

July 21, 2017

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Vector-borne diseases

1. Vector-borne diseases are infections transmitted by the bite of infected arthropod species
2. Japanese encephalitis is a vector-borne disease

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

Vector-borne diseases are infections transmitted by the bite of infected arthropod species, such as mosquitoes, ticks, triatomine bugs, sandflies, and blackflies (1). Arthropod vectors are cold-blooded (ectothermic) and thus especially sensitive to climatic factors. Weather influences survival and reproduction rates of vectors (2), in turn influencing habitat suitability, distribution and abundance; intensity and temporal pattern of vector activity (particularly biting rates) throughout the year; and rates of development, survival and reproduction of pathogens within vectors. However, climate is only one of many factors influencing vector distribution, such as habitat destruction, land use, pesticide application, and host density. Vector-borne diseases are widespread in Europe and are the best studied diseases associated with climate change.

Key facts

- Vector-borne diseases account for more than 17% of all infectious diseases, causing more than 1 million deaths annually.
- More than 2.5 billion people in over 100 countries are at risk of contracting dengue alone.
- Malaria causes more than 400 000 deaths every year globally, most of them children under 5 years of age.
- Other diseases such as Chagas disease, leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide.
- Many of these diseases are preventable through informed protective measures.

Mosquitoes are the best known disease vector. Others include ticks, flies, sandflies, fleas, triatomine bugs and some freshwater aquatic snails.

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Mosquitoes

Aedes

- Chikungunya
- Dengue fever
- Rift Valley fever
- Yellow fever
- Zika

Anopheles

- Malaria

Culex

- Japanese encephalitis
- Lymphatic filariasis
- West Nile fever

Sandflies

- Leishmaniasis
- Sandfly fever (phlebotomus fever)

Ticks

- Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever
- Lyme disease
- Relapsing fever (borreliosis)
- Rickettsial diseases (spotted fever and Q fever)
- Tick-borne encephalitis
- Tularaemia

Triatomine bugs

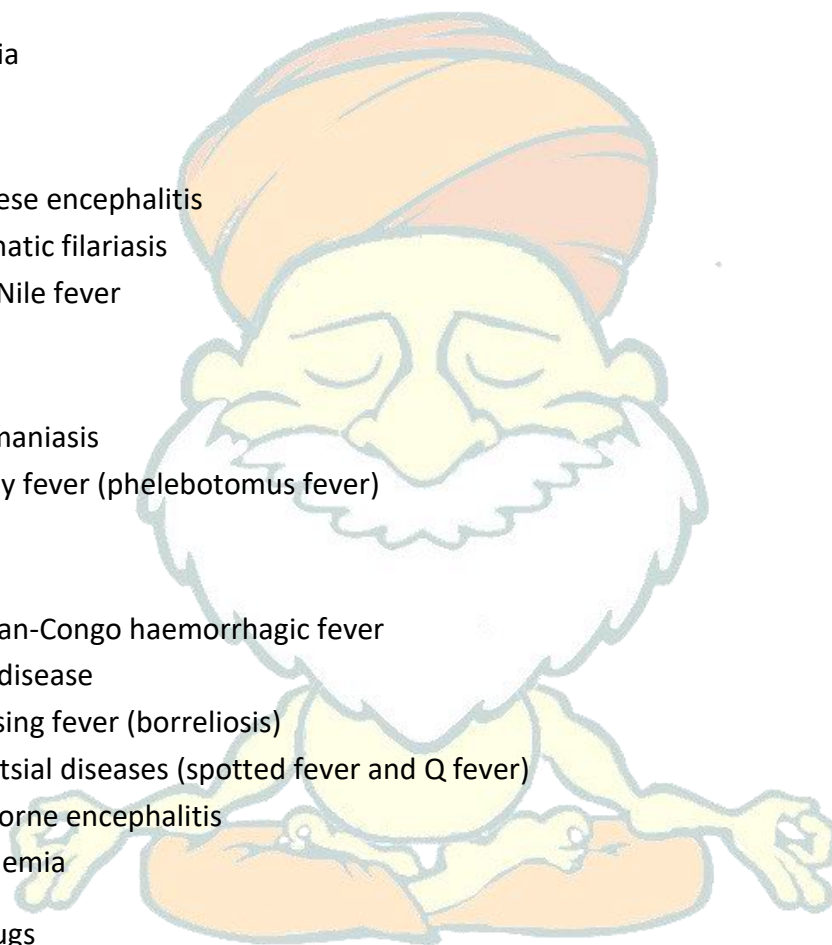
- Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis)

Tsetse flies

- Sleeping sickness (African trypanosomiasis)

Fleas

- Plague (transmitted by fleas from rats to humans)
- Rickettsiosis



Black flies

- Onchocerciasis (river blindness)

Aquatic snails

- Schistosomiasis (bilharziasis)

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/Kc9UZIGOkuDkfpkLpvFhP/The-rising-challenge-of-vectorborne-diseases.html>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Pant-Mirza Agreement

1. It facilitates visits by nationals of India and Pakistan to mutually agreed list of religious shrines in each other's country
2. It is under 'Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines' signed in 1974

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

Pant-Mirza Agreement

Visits by nationals of India and Pakistan to mutually agreed list of religious shrines in each other's country are facilitated under the 'Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines' signed in September 1974.

This includes visits to shrines of Hazrat Moinuddin Chishti (Ajmer), Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (Delhi), Hazrat Amir Khusro (Delhi), Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani (Sirhind Sharif) and Hazrat Khwaja Alauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir (Kalyar Sharif) in India and Shadani Darbar (Hyat Pitafi), Shri Katasraj Dham (Lahore), Gurudwaras of Shri Nankana Sahib (Rawalpindi), Shri Panja Sahib (Rawalpindi) and Shri Dera Sahib (Lahore) in Pakistan.

Under the Protocol it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list of shrines under the Protocol are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. Government of India ensures that these Shrines in India are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved.

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Q.3) Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Rajasthan

Q.3) Solution (a)

Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state in central India. It is notable as Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park. It is one of India's 50 "Project Tiger" - tiger reserves.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/eco-bridges-for-the-movement-of-tigers/article19297462.ece>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about Arafura Sea

1. It lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
2. It is a landlocked sea

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (d)

The Arafura Sea lies west of the Pacific Ocean overlying the continental shelf between Australia and Indonesian New Guinea.

The Arafura Sea is bordered by Torres Strait and through that the Coral Sea to the east, the Gulf of Carpentaria to the south, the Timor Sea to the west and the Banda and Ceram seas to the northwest.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

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1. It is a pension scheme
2. The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through all Life Insurance companies operating in India
3. It provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

As per the scheme, on payment of an initial lump sum amount ranging from a minimum purchase price of Rs 1,50,000 for a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month to a maximum purchase price of Rs 7,50,000 for a maximum pension of Rs 5,000 per month, subscribers will get an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum, payable monthly.

1. The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana is a pension scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for senior citizens. It will be available from 4th May, 2017 to 3rd May, 2018.
2. One can subscribe to the PMVVY Pension Scheme offline as well as online through the Life Insurance Corporation of India.
3. PMVVY Pension Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years.
4. Pension is payable at the end of each period, during policy term of 10 years, on monthly/quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly basis as chosen by the pensioner.
5. Death Benefit: On the death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the purchase price shall be refunded to the beneficiary.
6. Maturity Benefit: On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.
7. Eligibility Conditions and Other Restrictions:

Minimum Entry Age: 60 years (completed)

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Maximum Entry Age: No limit

Policy Term: 10 years

Minimum Pension: Rs 1,000 per month

- Rs 3,000 per quarter
- Rs 6,000 per half year
- Rs12,000 per annum

Maximum Pension: Rs 5,000 per month

- Rs 15,000 per quarter
- Rs 30,000 per half year
- Rs 60,000 per annum

8. Payment of Purchase Price

The scheme can be purchased by payment of a lump sum purchase price. The pensioner has an option to choose either the amount of pension or the purchase price.

The minimum and maximum purchase price under different modes of pension will be as under:

Mode of Pension	Minimum Purchase Price	Maximum Purchase Price
Yearly	Rs. 1,44,578/-	Rs. 7,22,892/-
Half-yearly	Rs. 1,47,601/-	Rs. 7,38,007/-
Quarterly	Rs. 1,49,068/-	Rs. 7,45,342/-
Monthly	Rs. 1,50,000/-	Rs. 7,50,000/-

9. Loan: Loan facility is available after completion of 3 policy years. The maximum loan that can be granted shall be 75% of the purchase price.

The rate of interest to be charged for loan amount shall be determined at periodic intervals. For the loan sanctioned in Financial Year 2016-17, the applicable interest rate is 10% p.a. payable half-yearly for the entire term of the loan.

Loan interest will be recovered from pension amount payable under the policy. The loan interest will accrue as per the frequency of pension payment under the policy and it will be due on the due date of pension. However, the loan outstanding shall be recovered from the claim proceeds at the time of exit.

10. Taxes: Statutory Taxes, if any, imposed on this plan by the Government of India or any other constitutional Tax Authority of India shall be as per the tax laws and the rate of tax as applicable from time to time. The amount of tax paid shall not be considered for the calculation of benefits payable under the plan.

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