

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Himalayan Griffon'

1. It is an Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae
2. It is extinct in India

Select the correct code:

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

The Himalayan vulture or Himalayan griffon vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) is an Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae. Closely related to the European griffon vulture (*G. fulvus*) and once considered a subspecies of it, this species is found along the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau. It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors.

It was recently spotted in Telangana.

Geographical Distribution

Extant (resident)

- Afghanistan; Bhutan; China; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan

Extant (non-breeding)

- Bangladesh; Malaysia; Myanmar; Thailand

Extant

- India

IUCN – Near Threatened

Q.2) 'Shailesh Nayak Committee' is concerned with

- a) Coastal Zone Regulations
- b) Rate Hole Mining
- c) Merchandise Exports from India

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d) Non-Performing Assets

Q.2) Solution (a)

The Sailesh Nayak committee report was commissioned in June 2014 after states expressed dissatisfaction regarding the limitations set by the CRZ notification of 2011. The report was submitted in January 2015 after rounds of stakeholder meetings with representatives from coastal states.

The committee, which was headed by the former secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, recommended several relaxations in the terms set by the 2011 notification. It also endorsed dilution of regulatory powers held by the central government in coastal areas. The recommendations have been put forth with the objective of giving a boost to tourism, port construction and real estate.

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to '[K2-236b](#)'

1. It has a mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii
2. It was discovered by India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

A Team of scientists and engineers led by Prof. Abhijit Chakraborty of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, discovered a sub-Saturn or super-neptune size planet (mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii) around a Sun-like star. The planet will be known as EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b. With this discovery, India has joined a handful of countries, which have discovered planets around stars beyond our solar system. Further, PARAS is the first of its kind spectrograph in Asia, which can measure the mass of a planet going around a star. Very few spectrographs exist around the world that can do such precise measurements.

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PRL Advanced Radial-velocity All-sky Search, abbreviated PARAS, is a ground-based extrasolar planet search device. Based at 1.2m telescope is located at Mt. Abu, India. The project is funded by Physical Research Laboratory, India. The spectrograph works at a resolution of 67000. With the help of simultaneous calibration technique, PARAS has achieved an RV accuracy of 1.3 m/s for the bright sun like quiet stars. Thorium-Argon lamp is used for calibration. New calibration techniques are also being explored by the project team. PARAS can detect planet in the habitable zone around M-type stars.

Q.4) 'Clearing-House Mechanism' is associated with

- a) Convention on Biological Diversity
- b) CITES
- c) International Solar Alliance
- d) Brasilia Declaration

Q.4) Solution (a)

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been established further to Article 18.3 of the Convention.

Expertise in managing information and technology varies enormously from country to country. For this reason, the Convention on Biological Diversity has established a "Clearing-House Mechanism" (CHM) to ensure that all governments have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity.

The term "clearing-house" originally referred to a financial establishment where checks and bills were exchanged among member banks so that only the net balances need to be settled in cash. Today, its meaning has been extended to include any agency that brings together seekers and providers of goods, services or information, thus matching demand with supply.

A Clearing-House Mechanism serves to:

- Promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation within and between countries;
- Develop a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity; and
- Develop a human and technological network.

The mechanism's key characteristics are:

- Compatibility with different levels of national capacity

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- Needs-driven
- Structurally decentralized
- Provides access to information
- Supports decision-making
- Has no vested interest in controlling the expertise or information
- Created for the mutual benefit of all participants

India has submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). India is among the first five countries in the world, the first in Asia and the first among the biodiversity rich megadiverse countries to have submitted NR6 to the CBD Secretariat.

Submission of national reports is a mandatory obligation on Parties to international treaties, including CBD.

The NR6 provides an update of progress in achievement of 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) developed under the Convention process in line with the 20 global Aichi biodiversity targets. Briefly, the Report highlights that while India has exceeded/overachieved two NBTs, it is on track to achieve eight NBTs and in respect of the remaining two NBTs also, India is striving to meet the targets by the stipulated time of 2020.

Q.5) Consider the following terms

1. ENCORE-18
2. XPL-18
3. SHIKSHA-18

It is associated with

- a) Medicines developed by AYUSH
- b) GM Crops developed by Punjab University
- c) Missiles developed by DRDO
- d) None of the above

Q.5) Solution (d)

In order to remain combat ready at all the time IN conducted Command level operational exercises ENCORE-18 (Eastern Naval Command), XPL-18 (Western Naval Command) and SHIKSHA-18 (Operational level war gaming exercise). These exercises also saw participation from the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. The exercises facilitate refining of IN war plans,

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address Op Logistics issues and provide platform for smooth transition from peace to conflict.

