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Daily MCQs: 01-06-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the Bengal Tiger

- 1) It is native to the Indian subcontinent.
- 2) They are carnivorous in their diet.
- 3) They are protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act (2022).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) Only one
- B) Only two
- C) All three
- D) None

2. Consider the following statements about the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994

- 1) It governs the transplantation of human organs and tissues in India, including the donation of organs after death.
- 2) According to the act, a transplant should be from a pool of organs of deceased persons donated by their relatives 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

3. Consider the following statements about the Archeological Survey of India

- 1) It is the premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- 2) It is an attached office under the Ministry of Tourism.

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. Rakhigarhi, one of the largest harappan sites is located in the state of?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Haryana
- C) Gujarat
- D) Rajasthan

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5. Consider the following statements about the microplastics

- 1) They are biodegradable in nature.
- 2) Microplastics can exhibit tendencies of biomagnification across food chains.

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



Characteristics

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) is a subspecies of tiger native to the **Indian subcontinent**.
- It inhabits **hot and humid forests**, and **wetlands** of **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal**.
- The Bengal tiger's **coat is yellow to light orange**, with **stripes** ranging from **dark brown to black**.
- **Males** are **larger in size** than **females**.
- They are **solitary hunters**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They are **carnivorous** in their **diet**, preying on **ungulates** such as **deer and antelope, gaurs, and wild boars**.

Threats

- **Habitat loss and fragmentation** due to increased **human activities** such as **deforestation, industrialisation** is threatening tiger populations.
- Another significant threat to **tiger populations** is the **illegal wildlife trade** in **poached skins and body parts**.

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- There is a growing demand for the **bones** and **teeth** of tigers in **traditional Chinese medicines**.
- There has been a rise in the incidences of **man-animal conflicts** resulting in **retaliatory killings** of tigers.

Conservation status

- **Statement 3 is correct: Wildlife Protection Act (2022): Schedule I**
- **CITES: Appendix-I**

2. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, and Rules, 2014 governs the **transplantation of human organs and tissues in India**, including the donation of organs after death.
- It lays down **regulations** governing healthcare providers and hospitals, and stipulates **penalties** for violations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A transplant can be either from a **pool of organs of deceased persons** donated by their relatives or from a **living person who is known to the recipient**.
- In most cases, the Act allows living **donations from close relatives** such as parents, siblings, children, spouses, grandparents, and grandchildren. **Altruistic donations** from distant relatives, in-laws, or long-time friends are allowed after additional scrutiny to ensure there is **no financial exchange**.
- **Living donations from close relatives** involving Indians or foreigners must be accompanied by **documents establishing their identities, family trees, and pictures** that prove the donor-recipient relationship. Donors and recipients are also **interviewed**.
- Donations from **unrelated persons** require documents and photographic evidence to prove their **long-term association or friendship** with the recipient. These are examined by an **external committee** to **prevent illegal dealings**.
- **Offering to pay** for organs or supplying them for payment; initiating, negotiating, or advertising such arrangements; looking for persons to supply organs; and abetting in preparing false documents can attract a **jail term up to 10 years and a fine up to Rs 1 crore**.
- The **Authorisation Committee** plays a critical role in the transplantation process.

What is the Authorisation Committee?

- The Authorisation Committee **oversees and approves** organ transplant procedures involving donors and recipients who are not near relatives.
- This approval is crucial, especially in cases where organs are donated for reasons of affection, attachment, or other special circumstances, to ensure **ethical compliance** and **prevent illegal practices**.

3. Answer: A

Explanation

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- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Archaeological Survey of India is the premier organization for the **archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage** of the nation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is an attached office under the **Ministry of Culture**.
- Maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance is the prime concern of the ASI.
- Besides, it regulates all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**. It also regulates the **Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972**.

History

- Archaeological and historical pursuits in India started with the efforts of **Sir William Jones**, who put together a group of antiquarians to form the **Asiatic Society in 1784 in Calcutta**.
- The Archaeological Survey of India was eventually formed in **1861** by a statute passed into law by **Viceroy Lord Canning** with **Alexander Cunningham** as the **first Archaeological Surveyor**.

4. Answer: B

Explanation

- Rakhigarhi is an **archeological site** situated in the **Hisar district of Haryana, India**
- It lies in the **Sarasvati-Ghaggar plain**, which was once a major region of the Harappan civilization.
- It is one of the **largest Harappan sites**, covering an area of around **350 hectares**.
- It is considered crucial for understanding the **early urbanization** and **socio-cultural aspects** of the Harappan civilization.
- Extensive excavations in Rakhigarhi so far led by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have shed significant light on the Harappan civilization's urban planning, architecture, and way of life.

Archaeological findings

- **Excavations** at Rakhigarhi include **residential complexes, streets, and granaries**.
- **Artifacts** such as **pottery, seals, terracotta figurines, ornaments, and tools** have been discovered.
- Evidence of a **drainage system** and **public baths** indicates advanced **urban planning**.
- The **cemeteries** reveal different types of **burial practices**, including, **urn burials**, and burial pits.

Why in news?

- Recently the **Archaeological survey of India** has discovered the skeletal remains of a 46,000 years old woman at Rakhigarhi.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

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- **Microplastics** are **plastics less than 5 mm in length** and occur in the environment as a consequence of **plastic pollution**.
- Microplastics consist of **carbon** and **hydrogen** atoms bound together in **polymer chains**.
- Other chemicals, such as **phthalates**, **polybrominated diphenyl ethers** and **tetrabromobisphenol A**, are present in microplastics.
- There are two categories of microplastics: **Primary** and **Secondary**.
 - **Primary microplastics** are tiny particles designed for commercial use, such as **cosmetics**, **microfibers** shed from clothing, **fishing nets**.
 - **Secondary microplastics** are particles that result from the **breakdown** of larger plastic items, such as **water bottles**. This breakdown is caused by exposure to environmental factors, such as **erosion** action of **ocean waves**.

Impacts of microplastics

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Microplastics are not **biodegradable** and once in the environment, they tend to **accumulate** and **persist** for a longer period of time.
- Microplastics are a source of **air pollution**, occurring in **dust** and **airborne fibrous particles**.
- **Ingestion** of microplastics can cause aquatic species to consume **less food** thereby having **less energy** to carry out **life functions**, such as **feeding**, **breeding**, etc
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Microplastics can exhibit tendencies of **biomagnification** across **food chains**, ie, the concentration of **chemicals** can increase across **food chains**, ie, from zooplankton to small fish and large fish.
 - **Biomagnification** refers to increase in the concentration of a toxicant at **successive trophic levels**.