

September 25, 2017

Q.1) OSIRIS-Rex is a NASA study and sample return mission of which of the following asteroid?

- a) Florence
- b) Bennu
- c) Ceres
- d) Phobos & Deimos

Q.1) Solution (b)

The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) is a NASA asteroid study and sample return mission.

Launched on 8 September 2016, its mission is to study asteroid 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid, and return a sample to Earth in 2023 for detailed analysis.

The material returned is expected to enable scientists to learn more about the formation and evolution of the Solar System, its initial stages of planet formation, and the source of organic compounds that led to the formation of life on Earth.

If successful, OSIRIS-REx will be the first U.S. spacecraft to return samples from an asteroid.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/nasa-asteroid-mission-receives-a-gravitational-kick-from-earth/article19745175.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Meitei script

1. Meitei language belongs to the Tibeto-Burmese branch of the Sino-Tibetan family of languages
2. It is currently classified as a vulnerable language by UNESCO
3. It is also called as Manipuri script

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (d)

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Meitei is the predominant language and lingua franca in the southeastern Himalayan state of Manipur, in northeastern India. It is the official language in government offices. Meitei is also spoken in the Indian states of Assam and Tripura, and in Bangladesh and Burma (now Myanmar). It is currently classified as a vulnerable language by UNESCO.

Meitei is a Tibeto-Burman language whose exact classification remains unclear. It has lexical resemblances to Kuki and Tangkhul Naga.

Meitei has its own script, which was used until the 18th century. The script was lost to the speakers of the language when Shantidas Gosai, a Hindu missionary, spread Vaishnavism in the region in 1709, during the reign of Pamheiba. The King, who assumed the name Garib Niwaz, decreed its replacement with that of Bengali.

Manipuri belongs to the Tibeto-Burmese branch of the Sino-Tibetan family of languages and has no use for several Bengali letters, some of which its speakers are unable to pronounce correctly. Writers are known to use Bengali letters whimsically, with the result that writers use different spellings for several words. Personalised spellings imposed by university professors on the research scholars have aggravated the linguistic problem.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/banished-manipuri-script-stages-a-comeback/article19743482.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Kattunayakka'

1. They are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)
2. They are inhabitants of the Western Ghats
3. They are also called as Cholanaickan and Pathinaickans

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)

Kattunayakan are a designated Scheduled Tribe in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

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Kattunayakan is one of the tribes who had been the true inhabitants of forest. As the name indicates they were once the kings of jungles. They rarely mix with other tribes and still follow black magic and sorcery. They are completely dependent on forest and forest products and subsist on honey, roots and barks of plants and what small animals that they trap or fell with their bows and arrows. They are also known as Then Kurumas as they collect honey from the forest.

They follow a religion which is strongly rooted in their culture and worship animals, birds, trees, rocks and snakes and almost everything natural. They also worship their ancestors. The physical features of hill-tribes are very obvious in them and their language is a mixture of all Dravidian languages.

The Kattunayakan community is found nowadays in Wayanad, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. While they are called Kattunayakan in Wayanad, those belonging to interiors of Nilambur of Malappuram district are called Cholanaickan and those who live in the plains of Malappuram district are called Pathinaickans.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/tribals-in-wayanad-wait-for-the-promised-land/article19743621.ece>

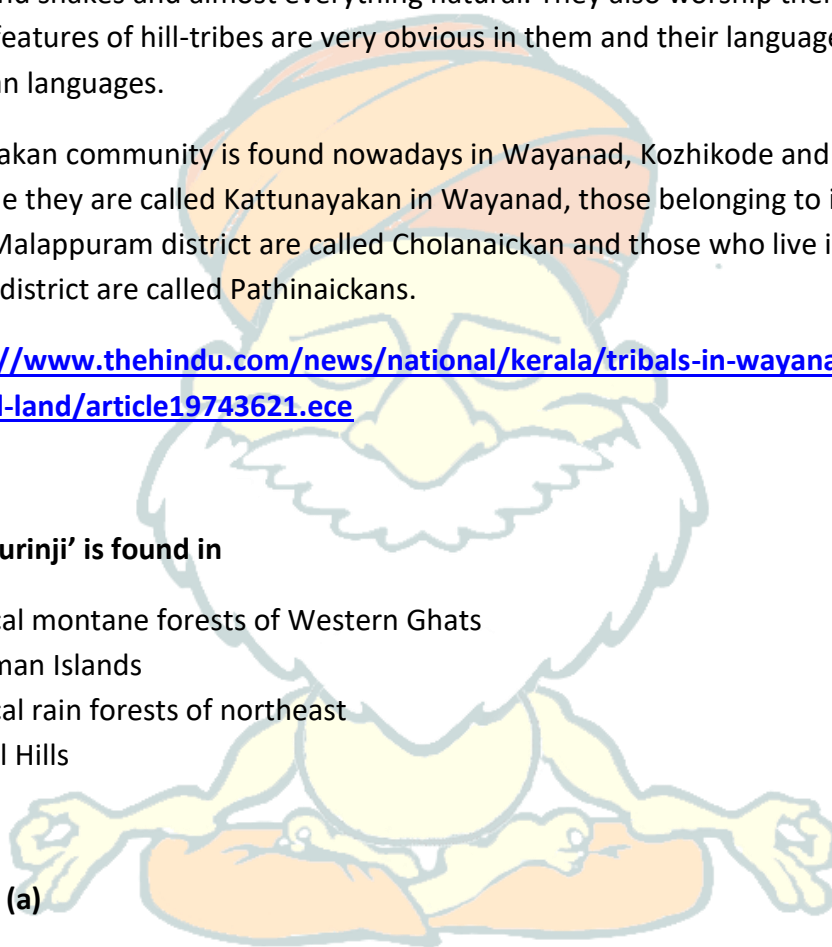
Q.4) 'Neela Kurinji' is found in

- a) Tropical montane forests of Western Ghats
- b) Andaman Islands
- c) Tropical rain forests of northeast
- d) Maikal Hills

Q.4) Solution (a)

It is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in South India. Nilgiri Hills, which literally means the blue mountains, got their name from the purplish blue flowers of Neelakurinji that blossoms only once in 12 years.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/head-to-sandur-to-see-a-flower-that-blossoms-once-in-12-years/article19711679.ece>



Q.5) Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty?

- a) Swapnavasavadatta
- b) Malavikagnimitra
- c) Meghadoota
- d) Ratnavati

Q.5) Solution (b)

Malavikagnimitra is a Sanskrit play by Kālidāsa. It is his first play. (kalidasa's malavikagnimitram is based on the events of the reign of Pushyamitra Shunga.)

The play tells the story of the love of Agnimitra, the Shunga Emperor at Vidisha, for the beautiful hand-maiden of his chief queen. He falls in love with the picture of an exiled servant girl named Mālavikā. He must resort to the help of his jester and play a game of subterfuge merely to look at the new girl. When the queen discovers her husband's passion for this girl, she becomes infuriated and has Mālavikā imprisoned, but as fate would have it, in the end she is discovered to be of royal birth and is accepted as one of his queens.

The play contains an account of the Rajasuya sacrifice performed by Pushyamitra Shunga and an elaborate exposition of a theory on music and acting.

