to celebrate, cherish and promote the spirit of tribal craft, culture, cuisine and commerce. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- The Mahotsav will consist of display and sale of items of tribal art and craft, tribal medicine & healers, tribal cuisine and display of tribal folk performance.
- Tribal artisans, chefs, folk dancers/musicians from 23 States of the country shall participate and provide a glimpse of their rich traditional culture.

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- The theme of the festival is: “A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce”. TRIFED essentially is to play the role of a ‘Service provider’ & ‘Market Developer’.
- As a symbol of gesture cucumber is not served. There is no such happening in this festival. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.

What is TRIFED ?

- TRIFED is Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). It was established in August 1987 by the then Ministry of Welfare, Government of India, under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 1984 (which has now been replaced by the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002).

Statement 1 refers to Losar festival which is a major festival in Arunachal Pradesh as it marks the Tibetan New Year.

3. India Innovation Index is released by which of the following?

- a) Niti Aayog
- b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- c) World Intellectual Property Organisation
- d) None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **NITI Aayog**, along with the Institute for Competitiveness, released the second edition of the **India Innovation Index** in a virtual event.
- The report examines the innovation capabilities and performance of the states and union territories.
- The first edition of the index was launched in October 2019.
- The innovation inputs were measured through **five enabler parameters, and the output through two performance parameters**.

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- While 'Human Capital', 'Investment', 'Knowledge Workers', 'Business Environment', 'Safety and Legal Environment' Were identified as enabler parameters, 'Knowledge Output' and 'Knowledge Diffusion' Were chosen as the performance parameters.
- In the '**Major States**' category, **Karnataka** continued to occupy the top position, while Maharashtra moved past Tamil Nadu to reach the second place.
- Telangana, Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab completed the top ten in that order.
- Karnataka's rank is attributable to its substantive number of venture capital deals, registered geographical indicators and information and communications technology exports.
- Karnataka's high Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow has also enhanced the innovation capabilities of the state.
- Four southern states—Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala—occupied the top five spots under the 'Major States' category this year.
- Overall, **Delhi** retained its first rank, while Chandigarh made a big leap since 2019 and landed in the second place this year.
- Under the 'North-Eastern/Hill States' category, Himachal Pradesh moved up from the second position to emerge as the top ranker this year, while 2019's top performer (in this category), Sikkim, slipped down to the fourth position.

4. National Green Tribunal (NGT) has jurisdiction over which of the following acts?

1. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
2. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
3. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
4. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer:B

Explanation

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on under the National **Green Tribunal Act 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and **conservation of forests** and other natural resources including **enforcement of any legal right relating to environment** and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It is a **specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle** environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall **provide speedy environmental justice** and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.
- The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include
 1. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
 2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
 3. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
 4. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
 5. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
 6. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
 7. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- Two important acts - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 **have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction.**

Why in the news?

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has recently directed various authorities to ensure compliance from the biomedical waste management facilities in the country.

5. Consider the following statements about Nitrogen fixation:

1. It is a process where Nitrogen in an inert form (N₂) is converted to an organic form.
2. Only viruses living in symbiotic relationships with plants help in nitrogen fixation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

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

Answer : A

Explanation

Atmospheric nitrogen occurs primarily in an inert form (N_2) that few organisms can use; therefore it must be converted to an organic – or fixed – form in a process called nitrogen fixation. Hence **Statement 1 is correct.**

Most atmospheric nitrogen is 'fixed' through biological processes.

First, nitrogen is deposited from the atmosphere into soils and surface waters, mainly through precipitation.

Once in the soils and surface waters, nitrogen undergoes a set of changes: its two nitrogen atoms separate and combine with hydrogen to form ammonia (NH_4^+).

This is done by microorganisms that live in symbiotic relationships and also certain free living bacteria. Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

