

October 2, 2017

Q.1) Recently, the Centre notified a new set of rules under the head Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Consider the following statements

1. It replaces the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010
2. It calls for setting up of a State Wetlands Authority in each State and union territories
3. Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) will be replaced by the National Wetlands Committee

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (d)

The union environment ministry notified the new Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 which prohibit a range of activities in wetlands like setting up and expansion of industries, waste dumping and discharge of effluents. The new rules will replace the 2010 version of the rules.

The new rules stipulate setting up of a State Wetlands Authority in each State and union territories that will be headed by the State's environment minister and include a range of government officials. They will also include one expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socioeconomics to be nominated by the state government.

The rules prohibit activities like conversion of wetland for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind, setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries, manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of hazardous substances and construction and demolition waste, solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements.

As per the 2010 version of the rules, there was a Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) which will now be replaced by a national committee.

According to the 2010 rules, anyone aggrieved with the CWRA's decisions could have filed an appeal with the National Green Tribunal, but the new 2017 rules are silent on the appeal process.

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The identification process by the State Wetland Authority does not distinguish between existing wetlands and especially those past wetlands which have been encroached and can be proved through legal documents. It also does not take into account the Jagpal Singh judgment of Justice Katju for restoration of encroached wetlands throughout the country.

Under the new rules, the powers have been given to the State governments so that protection and conservation work can be done at the local level. Central government has mainly retained powers regarding monitoring.

To oversee the work carried out by States, the rules stipulates for setting up of National Wetlands Committee, which will be headed by the MoEFCC Secretary, to monitor implementation of these rules.

The Committee will also advise the Central Government on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands, recommend designation of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention, advise on collaboration with international agencies on issues related to wetlands etc.

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 -

[http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/Wetlands%20\(C&M\)%20Rules,%202017.pdf](http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/Wetlands%20(C&M)%20Rules,%202017.pdf)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/new-wetland-conservation-rules-notified/article19779100.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Kaziranga National Park

1. It is part of the middle Brahmaputra alluvial flood plains
2. Wild Water Buffalo is only found in Kaziranga National Park
3. It is a World Heritage Site

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

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It is a national park in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam, India. The sanctuary, which hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses, is a World Heritage Site.

Kaziranga is part of the highly fertile middle Brahmaputra alluvial flood plains with exposed sandbars, riverine flood-formed lakes and elevated flats.

Every year between May and September, the Kaziranga National Park – a 378.22 sq km wildlife sanctuary – is submerged in flood waters. Rainfall of about 222 mm contributes to the rising water level of the Brahmaputra which surrounds the park.

In India, Wild Water Buffalo is now largely restricted to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. In Assam, the species is found in and around Manas Sanctuary, Laokhowa Sanctuary, Kaziranga National Park, and Dibru Sanctuary. In Arunachal Pradesh, the species occurs in and around Namdapha Sanctuary. There are two populations in Madhya Pradesh (Bastar district), one in Indravati National Park, and another in Udanti Sanctuary, which might extend into adjacent parts of Orissa.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/when-is-the-safari-trail-at-kaziranga-national-park-opening/article19778686.ece>

Q.3) The National Regulatory Authority of India (NRAI) has been given the maximum ratings by global health body World Health Organisation for vaccine regulations. Which of the following comprises NRA in India?

1. State drugs regulatory authorities
2. Pharmaco-vigilance Programme of India
3. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

Choose the Correct code:

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

World Health Organisation has, based on a robust benchmarking tool developed over years of consultation with various experts drawn from across the globe, carried out assessment of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India comprising the Central Drugs Standard

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Control Organisation (CDSCO), State Drug Regulatory Authorities, Pharmaco-vigilance Programme of India (PvPI) and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) structures at the Central and States levels.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/good-food-or-bad-drugs/article19778761.ece>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about India's nutraceutical industry

1. Nutraceutical is defined as a “food, or parts of a food, that provide medical or health benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease
2. Nutraceuticals are exempted from GST

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (a)

The term “nutraceutical” was coined in 1989 by Stephen De Felice, founder and chairman of the Foundation for Innovation in Medicine, an American organization which encourages medical health research. He defined a nutraceutical as a “food, or parts of a food, that provide medical or health benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease”.

GST on nutraceuticals – 18%

The industry in India lacks a dedicated law guiding the sector or rules that defines the composition of nutraceuticals.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/good-food-or-bad-drugs/article19778761.ece>

Q.5) Which of the following statements about Piperazine is/are correct?

- a) It is used for the treatment of worm infections
- b) The derivatives of piperazine are used as anti-depressants drugs
- c) Both (a) and (b)

d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Q.5) Solution (c)

Piperazine is used for the treatment of worm infections. The antiviral drug indinavir used for treating HIV positive people is a piperazine-based molecule. The derivatives of piperazine are used as anti-histamines and anti-depressants drugs too.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/iit-roorkee-repurposes-a-drug-for-chikungunya/article19778185.ece>

