

Weekly Quiz Answers (24th-30th July)

Ans1. C

Explanation:

India's tiger population increased to 3,682 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018.

- This is an upward revision from April, when a minimum of 3,167 animals were estimated by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), which coordinates the quadrennial tiger census.
- This also indicates growth over the past decade — there were 2,226 tigers reported in 2014, up from 1,706 in 2010.
- In 2022, the highest number of tigers, 785, were reported to be in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444). Nearly a quarter of the tigers were reportedly outside protected areas.
- India's tigers are largely concentrated in 53 dedicated tiger reserves spread across 75,796 square km, spanning about 2.3% of India's total land area.
- The reserves with the most number of tigers were the Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, which reported 260 animals, followed by Bandipur (150), and Nagarhole (141), both in Karnataka.
- Central India, the Shivalik Hills, and the Gangetic plains witnessed increases in tiger population, particularly in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra.
- Certain regions, such as the Western Ghats, experienced localised declines, needing targeted monitoring and conservation efforts.
- Some States, including Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh, have reported "disquieting trends" with smaller tiger populations.
- In general, reserves that have applied good conservation practices, such as ensuring enough prey is available for tigers, have done well.
- Approximately 35% of the tiger reserves urgently required enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate (deer, chital, blackbuck) augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.
- The estimated number of 3,682 is an average figure for a population that likely ranges between 3,167 and 3,925. Tiger numbers are estimated based on the number of unique tigers captured on camera, plus an estimate of animals that may not have been photographed.
- Since 2014, India's tiger numbers have been increasing at 5% to 6% each year.

Ans2. B

Explanation:

Provisions	The Biological Diversity Act, 2002	Amendments to the 2002 Act
Access to Biological Resources	The Act requires anyone seeking to access biological resources or associated knowledge in India to obtain prior approval or inform the regulatory authority about their intent.	The Bill modifies the classification of entities and activities that require intimation, while also introducing exemptions to certain cases.
Intellectual Property Rights	Concerning Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), the Act currently demands NBA approval before applying for IPR related to biological resources from India.	The Bill suggests that approval will be required before the actual grant of the IPR, not during the application process.
Benefit Sharing	The Act mandates benefit sharing, which involves sharing both monetary and non-monetary benefits with those who conserve	The Bill removes the applicability of benefit sharing requirements from research, bio-survey, and bio-utilisation.

	biodiversity or hold traditional knowledge associated with it. NBA determines the terms of benefit sharing when granting approvals for various activities.	
Criminal Penalties	The Act imposes criminal penalties, including imprisonment, for offenses such as not obtaining approval or intimation for specific activities.	The Bill, on the other hand, decriminalizes these offenses and introduces fines ranging from one lakh to fifty lakh rupees instead.
Exempting AYUSH Practitioners	-	It seeks to exempt registered AYUSH medical practitioners and people accessing codified traditional knowledge, among others, from giving prior intimation to State biodiversity boards for accessing biological resources for certain purposes.

Ans3. C

Explanation:

- The effect of the ban will be most pronounced in the neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bangladesh, the African countries of Madagascar, Benin, Kenya, and Ivory Coast, the Asian countries of Malaysia and Vietnam, and the UAE, which are all the biggest buyers of this type of rice in absolute terms.
- Interestingly, the U.S. is ranked 34th on the list, with just over 27,000 tonnes of average imports per year.
- In contrast, Nepal bought 4.5 lakh tonnes per year in the considered period.
- Thirty three other countries are more impacted by the ban than the U.S. So, the hullabaloo over rice in the U.S. can be explained as a reporting bias.

Ans4. D

Explanation:

An Internet ransomware virus 'Akira' that steals vital personal information and encrypts data leading to extortion of money from people has been reported in cyberspace, the country's federal cybersecurity agency said in the latest advisory.

- This computer malware is targeting Windows and Linux-based systems.
- Akira is reportedly active in cyberspace. This group first steals the information, then encrypts data on their systems and conducts double extortion to force the victim into paying.

How It Works?

- The ransomware is spread through spear phishing emails with malicious attachments, drive-by downloads, specially crafted web links in emails, and insecure Remote Desktop connections.

- It has targeted various domains, including education, finance, real estate, manufacturing, and consulting, and once inside a corporate network, it spreads laterally to other devices using stolen Windows domain admin credentials.

Ans5. A

Explanation:

A Bill to amend the Registration of Birth and Death Act is likely to make Aadhaar compulsory for registration of births and deaths for whoever has one.

- India has taken the first step to generate digital birth certificates, which will be an all-encompassing document that can be used for admission to educational institutions, jobs, passports or Aadhaar, voter enrolment, registration of marriage, and others.
- This will “avoid multiplicity of documents to prove date and place of birth”, according to the Registration of Births and Deaths Amendment Bill, 2023.

Key Highlights

- On June 28, the Centre allowed the Registrar-General of India (RGI) to perform Aadhaar authentication during registration of births and deaths in the country.
- Currently, Aadhaar is not mandatory for such registration. The proposed amendment to the 1969 Act will give it legal teeth.
- The Bill also requires the States to compulsorily share data on registered births and deaths with the RGI, which functions under the Union Home Ministry.
- The RGI will maintain its own register of births and deaths. The States are currently required to only send annual statistical reports to the RGI.
- As per the requirements of the amendment, the States will have to sign a memorandum of understanding with the RGI to share the Application Programming Interface (API) from where the data can be pulled out.
- While all States are required to use the Civil Registration System (CRS) operated by the RGI to issue birth and death certificates, there are some States which have their own applications.
- The database will be used to update the National Population Register (NPR), the Bill proposes.

Ans6. A

Explanation:

Employee Provident Fund (PF)

- It is a government-established savings scheme for employees of the organised sector.
- The EPF interest rate is declared every year by the EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organisation) which is a statutory body under the Employees’ Provident Fund Act, 1956.
- For the current financial year 2022-23, the interest rate on the EPF account has been fixed at 8.15%. Only employees of companies registered under the EPF Act can invest in the EPF or PF.

Ans7. C

Explanation:

On July 24, the Rajasthan government passed the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023. It is the first legislation of its kind in India outlining welfare schemes for the State's approximately three lakh gig workers.

What did the Bill propose?

- The Bill applies to “aggregators” (digital intermediaries connecting buyers and sellers) and “primary employers” (individual or organisations engaging platform-based workers).
- The Bill proposes a Welfare Board comprising State officials, five representatives each from gig workers and aggregators, and two others from civil society.
 - The Board will “set up a welfare fund, register platform-based gig workers, aggregators and primary employers, facilitate guarantee of social security to platform-based gig workers and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”
 - The Board will maintain a database of companies and workers and each worker will receive a unique ID which “shall be valid in perpetuity.”

Ans8. D

Explanation:

- The Union government has launched the Meri Maati, Mera Desh campaign envisaged as a culminating event of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (celebration of India's 75 years of Independence) celebration.
- Under the campaign, soil collected from different parts of the country in August will be used to develop a garden called Amrit Vatika along the Kartavya Path in Delhi. This 'Amrit Vatika' will also become a grand symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'.
- Events have been planned at the panchayat, village, block, urban local body, and State and national levels, respectively.
- The five-point agenda includes

Installation of a shilaphalakam	Solemn Pledge Affirmation	Vasudha Vandhan	Veeron Ka Vandan	Mitti Kalash
•The installation of a <i>shilaphalakam</i> (memorial plaque), bearing the “names of those who have made the supreme sacrifice”. “For this purpose, <i>veers</i> (bravehearts) include freedom fighters, defence personnel, CAPF personnel, and State Police.	•Participants will take a solemn pledge affirming their commitment to India and its progress.	•Every gram panchayat or village will renew its commitment to Mother Earth. This will involve planting 75 saplings of indigenous species and developing an Amrit Vatika (an ambrosial garden).	•The campaign aims to felicitate freedom fighters and the families of deceased freedom fighters, honoring their contributions to the nation.	•Soil will be collected from various parts of the country. This collected soil will be used to build a garden along Kartavya Path in Delhi, symbolizing the unity and diversity of the nation.

Ans9. A

Explanation:

Cropping Season	Time Period	Crops	States
Rabi	Sown: October-December Harvested: April-June	Wheat, barley, peas, gram, mustard etc.	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh
Kharif	Sown: June-July Harvested: September-October	Rice, maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut, soybean etc.	Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra
Zaid	Sown and harvested: March-July (between Rabi and Kharif)	Seasonal fruits, vegetables, fodder crops etc.	Most of the northern and northwestern states

Ans10. B

Explanation:

Kharif crops require good rainfall and a hot and humid climate for their growth.

Ans11. B

Explanation:

World Hepatitis Day is an annual event that takes place on July 28 to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and its impact on global health.

- The main goal of this day is to promote prevention, testing, and treatment while showing support for those affected by hepatitis.
- Theme 2023: One life, one liver

Ans12. D

Explanation:

Causes of Hepatitis

- Usually caused by a group of viruses known as the “hepatotropic” (liver directed) viruses, including A, B, C, D and E.
- Other viruses may also cause it, such as the varicella virus that causes chicken pox.
- SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19 may injure the liver too.
- Other causes include drugs and alcohol abuse, fat buildup in the liver (fatty liver hepatitis) or an autoimmune process in which a person’s body makes antibodies that attack the liver (autoimmune hepatitis).

Ans13. A

Explanation:

Bedaquiline is used to treat Drug resistant TB. MDR-TB does not respond to at least isoniazid and rifampicin, the 2 most powerful anti-TB drugs.

Ans14. B

Explanation:

- Corbett National Park: Uttarakhand
- Bandipur National Park: Karnataka
- Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary: Rajasthan
- Nagarhole Tiger Reserve: Karnataka

Ans15. C

Explanation:

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 that introduces stringent anti-piracy provisions, expanding the scope of the law from censorship to cover copyright also.

Key Highlights

- The Bill proposes a jail term of up to three years and a fine up to 5% of a film's production cost for persons who "use any audiovisual recording device in a place licensed to exhibit films with the intention of making or transmitting an infringing copy of" a film, or trying to do so.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, which authorises the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to require cuts in films and clear them for exhibition in cinemas and on television.
- The government will not have revisional powers over the CBFC's decisions even after this Bill.
- The Bill introduces three age ratings for films requiring adult supervision.
 - Such films now get a U/A rating, but this has been split into U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+.
 - Films rated for adults have largely been prohibited on television, following a 2004 Bombay High Court order.
 - Broadcasters often cut films voluntarily, and re-apply with the CBFC for a U/A rating. The Bill formalises this practice.
- The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories and 90% for special category States and Union Territories (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.