March 16, 2017

Q.1) Consider the following statements

- 1. Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) has developed what is reported to be the shortest-duration cotton variety in the world, named 'Yugank'
- 2. One of the main reasons for repeated failure of dryland cotton crop is its long duration
- 3. The fibre quality will be better for shorter-duration cotton
- 4. It will be available in both Bt and non-Bt forms

Select the correct statements

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1, 3 and 4
- c) 2, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.1) Solution (d)

One of the main reasons for repeated failure of dryland cotton crop is its long duration. This extends well beyond the monsoon months. These plants then go without water during the crucial time of flowering and fruiting and suffer weak uptake of nutrients.

CICR has developed what is reported to be the shortest-duration cotton variety in the world. The variety has been tentatively named "Yugank". It will be available in both Bt and non-Bt forms.

Another advantage of shorter-duration cotton is that the fibre quality is better. The longer the duration, the weaker the fibre.

In News - http://indianexpress.com/article/india/cotton-variety-which-needs-only-100days-to-mature-developed-4569502/

Q.2) Trans-Asia Connectivity Conference is organised by

- a) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- d) Russian Railways and Turkish State Railways

Q.2) Solution (a)

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It is being organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in coordination with the Organisation for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) and Indian Railways.

Conference - "Strengthening Railway Transport Connectivity in South and South-West Asia"

In News - <u>http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/pakistan-railway-not-to-send-official-at-trans-asia-connectivity-meet-4569320/</u>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016

- 1. The bill amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968
- 2. Inheritance law will not be applicable on Enemy Property.
- 3. The law only applies on heirs of enemy property and the tenants of that property will be governed by the Tenancy Act

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

The bill says that 'Enemy property' refers to any property belonging to, held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm. The government has vested these properties in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India. It is an office which is instituted under the government at the centre.

Following the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965, the Enemy Property Act was enacted in 1968, that regulates these kinds of properties and lists the powers of the Custodian. The ordinance was for the first time promulgated on January 7, 2016. It was passed by Lok Sabha on March 9, 2016, but was subsequently referred to Rajya Sabha Select Committee.

The government said that Inheritance law will not be applicable on Enemy Property. This according to home minister Rajnath Singh, will put an end to the long pending issue which should have ideally happened in 2010 when the Bill was first brought. The government added that the law only applies on heirs of enemy property. The tenants of that property will be governed by the Tenancy Act.

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The government brought the amendment bill after the heirs of Raja Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan, known as Raja of Mahmudabad, laid claims on his properties spread across Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Currently, the matter is before the Supreme Court.

An Ordinance to amend the law was promulgated for the fifth time on December 22 last year and it was due to lapse today. An ordinance lapses after 42 days from the day a session begins unless a bill to replace it is approved by Parliament. Five ordinances were promulgated on the bill. The last one was due to expire earlier.

Q.4) Union Of India & Another vs Raja Mohammed Amir Mohammad Khan is concerned with

- a) Muslim petition law
- b) Passive euthanasia
- c) 9th schedule of the Indian constitution
- d) None of the above

Q.4) Solution (d)

Enemy Property.

In News - <u>http://indianexpress.com/article/india/enemy-property-bill-passed-govt-calls-</u> <u>it-natural-justice-4569248/</u>

Q.5) The world's first fluorescent frog has been discovered in

- a) Guatemala
- b) Argentina
- c) Chile
- d) Ecuador

Q.5) Solution (b)

The world's first fluorescent frog has been discovered near Santa Fe in Argentina.

In normal light the frog appears to have a dull, mottled browny-green skin with red dots, but under UV light it glows a bright fluorescent green.

March 16, 2017

Fluorescence – the ability to absorb light at short wavelengths and re-emit it at longer wavelengths – is uncommon in creatures that live on land.

The translucent frog was found to use a combination of lymph and glandular emissions to fluoresce.

The compound causing the blue–green glow of the polka-dot tree frog was not previously thought to exist in vertebrates.

This is very different from fluorophores found in other vertebrates, which are usually proteins or polyenic chains.

The discovery opens up the possibility that other amphibians may be able to fluoresce, particularly those with translucent skin similar to that of the tree frog.

