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Daily MCQs: 21-10-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Gibbons.

- 1) Gibbons are a group of large-sized apes.
- 2) Gibbons are the smallest and fastest of all apes.
- 3) Hoolock gibbons are the only apes found in India..

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. SDG India Index is released by

- A. Office of Economic Adviser (OEA)
- B. National Statistics Office (NSO)
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. None of the above

3. Consider the following statements about the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

- 1) NBWL is a constitutional board.
- 2) NBWL is chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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. Consider the following statements about the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

- 1) NHRC was established in conformity with the Paris Principles.
- 2) NHRC is headed by a Chairperson, who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- 3) NHRC can investigate complaints filed at any time following the incident.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

5. Which of the following species can exhibit bioluminescence?

- 1) Dinoflagellates
- 2) Copepods

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- 3) Jellyfish
- 4) Fireflies
- 5) Squids

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. All five
- B. Only three
- C. Only one
- D. None

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation About Gibbons

- Gibbons are a group of **small to medium-sized apes**. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- They are the **smallest and fastest** of all **apes**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- There are **20 species** of **Gibbons** in the world.
- Gibbons are found in **evergreen tropical rainforests** of **Southeast Asia**, including countries like **Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, and Vietnam**.



Types of Gibbons Found in India

- Hoolock gibbons are the **only apes found in India**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- It was widely considered that India has two species of Gibbons: the **Western Hoolock Gibbon** (*Hoolock hoolock*) and the **Eastern Hoolock Gibbon** (*Hoolock leuconedys*).

Western Hoolock Gibbon	Eastern Hoolock Gibbon
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is found in the northeastern states of India, including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also found in northeastern India, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Western Hoolock gibbons have a white or pale browband, distinguishing them from Eastern Hoolock gibbons. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eastern Hoolock gibbons have a distinct dark browband. |
|--|--|

- However, a study conducted by the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)** in 2021 proved that **Hoolock gibbon (Hoolock hoolock) is the only gibbon found in India.**
- Genetic analysis of the study noted that there is **no separate species of eastern hoolock gibbon** in northeast India, debunking earlier research that had suggested a separate species (the assumed eastern hoolock gibbon) based on coat colour.

Conservation Status

- Wildlife Protection Act (2022): **Schedule I.**

Why in News?

- The National Board for Wildlife has deferred permission for oil exploration by a company in Desoi Reserve Forest in Assam, which is a habitat of the endangered Hoolock gibbon.

2. Answer: C

Sustainable Development Goals

About

- The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.
- The **17 Goals** were **adopted by all UN Member States in 2015**, as part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- Through the pledge to **Leave No One Behind**, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first.

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- Today, progress is being made in many places, but, overall, action to meet the Goals is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required.

Tracking SDGs in India

- NITI Aayog releases the **SDG India Index to evaluate progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on various parameters** including health, education, gender, economic growth, institutions, climate change and environment. Hence, **answer is option C.**

3. Answer: D

Explanation

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- NBWL is a **statutory board** set up under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The National Board of Wildlife is chaired by the **Prime Minister of India**. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Board is responsible for promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests.

State Board for Wildlife (SBWL)

- Under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, State Governments are responsible for the creation of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL).
- SBWL is headed by the **Chief Minister of the State** and in case of the Union territory, either Chief Minister or Administrator.
- Its **primary duty** is to advise the State Government on management of protected areas and conservation of wildlife.

Why in News?

- The National Board for Wildlife has deferred permission for oil exploration by a company in Desoi Reserve forest in Assam, which is a habitat of the endangered Hoolock gibbon.

4. Answer: B

Explanation

About NHRC

- The National Human Rights Commission is a **statutory organisation** established in **1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- The Act also created **Human Rights Commissions** at the levels of the **various States**.
- NHRC was established in conformity with the **Paris Principles**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

Functions of NHRC

- The NHRC **enquires into complaints of violation of human rights or negligence** in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, **studies treaties and international instruments** on human rights and makes recommendations for their effective implementation to the Government.
- It is responsible for **spreading human rights awareness** amongst the masses.

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- While inquiring into complaints under the Act, the Commission shall have all the **powers of a civil court.**

Composition of NHRC

- According to the **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019**, the NHRC consists of
 - A **Chairperson**, who has been a **Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court**; Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - One member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India;
 - One member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court;
 - Three Members, out of which at least one shall be a woman to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights;
 - In addition, the Chairpersons of National Commissions viz., National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities serve as **ex officio members.**
- The term of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission is **three years or until he attains the age of seventy years**, whichever is earlier. They shall be **eligible for re-appointment.**
- They can be removed only on the **charges of proved misbehavior or incapacity**, if proved by an inquiry conducted by a Supreme Court Judge.

Limitations of NHRC

- As per the Protection of Human Rights Act, the NHRC **can only recommend the government but the recommendations are non-binding.** This lack of authority gives an outright rejection of any recommendation or partial compliance.
- Under the Act, human rights commissions **cannot investigate** an event if the complaint was made more than **one year after the incident.** Therefore, a large number of genuine grievances go unaddressed. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Also, the National Human Rights Commission powers related to violations of human rights by the armed forces have been **largely restricted.**

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Bioluminescence** is the ability of certain organisms to produce light.
- Marine organisms use this ability for various purposes, including **defence against predators, attracting prey, facilitating communication, and attracting mates.**
- Common bioluminescent species include **dinoflagellates, copepods, jellyfish, fireflies and squids.** Hence, **answer is option A.**

Why in news?

- Recently, a beach in Chennai exhibited bioluminescence.