

30th November

Consider the following statements about tendu tree (*Diospyros melanoxylon*)

- 1. It is found widely across Southern India.**
- 2. It is endemic to Indian sub-continent and It is found in dry deciduous forests throughout India**
- 3. Tribals has right on tendu leaves under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**

choose the correct one

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

- **Ans C**
- **The tendu tree (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) is found widely across central India.**
- **Leaves plucked from its shrubs are used to wrap bidi, the poor man's cigarette.**
- **Gathering tendu is labour-intensive and employs millions of tribals.**
- **Tendu leaf is the financial lifeline of the tribal people. Many tribals in central India depend of tendu leaf collection for subsistence.**
- **They collect the leaves as part of their right defined under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.**
- **Madhya Pradesh is the biggest Tendu Leaves producing State of India.**
- **Tendu tree is endemic to Indian sub-continent. It is found in dry deciduous forests throughout India.**



Patnaik writes to Jaitley for reduction of GST on Tendu leaves

Press Trust of India | Bhubaneswar

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Odisha government on Thursday urged the Centre to take steps for reduction of GST on Tendu leaves from 18 per cent to five per cent.

The request was made by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in a letter he wrote to Union Finance minister Arun Jaitley.

"In the interest of large cross section of the people dependant on Kendu (Tendu) leaves for their

The outbreak of Zika virus led to a condition of Microcephaly in babies. Which of the following statements correctly explains the condition microcephaly?

- A. It is a condition where the head (circumference) is smaller than normal.**
- B. It is a condition where heart growth is abnormal and leads to smaller valves.**
- C. It is a condition of contraction of blood vessels and restriction of blood flow.**
- D. It is a condition of discolouration of skin where skin looks pale and blue veins are visible**

- **Ans a**
- **Microcephaly is a condition where the head (circumference) is smaller than normal.**
- **Microcephaly may be caused by genetic abnormalities or by drugs, alcohol, certain viruses, and toxins that are exposed to the fetus during pregnancy and damage the developing brain tissue.**
Unfortunately, a 2015-2016 outbreak of Zika virus in Brazil has been associated with a large number of infants born with microcephaly. Epidemiological and some viral isolations suggest that pregnant women who get Zika virus have a high chance of fetal infection that may lead to microcephaly, although a definitive link between Zika virus infection and microcephaly is not yet proven.

Which of the following statements are correct regarding Ruminant animals?

- 1. Instead of one they have four chambers in stomach.**
- 2. Food is partially chewed and sent into rumen which sends it back to mouth to be rechewed.**
- 3. Rumen contains micro organisms which can break down grass and coarse vegetation which can't be digested by animals with no rumen.**

Select the code from following:

- A. 1 and 2**
- B. 2 and 3**
- C. 1 and 3**
- D. All of the above**

- **Ans d**
- **Ruminants include cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, deer, elk, giraffes and camels. These animals all have a digestive system that is uniquely different from our own.**
- **Instead of one compartment to the stomach they have four. Of the four compartments the rumen is the largest section and the main digestive centre. The rumen is filled with billions of tiny microorganisms that are able to break down grass and other coarse vegetation that animals with one stomach (including humans, chickens and pigs) cannot digest. Ruminant animals do not completely chew the grass or vegetation they eat. The partially chewed grass goes into the large rumen where it is stored and broken down into balls of “cud”. When the animal has eaten its fill it will rest and “chew its cud”. The cud is then swallowed once again where it will pass into the next three compartments—the reticulum, the omasum and the true stomach, the abomasum.**

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Report' is released by

- A. WEF**
- B. OECD**
- C. WHO**
- D. UN-WOMEN**

- **Ans b**

The OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) is a cross-country measure of discrimination against women in social institutions (formal and informal laws, social norms, and practices) across 180 countries.

Consider the following regarding International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

- 1. It is an independent organization constituting various civil societies, private organizations and scientific communities around the world that promotes conservation of tropical forest resources and their sustainable management, use and trade.**
- 2. It is headquartered at Japan**
- 3. It Collects, analyzes and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber**

choose the correct one


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

- **Ans c**
- **The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization promoting the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.**
- **Develops internationally agreed policy guidelines and norms to encourage sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable tropical timber industries and trade.**
- **Assists tropical member countries to adapt such guidelines and norms to local circumstances and to implement them in the field through projects and other activities.**
- **Collects, analyzes and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber.**

The famous festival of purity known as ‘Dosmoche festival’ is celebrated in which part of India?

- A. Assam**
- B. Arunachal Pradesh**
- C. Ladakh**
- D. Pondicherry**

- Ans c

When the valley comes alive


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The Dosmoche festival is celebrated to purify the town by burning down evil spirits

The dreary, cold winter morning in Leh comes alive with a riot of colours and the pleasant sound of sacred chants. The ringing of bells signals ceremony and the drum announces the imminent ritual, the gongs proclaim the forthcoming festival and the 'wooden fish' (wooden percussion instrument) keeps rhythm with the guttural chants of the Buddhist monks that resonate from the Leh Palace. It is a time to purge and purify the town, a time to lure all the evil spirits and burn them down.



Analyse the Difference between National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013 and PMMVY

- 1. Under PMMVY every pregnant woman is entitled to maternity benefits of ₹6,000, unless she is already receiving similar benefits as a government employee or under other laws.**
- 2. Under NFSA every pregnant woman is entitled to maternity benefits of ₹5,000 per child**
- 3. Under PMMVY the successive payments are made only if the corresponding conditionalities are met.**

choose the correct one

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

- **Ans C**
- **Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013, every pregnant woman is entitled to maternity benefits of ₹6,000, unless she is already receiving similar benefits as a government employee or under other laws.**
- **The PMMVY announced in December 31, 2016 violated the NFSA on 3 grounds – First, the benefits have been reduced from ₹6,000 to ₹5,000 per child. Second, they are now restricted to the first living child. Third, they are further restricted to women above the age of 18 years**
- **The compulsory linking of the applicant's bank account with Aadhaar often causes problems.**
- **Further, the PMMVY provides little assistance to women who lose their baby, because the successive payments are made only if the corresponding conditionalities are met.**
- **Another problem faced by women is lack of funds and their inability to improve their nutritional intake.**



COMMENT

Without maternity benefits



Aditi Priya

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Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Naikpod Tribe – Lakshadweep**
- 2. Yanadi Tribe – Andhra Pradesh**
- 3. Kurichiya tribe – Kerala**

Select the correct code:

- A. 1 and 2**
- B. 3 Only**
- C. 2 and 3**
- D. None of the above**

- **Ans c**
- **Naikpod Tribe – Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**
- **Yanadi Tribe – Andhra Pradesh**
- **Kurichiya tribe – Kerala**

Consider the following statements

- 1. Green Ganga App is launched by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.**
- 2. Green Ganga App is developed by National Informatics Centre.**
- 3. The App is developed to provide information about the pollution levels of River Ganga.**

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

- A. 1 and 2**
- B. 2 and 3**
- C. 1 only**
- D. 1,2 and 3**

- **Ans b**
- **Green Ganga App is launched by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.**
- **Green Ganga App is developed by Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO.**
- **Green Ganga App is used for geo-tagging of saplings and delineation of plantation boundaries under ongoing afforestation activities of Namami Gange programme.**

Consider the following statements

- 1. Global Green Growth Institute is an intergovernmental organization.**
- 2. India is a member country of Global Green Growth Institute.**
- 3. GGGI was granted UN General Assembly Observer Status**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

- **Ans b**
- **The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is a treaty-based international, inter-governmental organization dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies**
- **India is a partner country to Global Green Growth Institute**
- **GGGI was granted UN General Assembly Observer Status.**