

Que-1 With reference to World Population Day, Consider the following statements

1- This day is observed every year on July 11 to raise awareness about issues concerning the global population.

2- The recent UN report said that India will overtake China as the most populous nation by 2023.

3- On July 11, 1987, the global population reached seven billion, and hence the day came to be observed as World Population Day.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 only
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Que-2 With reference to khejri trees, consider the following statements

1- Khejri tree plays an important role in maintaining the ecosystem of Thar region because of its ability to survive in dry weather.

2- The tree is used in different ways, such as a source of fodder and firewood, and it helps in sustaining the soil's nutrient value and ensuring a good yield of desert crops and food plants.

3- It is the state tree of Rajasthan (where it is known as Khejri), Bihar (where it is

known as Chhonkara) and Haryana (where it is known as Jammi) in India.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only
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Que-3 With reference to Section 69A of the IT Act, consider the following statements about

1- It empowers the government to restrict access to any content in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of the country, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or for public order.

2- All directions to restrict information or content in circulation must be recorded in writing.

3- Social media intermediaries failing to comply with the regulations are liable to be monetarily penalised along with an imprisonment term which may extend up to seven years.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only
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Que-4 Consider the following statements about National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- 1- Launched in 2019.
- 2- To achieve 20-30% reduction in particulate matter (PM) air pollution by 2030 with 2017 as the base year for comparison.
- 3- This aimed at 122 cities that have been categorised as India's most polluted cities.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-5 Consider the following statements about 'National Sports Development Fund' (NSDF), recently in News

- 1- This Fund is a part of Consolidated fund of India.
- 2- For promotion and development of sports in the country.
- 3- The NSDF corpus is used for Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme, Infrastructure development by eminent sportspersons and sports organizations etc.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only

- c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only

Que-6 With reference to Swami Ramanujacharya, consider the following statements

- 1- He was an Indian Hindu philosopher, guru and a social reformer.
- 2- He is noted to be one of the most important exponents of the Shaivism tradition within Hinduism.
- 3- His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-7 With reference to Dragon fruit, consider the following statements

- 1- Also known as a "super fruit" for its health benefits.
- 2- The fruit is considered good for diabetic patients, low in calories and high in nutrients like iron, calcium, potassium and zinc.
- 3- The Haryana Government recently renamed dragon fruit as kalam (lotus) and announced an incentive for farmers who cultivate it.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

Que-8 With reference to 'Azores High', consider the following statements about

1- It is a large subtropical semi-permanent centre of high atmospheric pressure typically found south of the Azores in the Atlantic Ocean, at the Horse latitudes.

2- It forms one pole of the North Atlantic oscillation, the other being the Icelandic Low.

3- The system influences the weather and climatic patterns of vast areas of North Africa and Southern Europe, and to a lesser extent, eastern North America.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

ANSWER

1- (a)

- As of November 2021, there are over 7.9 billion people around the world. The human population has consistently grown in the last few centuries.
- When it comes to India, a recent report from the UN stated that currently, India's population stands at 1.412 billion. As of now, China's population is 1.426 billion. The UN report further said that India will overtake China as the most populous nation by 2023. India is projected to have a population of 1.668 billion by 2050 much ahead of China's 1.317 billion in the mid-century.
- On July 11, 1987, the global population reached five billion, and hence the day came to be observed as World Population Day. The governing council of the United Nations Development Programme established World Population Day in 1989.
- As of 2022, China with 1.412 billion is the most populated nation. China is followed by India at 1.373 billion. On the other hand, Pitcairn Islanders is the least populated region with 40 people. The islands are a part of the British Overseas Territory. As a nation, Vatican City takes the mantle as the

least populated with only 825 citizens. Vatican City is considered to be the smallest fully independent nation-state.

2- (a)

- Prosopis cineraria, also known as ghaf, is a species of flowering tree in the pea family, Fabaceae. It is native to arid portions of Western Asia and the Indian Subcontinent, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, India, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- Prosopis cineraria is also the state tree of Rajasthan (where it is known as Khejri), Western Uttar Pradesh (where it is known as Chhonkara) and Telangana (where it is known as Jammi) in India.
- A large and well-known example of the species is the Tree of Life in Bahrain – approximately 400 years old and growing in a desert devoid of any obvious sources of water.
- The 'Ghaf is the national tree of the United Arab Emirates.

3- (c)

- It entails that a government-designated officer along with an examination committee assess the content in question within 48 hours of receiving the takedown request. It

must enable an opportunity to the author or originator of the content to provide clarifications. The recommendations are then sent to the Secretary of the Dept of Information Technology for approval to forward a request to the social media intermediary for restricting access. Emergency provisions stipulate that the clarification be sought after the content has been blocked for specified reasons, but within 48 hours. They can be revoked after due examination.

- Internet advocacy groups have been particularly critical of Rule 16 that suggests strict confidentiality be maintained on all requests and actions taken thereof — often attributed to be the cause for lack of transparency. The mentioned legislations are to be read under the purview of Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guaranteeing freedom of speech and expression. However, Clause 2 of the article permits the state to impose 'reasonable restrictions' for the same reasons as those for Section 69A.

4- (b)

- To achieve 20-30% reduction in particulate matter (PM) air pollution by 2024 with 2017 as the base year for comparison.

- The country's current annual safe limits for PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m³) and 60 micrograms/per cubic metre.

5- (d)

- This Fund is based on CSR contributions from Central & State Governments, PSUs, private companies, and individuals etc.
- The NSDF corpus is used for Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme, Infrastructure development by eminent sportspersons and sports organizations etc.

6- (b)

- He is noted to be one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.
- Ramanuja was born into a Tamil Brahmin community, in a village called Sriperumbudur (present-day Tamil Nadu) under the Chola Empire. His followers in the Vaishnava tradition wrote hagiographies, some of which were composed in centuries after his death, and which the tradition believes to be true.

7- (a)

- The Haryana Government also provides a grant for farmers who are ready to plant this exotic fruit variety.
- The fruit plant doesn't need much water and can be cultivated on dry land, too.
- At the moment, Mizoram tops among the States that cultivate this fruit, which is indigenous to Mexico and is now produced mainly in Vietnam. The export of the fruit has made a huge contribution to Vietnam's GDP. "All the States in India except cold areas are suitable for dragon fruit plants.
- The Gujarat Government recently renamed dragon fruit as kalam (lotus) and announced an incentive for farmers who cultivate it.

8- (c)

- The aridity of the Sahara Desert and the summer drought of the Mediterranean Basin is due to the large-scale subsidence and sinking motion of air in the system. In its summer position (the Bermuda High), the high is centered near Bermuda, and creates a southwest flow of warm tropical air toward the East Coast of the United States. In summer, the Azores-Bermuda High is strongest.

The central pressure hovers around 1024 mbar (hPa).

- This high-pressure block exhibits anticyclonic behaviour, circulating the air clockwise. Due to this direction of movement, African eastern waves are impelled along the southern periphery of the Azores High away from coastal West Africa towards the Caribbean, Central America, or the Bahamas, favouring tropical cyclogenesis, especially during the hurricane season.
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