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Ice Shelf

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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 03

- **GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT**
- **RONNE ICE SHELF**
- **NATIONAL AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE**
- **OSIRIS REX**
- **PIGMY HOGS**
- **NISHTHA SCHEME**
- **RANKED CHOICE VOTING**
- **AMBEDKAR'S CONTRIBUTION TO LABOUR LAWS**
- **PROJECT SEABIRD**
- **ROME DECLARATION**

LAW & JUSTICE

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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 03

<center>**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**</center>

GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT

IN NEWS: - Global health summit took place virtually on 21st May,2021 in Villa Pamphili, Rome.

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

- The summit was a special event by the Italian G20 presidency, co-hosted by the European commission.
- The summit stressed on enhancing international cooperation to achieve SDG 3- Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well being for all at all ages.
- The summit spelt out the need for large scale, global, safe and effective vaccination for all. Equitable availability of vaccines to all nations including the low- and middle-income countries was the main focus of the summit.
- The summit adopted the Rome declaration for action.

ROME DECLARATION

- The Rome declaration is made up of 16 mutually reinforcing principles for ending global inequity in public health and also ensuring sustained financing for global health. The key highlights of the declaration are:-
- Support and enhance the existing multilateral health architecture for preparedness, prevention, detection and response with WHO at its centre.
- Promote the multilateral trading system, noting the central role of the WTO, and the importance of open, resilient and reliable global supply chains related to health emergencies
- Support low- and middle-income countries to build expertise, and develop local and regional manufacturing capacities for health technologies

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- Enhance support for existing preparedness and prevention structures for equitable immunisation against vaccine preventable diseases and ensuring that no one is left behind.
- Invest in the worldwide health and care workforce
- Invest in further developing, enhancing and improving inter-operable early warning information, surveillance, and trigger systems
- Address the need for enhanced, streamlined, sustainable and predictable mechanisms to finance long-term pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response

ABOUT G 20

- G 20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union.
- The forum was formed in 1999 at the Cologne summit of the G7 in response to the Asian financial crisis.
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G2O?

(a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey

(b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand

(c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam

(d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

Ans: (a)

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The Global Health summit was co hosted by Italy and The European commission
2. The summit adopted the Rome declaration for action

Which among the above statements are correct?

    a. 1 only

    b. 2 only

    c. Both 1 and 2
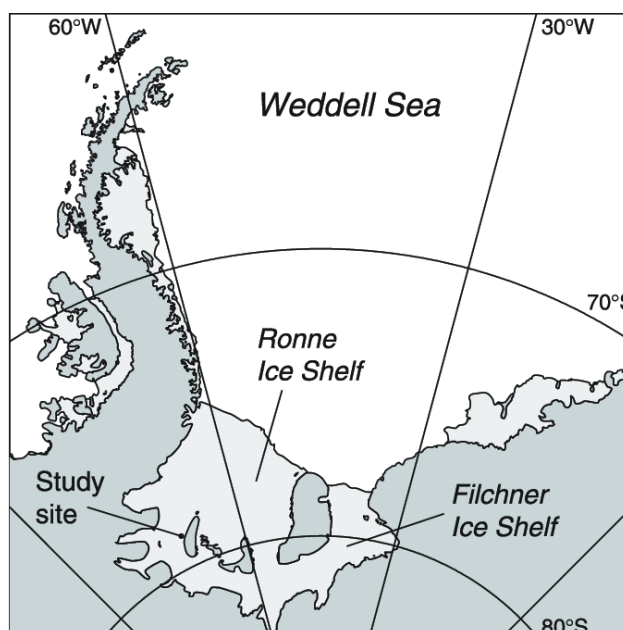
    d. Neither 1 or 2

    Answer: - c

GEOGRAPHY

RONNE ICE SHELF

IN NEWS: - World's Largest Iceberg A - 76 Breaks Off Antarctica's Ronne Ice Shelf

ABOUT RONNE ICE SHELF

- Ronne Ice Shelf, large body of floating ice, lying at the head of the Weddell Sea, which is itself an indentation in the Atlantic coastline of Antarctica
- It lies immediately west of Filchner Ice Shelf, from which it is partially separated by Berkner Island. Often the names of the two ice shelves are combined as the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf
- The satellite images of carved ice berg was captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission, one of the missions of the European Space Agency (ESA) under Copernicus initiative (an earth observation programme).

ECONOMICS

NATIONAL AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE

IN NEWS:-RBI announces that the National Automated Clearing House (NACH) will be available on all days from August 1, 2021.

ABOUT NATIONAL AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE

- National Automated Clearing House (NACH) is a service introduced by the National Payments Corporation of India,
- It is a centralized clearing service that aims at providing interbank high volume, low value transactions that are repetitive and periodic in nature for Banks, Financial Institutions, Corporates and Government
- NACH aims to consolidate multiple ECS systems running across the country and provides a framework for the harmonization of standard & practices and removes local barriers/inhibitors
- It is a successor to Electronic Clearing Service
- NACH has two wings – ECS Credit and ECS Debit.
- Similarly, local, regional, and national ECSs are also operational.

QUESTION

Consider the following statements regarding National automated clearing house (NACH)

1. It is a service introduced by SEBI
2. NACH aims to consolidate multiple ECS systems running across the country

Which among the above statements are correct?

a. 1 only
b. 2only'
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OSIRIS REX

IN NEWS: - OSIRIS-REx traveled to near-Earth asteroid Bennu and is bringing a small sample back to Earth for study.

ABOUT OSIRIS REX

● OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) is a NASA asteroid-study and sample-return mission

● It is the NASA's first asteroid sample return mission

● OSIRIS-REx was launched on 8 September 2016

● The mission's primary goal is to obtain a sample of 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid, and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.

● Bennu was chosen as the target of study because it is a "time capsule" from the birth of the Solar System

ENVIRONMENT

PYGMY HOGS

IN NEWS: - Eight captive-bred pygmy hogs, the world's rarest and smallest wild pigs, were released in the Manas National Park of Assam.

ABOUT PYGMY HOG

- Its scientific name is *Porcula Salvania*
- Pygmy hog is native to alluvial grasslands in the foothills of the Himalayas at elevations of up to 300 m
- The only known population lives in Assam and Bhutan.
- It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, CITES Appendix I and Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
- It is an indicator species. Its presence reflects the health of wet grasslands in which it lives.
- The reintroduction programme began in 2008 with the Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park and Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary, all of them are in Assam

QUESTION

With reference to Pygmy hogs, consider the following statements

1. They are found only in India
2. They are listed as Vulnerable on IUCN Red list

Which among the above statements are *not correct?*

a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - c

SOCIAL JUSTICE

NISHTHA SCHEME

IN NEWS: - Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NCERT come together on a joint mission for NISHTHA Capacity Building Programme for Eklavya Model Residential School Teachers and Principals

ABOUT NISHTHA SCHEME

- NISHTHA is expanded as National initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement Program
- The scheme is launched under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha
- The nodal ministry of the scheme is the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- It is a national mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level.
- NISHTHA is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world.

QUESTION

Consider the following statements about NISHTHA scheme

1. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of education
2. It aims to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level.

Which among the above statements are correct?

a. 1 only
b. 2only
c. 1 and 2 only
d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

POLITY

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

IN NEWS:- Ranked choice voting made its debut in New York City's mayoral POLLS

ABOUT RANKED CHOICE VOTING

- Ranked voting, is a voting system in which voters rank their candidates (or option) in a sequence of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc
- Rather than pick just one candidate, voters get to rank several in order of preference.
- Even if a voter's top choice doesn't have enough support to win, their rankings of other candidates still play a role in determining the victor
- If someone gets 50% plus one after all the first-choice votes are counted, then the election is over and that candidate wins.
- But if no one gets 50% plus one, it's on to Round 2.
- The person with the lowest number of first-place votes is eliminated, and that candidate's voters' second choices get redistributed as votes for other candidates.
- This reallocation of votes goes on until someone reaches 50% plus one.
- The system is more complex than a traditional election, could take longer to get results.

QUESTION

Consider the following statements about Ranked choice voting

1. Ranked choice voting was first experimented in New York
2. In this system the voters have option to choose more than one candidate
3. The election results can be declared quickly in this system

Which among the above statements are true?

a. 1 and 2 only
b. 2 and 3 only
c. 1 and 3 only
d. 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: - a

HISTORY AND CULTURE

AMBEDKAR'S CONTRIBUTION TO LABOUR LAWS

- As the representative of the Depressed Classes, Ambedkar in the Round Table Conference forcefully pleaded for living wages, decent working conditions and the freedom of peasants from the clutches of cruel landlords.

- Ambedkar formed the Independent Labour Party (ILP) in 1936 with a comprehensive programme to meet the needs and grievances of the landless, poor tenants, agriculturists, and workers

- In 1937, during the Poona session of the Bombay Assembly, he introduced a bill to abolish the Khoti system of land tenure in Konkan.

- He opposed the introduction of the Industrial Disputes Bill, 1937 because it removed the workers' right to strike.

- He served as a Labour member of the Viceroy's Executive Council from 1942 to 1946.

- The Indian Trade Union (Amendment) Bill, introduced by Ambedkar on November 8, 1943, compelled the employers to acknowledge trade unions.

- Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar initiated many laws for women workers in India. They include 'Mines Maternity Benefit Act', 'Women Labor Welfare Fund', 'Women and Child Labor Protection Act', 'Maternity leave Benefit for Women Labor', as well as 'Restoration of Ban on Employment of Women on Underground Work in Coal Mines".

- Addressing the Indian Labour Conference held in New Delhi on November 26, 1945, Ambedkar emphasised the urgent need to bring progressive labour welfare legislation

- Dr Ambedkar for the first time brought in the 8-hour working per day to India, bringing it down from 14 hours. He brought it in the 4th session of Indian Labor Conference held in New Delhi in 1942. He proposed holidays with pay for factory workers. He followed the English pattern of working hours of 48 hours per week in India.

- For fixing minimum wages for labor, Dr Ambedkar drafted the 'Minimum Wages Act' in 1942 though it was enacted into law in 1948.
- Dr Ambedkar moved the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill in1944.
- 'Dearness Allowance' (DA), 'Leave Benefit', 'Revision of Scale of Pay', extra payment for Overtime, subsidized food etc. are the contributions of Dr Ambedkar.
- The Industrial Disputes Act, which is the basic labor law of the country, was passed in 1947 and ESI Act passed in 1948; but were introduced in the Viceroy's Council by Dr Ambedkar years back.

MISCELLANEOUS

PROJECT SEABIRD

IN NEWS: - Recently, Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh visited the Karwar Naval Base to review the progress of 'Project Seabird'.

ABOUT PROJECT SEABIRD

- The largest naval infrastructure project for India, it involves creation of a naval base named INS Kadamba at Karwar on the west coast of India
- Upon completion, the $3 billion program will provide the Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the west coast and also the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.
- It was approved in 1999 following the Pokhran-II nuclear testing.
- The first phase of the naval base was completed in 2005 and the second phase started in 2011.