

CURRENT AFFAIRS



MCQ PRACTICE

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY



Week 100

THE TUTORS ACADEMY

QUESTION 1

Invasive Species Specialist Group' (that develops Global Invasive Species Database) belongs to which one of the following organizations? (UPSC 2023)

- (a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (b) The United Nations Environment Programme
- (c) The United Nations World Commission for Environment and Development
- (d) The World Wide Fund for Nature

QUESTION 2

Which of the following organisms perform waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food? (UPSC 2023)

- (a) Butterflies
- (b) Dragonflies
- (c) Honeybees
- (d) Wasps

QUESTION 3

Consider the following statements regarding mercury pollution:

1. Gold mining activity is a source of mercury pollution in the world.
2. Coal-based thermal power plants cause mercury pollution.
3. There is no known safe level of exposure to mercury.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

QUESTION 4

Consider the following States: (UPSC 2022)

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Tripura

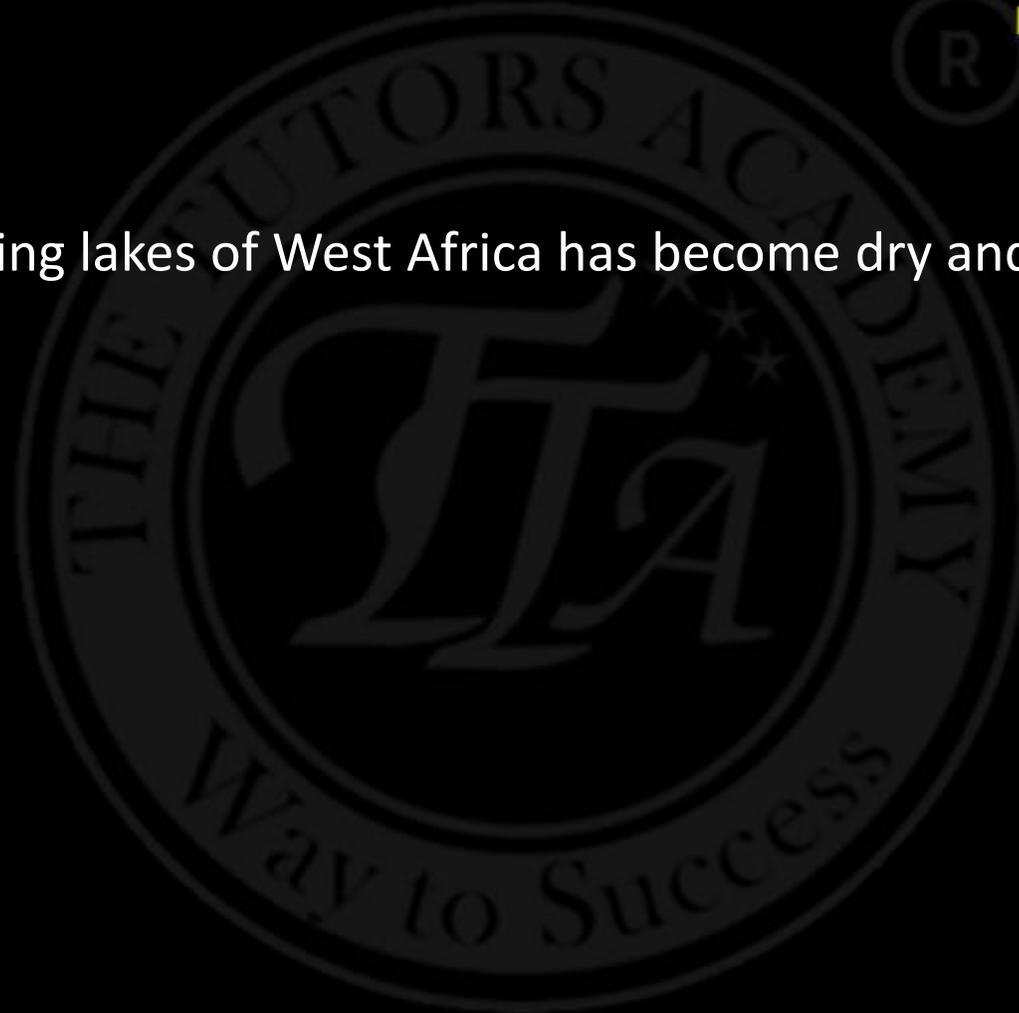
How many of the above are generally known as tea-producing States?

- (a) Only one State
- (b) Only two States
- (c) Only three States
- (d) All four States

QUESTION 5

Which one of the following lakes of West Africa has become dry and turned into a desert? (UPSC 2022)

- (a) Lake Victoria
- (b) Lake Faguibine
- (c) Lake Oguta
- (d) Lake Volta



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Answers and Explanations

QUESTION 1

Invasive Species Specialist Group' (that develops Global Invasive Species Database) belongs to which one of the following organizations? (UPSC 2023)

- (a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature
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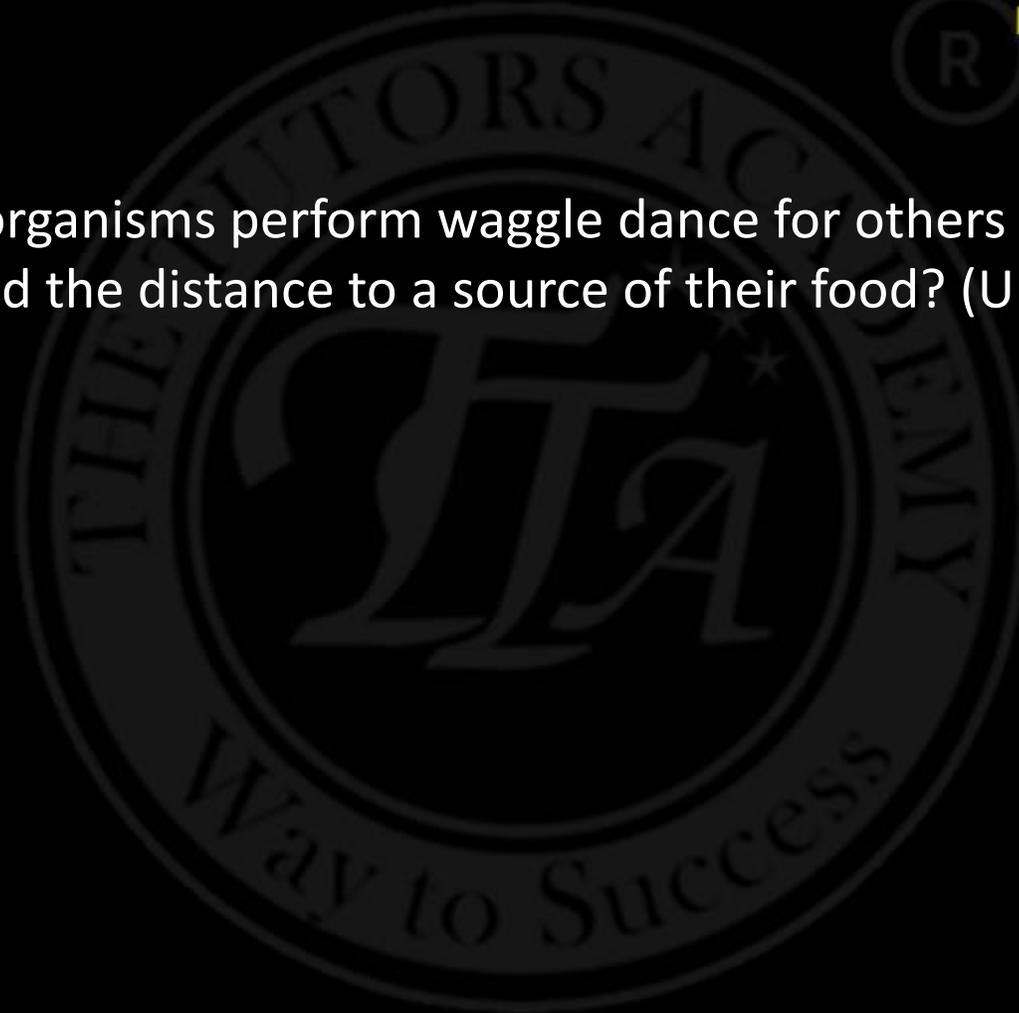
Explanation 1

- ✓ The Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) is a global network of invasive species scientists and policy specialists coordinated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission (SSC).
- ✓ option (a) was the correct answer.

QUESTION 2

Which of the following organisms perform waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food? (UPSC 2023)

- (a) Butterflies
- (b) Dragonflies
- (c) Honeybees
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Explanation 2

- ✓ Over the years, studies have revealed a remarkable depth of intellect in various life forms, calling into doubt the unipolar definitions of intelligence, which position Homo sapiens at the top. Elephants have been shown to recall and revere their deceased, rats have been trained to identify explosives in conflict zones, and dolphins can mimic human names.
- ✓ Honeybees are extremely fascinating creatures. They can manoeuvre on highways and utilise their “waggle dance” to teach robots how to communicate.
- ✓ Karl von Frisch, an Austrian behavioural biologist and Nobel laureate in medicine in 1973, discovered that worker honey bees communicate with one another through a “waggle dance.”
- ✓ option (c) was the correct answer.

QUESTION 3

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How many of the above statements are correct?

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Explanation 3

- ✓ Mercury exposure endangers our health, causing numerous and frequently irreversible harmful effects. Developing fetuses and young children are particularly vulnerable. Mercury contamination also causes harm to wildlife and ecosystems.
- ✓ Mercury is naturally present in the earth's crust, but human activities such as mining and fossil fuel combustion have resulted in extensive global mercury pollution.
- ✓ Mercury discharged into the atmosphere eventually settles in water or on land and might be washed into it. Once deposited, certain microbes can convert it to methylmercury, a very poisonous form that accumulates in fish, shellfish, and animals that consume fish.
- ✓ Mercury is naturally emitted by volcanoes and the ocean. Anthropogenic (human-caused) emissions include mercury produced from fuels or raw materials, as well as from their use in products or industrial processes.

- ✓ According to the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Mercury Assessment, artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is the leading cause of anthropogenic mercury emissions (37.7%), followed by stationary coal burning (21%). Nonferrous metals manufacturing (15%) and cement production (11% of total emissions) are other significant contributors. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- ✓ Mercury exposure is not known to be safe at any level. Mercury is an extremely hazardous heavy metal that can have major health consequences even at low doses. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ✓ option (c) was the correct answer.

QUESTION 4

Consider the following States: (UPSC 2022)

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Tripura

How many of the above are generally known as tea-producing States?

- (a) Only one State
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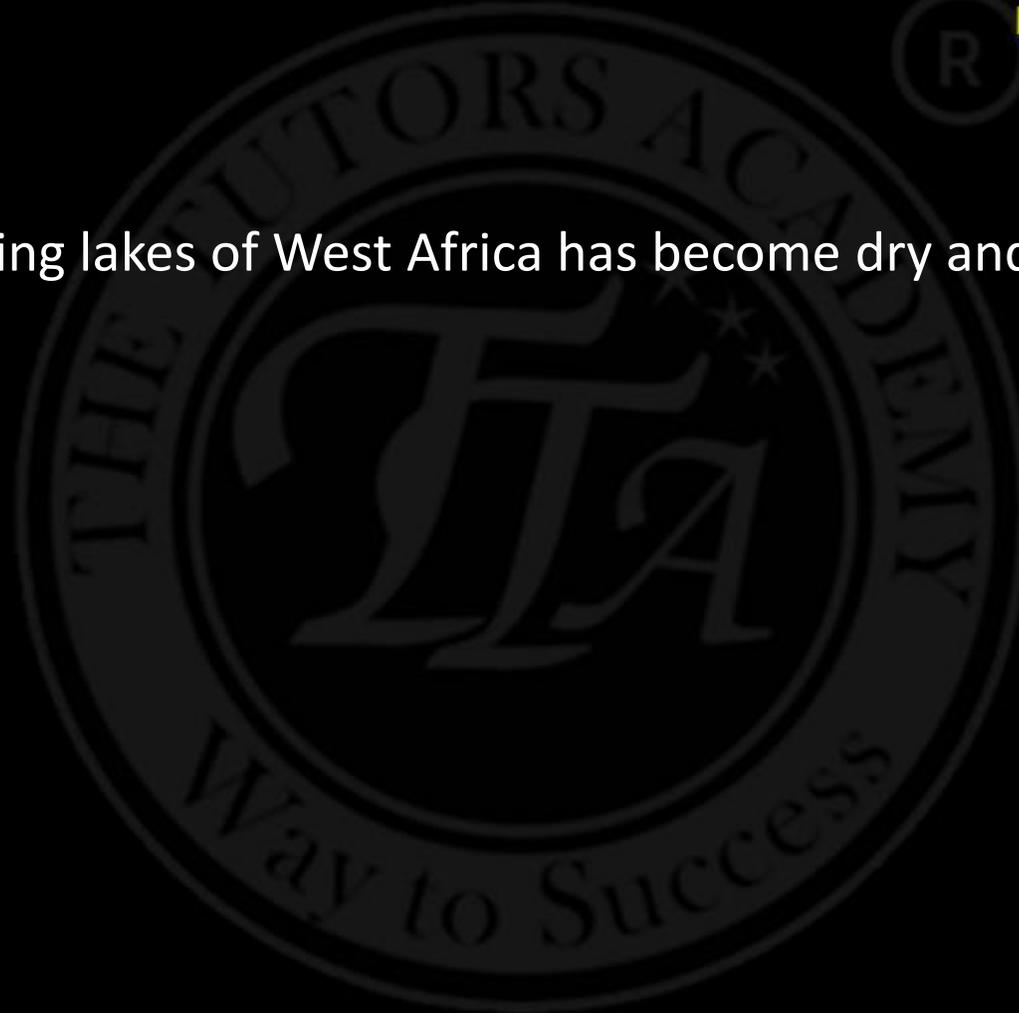
Explanation 4

- ✓ The British are credited with establishing India's large tea empire, having found tea in India and cultivating and consuming it in massive amounts between the early 1800s and India's independence from Britain in 1947.
- ✓ Tea is grown on 2,063 hectares of land in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi and Kangra districts. Kangra, also known as "the valley of gods," is noted for its peculiar taste tea.
- ✓ The Anamallais cover 389 square kilometres of majestic hills ranging in elevation from 900 to 1,600 meters and are located between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, directly across the hills from the High Ranges. With almost 12,000 hectares under tea, it plays an essential role on South India's planting map.
- ✓ According to the tea board, tea-producing states include Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.
- ✓ option (c) was the correct answer.

QUESTION 5

Which one of the following lakes of West Africa has become dry and turned into a desert? (UPSC 2022)

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- (c) Lake Oguta
- (d) Lake Volta



Explanation 5

- ✓ Lake Faguibine in northern Mali has been dry since the 1970s.
- ✓ The Lake Faguibine System, which consists of four interconnected lakes located 80 kilometres west of Timbuktu, was historically one of Mali's most fertile locations. However, droughts in the 1970s caused the lakes to dry up over a seven-year period.
- ✓ The passages connecting the lakes to the River Niger were then filled with sand, making it impossible for water to reach the lakes when rain did return. The region's riches vanished beside the river.
- ✓ option (b) was the correct answer.