

Weekly Quiz Answers (9th-15th Oct)

Ans1. A

Explanation:

Overlapping prey availability or habitat suitability could dictate a positive association between dholes and tigers, facilitating coexistence or even cooperative behaviours between the two species of carnivores, a new study has found.

- The paper, titled “Do dholes segregate themselves from their sympatrids? Habitat use and carnivore co-existence in the tropical forest”, was published in the latest issue of Mammalian Biology, a peer-reviewed international scientific journal edited by the German Society for Mammalian Biology.
- Sympatric refers to animals, plant species, and populations within the same or overlapping geographical areas.
- The scientists studied the dholes in three phases from April 2017 to May 2019 in the 500-sq.km Manas National Park.
- “We aimed to assess the relative abundance index, habitat use and factors (space and time) influencing dhole co-existence with other sympatric carnivores in Manas National Park,” the study said.

Key Highlights

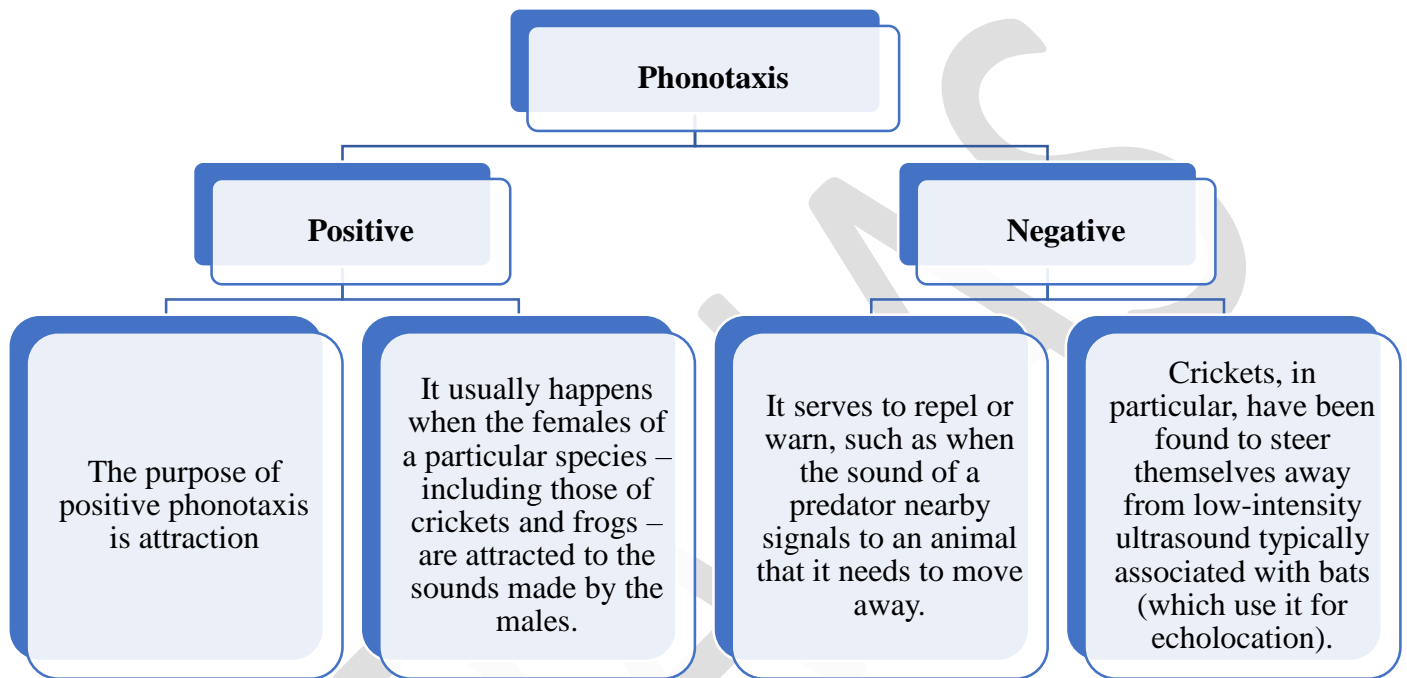
- The **dhole or Asiatic wild dog** (*Cuon alpinus*) is the only endangered wild pack-living canid in the **tropical Indian forests** and is considered at **high risk of extinction**.
- The study through camera traps at **Manas National Park** in Assam also revealed that the **diurnal activity of the dholes had the highest temporal overlap with leopards and the lowest with clouded leopards**.

Dhole	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhole (<i>Cuon alpinus</i>) is a wild carnivorous animal and is a member of the family Canidae and the class Mammalia.
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dholes, historically widespread across southern Russia to southeast Asia, are now mainly found in south and southeast Asia, with northern populations in China. • In India, they are clustered in the Western and Eastern Ghats, central India, and northeast India, with Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh playing a crucial role in their conservation, according to a 2020 study.
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 2. • International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List: Endangered. • The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix II. • The creation of reserves under Project Tiger provided some protection for dhole populations sympatric with tigers. • In 2014, the Indian government sanctioned its first dhole conservation breeding center at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) in Visakhapatnam.

Ans2. D

Explanation:

The click of crickets in the evening or frogs croaking during the monsoon are called phonotaxis (the movement by an animal in response to a sound). It has mostly been observed among crickets, moths, frogs, toads, and a few other creatures.



Ans3. B

Explanation:

Manas National Park

It is located in the foothills of Himalayas in Assam. It is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.

- It is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve.
- Flora: It contains some of the largest remaining grassland habitats in the sub-Himalayan grassland ecosystems.
- Fauna: The Park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as the Assam roofed



turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog.

- The name of the park originates from the Manas River, which is named after the serpent goddess Manasa.
- The Manas River is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the Manas National Park.

Ans4. A

Explanation:

2023 recorded the **hottest-ever September**, following the warmest-ever two months on record — July and August 2023.

- As the world gears up for COP28, there is alarming data on the horizon.
- The year 2023 is on course to possibly becoming the warmest year in recorded history, with **temperatures nearing 1.4°C above the pre-industrial era average.**

In September 2023, global temperatures reached a record high.

- The average surface air temperature was 16.38°C, which is 0.93°C higher than the September average between 1991 and 2020.
- Moreover, it was 0.5°C warmer than the earlier record set in September 2020.

In a worrying update, the extent of **sea ice has stayed at very low levels** for this time of the year in the **Antarctic region**. Sea ice extent refers to the total area of an ocean where there is at least some sea ice present.

- Satellite records for September reveal that both daily and monthly extents have plummeted to their lowest annual peaks, with the monthly extent dropping 9% below the norm.

Meanwhile, the monthly average Arctic sea ice extent in September 2023 reached its annual minimum of 4.8 million km², about 1.1 million km² (or 18%) below the 1991-2020 average for September. This value is the fifth lowest in the satellite data record.

Ans5. A

Explanation:

Green Credit programme will cover eight types of activities



Ans6. A

Explanation:

Special scheme to allow individual or entity to earn Green Credit, trade it on a dedicated exchange.

- Green Credit refers to a unit of an incentive provided for specified activities that deliver a positive impact on the environment; to obtain credits, one needs to register the activity via a website.
- “A Green Credit programme is being launched at the national level to leverage a competitive market-based approach for incentivising environmental actions of various stakeholders,” the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Ministry said in a notification.
- This programme is a follow-up action of the ‘LiFE’-(Lifestyle for Environment) campaign. The notification added that the new programme is a voluntary one.

Key Highlights

This programme will cover eight types of activities



- To get the Green Credit, one needs to register the activity with the administrator through a website.
- The activity will then be verified by a designated agency and based on its report, the administrator shall grant the applicant a certificate of Green Credit.
- The **calculation of Green Credit** shall be based on equivalence of resource requirement, parity of scale, scope, size, and other relevant parameters to achieve the desired environmental outcome.
- A Green Credit Registry will also be included.
- The administrator will establish and maintain a trading platform.
- The programme would incentivise environmentally-positive actions via a market-based mechanism and generate Green Credit, which shall be made available for trading on a domestic market platform.
- The **initiative aims** to encourage industries, companies, and other entities meet their obligations under any law that is in force for the time being. However, the Green Credit generated or procured to fulfil any obligation, in compliance with any law, shall not be tradeable.

Ans7. B

Explanation:

Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India’s land area, and have been notified in 10 States: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh.

In 1995, the **Bhuria Committee**, constituted to recommend provisions for the extension of panchayat raj to Scheduled Areas, recommended including these villages, but this is yet to be done.

The absence of viable ST-majority administrative units has been the standard bureaucratic response — an argument that has also been used to demand the denotification of parts of Scheduled Areas where STs are now a minority due to the influx of non-tribal individuals.

The Fifth Schedule confers powers exclusively on the President to declare any area to be a Scheduled Area. In 2006, the Supreme Court held that “the identification of Scheduled Areas is an executive function” and that it doesn’t “possess the expertise ... to scrutinise the empirical basis of the same”.

Ans8. A

Explanation:

About Crickets

- Cricket, any of approximately **2,400 species of leaping insects** that are worldwide in distribution and known for the **musical chirping of the male**.
- They have mainly **cylindrical bodies, round heads, and long antennae**. Behind the head is a **smooth, robust pronotum**.
- Crickets are noticeable for their **loud calls**, especially at night. Male crickets produce this **sound by rubbing their wings against each other** to attract females.
- The females listen to these calls using **ears located on their legs** and approach the males for mating and reproduction.

Ans9. B

Explanation:

Green Credit Programme

- The programme would incentivise environmentally-positive actions via a market-based mechanism and generate Green Credit, which shall be made available for trading on a domestic market platform.
- The **initiative aims** to encourage industries, companies, and other entities meet their obligations under any law that is in force for the time being. However, the Green Credit generated or procured to fulfil any obligation, in compliance with any law, shall not be tradeable.
- The notification clarified that the Green Credit programme is **independent of the carbon credit provided under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023** under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- An environmental activity generating Green Credit may have climate co-benefits, such as reduction or removal of carbon emissions... and may get carbon credit.

Ans10. C

Explanation:

PM Modi launches the passenger ferry service between **Nagapattinam** and **Kankesanthurai**, speaks of **enhanced economic and diplomatic ties**.

- Enhanced connectivity was bringing people of India and Sri Lanka closer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday at the launch of an international, high-speed passenger ferry **Cheriyapani** service between Nagapattinam on the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in the northern province of Sri Lanka.

Ans11. C

Explanation:

What is a Stroke Condition?

When there is a blockage in the blood supply to the brain or an unexpected increase in brain haemorrhage, a stroke may happen. There are two distinct stroke kinds:

Ischemic Stroke

Hemorrhagic Strokes

- An ischemic stroke is one when there is a blockage of blood flow to the brain. Blood cannot supply the brain with nutrition and oxygen. Brain cells start to die within minutes of being deprived of oxygen and nutrition.
- Hemorrhagic strokes are caused by abrupt bleeding in the brain and are the most common type of stroke. Blood leakage causes pressure on brain cells, which harms them.

Ans12. D

Explanation:

About New Ensign

- Explaining the new Ensign, a statement said the IAF Crest has the **national symbol, the Ashoka lion**, on the top with the words **Satyameva Jayate in Devanagari below it**.
- Below the Ashoka lion is a Himalayan eagle with its wings spread, denoting the fighting qualities of the IAF, it stated, adding, “A ring in light blue colour encircles the Himalayan eagle with the words ‘Bharatiya Vayu Sena’ and the motto of the IAF is inscribed below Himalayan eagle in golden Devanagari.”



Ans13. D

Explanation:

India-Italy Bilateral Relations

India and Italy are ancient civilizations but young states. Based on common interests like rule based international order, India and Italy have enjoyed a cordial relationship.

Diplomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political relations between India and Italy were established in 1947. • The two countries enjoy cordial relationships. There has been a regular exchange of visits at political and official levels between both countries. • Italy has supported India’s membership to export control regimes like the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Australia Group.
Trade and Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy is among India’s top 5 trading partners in the EU. The balance of trade has been in India’s favour since the early eighties. • In 2021, the two countries inked a Strategic Partnership on Energy Transition to advanced collaboration on areas like green hydrogen and biofuels. • India invited Italy to partner in ‘Make in India’ and ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’ with a focus on the areas of renewable energy, green hydrogen, IT, telecom, and space among others. • Italy also joined the successful India-France led International Solar Alliance comprising over 90 members.

Cultural Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The agreement for cultural cooperation was signed in 1976.• It was replaced by a new Agreement in July 2004.• The Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between Italy and India entails exchange of students in language programmes as well as other academic courses.
Scientific Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Agreement on S&T Co-operation has existed since 1978.• The Agreement envisages three yearly action plans under which a maximum of thirty joint research projects can be undertaken.• This agreement was replaced by one signed in Nov 2003.• India-Italy Science and Technology Cooperation(JSTC) has been actively promoting cooperation through joint project proposals.
Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defence cooperation has traditionally been an important pillar of India-Italy relations. An MOU on Defence Cooperation was signed in November 1994.• The Indian Army has a historical connection with Italy.• India also welcomed Italy's engagement in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Italy's new status as a Development Partner of ASEAN• The navies of both countries regularly co-operate in anti-piracy missions.

Ans14. C

Explanation:

When arthritis is mentioned in conversation, it conjures up the image of a senior citizen suffering from joint pain, and perhaps unable to move very well. But arthritis is not only a disease of the old: people of all ages, sexes and races can be affected. To help spread awareness about the existence and impact of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseasea (RMDs), October 12 is marked as World Arthritis Day.

Key Highlights

- Arthritis refers to joint pain or joint disease, the inflammation or swelling of one or more joints.
- While there are more than 100 such conditions, two common ones are **osteoarthritis** and **rheumatoid arthritis**.
- In **osteoarthritis**, the cartilage, which is the connective tissue that covers the ends of your bones where they form a joint, wears down, causing the underlying bone to change.
 - It frequently occurs in the hands, knees, hips and spine. Its prevalence tends to increase with age.
 - As per a 2022 paper in the Osteoarthritis and Cartilage journal, 62.35 million people in India had osteoarthritis as of 2019.
- The other common condition, rheumatoid arthritis, is a form of autoimmune inflammatory arthritis.
 - In this the immune system attacks healthy tissue, causing painful swelling in the affected parts.
 - RA affects the lining of your joints, and can eventually lead to bone erosion and joint deformity.
 - While it is common in the hands, wrists and knees, in some people, it can damage a number of organs including the skin, eyes and heart.

Ans15. B

Explanation:

India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023**, with its progress against hunger nearly halted since 2015, reflecting a global trend. The Union government, though, contested India’s performance for the third year in a row, citing flawed methodology.

Key Highlights

- Afghanistan, Haiti and 12 sub-Saharan countries performed worse than India on the GHI. India’s ranking is based on a GHI score of 28.7 on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. **This categorises India’s severity of hunger as “serious”.**
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development yet again questioned the GHI and called it a “flawed measure of hunger that doesn’t reflect India’s true position”.
- The GHI uses the same data sources for all countries to calculate the respective country scores. This ensures that all the rates used have been produced using comparable methodologies.

The GHI score is based on a formula which combines **four indicators** that together capture the **multi-dimensional nature of hunger, including under-nourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.**

