January 24, 2017

Q.1) Which of the following statements about the Vaquita is/are correct?

- 1. It is a rare species of porpoise
- 2. It is the most endangered cetacean in the world
- 3. It endemic to the northern part of the Gulf of California

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.1) Solution (d)

An ambitious, emergency plan to help save the vaquita, a rare species of porpoise, from extinction in the northern Gulf of California has been recommended by the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA). The plan involves relocating some of the remaining vaquitas to a temporary sanctuary, while crucial efforts aimed at eliminating illegal fishing and removing gill nets from their environment continue. The emergency action plan will be led by the Mexican government and supported by a consortium of marine mammal experts from more than a dozen organisations around the world.

Since the baiji (Lipotes vexillifer) is believed to have gone extinct by 2006, the vaquita has taken on the title of the most endangered cetacean in the world. It is listed as critically endangered because the estimated number of individuals dropped below 100 in 2014, putting it in imminent danger of extinction. That number was updated to approximately 60 in May 2016, leading to the conclusion that the species is headed for extinction within five years unless further conservation efforts are undertaken.

In News - http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/article17075761.ece

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Wolf 1061c

- 1. It is an exoplanet orbiting within the habitable zone of the red dwarf star Wolf 1061
- 2. It is the second-closest known potentially habitable exoplanet to Earth, after Proxima Centauri b
- 3. It has an atmosphere more similar to Venus

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

January 24, 2017

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

Wolf 1061c or WL 1061c is an exoplanet orbiting within the habitable zone of the red dwarf star Wolf 1061 in the constellation Ophiuchus, about 13.8 light years from Earth, making it the second-closest known potentially habitable exoplanet to Earth, after Proxima Centauri b. It has an atmosphere more similar to Venus.

But the climate of Wolf 1061c is quite chaotic compared to earth, since the orbit around its star changes at a much faster rate than earth. The earth also experiences climate change due to change in its orbit around the sun which resulted in ice age previously.

It is the second planet in order from its host star in a triple planetary system, and has an orbital period of 17.9 days. Wolf 1061c is classified as a super-Earth exoplanet as its estimated radius is greater than 1.5 R.

In News - http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/wolf-1061c-exoplanet-could-be-the-next-habitable-planet-after-earth-4484780/

Q.3) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Arunachal Pradesh :: Yak Dance

2. Manipur :: Hojagiri

3. Tripura :: Lai Haroba

4. Odisha :: Dola Jatra

Select the correct code:

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

January 24, 2017

Arunachal Pradesh (Yak Dance) - It is one of the most famous pantomimes of the Mahayana sect of Buddhist Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

Manipur (Lai Haroba) – It is one of the oldest ritualistic theatres of the world preserved by the Meitei community of Manipur. It is celebrated to worship local deities to bring prosperity and well-being. It is translated as 'Happiness of the Gods'.

Tripura (Hojagiri) - It is a popular dance form of Reang Tribe. It is performed during bihu, the most popular festival of reang tribes

Odisha (DolaJatra) - A popular festival celebrated in the state which signifies the journey of Goddess Radha& Lord Krishna for ultimate union in the tradition of Bhakti cult.

In News - http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/skill-india-beti-bachao-beti-padhao-themes-for-68th-republic-day-tableaux/story-TyK1HK2ThOBX4uGKeVKWeM.html

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Anadromous fishes hatch or are born in marine habitats, but migrate to freshwater areas where they spend the majority of their lives growing and maturing.
- b) Catadromous fishes are the opposite of catadromous fishes in that hatching and a juvenile period occur in freshwater.
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.4) Solution (d)

Diadromous fishes describe species that spend part of their lives in freshwater and part in saltwater. There are two categories of diadromous fishes, catadromous and anadromous.

Catadromous fishes hatch or are born in marine habitats, but migrate to freshwater areas where they spend the majority of their lives growing and maturing.

Anadromous fishes are the opposite of catadromous fishes in that hatching and a juvenile period occur in freshwater.

Q.5) The 713th death anniversary of Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya was recently observed by reciting qawwals in the Nizamuddin dargah. Consider the following statements

1. Nizamuddin Auliya is a sufi saint belonging to the Qadiriyya order

January 24, 2017

2. His notable disciple was Amir Khusrow

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

Nizamuddin Auliya is a sufi saint belonging to the Chisti order.

Nizamuddin Auliya's predecessors were Qutbuddin Bakhthiyar Kaki, Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti. His notable disciple was Amir Khusrow.

The Chisti order is a Sunni Sufi order within the Sufi tradition of Islam. The order believed in drawing close to God through renunciation of the world and service to humanity.

This order is primarily followed in Afghanistan and Indian Subcontinent.

The Chisti order is the first of the four main Sufi orders – Chisti, Qadiriyya, Suhrawardiyya and Naqshbandi order.

In News - http://www.hindustantimes.com/art-and-culture/meet-the-nizami-bandhu-qawwali-s-rockstars/story-NIHuHmoLvv2omhiPRbOqHP.html