

Q1. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD)?

1. The disease is caused by phytoplasma, which is a bacterial parasite of plant tissues.
2. It was first reported in Kodagu in 1899 and as of now, there is no cure for this disease.
3. It targets Red Sanders which are endemic to South and North East India and are categorised as endangered species under IUCN Red List.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

**In News-** India's sandalwood trees are facing a serious threat with the return of the destructive Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD) with the disease has resurfaced in the aromatic tree's natural habitats in Karnataka and Kerala.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Sandalwood Spike Disease is an infectious disease which is caused by phytoplasma. Phytoplasmas are bacterial parasites of plant tissues — which are transmitted by insect vectors and involved in plant-to-plant transmission. So far, no cure has been found for SSD but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The disease was first reported in Kodagu in 1899. More than a million sandalwood trees were removed in the Kodagu and Mysuru region between 1903 and 1916, prompting the Maharaja of Mysuru to announce a reward in 1907 for anyone finding a remedy.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is endemic to South India. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has put it under the category of near threatened from earlier endangered species in the Red List.

Q2. Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the report of a survey titled 'Health in India', consider the following statements in this context:

1. The Jain community remains the most susceptible to ailments.
2. Women are more susceptible to suffering from ailments than men in both rural and urban areas.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

**In News-** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the report of a survey titled 'Health in India. The report details aspects of the role played by government and private sector facilities, and also contains health information for separate religious communities.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Zoroastrian community remains the most susceptible to ailments. Results from the National Sample Survey (NSS)'s 75th Round released in July show that 31.1 % of Zoroastrians reported that they were suffering from an ailment at the time the survey was conducted. This number for other communities is: Jains, 11.2 %; Sikhs 11 %; Christians 10.5 %; Muslims 8.1 %; Buddhists 8 %; and Hindus 7.2 %.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The survey shows that women remain more susceptible to suffering from ailments than men. In rural India, 6.1 % of males said that they were suffering from ailments, while 7.6 % of rural women said the same. While 8.2 % of urban males said that they were sick, 10 % of urban females said the same.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Government of India is committed to increase in public healthcare spending from the existing 2.5 per cent of the GDP to 6.5 per cent by 2025.

2. The 15th Finance Commission has concurred for an increase in healthcare spending substantially in the next five years in view of the present pandemic.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

**In News-** Recently, the Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said that the government has decided to increase public healthcare spending.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Government is committed to increase in public healthcare spending from the existing 1.15 per cent of the GDP to 2.5 per cent by 2025.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The 15th Finance Commission's high-level group on health has concurred that healthcare spending must be raised substantially in the next five years in view of the present pandemic. In union budget 2017-18, the government increased budget for the health sector by 27.7% and National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 also envisages to increase health expenditure as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 2.5 % by 2025.

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Destination Northeast' is an annual festival organised by the DONER ministry for showcasing the Northeast culture.
2. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the North-East Council.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News-

**Statement 1 is correct but 2 is not correct:** Union Home Minister inaugurated the "Destination North East -2020". The Union Home Minister is also the Chairman of the North-East Council. Destination Northeast is an annual festival organised by the DONER ministry with the objective of showcasing and celebrating the region to other parts of the country in order to strengthen national integration. The theme for this year's event is 'The Emerging Delightful Destinations' and will be a virtual event due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Q5. Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict is often seen in the news, the conflict is between which among the following nations?

1. Georgia
2. Armenia
3. Azerbaijan
4. Iran

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: B

Explanation:

**In News-** The clashes erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

**Option B is correct:** Nagorno-Karabakh region is a territorial and ethnic conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, which are controlled by Armenia in reality but are internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. The conflict has its origins in the early 20th century when the Soviet Union's Joseph Stalin decided to make the Nagorno-Karabakh region an autonomous region of Soviet Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan in a conflict that broke out as the

Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Though a ceasefire was agreed in 1994, after thousands of people were killed and many more displaced, Azerbaijan and Armenia frequently accuse each other of attacks around Nagorno-Karabakh and along the separate Azeri-Armenian frontier.

