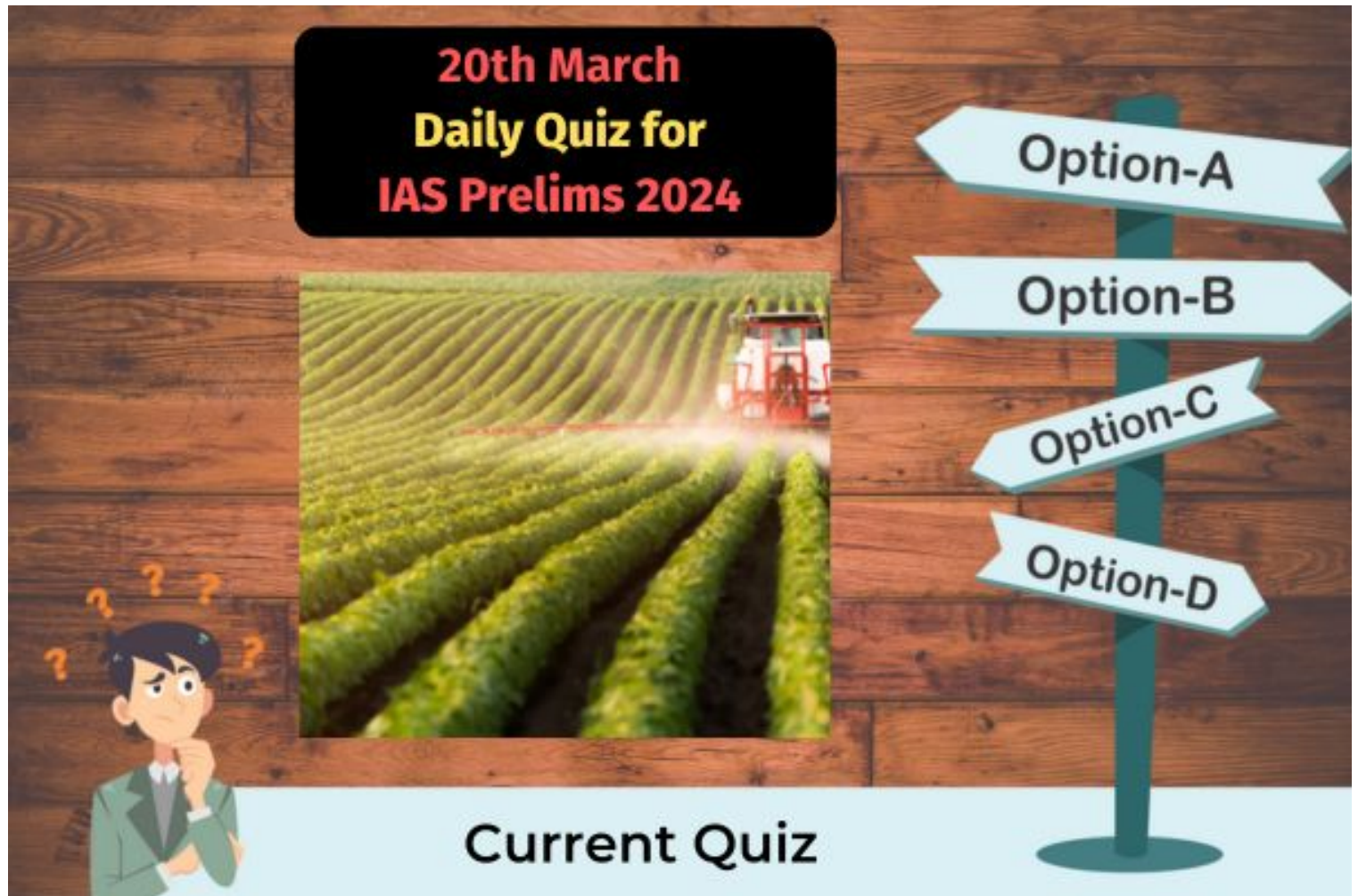


20th March 2024 | [Quiz] Current | For Prelims 2024

By IAS Toppers, 20 Mar, 2024

**# Question 1**

Consider the following statements about the archaeological discovery in San Giorgio Bigarello, Italy:

1. The orientation of the bodies and burial practices observed at the site are similar to those of the Bronze Age cultures in southern Italy.
2. Weapons found among the burial goods suggest a ceremonial or symbolic usage rather than practical purposes.
3. Artifacts such as soapstone bead necklaces and pottery with geometric designs were uncovered, indicating advanced artistic expressions and craftsmanship.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Explanation:

Answer: (b) Only two

Solution:

Statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect because the burial practices at the site are said to bear resemblance to those of another Copper Age culture from northern Italy, known as the Remedello, not Bronze Age cultures in southern Italy."

Enrich your learnings:

5,000-Year-Old Cemetery Unearthed in Italy:

- Archaeologists in Italy have uncovered a significant archaeological site—a 5,000-year-old cemetery belonging to a Copper Age society—in San Giorgio Bigarello, northern Italy.
- The accidental discovery unveils insights into the **lives of Copper Age people**, their cultural connections, and their evolving material culture.

Burial Practices and Cultural Connections:

- One of the most striking features of the cemetery is the consistent orientation of the bodies in the tombs.
- Most of the individuals were **buried on their left sides**, with their **legs bent towards their chests** and **their heads** facing **northwest**.
- This distinctive posture bears resemblance to the burial practices of another Copper Age culture from northern Italy, known as the **Remedello**.
- Experts suggests **potential cultural exchanges** or **influences between** different Copper Age groups, indicating a complex socio-cultural landscape during that era.

Weaponry and Warfare:

- Intriguingly, the **presence of weapons among burial goods**, including flint daggers, arrowheads, and blades, suggests that the people **valued warfare** and weaponry in their society.
- **Sharp weapons** found in tombs imply **ceremonial or symbolic usage** rather than practical purposes, reflecting the importance of martial elements in Copper Age society.

Artistic Expressions and Craftsmanship:

- The cemetery unveils artifacts such as **soapstone bead necklaces**, pottery vessels with geometric designs, and engraved bone tools, indicating aesthetic sensibilities and skilled craftsmanship among **Copper Age inhabitants**.

- The variety of materials and techniques employed in crafting objects highlights the creative and **expressive capacities of the ancient society**.

Insight into the Copper Age:

- The Copper Age, also **known as the Chalcolithic**, is a period that spans from about 5,000 to 3,000 years ago, depending on the region.
- It is characterized by the **emergence of metallurgy**, especially the **use of smelted copper**, along with stone tools.
- It is also a time of **social and cultural changes**, such as the development of complex societies, trade networks, and warfare.
- It marked the **transition from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age**.
- **Features of Chalcolithic Age societies:** Agriculture and animal **domestication**, Early cities and settlements, Social hierarchies and divisions of power, Early trade networks between villages and societies, and Religious practices and cultural traditions.
- The **emergence of states**, characterized by **large populations**, political **centralization**, and **social hierarchy** under strong rulers, represents a **significant milestone in human society's evolution**.
- Archaeologists differentiate between **primary (or pristine) states**, which developed independently through internal processes, and **secondary states**, which were influenced by pre-existing states.

Chalcolithic culture in India:

- In India, Chalcolithic culture flourished in **mainly four farming communities** – Ahar or Banas, Kayatha, Malwa, and Jorwe.
- These communities had some common traits like painted pottery and use of copper, but they had a distinct ceramic design tradition.
- **Banas culture** (2000–1600 BC) had ceramics with red, white, and black design.
- **Kayatha culture** (2450–1700 BC) had ceramics painted with brown colored design.
- **Malwa culture** (1900–1400 BC) had profusely decorated pottery with red or black colored design.
- **Jorwe culture** (1500–900 BC) had ceramics with matte surface and black-on-red design.
- Pandu Rajar Dhibi (2000–1600 BC) is a **Chalcolithic site** in the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent.
- It is located on the **south bank of Ajay River** in West Bengal.
- **Black ware, painted Koshi ware**, pottery, various ornaments made of pearl and copper, various types of tools, pieces of fabric woven from **Shimul cotton thread**, human and various animal skeletons, burnt clay fragments have been found at the site

Why in news?

A 5,000-year-old cemetery discovered in Italy belongs to the Copper Age.

Question 2

Consider the following statements regarding Kolleru Lake:

1. It is situated at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers.

2. The lake is part of the Central Asian Flyway, which is one of the nine global migratory bird flyways.

3. Kolleru Lake is primarily known for its deep waters and as a habitat for marine life.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Explanation:

Answer: (a) Only one

Solution:

Statement 2 is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect because Kolleru Lake is located between the Krishna and Godavari deltas, not at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers.

Statement 3 is incorrect as Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater (not deepwater marine) lakes in India, known for its significance to migratory birds, not marine life."

Enrich your learnings:

Atapaka Bird Sanctuary:

- It is located in **Kolleru lake** on **Krishna-West Godavari** borders, in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Atapaka Bird Sanctuary falls under **Kaikalur forest range**.
- The Andhra Pradesh government officially **declared it a sanctuary in 1999**, and it's also known as a bird's paradise.

Kolleru lake:

- Kolleru Lake is one of the **largest freshwater lakes** in **located in the state of Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is Asia's **largest shallow freshwater lake**, and one of the places in India that sees bird migration on a very large scale.
- The lake is located between the **Krishna** and **Godavari deltas**.
- It is **one of the 75 Ramsar Sites in India**.
- It falls on the migratory route called the **Central Asian Flyway (CAF)**.
 - The **CAF covers a very large area of Eurasia**, with a total of 30 countries, including India.
 - There are a total of **nine flyways of migratory birds around the world**, and **India has three of them** – the Central Asian Flyway, East Asian Flyway, and East Asia–Australasian Flyway.

- The lake also receives seasonal water from the rivers **Budameru and Tammileru**.
- Kolleru Lake draws birds globally due to its abundant fish reserves, averaging 7,000 metric tonnes annually, alongside aquaculture practices.
- As a vital habitat for waterfowl, particularly the **Grey pelican**, Kolleru is a migratory bird paradise.

Why in news?

Over 1.50 lakh migratory birds visited sanctuaries, wetlands in Andhra Pradesh this winter.

Question 3

1. The Gulf of Carpentaria is an inlet of the eastern Arafura Sea.
2. Arafura Sea plays a critical role in separating Australia from New Guinea.

Which of the above give statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 & 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

Answer: c) Both 1 & 2

Enrich your learnings:

Gulf of Carpentaria:



[wikipedia]

- The Gulf of Carpentaria is a **sea off the northern coast of Australia**.
- It's an **inlet of the eastern Arafura Sea**.
- It is **enclosed on three sides by northern Australia** and **bounded on the north by the eastern Arafura Sea**, which **separates Australia and New Guinea**.
- The **northern boundary** is generally defined as a **line from Slade Point, Queensland** (the northwestern

corner of Cape York Peninsula) in the **northeast**, to **Cape Arnhem** on the Gove Peninsula, **Northern Territory** (the easternmost point of Arnhem Land) in the **west**.

- The gulf is known for its **coral reefs and seagrass beds**.
 - The seagrass beds have supported commercial shrimp operations.
 - The gulf also contains **fringing reefs and isolated coral colonies**.

Why in news?

A new tropical cyclone warning has been issued for the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Question 4

Consider the following statements about the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881:

Statement-I: The Act was originally drafted in 1866 and implemented in 1881, indicating its origins during British rule in India.

Statement-II: Negotiable instruments as per the Act are limited to financial instruments used in domestic transactions only.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Explanation:

Answer: (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

Solution:

Statement-I is correct.

Statement-II is incorrect because the Act governs not only domestic but also foreign transactions involving negotiable instruments.

Enrich your learnings:

Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881:

- The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 is a law in India that **governs the use of negotiable instruments**, such as **promissory notes, bills of exchange, and cheques**.
- The act was **originally drafted in 1866** and **implemented in 1881 during British rule of India**, and is still in force today with significant amendments.
- The Act was enacted to **provide a uniform legal framework** for the **use of negotiable instruments in India**.
- The word "**negotiable**" refers to **transferable** and "**instrument**" refers to a **document** giving legal effect by the virtue of the law.
- **The act defines a negotiable instrument as:** A promissory note, A bill of exchange, and A cheque payable either to order or to bearer.
- The negotiable instrument act governs the **usage of these negotiable instruments** between two parties.
- According to the Negotiable Instrument Act, there are **four primary types of negotiable instruments**: inland instruments, foreign instruments, bank instruments, and finance company instruments.
 - All of these are governed and **regulated by the Negotiable Instrument Act**.
- The Negotiable Instruments Act, implemented in 1881, underwent an **amendment in 1988** to address issues related to **cheque defaulters**.
- According to this act, **individuals issuing cheques** without sufficient funds in their accounts were **deemed defaulters** and **subject to penalties**, with such actions classified as **criminal offenses**.

Why in news?

The Supreme Court recently observed that mere filing of the cheque dishonor complaint under the Negotiable Instruments Act would not grant a right to a complainant to seek interim compensation under Section 143A (1) of the N.I. Act.

Question 5

How does Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) aim to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

- A) By focusing solely on technological advancements in agriculture
- B) By increasing global exports of agricultural products
- C) By reducing hunger and improving environmental management through sustainable agricultural practices
- D) By promoting urban farming techniques exclusively

Explanation:

Answer: (c) By reducing hunger and improving environmental management through sustainable agricultural practices

Enrich your learnings:

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA):

- CSA is an **integrated approach** to **managing landscapes** to **help farmers adapt to climate change**.
- It **combines sustainable methods** to **improve farmer productivity** and **livelihoods**, make farms more **resilient to climate impacts**, and **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.
- **CSA aims to: Increase productivity** and incomes, **Adapt to climate change**, **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, **Balance food security** and **livelihoods with adaptation and mitigation**, and **Conserve ecosystem services**.
- CSA is **rooted in sustainable agriculture** and **rural development** objectives, which, if reached, would **contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** of reducing hunger and improved environmental management.
- CSA also strives to **involve all local, regional and national stakeholders** in **decision-making**, which is **necessary to identify the most appropriate interventions** and form the partnerships and alliances needed to enable sustainable development.

Why in news?

By 2050, South Asia will be one of the largest food-deficit regions and thus requires a substantial increase in production to meet growing food demand.