

Weekly Quiz Answers (4th-10th Sept)

Ans1. B

Explanation:

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS)

- WWS is a wildlife sanctuary in Wayanad, Kerala, India with four hill ranges namely Sulthan Bathery, Muthanga, Kurichiat and Tholpetty.
- Species Found: gaur, Asian elephant, deer and tiger are found there.
- It is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in Kerala.
- Established in 1973, the sanctuary is now an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Ans2. A

Explanation:

The 51st Amendment	This amendment empowered the President to have published under his authority the authoritative text 'in the Hindi language' of the Constitution which could be used in the legal process too.
The 52nd Amendment	The act provided for the disqualification of members of Parliament and state legislatures on the ground of defection.
The 58th Amendment	Provision of the reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha for Scheduled Tribes in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram, as well as in the Legislative Assemblies of Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Ans3. C

Explanation:

Term	Definition
Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unemployment is not synonymous with joblessness.• The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines unemployment as being out of a job; being available to take a job; and actively engaged in searching for work.• Therefore, an individual who has lost work but does not look for another job is not unemployed.
Labour Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The labour force is defined as the sum of the employed and the unemployed.• Those neither employed nor unemployed — such as students and those engaged in unpaid domestic work — are considered out of the labour force.
Unemployment Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The unemployment rate is measured as the ratio of the unemployed to the labour force.• The unemployment rate could also fall if an economy is not generating enough jobs, or if people decide not to search for work.

Ans4. C

Explanation:

- The important amphibian species recorded during the survey include
 - Starry Night Frog, bearing a constellation of blue dots on its obsidian body
 - Miniature Night Frog, the tiniest frog in the country
 - Endangered species such as Malabar Torrent Toad and Red Stream Toad
 - The Naked Dancing Frog, previously associated only with areas in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, was also sighted during the survey.
 - The survey commenced with the recording of the Green Tree Frog and culminated with a compendium of 59 amphibians, of which over 80% are uniquely found in the Western Ghats. Of the 67 reptile species sighted, 21 are unique to the Western Ghats.



- Species like the Wayanad Dravidogecko, Nilgiri Spiny Lizard, and the Nilgiri Forest Lizard added depth to the survey's significance.
- The presence of Shieldtail snake, predominantly from Wayanad, brought forth the region's crucial role in global conservation discussions.

Ans5. A

Explanation:

- Fixed interest rates are those that do not change during the tenure of the loan. On the other hand, floating interest rates are subject to market dynamics and the base rate — therefore, the risk differentiation.
- As also contended by several lending entities, floating interest rates are generally lower than fixed interest rates. For example, if the floating interest rate for home loans is 10.5%, the fixed interest rate would be 12%.

Ans6. B

Explanation:

The Black Sea Grain initiative endeavours to tackle escalating food prices emanating from supply chain disruptions because of Russian actions in the world's 'breadbasket'. The deal brokered by the United Nations (UN) and Turkey, was signed in Istanbul in July, 2022.

Objective

- Initially stipulated for a period of 120 days, the deal was to provide for a safe maritime humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian exports (particularly for food grains).
- The central idea was to calm markets by ensuring an adequate supply of grains, thereby limiting food price inflation.

Ans7. C

Explanation:

IUCN status of Malabar Torrent Toad and Red Stream Toad is endangered.

Ans8. A

Explanation:

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) is bounded by the protected area network of Nagarhole National Park and Bandipur National Park in Karnataka in the northeast, and on the southeast by Mudumalai National Park in Tamil Nadu.

Ans9. D

Explanation:

Data from the **Air Quality Life Index 2021** shows that failure to meet the World Health Organization (WHO)'s guidelines on reducing PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) pollution to 5 g/m³ would cut global life expectancy by 2.3 years.

- AQLI data emphasises that ambient particulate pollution poses the world's greatest external risk to human health.

Key Highlights

- South Asia is at the centre of the crisis. According to AQLI data, from 2013 to 2021, particulate pollution in South Asia surged by 9.7%, which is estimated to reduce life expectancy in the region by an additional six months.
- Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, where 22.9% of the global population lives, are the most polluted countries in the world.
- In India, the second-most polluted country in the world in 2021, particulate pollution is the greatest threat to human health.
- Data reveal a further rise in PM_{2.5} pollution from 56.2 g/m³ in 2020 to 58.7 g/m³ in 2021, exceeding the WHO guidelines by more than 10 times.
- The average Indian resident is set to lose 5.3 years of life expectancy if WHO guidelines remain unmet.
- In contrast, cardiovascular diseases reduce the average Indian's life expectancy by about 4.5 years, while child and maternal malnutrition reduces it by 1.8 years.

Ans10. C

Explanation:

In August 2018, the Law Commission of India (LCI), chaired by Justice B. S. Chauhan, released a draft report on simultaneous elections, wherein the constitutional and legal questions related to the issue were analysed.

- The Commission submitted that simultaneous elections are not feasible within the existing framework of the Constitution.
- It said that the Constitution, the Representation of the People's Act 1951 and the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies would require appropriate amendments to conduct simultaneous polls.
- The commission also recommended it receive ratification from at least 50% of the States.
- However, with respect to the advantages of holding simultaneous polls, the commission said that ONOE will lead to the saving of public money, reducing the strain on the administrative setup and security forces, timely implementation of government policies, and administrative focus on development activities rather than electioneering.

Ans11. A

Explanation:

Context: Despite being a major food producer with extensive food security schemes and the largest public distribution system in the world, India still grapples with significant levels of food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition.

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022, ranked India 107 among 121 countries, behind Nigeria (103) and Pakistan (99).
- The GHI provides a composite measurement and tracks undernourishment and hunger at the national level across three dimensions:



Over the last half a decade, India's GHI score has deteriorated primarily due to the increasing prevalence of calorie undernourishment.

- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the proportion of calorie undernourishment in India has been escalating since 2017, reaching 16.3% in 2020, equivalent to the 2009 statistic.
- The Indian government has disputed these conclusions by raising concerns about the data and methodology used in calculating the GHI. However, it has not been able to provide empirical evidence to support its claims.

The State Hunger Index

- The GHI is computed using four indicators — the prevalence of calorie undernourishment; and of stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five; and under-five mortality rate.
- The State Hunger Index (SHI) is calculated using the same indicators **except calorie undernourishment**, which is replaced by **body mass index (BMI)** undernourishment among the working-age population, as data on calorie undernourishment are not available since 2012.
- Data for stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five are sourced from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), while the prevalence of BMI undernourishment is computed using NFHS-5 (2019-21) and Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (2017-18).
- The calculation of the SHI score involves combining the normalised values of the four indicators using the techniques recommended by the GHI.
- The SHI scores range between 0 and 100, with higher scores indicating more hunger.
 - Scores below 10 signify low hunger, 10-20 moderate, 20-30 serious, 30-40 alarming, and 50 or above extremely alarming.

Ans12. C

Explanation:

Vidya Samiksha Kendras are repositories which will have data from all schemes run by the Ministry; cross analytics of schemes such as PM-POSHAN, UDISE+ and so on can help assess challenges faced by students and teachers in real time.

- Under the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR), the Education Ministry is pushing States to open Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs), which are data repositories that will have data from all schemes run by the Ministry.
- This will include

Regularly updated data from the PM-POSHAN mid-day meal programmes

Teacher training data from the National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement portal

Textbook content from the Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing

School dropout and attendance-related data on the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+)

Students' learning outcomes from the National Achievement Survey

Performance Grading Index which evaluates school education system at the State and Union Territory (UT) level

- Currently, at the Central level, a VSK is housed in the Central Institute of Educational Technology building on the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) campus, with multinational IT company Ernst and Young (EY) managing its operations.
 - It is an open-source platform run on C-Qube software.

Ans13. D

Explanation:

- DIKSHA, which comes under the Education Ministry, provides e-content for schools by an online portal and a mobile application.
- It has embedded assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing challenges. However, DIKSHA is a static content repository.
- DIKSHA features digitised National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks used by national and State Boards.
- Apart from this, DIKSHA hosts 2.43 lakh contributions by 11,624 academics by way of teaching videos, explainers, and practice questions. Currently, all these contributions are scattered across the platform.

Ans14. D

Explanation:

Geographical Location of Black Sea:

- The Black Sea, also known as the Euxine Sea, is one of the major water bodies and a famous inland sea of the world.
- This marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean, located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
- It is surrounded by the Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains in the south, east and north respectively.
- The Turkish straits system - the Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea - forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

- The Black Sea is also connected to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch.
- The bordering countries of Black Sea are: Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.

Ans15. C

Explanation:

Context: The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is set to integrate **Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL)** into its existing **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform**.

- The PAL's software-based approach is expected to allow each student to have an individualised learning experience over the course of the curriculum based on their unique needs and abilities.
- Apart from PAL, MeitY is also considering the introduction of voice commands in DIKSHA 2.0 as a part of AI-enabled learning. "Just like ChatGPT, the student can access summaries of chapters by giving voice commands and so on," the MeitY official said.

How The System Will Work?

The NCERT has sought the MeitY's expertise in facilitating the PAL's integration into DIKSHA.

- In an example of how it works, if a student of Class 9 is learning the Pythagoras theorem and makes a calculation mistake, the AI learning system flags it and loops the student back to a basic video of how to make the calculation.

In some States, private players are already administering the PAL, which works on AI or Artificial Intelligence, but budget constraints have been an obstacle.

- Building the PAL is a massive exercise. Content from across subjects will have to be categorised and different chunks will have to be tagged. New content may also have to be created.
- Tagging of content is important to create learning loops, where, say, a student faces difficulty at a certain tag, then supportive material offering an explanation of the tagged concept can be provided.
- The official added that school students found chemistry, mathematics, and physics for Classes 9 to 12 to be the most difficult subjects, and the intention is to start building the PAL for these classes to begin with.

With nearly 35 lakh students dropping out in Class 10 and ineligible to qualify for Class 11 every year, the Education Ministry wants to adopt digital learning with a focus on improving learning outcomes and school retention.