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Daily MCQs: 09-05-2024

1. Which of the following statements about star campaigners is/are correct?

- 1) There is a limit on the number of star campaigners a party can appoint.
- 2) Their campaign expenditure is not counted towards the candidate's limit.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

2. El Nino is characterized by

- A) Unusually cold sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
- B) Unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
- C) Increased rainfall patterns across the globe.
- D) A strengthening of the polar vortex.

3. Consider the following statements about INCOIS

- 1) It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- 2) It is responsible for providing forecasts and warnings for swell waves.

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

4. Catatumbo lightning is a natural phenomenon characterized by:

- A) Continuous electrical storms over the Pacific Ocean.
- B) Bioluminescent light emitted by organisms in the Caribbean Sea.
- C) Volcanic eruptions spewing lightning-like discharges.
- D) None of the above

5. The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve comprises which of the following two protected areas?

- A) Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and Pench Tiger Reserve
- B) Kanha National Park and Bandhavgarh National Park
- C) Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandoli National Park
- D) Nagzira Navegaon Tiger Reserve and Melghat Tiger Sanctuary

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Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation

- The **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act)** provides for law relating to expenditure incurred by '**leaders of a political party**'. These 'leaders of a political party' are popularly known as '**star campaigners**'.
- These star campaigners are usually the **top leaders** of a political party but **can include other celebrities as well**. The only requirement is that these persons have to be **members of the political party** that appoints them.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The RP Act provides that a **recognised political party (national or State)** can appoint a **maximum of 40 star campaigners** while a **registered unrecognized political party** can appoint **up to 20**.

What are the benefits?

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The RP Act provides that **expenditure incurred by the 'leaders of a political party' on account of travel** by air or any other means of transport for campaigning for their political party **shall not be deemed to be part of the election expenditure** of a candidate of such party.
- The election expenditure limit for candidates is ₹95 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency in larger States and ₹75 lakh in smaller States.
- Hence, these star campaigners would be vote-fetchers for candidates set up by respective parties without affecting their expenditure limit.

2. Answer: B

Explanation

- **El Nino** is a **climate pattern** that describes the **unusual warming** of surface waters in the **eastern tropical Pacific Ocean**. Hence **Option B is correct**.
- During **El Niño**, the **surface winds** across the entire **tropical Pacific** are weaker than usual. Ocean temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean are warmer than average, and rainfall is below average over **Indonesia** and above average over the **central or eastern Pacific**.
- **Rising air motion** (which is linked to storms and rainfall) increases over the **central or eastern Pacific**, and surface pressure there tends to be lower than average. Meanwhile, an increase in sinking air motion over Indonesia leads to higher surface pressure and dryness.
- Since the Pacific covers almost one-third of the earth, changes in its temperature and subsequent alteration of wind patterns disrupt **global weather patterns**.
- El Niño causes **dry, warm winters** in **Northern U.S. and Canada** and increased **flooding risk on the U.S. gulf coast and southeastern U.S.** It also brings **drought** to **Indonesia** and **Australia**.

3. Answer: B

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Explanation

About INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** INCOIS was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** and is a unit of the **Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO)**.
 - Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO) was set up in October 2007 as an executive arm to implement policies and programmes of the Ministry of Earth sciences.
 - It deals with four branches of earth sciences, viz. (i) Ocean Science & Technology (ii) Atmospheric and Climate Science (iii) Geoscience and (iv) Polar Science and Cryosphere.

Functions and Responsibilities of INCOIS

- Provides **round-the-clock monitoring and warning services** for the coastal population on tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, etc.
- Provides **daily advisories to fisher folk** to help them easily locate areas of abundant fish in the ocean while saving on both fuel and time used to search for the same.
- **Short term (3-7 days) Ocean State Forecasts** (waves, currents, sea surface temperature, etc.) are issued daily to fisher folk, the shipping industry, the oil and natural gas industry, the Navy, the Coast Guard, etc. These forecasts inform users about the expected sea conditions during the next few days and help them to plan their activities at sea.
- **Training and capacity building for students, young researchers** in India and Indian Ocean Rim Countries through short and long duration training courses.

Why in the News?

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) forecasted that high sea waves, also known as swell waves, might hit the coastal areas of Goa, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

What are Swell Waves?

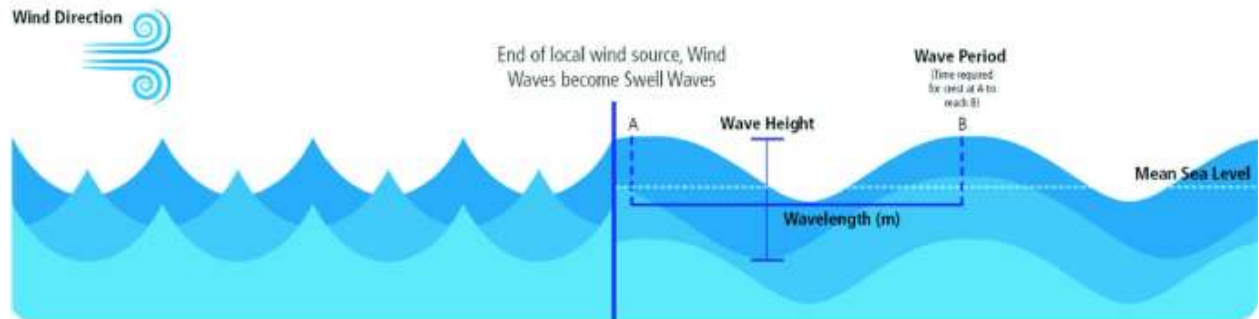
- The waves that are formed, not due to the local winds, but rather **due to distant storms like hurricanes, or even long periods of fierce gale winds** are called Swell waves.
 - A gale is a strong, sustained wind with wind speeds between 62 km/h to 74 km/h
- During such storms, **huge energy transfer** takes place from the air into the water, leading to the formation of very high waves.
- Such waves can travel thousands of kilometres from the storm centre until they strike shore.

WIND WAVES

Wind Waves are generated by immediate local wind. They are not self-sustaining and will die out when the wind stops.

SWELL WAVES

Swell Waves are self-sustaining and generated by energy beneath the ocean's surface, no longer needing local wind.



Waves with long wavelengths and periods arriving from a distant source are considered Swell.

What is the difference between swell waves and tsunamis?

- Unlike swell waves, a tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an **underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes** occurring below or near the ocean.
- Tsunamis are around 10 times faster than swell waves.
- Although both swell waves and tsunamis slow down near the coast, **the swell waves hit land at 30–50 km/h.**

4. Answer: D

Explanation

- Catatumbo lightning is a mesmerizing natural phenomenon that occurs over the **Catatumbo River in Venezuela, where lightning strikes almost continuously.**
- This phenomenon primarily happens at the **mouth of the Catatumbo River, where it meets Lake Maracaibo, the largest lake in Venezuela.**
- Catatumbo lightning is distinguished by its frequency and duration: the strikes occur for up to 160 nights in a year, with an average of 28 lightning strikes per minute at its peak.
- The area has earned the title of **“the lightning capital of the world”.**

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Cause of the phenomenon

- Warm, moist air from the **Caribbean Sea is pushed towards the Andes mountains**, where it collides with cooler air descending from the peaks.
- This collision creates a perfect storm of sorts, as the warmer air is forced to rise rapidly by the shape of the local landscape. And as it does, it cools and condenses, forming towering cumulonimbus clouds.
- Meanwhile, the combination of strong winds and temperature differentials generates electrical charges within these clouds. The cumulonimbus clouds — sometimes reaching heights of more than 5 km — load up on static electricity.
- When the electrical potential within the clouds becomes too great, it discharges in the form of lightning.

5. Answer: C

Explanation

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Sahyadri ranges of **Western Ghats**. It straddles Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, and Ratnagiri districts in western **Maharashtra**.
- **Established in:** January 2010.
- It **comprises Chandoli National Park and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary**. Hence **option C is correct**.
- **Habitat attributes:** The habitat of Sahyadri is composed of woodlands, grasslands and plateau. The grasslands and plateau is locally referred to as "**Sadma**", which are lateritic in nature.

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- **Fauna:** The Tiger Reserve is the home to Tiger, Wild dog, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, Four Horned Antelope, Mouse Deer and Giant Squirrel. The habitat also supports Hornbills, and many other endemic Birds.
- The **tiger population** in the region has been **historically low** due to **poaching, poor prey base, and changing habitat**. Even after the reserve was notified, the number of tigers did not increase as breeding tigers did not colonize the reserve.

