

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Meetei Mayek:

1. The State of Manipur adopted Meetei Mayek script.
2. This script will replace Bengali script.
3. Manipuri language was not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

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:

- From January 15, 2023, all seven vernacular morning newspapers, nine evening papers and four periodicals in Manipur State will have to use only the Meetei Mayek or Manipuri script, replacing the Bengali script in use since the early 18th century.
- The history of the Meetei Mayek script dates back to at least the sixth century, and it had been in use till the 18th century.
- In 1709, a Hindu missionary named Shantidas Gosai came to Kangleipak, the ancient name for the independent kingdom of Manipur, to spread Vaishnavism.
- He mesmerised the kings and the high officials of the palace, and on royal orders, all religious and other precious books in Meitei Mayek were incinerated, and new ones written in the Bengali script.
- The Manipuri language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 1992, but in Bengali script.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding DASH Diet:

1. The WHO recommends only 10 to 15gm of salt per day.
2. It is a Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension.
3. It is the best-recommended diet to prevent cardiovascular events

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:

- After adjusting for all other risk factors, it was found that adding less salt with food was associated with fewer heart attacks and strokes. This was found to be true even in participants who were following the DASH diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension).
- DASH is the best recommended diet to prevent cardiovascular events.
- DASH diet involves eating fruits, vegetables, lean meat, poultry, nuts, whole grains, and reducing the intake of saturated fats, cholesterol, and sugar.
- The WHO recommends only 5gm of salt per day. The recent study points to the immense benefit of avoiding salt on the table.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. India is home to nearly 60% Asian elephants.
2. Asian elephants is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

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:

- India is home to nearly 60% Asian elephants and the last count of the species in 2017 had put the number at 29,964.
- While the number of elephants in India has increased in the past few years, the species is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species and Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Asiatic Cheetah is found in Iran.
2. India carries out a census of the tiger population in every four years.
3. India has 53 tiger reserves as of early 2022.

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:

- A different species, called the Asiatic cheetah, once abundant in India, is found in Iran. As part of improving their odds of long-term survival, young animals are being reared as part of conservation efforts in Namibia and then sent to different parts of the world, including India.
- Every four years, India carries out a census of the tiger population across India. The latest estimate put the tiger population at 2,967.
- India has 53 tiger reserves with the latest being added early in 2022. However, rising tiger numbers have meant that nearly half the tigers are now outside designated protected zones that lead to increasing instances of human-animal conflict.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Great Indian Bustard (GIB):

1. Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. They are Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
3. They are great fliers.

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:

- The GIBs are not great fliers and have wide sideways vision to maximise predator detection but the species' frontal vision is narrow.
- Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in Appendix I of CITES, as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, the GIBs enjoy the highest protection both in India and globally. The earliest estimates show the population was about 1,260 in 1969, but has declined by 75% in the last 30 years.
- Historically, the GIB population was distributed among 11 States in western India but today the population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations are found in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.