

Q: How does INSACOG primarily contribute to our understanding of the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

- a) By expanding whole genome sequencing of the virus
- b) By organizing public health awareness campaigns
- c) By establishing quarantine facilities
- d) By conducting clinical trials for COVID-19 treatments

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The SARS-CoV-2 virus, commonly known as the COVID-19 virus, posed unprecedented public health challenges globally.
- Against this backdrop, INSACOG was established to expand the whole genome sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus across the nation, aiding our understanding of how the virus spreads and evolves, and providing information to aid public health response.
- Any changes to the genetic code or mutations in the virus can be observed based on the analysis and sequencing of samples done in the laboratories under INSACOG.

Q: With reference to Tribunals in India, consider the following:

1. The High Court exercises superintendence over all tribunals throughout its jurisdiction.
2. Only Parliament is empowered to constitute Administrative Tribunals both at the central and state levels.
3. Tribunals in India are composed only of judicial members appointed by the central government.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Tribunals are judicial or quasi-judicial institutions established by law.
- They intend to provide a platform for faster adjudication as compared to traditional courts, as well as expertise on certain subject matters.
- Article 227 enables every High Court to exercise power of superintendence over all tribunals throughout the territories over which it exercises jurisdiction.
- Article 323A empowers Parliament to constitute administrative Tribunals (both at the central and state levels) for adjudication of matters related to the recruitment and conditions of service of public servants.
- Article 323B specifies certain subjects (such as taxation and land reforms) for which Parliament or state legislatures may constitute tribunals by enacting a law.

Q: Consider the following statements regarding the Project PRAYAS:

1. It is an initiative of the International Organisation for Migration.
2. It aims to facilitate safe and regular migration for Indian migrant workers and students.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Recently, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) launched Project PRAYAS to help Indian workers and students migrate in a secure, orderly, and regular manner.

- Promoting Regular Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals (PRAYAS) was launched in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- It is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiatives for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration.
- It aims to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration for aspiring Indian migrant workers and students through policy recommendations in collaboration with the MEA and state governments, thus strengthening international migration governance.

Q: Pantoea Tagorei, recently seen in the news, is a:

- a) Virus
- b) Mollusk
- c) Drug
- d) Bacteria

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Recently, a team of researchers from Kolkata's Visva-Bharati has identified a new species of bacteria which has been named Pantoea Tagorei in homage to Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.
- It was discovered from soil samples collected in the Jharia coal mines.

Q: Consider the following statements regarding the Turquet's octopuses:

1. It is mainly found in the Antarctic region.
2. It is listed as critically endangered species under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Recently, recent research, published in the journal Science, unveiled a surprising connection between the movements of Turquet's octopuses and the stability of the West Antarctic ice sheet.
- It is a species of benthic octopus with a circumpolar Antarctic distribution.
- The species has a wide depth range, occurring from shallow waters to 4,000 m deep.
- Conservation Status by IUCN is Least concern (LC)