

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 11-09-2023

1. Consider the following statements about the Great Barrier Reef.

1. It is the world's largest coral reef system.
2. It is a UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

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

2. The Valmiki Tiger Reserve is located in

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal
- C. Bihar
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

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. Consider the following statements about the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

1. It functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is the prime provider of basic earth science information to government, industry and general public, as well as the official participant in steel, coal, metals, cement, power industries and international geoscientific forums.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements about the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

1. NSAP represents a significant step towards the fulfilment of Article 41 of the Constitution of India.
2. This programme is being implemented in rural areas only.

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Great Barrier Reef is the **world's largest coral reef system** composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,300 kilometres over an area of approximately 3.4 lakh square kilometres.
- It is found in the northeastern coast of Queensland state, **Australia**.
- It has a geological history going back an estimated 23 million years to the Miocene epoch, and has survived many challenges.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It has been on **UNESCO's World Heritage Site List** since 1981.

2. Answer: C

Explanation:

About Valmiki Tiger Reserve

- It is the **only Tiger Reserve in Bihar**. It is located in the Terai region in West Champaran District bordering Nepal.
- Situated in Gangetic plains bio-geographic zone of the Country, the forests of this Tiger Reserve has a combination of **bhabhar and terai tracts**. Boulder and pebble deposits by the Himalayan rivers in foothills characterize the bhabhar tract while the finer sediments deposits feature terai lands.
- It is home to 23 tigers according to the recent census. Water bodies in and around the reserve also attract winter migrant birds.
- **River Gandak** forms the western boundary of Valmiki Tiger Reserve.
- **Tharu and Dangar** Schedule Tribes live in these forests.
- The porous international boundary with Nepal, intense biotic pressure, encroachment, weed invasion (dwarf Phoenix etc.), lack of availability of grassland, heavy soil-erosion from mighty rivers flowing through the reserve, involving local people in protection measures and eco-tourism are the major managerial issues of this Tiger Reserve.

3. Answer: C

Explanation:

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **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.
- 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 himalayansis): **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

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is a **scientific agency of India**. Founded in 1851, it functions under the **Ministry of Mines**.
- It is **one of the oldest of such organisations in the world** and the second oldest survey in India after Survey of India (founded in 1767), for conducting geological surveys and studies of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is also the prime **provider of basic earth science information** to government, industry and general public, as well as the official participant in steel, coal, metals, cement, power industries and international geoscientific forums.

5. Answer: A

Explanation:

- Launched in 1995, the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a welfare programme being administered by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This programme is being implemented in **rural areas as well as urban areas**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** NSAP represents a significant step towards the fulfilment of **Article 41 of the Constitution of India** which directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development.
- Presently NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely –
 - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS),
 - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS),
 - Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS),
 - National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and
 - Annapurna.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Eligibility and scale of assistance

- For getting benefits under NSAP the applicant must belong to a **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** family according to the criteria prescribed by the Govt. of India. The other eligibility criteria and the scale of central assistance under the sub - schemes of NSAP are as follows.
- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** A monthly pension of **Rs.200/-** to old age BPL persons in age group 60-79 years and **Rs.500/-** to old age BPL persons of age of 80 years and more.
- **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS):** A monthly pension of **Rs.300/-** to BPL widows aged 40-79 years and **Rs.500/-** upon attaining the age of 80 years.
- **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS):** A monthly pension of **Rs.300/-** is given to disabled BPL persons aged 18-79 years and **Rs.500/-** upon attaining the age of 80 years.
- **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS):** A one-time assistance of **Rs.20,000/-** to the surviving members of a BPL family upon the death of the primary breadwinner.
- **Annapurna Scheme: 10 kg food grains (wheat or rice)** is given to those BPL elderly who remain uncovered under IGNOAPS.

