

1. India intends to achieve land degradation neutral status by which year?

- A) 2030
 B) 2035
 C) 2037
 D) 2040



- ✓ India is signatory to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). It intends to achieve land degradation neutral status by 2030.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently addressed a high-level virtual conference on desertification, land degradation and drought. PM Modi was President of 14th session of Conference of the Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at New Delhi in 2019.

2. Which country is the largest producer of bananas in the world?

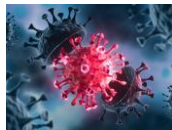
- A) USA
 B) Ecuador
 C) India
 D) South Africa



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Commerce has stated that India has exported a total of 1.91 lakh tonne worth Rs 619 crore, during the financial year 2020-21. In the previous FY 2019-20, the banana exports stood at a higher quantum of 1.95 lakh metric tonne banana valued at Rs 660 crore. India is the largest producer of Banana, with a share of 25% of world output.

3. What is AY.1, which is seen in news recently?

- A) Coronavirus variant
 B) Space Mission
 C) COVID Vaccine
 D) Infrastructure Project



- ✓ B.1.617.2.1, is a new Coronavirus variant and is denoted as AY.1 for simplicity. This variant is found to be rapidly spreading in several countries including India. This corona virus variant has immune escape properties, thereby making it partially or fully resistant to the body's immune response, vaccines and antibody therapies.

4. The 'Crash course programme for Covid-19 frontline workers' launched by the PM, is designed under which scheme?

- A) PM Atma Nirbhar Bharat Yojana
 B) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0
 C) PM Swachh Bharath Abhiyan
 D) PM Cares



- ✓ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has launched a customized crash course programme for COVID-19 frontline workers, which would make available trained health workers across the country to assist the battle against COVID.
- ✓ The course has been launched with a financial outlay of Rs.276 crore under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0.

5. India has launched a trilateral with which two countries, for Indo-Pacific stability?

- A) Italy - Japan
 B) France - Australia
 C) UAE - New Zealand

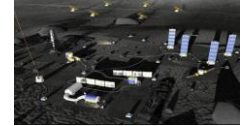


D) Germany - South Korea

- ✓ India, Italy and Japan have launched a trilateral, through a virtual meeting in which India was represented by the Union Ministry of External Affairs. This trilateral aims to create stability and a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific region, which is based on "consent of all" and not "power of the few".

6. Which two countries recently unveiled a roadmap for a joint International Lunar Research Station?

- A) USA and UAE
 B) USA and UK
 C) Russia and China
 D) Russia and UAE



- ✓ Russia and China recently unveiled a roadmap for a joint International Lunar Research Station. The International Lunar Research Station is a comprehensive scientific experiment base with the capability of long-term autonomous operation.
- ✓ The ILRS will become operational from 2036 onwards, providing a range of scientific facilities and equipments.

7. *Paraceratherium*, that was recently in news, is an extinct genus of which animal?

- A) Rhinoceros
 B) Crocodile
 C) Dinosaur
 D) Snake



- ✓ *Paraceratherium* is an extinct genus of hornless rhinoceros. It is one of the largest terrestrial mammals.
- ✓ The exact size of *Paraceratherium* is unknown because of the incompleteness of the fossils. It lived in habitats ranging from arid deserts with a few scattered trees to subtropical forests.

8. *Stygarcus keralensis*, that was recently making news, was discovered in which Indian state?

- A) Goa
 B) Maharashtra
 C) Kerala
 D) Manipur



- ✓ *Stygarcus keralensis* was discovered in Kerala by a research team which consisted of Vishnudattan, Jayachandran, and Bijoy Nandan, professor, Department of Marine Biology, Microbiology and Biochemistry, Cochin University of Science and Technology, J G Hansen, University of Copenhagen. It is the eighth species named under the genus *Stygarcus*.

9. Critically endangered grass species *Lophopogon prasanna* has recently been found in which Indian state?

- A) Manipur
 B) Rajasthan
 C) Andhra Pradesh
 D) Haryana



- ✓ The new grass species, "*Lophopogon prasanna*" has recently been discovered in the Nigidi forest of Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh. This grass species has been named after Dr PV Prasanna. This species has been marked as 'critically endangered' on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's 'red list' criteria.

10. On which date, World Crocodile Day is observed?

- A) June.15
- B) June.16
- C) June.17
- D) June.18



- ✓ June 17 is celebrated as World Crocodile Day to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.
 - ✓ Three crocodilian species are found in India viz. mugger or marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*); Estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*). Of these, Gharial is endangered.
-