

Q: With the recent excavation of site, Pattanam, Consider the following statement:

1. Idols of gods and goddesses
2. Sophisticated weaponry
3. Evidence of religious war.

What are the things that did not emerge from Pattanam?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Pattanam has not chosen to delight archaeologists with idols of gods and goddesses, or the remains of grandiose places of worship.
- This iron-age and post-iron-age site was also bereft of sophisticated weaponry. This is in sharp contrast with some Pattanam-contemporary sites such as Berenike in Egypt and Khor Rori in Oman.
- Were Pattanam residents a peace-loving people who did not harbour religious and caste boundaries?
- The apparent absence of religious and martial remains can only tell that religion and war did not exist as they are known today. It is safe to say there is no evidence of institutionalised religion or caste.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Kala-Azar:

1. It is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected female anopheles mosquito.
2. It is a vector borne disease caused by protozoan parasites of the genus leishmania.
3. Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are endemic for kala-azar in India.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Kala-azar is a vector borne (sandfly) neglected tropical disease caused by the protozoan parasites of the genus leishmania that afflicts the world's poorest populations in over 90 countries.
- Current annual estimates of kala-azar are about 1,00,000, with more than 95% of cases reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) from India and other tropical countries, most importantly co-infection with HIV, which leads to an immunocompromised state.
- The four States endemic for kala-azar in India are: Bihar (33 districts), Jharkhand (4 districts), West Bengal (11 districts), and Uttar Pradesh (six districts).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Vostro account:

1. It is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's domestic currency.
2. Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVA) uses freely convertible currencies and works as a complimentary system.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- A vostro account is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's domestic currency, in this case, the rupee.
- Domestic banks use it to provide international banking services to their clients who have global banking needs.
- The Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVA) is an additional arrangement to the existing system that uses freely convertible currencies and works as a complimentary system.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the findings of recently excavated site Pattanam:

1. No evidence that institutionalised religion existed.
2. No indication of the graded inequality embodied in the caste system
3. Seal of a sphinx was found.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Excavations so far that have unearthed less than 1% of the site, point to a startling fact: there is no evidence that institutionalised religion existed in ancient Pattanam.
- There was certainly no indication of the graded inequality embodied in the caste system that has characterised contemporary Kerala and most of the rest of India.
- The technological, metallurgical, literary, and artistic advances of this phase bear witness to rigorous cultural and commercial exchanges.
- The Pattanam excavations have unearthed over 45 lakh sherds (ceramic fragments); these include approximately 1.4 lakh belonging to the littoral regions of the Mediterranean, the River Nile, the Red Sea, the western and eastern Indian Oceans, and the South China Sea.
- Recent findings include the seal of a sphinx, native to the ancient Greek city of Thebes.
- This wide span of locations confirms the existence of a thriving urban centre from the 5th century B.C. till the 5th century A.D., with its peak phase from 100 B.C. to A.D. 300.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. India and Malaysia have agreed to settle trade in the Indian rupee.
2. Singapore is the third largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Recently, the India and Malaysia have agreed to settle trade in the Indian rupee.
- The India-Malaysia bilateral trade touched \$19.4 billion during 2021-22 and Saturday's announcement is expected to help bilateral trade to overcome currency-related obstacles.
- Malaysia is the third largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region, after Singapore and Indonesia that account for \$30.1 billion and \$26.1 billion bilateral trade with India respectively.