

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & CURRENT AFFAIRS**Passage1**

Earth's protective ozone layer is slowly but noticeably healing at a pace that would fully mend the hole over Antarctica in about 43 years, a new U.N. report says.

A once-every-four-years scientific assessment found recovery in progress, more than 35 years after every nation in the world agreed to stop producing chemicals that chomp on the layer of ozone in Earth's atmosphere that shields the planet from harmful radiation linked to skin cancer, cataracts and crop damage.

"In the upper stratosphere and in the ozone hole we see things getting better," said Paul Newman, co-chair of the scientific assessment.

The progress is slow, according to the report presented on Monday at the American Meteorological Society convention in Denver. The global average amount of ozone 30 km high in the atmosphere won't be back to 1980 pre-thinning levels until about 2040, the report said. And it won't be back to normal in the Arctic until 2045.

1. This is not the consequence of ozone layer depletion
 - (a) malignant melanoma – skin cancer type
 - (b) increased ultraviolet radiations
 - (c) tides
 - (d) cyanobacteria are sensitive to UV rays and would be affected by its increase

2. The depletion of ozone layer is mainly due to-
 - (a) Chlorofluoro carbon
 - (b) Carbon dioxide
 - (c) Sulphur dioxide
 - (d) Ammonia

3. The global environmental issue of Ozone depletion is due to the emission of:
 - A. Sulphur dioxide
 - B. Chlorinated hydrocarbons
 - C. Methane
 - D. Carbone dioxide

(a) A and B only	(b) B only
(c) B and D only	(d) A, B and C only

4. Which of the following is an ozone-depleting substance?
 - (a) Sulphur dioxide
 - (b) Methyl chloride
 - (c) Carbon dioxide
 - (d) Methane

5. Ozone holes are more pronounced at the
 - (a) Equator
 - (b) Tropic of Cancer
 - (c) Tropic of Capricorn
 - (d) Poles

6. In which layer of the earth's atmosphere is the ozone layer found?

(a) Troposphere	(b) Mesosphere
(c) Exosphere	(d) Stratosphere

7. Ozone depletion in the stratosphere causes:
 - (a) Increase in greenhouse effect
 - (b) cooling of the earth atmosphere system
 - (c) increase of infrared radiation in the troposphere
 - (d) increase of ultraviolet radiation in the troposphere

Passage 2

The Supreme Court collegium has done well to push back against the Union government's attempts to block the appointment of some advocates as High Court judges. The three-member collegium, which makes recommendations for High Court appointments, has reiterated its decision to elevate lawyers Saurabh Kirpal to the Delhi High Court, R. John Sathyan to the Madras High Court and Somasekhar Sundaresan to the Bombay High Court. As it dealt in detail with the objections raised by the Centre in each individual case, the motives behind the government's ongoing contestation with the judiciary over appointments to constitutional courts stand exposed. Communications between the collegium and the Centre offer a glimpse into the untenable nature of the government's objections to proposed appointees, making it abundantly clear how badly the current regime wants to control judicial appointments. If the objection based on a candidate's sexual orientation smacks of a medieval-minded ideological bias, the effort to stall the elevation of a couple of advocates based on their social media activity exposes a mindset that sees appointments to the higher judiciary as a system of spoils meant for political loyalists. As the collegium has pointed out, neither the sexual orientation of Mr. Kirpal nor the airing of political views by the other two advocates will impinge on their suitability or integrity.

8. The collegium system in the appointment of Judges has started in the year-
 - (a) 1984
 - (b) 1993
 - (c) 1995
 - (d) 1999
9. How can the number of Judges in the Supreme Court of India be increased?
 - (a) By a Presidential notification
 - (b) By a Parliamentary Act
 - (c) By an Amendment of the Constitution of India
 - (d) By a Representation from the Supreme Court
10. What does the writ of Prohibition mean?
 - (a) the arrested person must be brought before the court, that holds the right to set the person free if the grounds of arrest are found to be faulty.
 - (b) it is issued when an office holder is found to misuse his duties
 - (c) it is issued by higher courts when they find that lower courts have made judgments beyond their powers of jurisdiction
 - (d) it is issued when the court finds that the office holder is illegally holding that position
11. Who appoints the judges of the Supreme Court?
 - (a) Prime Minister
 - (b) Chief Justice of India
 - (c) Lok Sabha
 - (d) President
12. Which among the following is NOT a criteria for being eligible to be a judge of the Supreme Court?
 - (a) judge of one high court or more (continuously), for at least five years
 - (b) an advocate of Supreme Court for at least ten years
 - (c) a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president
 - (d) above 40 years of age
13. Who is appointed as the Chief Justice of India?
 - (a) The President appoints the Chief Justice of India on his sole discretion
 - (b) The senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed as the Chief Justice of India
 - (c) The panel of judges of Supreme Court elect a Chief Justice of India from amongst themselves
 - (d) The Chief Justice of India is elected by the voting of Lok Sabha members

14. What does the writ of habeas corpus mean?
- (a) the arrested person must be brought before the court, that holds the right to set the person free if the grounds of arrest are found to be faulty.
 - (b) it is issued when an office holder is found to misuse his duties
 - (c) it is issued by higher courts when they find that lower courts have made judgments beyond their powers of jurisdiction
 - (d) it is issued when the court finds that the office holder is illegally holding that position

Passage 3

The accidental firing of a missile by India into Pakistan could have led to serious, unintended escalation of tensions between the two nuclear-armed countries, but, fortunately, that did not happen. The Government of India has said the incident, on March 9, happened in the course of routine maintenance, due to a technical malfunction. India has ordered a high-level Court of Inquiry. The Chargé d'affaires of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was called twice by Pakistan to convey its concerns. Pakistan has alleged that the incident "indicates many loopholes and technical lapses of a serious nature in Indian handling of strategic weapons". Islamabad, which termed the inquiry as ordered by India as insufficient, demanded a joint probe. It has also sought the involvement of the international community to promote "strategic stability in the region". As it moved closer to India in recent years, the U.S. has suspended its fixation with the conflict between the two neighbours, but the fear of nuclear escalation in the region is very deep in Washington's strategic thinking. India's global image of being a responsible nuclear power has been built over decades of restrained words and thoughtful action. The security of its nuclear command and technical capabilities has never been in doubt. This incident frays that reputation and measures must be taken to restore the confidence of the international community in India.

15. Which Indian Armed Force successfully test-fired the extended-range version of BrahMos Air-Launched missile?
- (a) Indian Army
 - (b) Indian Navy
 - (c) Indian Air Force
 - (d) Indian Coast Guard
16. Which of the following Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile was successfully test fired from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha on November 23, 2022?
- (a) Prithvi
 - (b) Agni-3
 - (c) Nag
 - (d) Akash
17. With which of the following countries BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. has signed a deal for the supply of shore based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile?
- (a) Poland
 - (b) Philippines
 - (c) Egypt
 - (d) Sri Lanka
18. Defence Ministry signs deal for dual role Surface-to-Surface BrahMos missile with which company?
- (a) Dassault Aviation
 - (b) Dhruv Aerospace
 - (c) DRDO
 - (d) BAPL
19. The Air Force test-fired the extended-range BrahMos missile for the first time from which air craft
- (a) Su-30 MKI aircraft
 - (b) Dassault Rafale
 - (c) HAL Tejas
 - (d) MiG-21

20. 'BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit' is being constructed in which city?
- (a) New Delhi
 - (b) Lucknow
 - (c) Pune
 - (d) Gandhi Nagar
21. Regarding the BrahMos missile, consider the following statements:
- I. It is a subsonic cruise missile.
 - II. It is being developed by India and Russia.
 - III. The existing range of BrahMos missiles is 2900 Km.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) I and II only
 - (b) II only
 - (c) III only
 - (d) I, II and III

Passage 4

Former Governor of a State and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu was elected the 15th President of India, the first tribal woman to be elected to the position and the youngest as well. She was declared elected on Thursday after four rounds of counting, although she had crossed the half-way mark after the third round of counting itself, posting an unassailable lead over her rival and the Opposition's candidate who conceded the election thereafter. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first to greet Ms. Murmu at her residence in New Delhi after the third round of counting showed that she had crossed the half-way mark.

Ms. Murmu hails from the Santhal tribe and was born in the district of Mayurbhanj, coming up the hard way in life, graduating and teaching in Odisha before entering electoral politics at the local body level and later being elected MLA and serving as a Minister in the Biju Janata Dal-BJP coalition government from 2000 to 2004. She remained an MLA till 2009, representing Rairangpur in Odisha, a town that burst into celebrations since her name was announced as a candidate for the post of President of India. She was known to intervene in stopping amendments to the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act that was being brought in by the BJP government of Raghubar Das, which involved changing land use in tribal areas.

22. The first presidential election was held by the Election Commission in which year?
- (a) 1952
 - (b) 1950
 - (c) 1948
 - (d) 1949
23. Voting in an Indian Presidential Election is through:
- (a) A first-past-the-post system through a single transferable vote cast in a secret ballot
 - (b) A proportional representation system through a single transferable vote cast in a secret ballot
 - (c) A proportional representation system through a single transferable vote cast in an open ballot
 - (d) A first-past-the-post system through a single transferable vote cast in an open ballot
24. The Rashtrapati Bhavan was formerly known as the Viceroy's palace (during colonial times). Where did the Governor General reside before the transfer of the British capital to Delhi in 1911?
- (a) Belvedere House
 - (b) Raisina Palace
 - (c) Secretariat Building
 - (d) Writers' Building
25. Who was the first Dalit to hold the office of the President of India?
- (a) Ram Nath Kovind
 - (b) V.V. Giri
 - (c) Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
 - (d) Kocheril Raman Narayanan

26. Before Droupadi Murmu, India had only one other female president, Pratibha Patil. When did Patil serve as the President of India?
- (a) 2007-2012
 - (b) 2005-2010
 - (c) 2012-2017
 - (d) 2006-2011
27. Who among the following was a candidate in the elections for the Vice President of India in 2022?
- (a) R. Venkataraman
 - (b) Yashwant Sinha
 - (c) M. Venkaiah Naidu
 - (d) Margaret Alva
28. President Murmu has earlier served as a Governor of which State?
- (a) Odisha
 - (b) Bihar
 - (c) Jharkhand
 - (d) West Bengal

Passage 5

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) based in the city has started landscaping work for Amrit Biodiversity Park in New Delhi, which is a part of the Central Vista project. This park will showcase plant sculptures depicting important events during India's freedom struggle and 75 years of Independence. A team of six NBRI experts, led by NBRI director SK Barik, has begun work on developing five green tracks on the theme of the first war of Independence (1857 Uprising), Santhal rebellion, Dandi March, Champaran Satyagrah and Indian National Army (INA).

The tracks will be developed by planting trees, herbs, shrubs and grasses in a way so as to depict the journey and sacrifices made by revolutionaries and freedom fighters. Besides, NBRI will also set up 13 thematic forests that will have 'kumud van' and 'kamal van' flaunting several varieties of lotus.

29. The concept of biodiversity hotspots is given by :
- (a) F. P. Odum
 - (b) Norman Myers
 - (c) James Lovelock
 - (d) Rachel Carson
30. The Indian Biodiversity Hotspot
- (a) Aravali Hills
 - (b) Western Ghats
 - (c) Papa Ghats
 - (d) Red Hills
31. Where is Banni Grassland situated?
- (a) Gujarat
 - (b) Maharashtra
 - (c) Rajasthan
 - (d) Himachal Pradesh
32. Which one of the following States is related with 'Silent Valley Project'?
- (a) Uttarakhand
 - (b) Himachal Pradesh
 - (c) Kerala
 - (d) Tamil Nadu

33. East Kolkata wetlands have been declared as
- (a) Biodiversity site
 - (b) Tourist site
 - (c) World Heritage site
 - (d) Ramsar site
34. Consider the following statements with reference to Biodiversity in India:
- 1. India is home to nearly fifteen per cent of the total recorded species of the world.
 - 2. The number of animal species documented in India is higher than the number of plant species.
 - 3. Of all the documented species of flora and fauna in India, less than one per cent is globally threatened.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
35. Which of the following states of India became the first Carbon Free State?
- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
 - (b) Chhattisgarh
 - (c) Himachal Pradesh
 - (d) Gujarat