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Daily MCQs: 28/06/2022

1. Consider the following statements about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021.

1. The Act allows abortion up to 24 weeks of gestational age for vulnerable categories of women.
2. There is no limit of gestational age in case of pregnancies with substantial foetal abnormalities.
3. The Act proposes the constitution of a Medical Board in every State and UT, which will decide on pregnancies beyond the time period specified in the law.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements about Zika virus disease.

1. Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.
3. No vaccine is yet available for the prevention or treatment of Zika disease.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements about vultures in India.

1. Vultures provide critically important ecosystem services by cleaning up carcasses and other organic waste in the environment.
2. All 9 vulture species found in India are classified as 'Critically Endangered' species by IUCN.
3. Most of the vulture populations are declining in India due to the use of Diclofenac.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to the New disinvestment policy of India, consider the following statements.

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1. In non-strategic sectors, Central Public Sector Enterprises will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed.
2. Transport and Telecommunications; Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals; and Banking, Insurance and financial services — would be considered as non-strategic sectors.

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

5. The term 'Base Erosion and Profit Shifting' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- A. Curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies
- B. Mining operation by multinational companies in resource-rich but backward areas
- C. Exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies
- D. Lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects

Solutions:

1. Answer: D

Sol:

Highlights of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The Act allows abortion up to 24 weeks of gestational age for vulnerable categories of women and there is **no limit of gestational age** in case of pregnancies with substantial foetal abnormalities, diagnosed by a medical board.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Act proposes the **constitution of a Medical Board** in every State and UT, which will decide on pregnancies beyond 24 weeks in cases of foetal abnormalities.
- Each board will have **one gynaecologist, one radiologist or sonologist, one paediatrician, and other members prescribed by the State/UT government.**
- Currently, abortion requires the **opinion of one doctor** if it is done within 12 weeks of conception, and **two doctors** if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks.
- The amendment Act allows abortion to be done on the **advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks**, and **two doctors** in the case of certain categories of women (central government will notify these categories) between **20 and 24 weeks.**
- For a pregnancy to be terminated **after 24 weeks** in case of substantial foetal abnormalities, the **opinion of the State-level medical board is essential.**

Criticisms

Huge vacancies

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- A recent study by the Centre for Justice, Law and Society at the O.P. Jindal Law Global School has revealed that a panel of doctors to decide on termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks is “**unfeasible**” as 82% of these posts are lying vacant in the country.
- The report analysed district-wise availability of specialists, including surgeons, obstetricians and gynaecologists, physicians and paediatricians.
- The data is based on the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s Rural Health Survey**, which provides details of vacancies filled at secondary healthcare centres. Similar data for urban areas was unavailable.
- The shortfall was starker in the northeast where Sikkim, Mizoram and Manipur had a total absence of obstetricians and gynaecologists, and a **near total absence of paediatricians**. Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya had a 100% shortage of paediatricians.

Infringes privacy

- The study also flags the **constitution of the Medical Boards as draconian and invasive** as they strip away autonomy from the pregnant person.
- Even if the Boards are set up, pregnant persons who are in more remote areas of the country will incur many costs in travelling and this will **add to their financial burden**.
- This legal reform will make access to abortion more challenging for many people, especially those from marginalised groups.

Inequality in access

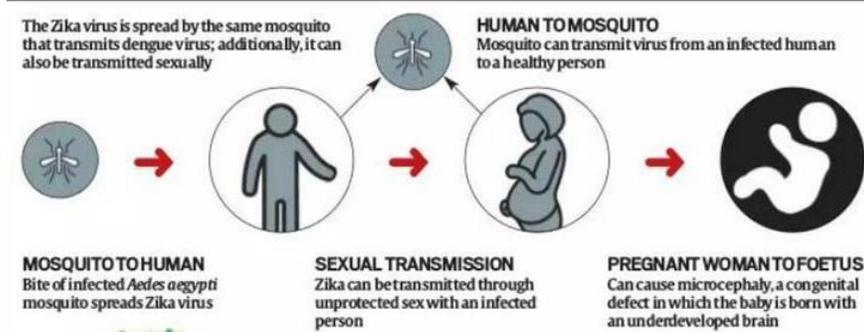
- The **World Health Organization** also urges nations not to create barriers by including complex authorisation processes and noted that negotiating authorization procedures disproportionately burdens poor women, adolescents, those with little education and those subjected to, or at risk of, domestic conflict and violence, creating inequality in access.

2. Answer: D

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Zika is a **viral infection, spread by mosquitoes**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **vector is the Aedes aegypti mosquito**, which also spreads dengue and chikungunya. Additionally, **infected people can transmit Zika sexually**.
- First identified in **Uganda** in 1947 in monkeys, Zika was detected in humans five years later.
- In 2015, a major outbreak in Brazil led to the revelation that Zika can be associated with **microcephaly**, a condition in which **babies are born with small and underdeveloped brains**.

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TWO WAYS OF TRANSMISSION



What are the symptoms of Zika virus?

- Most people infected with the virus do not develop symptoms.
- When they are manifested, the symptoms are similar to those of flu, including fever, bodyache, headache etc.
- If the symptoms worsen, people should seek medical advice. Additional symptoms can include the occasional rash like in dengue, while some patients also have conjunctivitis.
- The incubation period (the time from exposure to symptoms) of Zika virus disease is estimated to be 3-14 days.

How do you treat Zika virus?

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Zika has **no treatment or vaccine**. The symptoms of Zika virus are mild and usually require rest, consumption of plenty of fluids, and common pain and fever medicines, according to the WHO.

Control Measures

- Governments take **mosquito control measures** such as spraying of pesticides, use of repellents etc. Because of the possibility of congenital abnormalities and sexual transmission, there is also **focus on contraceptives**.
- The WHO requires countries to counsel sexually active men and women on the matter to minimise chances of conception at the time of an outbreak.

History of Zika virus in India

- In India, Zika virus was first recorded in 1952-53. The latest major outbreak was in 2018, when 80 cases were reported in Rajasthan around the months of September and October.

3. Answer: C

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Vultures are large, magnificent raptors. By cleaning up carcasses and other organic waste in the environment, they provide critically important ecosystem services that also directly benefit humans.
- India has **9 vulture species** in the country.

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- Four of India's vulture species are under severe threat.
 - **Indian Vulture (Gyps indicus)- Critically Endangered**
 - **Indian White-rumped Vulture (Gyps bengalensis)- Critically Endangered**
 - **Red-headed Vulture (Sarcogyps calvus)- Critically Endangered**
 - **Slender-billed Vulture (Gyps tenuirostris)- Critically Endangered**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Other Species of Vultures found in India include Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus): **Endangered**, Cinerous Vulture (Aegypius monachus): **Near Threatened**, Bearded Vulture (Gypaetus barbatus): **Near Threatened**, Griffon Vulture (Gyps fulvus): **Least Concerned** and Himalayan Vulture (Gyps himalayensis): **Near Threatened**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Most of their populations are declining. Their decline is associated with **use of Diclofenac** for cattle treatment which then ends up in their digestive system making them vulnerable to kidney failure and poisoning.

4. Answer: A

Sol:

- According to the New disinvestment policy, the central government has divided most sectors into **strategic and non-strategic**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Four sectors** — Atomic energy, Space and Defence; Transport and Telecommunications; Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals; and Banking, Insurance and financial services — would be **strategic sectors**.
- In strategic sectors, there will be **bare minimum presence of the public sector enterprises**. The remaining Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the strategic sectors will be privatised or merged or subsidiarised with other CPSEs or closed.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** In non-strategic sectors, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed.
- To fast-track the disinvestment policy, **NITI Aayog** would work out on the next list of central public sector companies that would be taken up for strategic disinvestment.

5. Answer: A

Sol:

- Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations.
- Under the inclusive framework, over 100 countries and jurisdictions are collaborating to implement the BEPS measures and tackle BEPS.
- Double-tax avoidance treaties and tax-information exchange between member nations are used to curb this practice.