

15th September, 2020

TEST YOURSELF

Daily Current Affairs MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Panama disease is caused by a soil-borne fungus.
2. The disease inflicts banana crops and causes major damages across the world.
3. 'Tropical Race 4' or 'TR4' is one of the varieties of banana which is resistant to Panama disease.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- The scientists of Indian Council of Agriculture Research or ICAR, have found a cure for one of the most dreaded agricultural diseases one such as Panama Disease.

Statement 1 and 2 is correct: The Panama disease caused by a soil-borne fungus is threatening banana crops across Kerala, posing a potential crisis for farmers, even as global efforts to control the disease gain momentum. Panama is caused by the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Cubense* (Foc). The fungus enters the plant through the roots and goes on to colonise the plant through the vascular system. It causes discoloration and wilting of leaves, and eventually kills the plant.

Statement 3 is not correct: A new virulent strain of the disease known as Tropical Race 4 (TR4) is now threatening banana crops in Asia, Australia, Africa and the Middle East. It is a strain of Panama Disease not a variety of Banana, hence this is wrong.

Q2. With reference to the Phosphene gas recently discovered in the atmosphere of Venus, consider the following statements:

1. It is a colourless, odourless and toxic gas.

2. It is known to be made only by some species of bacteria under anaerobic conditions.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

In News- An international team of astronomers discovered phosphine gas in the atmosphere of Venus which triggered global excitement about the possibility of the presence of life forms on the neighbouring planet.

Statement 1 is not correct but 2 is correct: Phosphine - a phosphorus atom with three hydrogen atoms attached - is highly toxic to people. It is a colourless but smelly gas which is usually produced when microbes, like bacteria, survive in the absence of oxygen. The researchers examined potential non-biological sources such as volcanism, meteorites, lightning and various types of chemical reactions, but none appeared viable. The research continues to either confirm the presence of life or find an alternative explanation.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Methane hydrates are formed when hydrogen-bonded water and methane gas come into contact and form crystalline solids.
- 2. They are formed at high pressures and high temperatures in the oceans.

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

Answer: A

In News- The Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin holds a massive reserve of methane hydrate and a rich source of cleaner natural gas, claims a study by the Pune-based Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) of the science & technology ministry.

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct but 2 is not correct: Gas hydrates are formed when a gas such as methane gets trapped in well-defined cages of water molecules forming crystalline solids. In terrestrial conditions, gas hydrates are formed naturally under the sea bed and glaciers under high pressure, low-temperature conditions. Methane hydrate is a potential source of natural gas.

Q4. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Yojna?

1. It is a pension scheme for organized sector workers.
2. Ministry of Finance is the nodal ministry for its implementation.
3. The subscriber should belong to age group 18-40 years.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Option C is correct: Government of India has introduced a pension scheme for unorganised workers namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers. The unorganised workers mostly engaged as home-based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washermen, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own-account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audiovisual workers and similar other occupations. Monthly income for eligibility is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years. They should not be covered under the New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income taxpayer.

Q5. Consider the following pairs:

Committee headed by

Related Domain

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Ravi Chopra | Assessment of relief to bank borrowers |
| 2. K N Dikshit | Ecological assessment of Char Dham Project |
| 3. Rajiv Mehrishi | Studying evolution of Indian culture |

Which of the pairs given above is/are **not correctly** matched?

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

Answer: D

Option D is correct: All the statements are wrong. These all the committees were in the news. Recently the government has formed an expert committee headed by KN Dikshit for conducting a study on the origin and evolution of Indian culture dating back to around 12,000 years ago. And, Government has also constituted a three-member expert committee headed by Rajiv Mehrishi to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers. The Rajiv Chopra committee is related to make ecological assessments of Char Dham Project.