

1. Consider the following statements about NEFT and RTGS

- 1) The transactions of the NEFT and RTGS systems are available throughout the year on all days.
- 2) With an aim to encourage digital transfer of funds, the RBI waived off all charges for transactions using NEFT and RTGS systems.

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

National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT)

- NEFT is a nation-wide centralised payment system **owned and operated by the Reserve Bank of India.**
- It facilitates funds transfers from one bank account to another. One can access this service either by using Internet banking or by visiting the bank branch.
- Once we initiate the transfer, the money reaches the beneficiary account **within hours.**
- There is **no limit on the minimum or maximum amount** one can transfer, however, individual banks may put restrictions on a per transaction amount.

Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)

- RTGS is a system where there is continuous and real-time settlement of fund-transfers.
- 'Real Time' means the processing of instructions at the time they are received; 'Gross Settlement' means that the settlement of funds transfer instructions occurs individually.
- On the other hand, in NEFT, transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches.
- The RTGS system is primarily meant for large value transactions. The **minimum amount** to be remitted through RTGS is **₹ 2,00,000/-** with **no upper or maximum ceiling.**

RBI's measures

- In 2019, with an aim to encourage digital transfer of funds, the RBI **waived off all charges** for transactions using NEFT and RTGS systems.
- The RBI has also allowed round-the-clock transactions of the NEFT and RTGS systems throughout the year on all days, i.e., on a 24x7x365 basis.

Why in News?

- The Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) faced disruption of service recently.
- The RBI said it was due to technical updates of the system which will enhance resilience of the RTGS system.

2. Consider the following statements

- 1) It is a brackish water lagoon.
- 2) It was designated as the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- 3) It is home to the highly endangered Irrawaddy dolphin.
- 4) It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds in the Indian subcontinent.
- 5) The Nalabana Island within the lake is notified as a Bird Sanctuary under Wildlife Protection) Act, 1972

The above statements refers to which of the following?

- a) Chilika lake
- b) Pulicat lake
- c) Loktak lake
- d) Vembanad lake

Answer: A

Explanation

- Chilika Lake is **Asia's largest brackish water lake** and a shallow lagoon with estuarine character spread across the districts of **Puri, Khurda and Ganjam in the state of Odisha** in eastern India.
- On account of its rich biodiversity, **Chilika lake** in 1981, was designated the **first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.**
- A number of islands are present in the lagoon, prominent among which are **Krushnaprasad, Nalaban, Kalijai, Somolo and Birds Islands.**
- It is the **largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl** found anywhere on the Indian sub-continent.
- It is home to the **highly endangered Irrawaddy dolphin.**
- The **Nalabana Island within the lake is notified as a Bird Sanctuary under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- It is also the **largest wintering ground for migratory birds** on the Indian sub-continent and supports some of the largest congregation of migratory birds from large parts of Asia, particularly during the winters that arrive from as far as the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea, remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steppes of

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Mongolia, Central and South East Asia, Ladakh and the Himalayas to feed and breed in its fertile waters.

3. Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) is located in?

- a) Bihar
- b) Punjab
- c) Odisha
- d) Maharashtra

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS), from Sultanganj to Kahalganj on the Ganga in Bihar is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country.
- National Waterway-1 connecting Haldia to Varanasi passes through the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS).
- Gangetic river dolphin is among the four freshwater dolphins in the world which is found in parts of the **Ganges-Meghna-Brahmaputra and Karnaphuli-Sangu river** systems in **India, Nepal, and Bangladesh**. The Gangetic river dolphin is **India's national aquatic animal** and is popularly known as 'Susu'.
- Its presence **indicates the health of the riverine ecosystem**.
- The Gangetic Dolphins are generally blind and catch their prey in a unique manner. They emit an ultrasonic sound which reaches the prey. The dolphin then registers this image in its mind and subsequently catches hold of its prey.
- In addition to the species being India's national aquatic animal, the Gangetic dolphin has been notified by the Assam government as the state aquatic animal, too.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Gangetic dolphin **as an endangered species** in India.
- The Conservation Action Plan for the Gangetic Dolphin, 2010-2020, identified threats to these dolphins that include the impact of river traffic, construction of irrigation canals and depletion of their prey-base.
- It is classified under **Schedule 1, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** providing absolute protection as offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties.

4. The scheme Shaphari, recently seen in the news, is related to

- (a) Certification scheme for aquaculture products
- (b) Initiative to provide free wireless internet connection
- (c) Initiative for installation of water meters in urban households

(d) It is a strategic alliance of coastal states for the purpose of maritime security

Answer: A

Explanation

Shrimp exports from India

- Frozen shrimp is **India's largest exported seafood item**. It constituted 50.58% in quantity and 73.2% in terms of total U.S. dollar earnings from the sector during 2019-20.
- **Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu** are India's major shrimp producing States, and around 95% of the cultured shrimp produce is exported.
- India exported frozen shrimp worth almost \$5 billion in 2019-20, with the U.S. and China are the biggest buyers.
- But a combination of factors had hurt export volumes in recent months, including container shortages and incidents of seafood consignments being rejected because of food safety concerns.

Why in News?

- To bolster confidence in India's frozen shrimp produce, the **Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA)** has kicked off a new scheme to certify hatcheries and farms that adopt good aquaculture practices.
- The certification scheme for aquaculture products will be known as '**Shaphari**', a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.

About the Scheme

- The Shaphari scheme is **based on the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's technical guidelines on aquaculture certification** and will have **two components** — certifying hatcheries for the quality of their seeds and, separately, approving shrimp farms that adopt the requisite good practices.
- The certification of hatcheries will help farmers easily identify good quality seed producers. Those who successfully clear multiple audits of their operations shall be granted a certificate for a **period of two years**.
- The entire certification process will be **online** to minimise human errors and ensure higher credibility and transparency. Guidelines for certification of farms are under preparation in consultation with stakeholders.
- Overall, certified aquaculture products will help exporters to export their consignments to markets under stringent food safety regulations without the fear of getting rejected.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the deposits of radioactive elements in India

1. In India, Rajasthan and Jharkhand have large deposits of Thorium
2. Uranium is found in large quantities in the Monazite sands of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

a) 1 only

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b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

Explanation

Both statement are incorrect

- Nuclear power is **obtained from energy stored in the nuclei of atoms of naturally occurring radioactive elements like uranium and thorium.**
- These fuels **undergo nuclear fission in nuclear reactors and emit power.** The greatest producers of nuclear power are USA and Europe
- Statement 1 is incorrect** : In India **Rajasthan and Jharkhand have large deposits of Uranium.**
- Statement 2 is incorrect** : **Thorium is found in large quantities in the Monozite sands of Kerala.** The nuclear power stations in India are located in Kalpakkam in Tamilnadu, Tarapur in Maharashtra, Ranapratap Sagar near Kota in Rajasthan, Narora in Uttar Pradesh and Kaiga in Karnataka.