

24-09-2021

International sign language day

Question: Consider the following statements:

1. 23 September has been chosen to celebrate International Sign Language Day, because on this day the ‘World Federation of the Deaf’ was formed.
2. The first International Day of Sign Languages was observed in 2018 along with the International Week of the Deaf.
3. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that recognizes, and promotes the use of sign languages at par with spoken languages, was adopted in 2006.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

- (A) 01 and 02 (B) 02 and 03
(C) 01 and 03 (D) all of the above

Answer:- (D) All of the above

Role:- Recently 23 September was observed by the United Nations as International Sign Language Day. This day is being celebrated since 2018.

Exam Useful Points:-

- The first International Day of Sign Languages was observed in 2018 along with the International Week of the Deaf.
- 23 September has been chosen to celebrate the International Sign Language Day, because on this day the ‘World Federation of the Deaf’ was formed.
- According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 72 million deaf people worldwide, more than 80 percent live in developing countries, and more than 300 sign languages are used.
- The prevalence of disability in the world is closely related to the SDG goal 10. Goal 10 seeks to reduce inequality between countries by empowering and promoting socioeconomic and political inclusion for all. This includes persons with disabilities.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes the use of sign languages at par with spoken languages.
- This convention has received 177 ratifications. Its aim is to end discrimination against persons with disabilities.

- India ratified the convention in 2007 and enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 to fulfil the obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The Government of India launched the Accessible India Campaign to make government buildings more accessible to people with disabilities.

Havana Syndrome

Question: Consider the following statements:

1. Havana syndrome refers to mental health symptoms allegedly experienced by US intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.
2. For the first time in the year 2016, there were reports of American diplomats and other government officials falling ill in the Cuban capital Havana.
3. Its symptoms often include hearing some sounds without any extraneous noise, nausea, dizziness and headache, memory loss and problems with maintaining physical balance, etc.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

- (A) 01 and 02 (B) 02 and 03
(C) 01 and 03 (D) all of the above

Answer:- (D) All of the above

Role: During a visit to India earlier this month, CIA Director William Burns and a US intelligence officer reported experiencing symptoms of Havana syndrome.

Exam Useful Points:-

- Havana syndrome refers to mental health symptoms allegedly experienced by US intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.
- Its symptoms often include hearing some sounds without any extraneous noise, nausea, dizziness and headache, memory loss and problems with maintaining physical balance, etc.
- American response These incidents have been investigated without excerpt over the years by the FBI, the CEA, the US military, the National Institutes of Health and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

- However, in December 2020, a report by the National Academy of Sciences suggested directed energy beams to be a possible cause of Havana syndrome.
- This is the first instance of such an incident reported in India, and may have diplomatic implications.
- For the first time in 2016, there were reports of American diplomats and other government employees falling ill in the Cuban capital Havana.
- Patients reported that they heard strange noises in their hotel rooms or homes and experienced strange physical sensations.
- After this this mysterious disease came to be called Havana syndrome.

International Blue Flag Certification

Question: Consider the following statements:

1. Blue Flag Certification is a globally recognized eco-label awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Denmark based on 33 stringent criteria.
2. The number of beaches with Blue Flag certification in India has gone up to 10.
3. Blue Flag Beach is an eco-tourism model, which identifies beaches that promote sustainable development of the region along with providing clean water facilities and healthy environment for tourists to bathe.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

- (A) 01 and 02 (B) 02 and 03
(C) 01 and 03 (D) all of the above

Answer:- (D) All of the above

Role:- Recently two other Indian beaches (Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry) have been given the globally recognized and coveted International Eco-Label Blue Flag certification.

Exam Useful Points:-

- The number of beaches with Blue Flag certification in India has gone up to 10.
- The 'Blue Flag' coast in India is an eco-tourism model, which identifies beaches that promote sustainable development of the region along with providing clean water facilities, safe and clean environment for tourists to bathe.