



DATE: 22.09.2026

1) Consider the following pairs:

1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award — Awarded for outstanding achievements in sports at the highest level.
2. Arjuna Award — Recognises athletes who have demonstrated consistent excellence and leadership in their respective sports.
3. Dronacharya Award — Recognises coaches who have contributed significantly to the development and success of sportspersons.
4. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar — Recognises initiatives and contributions that promote sports development and sporting excellence.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve:

1. Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve is situated in the Southern Western Ghats and spreads across the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
2. River Thamirabarani originates within the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.
3. Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is known for its high biodiversity and endemism.

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) 'Nomadic Elephant', recently in the news, is a joint military exercise conducted between which of the following countries?

- (a) India and Kazakhstan
- (b) India and Mongolia
- (c) India and Uzbekistan
- (d) India and Kyrgyzstan

4) Consider the following statements regarding 'Project Cheetah' in India:

1. Project Cheetah is funded and implemented as a Central Sector Scheme.
2. Project Cheetah is overseen and implemented by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.
3. Project Cheetah is an example of *ex-situ* conservation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5) Consider the following:



1. Bengal Tiger
2. Asian Elephant
3. Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros
4. Ganges River Dolphin
5. Snow Leopard
6. Red Panda

Which of the above is **NOT** among the six priority species identified by WWF-India for major conservation efforts?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only one
- (c) All six
- (d) None

Explanation

1) Answer: (D)

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:** This is India's **highest sporting honor**. It is awarded to an athlete for spectacular and most outstanding performance at the international level over a period of four years.
- **Arjuna Award:** This award recognizes athletes who have shown **consistent good performance** over four years, while also demonstrating qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, and a sense of discipline.
- **Dronacharya Award:** This award is specifically dedicated to **outstanding coaches**. It honors those who have done meritorious work consistently and enabled sportspersons to excel in international events.
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar:** This award recognizes the contribution of **corporate entities** (both private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, and individuals who have played a visible role in the promotion and development of sports.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR) is located in the southernmost end of the Western Ghats and spans both Kerala (districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Pathanamthitta) and Tamil Nadu (districts of Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Thamirabarani River originates from the Agasthyarkoodam peak/Pothigai hills within the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Agasthyamalai region (as part of the Agasthyamalai sub-cluster of the Western Ghats) is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (inscribed in 2012). Furthermore, it is recognized globally for its high biological diversity and endemism (containing over 2,000 plant species and hundreds of endemic flora and fauna species).
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

3) Answer: (B)

- **Nomadic Elephant** is an **annual bilateral military exercise** conducted between the **Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces**.
- The exercise is conducted **alternately in India and Mongolia**.



- The **18th edition (2026)** commenced at the **Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**, on **21 September 2026**.
- The exercise aims to improve the joint capability of both forces for **Counter-Insurgency Operations (CI Ops)** in **semi-urban and mountainous terrain** under a **United Nations mandate**.
- Training includes **Cordon and Search Operations, Room Intervention Drills, Special Heliborne Operations, cyber-security training, and the use of drones and counter-drone systems**.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

4) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Project Cheetah is not a Central Sector Scheme; its funding is integrated under the financial framework of Project Tiger and CAMPA funds.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is spearheaded and monitored by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** with technical backing from the Wildlife Institute of India.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Project Cheetah is an **in-situ** conservation effort focused on wild reintroduction, not *ex-situ* (which keeps species in captivity outside their natural homes).
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

5) Answer: (D)

- **WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)** is an international (non-governmental) conservation organisation working for the conservation of biodiversity, wildlife, ecosystems and natural resources. It was established in 1961 with its headquarters in Switzerland.
- **WWF-India** is the Indian arm of the WWF network. Established in **1969**, it works on wildlife and habitat conservation, species protection, ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- WWF-India has identified the following **six priority species** for major conservation efforts:
 - **Bengal Tiger**
 - **Asian Elephant**
 - **Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros**
 - **Ganges River Dolphin**
 - **Snow Leopard**
 - **Red Panda**
- Hence, all six species given in the question are part of the priority list.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**