

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Noma:**

1. It is a severe gangrenous disease of the mouth and face which is found most commonly among those living in poor communities.
2. It is non-contagious disease that mainly affects children aged 10-15 years old.
3. It is not a tropical diseases.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Recently Noma was added to the World Health Organisation's list of neglected tropical diseases.
- Noma is a severe gangrenous disease of the mouth and face with mortality rate being approximately 90%.
- Gangrene is death of body tissue due to a lack of blood flow or a serious bacterial infection.
- The disease is also called cancrum oris or gangrenous stomatitis, is mostly found in sub-Saharan Africa, although cases have also been reported in Latin America, Asia and other regions.
- It is also associated with extreme poverty, malnutrition and poor access to sanitation and oral hygiene.
- Noma mainly affects children aged 2-6 years old and is found most commonly among those living in poor communities.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Indian scientific expeditions to the Earth's poles:**

1. They are facilitated under the Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER) Scheme.
2. They are carried out under the aegis of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).
3. India's first summer scientific expedition to the Arctic was launched recently.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Recently India's first winter scientific expedition to the Arctic was flagged off by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- Indian scientific expeditions to the Earth's poles (the Arctic and the Antarctic) are facilitated under the PACER (Polar and Cryosphere) scheme.
- The expeditions to the earth's poles are carried under the aegis of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).
- NCPOR is an autonomous institution of the MoES that is located at Goa.
- The Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER) scheme is an initiative of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- India's first winter scientific expedition to the Arctic was recently flagged by the MoES.
- The first batch of the maiden Arctic winter expedition comprises researchers from National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).

**Q: Reykjanes Peninsula, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?**

- a) Greenland
- b) China
- c) Iceland

d) Madagascar

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Recently a volcano erupted in the Reykjanes Peninsula which is located at Iceland.
- Iceland had been on high alert for a potential volcanic eruption after intense seismic activity last month.
- A volcanic eruption recently began at Reykjanes Peninsula after a series of small earthquakes.
- Seismic activity together with measurements from GPS devices indicate that the magma is moving to the southwest and the eruption may continue in the direction of Grindavik.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Bonnet Macaque**

1. It is a primate that is endemic to the southern India.
2. They are highly arboreal and are strong swimmers.
3. It has been listed as Vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of threatened species.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The recent discovery of carcasses of 27 bonnet macaque monkeys in Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka has highlighted the human-monkey conflict in the region.
- The bonnet macaque (*Macaca radiata*), also known as zati, is a species of macaque endemic to southern India.
- Bonnet macaques are diurnal, arboreal and terrestrial quadrupeds, although they spend much of their time on the ground.
- These highly social creatures form groups of 30 individuals on average, consisting of multiple males and females.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the bonnet macaque as vulnerable.
- They are highly arboreal and are strong swimmers.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to ECOWAS Grouping**

1. It is a regional intergovernmental organization that was established by the Treaty of Lagos in 1975.
2. It aims to promote economic integration, cooperation and development among West African countries.

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:

- The 64th Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Head of States and Government ordinary session was recently held at Abuja, Capital of Nigeria.
- ECOWAS is a regional intergovernmental organization that was established by the Treaty of Lagos in 1975.
- AIM – To promote co-operation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa to raise the living standards of its people and maintain.
- It also seeks to enhance economic stability, foster relations-among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent.