

**Q: Consider the following passage:**

1. Kadamba inscription written in Kannada.
2. The Satavahana Empire was replaced by the Ikshvakus.
3. Banvasi was also the ancient capital Ikshvakus.

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 Satavahana Empire declined around the 3rd century CE and was replaced by the Ikshvakus, followed by Pallavas in Andhra and the Kadambas in northern Karnataka.
- Kadambas ruled over the northern part of Karnataka.
- Banvasi was also the ancient capital of this rulers.
- King Ravivarma ruled the kingdom from 485-519 AD and Banavasi in Uttar Kannada district (now) was the capital then.
- Their inscriptions can be found in the languages of Kannada and Sanskrit.

**Q: Prerana Program, sometimes seen in the news is an initiative of which of the following ministry?**

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- b) Ministry of Education.
- c) Ministry of Science and Technology.
- d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Prerana Program aims to offer a meaningful, unique and inspiring experience to all participants, thereby empowering them with leadership qualities.
- It is a week-long residential program for 20 selected students of class IX to XII.
- It is an Experiential Learning Program to empower students with leadership qualities.
- The program comes with the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation.
- It was launched by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- It is driven by a strong commitment to integrate principles of Indian education system and the philosophy of value-based education which is a corner stone of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Thalaiyatti and Uruttu Dolls:**

1. It is a traditional Indian dolls modelled on the human form that is predominantly made in Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu.
2. The art of making these dolls was introduced by Maratha rule in the early 19th Century.
3. It was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2009.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Thalaiyatti and Uruttu Dolls are traditional Indian dolls modelled on the human form that is predominantly made in Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu.

- The art of making these dolls was introduced by Maratha ruler Raja Serfoji in the early 19th Century.
- Thalaiyatti and Uruttu Dolls are also known as Thanjavur dolls which received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2009.
- Earlier the dolls were heavier as they were made of terracotta.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Wetland City Accreditation**

1. It is a voluntary system that recognizes cities which have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.
2. It is established under the Ramsar Convention.
3. No Indian city have been formally accredited in the Wetland City Accreditation.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) aims to promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.
- The Accreditation seeks to encourage cities that are close to and dependent on wetlands, primarily Wetlands of International Importance.
- The Ramsar Convention during COP12 held in the year 2015 approved this voluntary WCA system that recognizes cities that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.
- This voluntary scheme provides an opportunity for cities that value their natural or human-made wetlands to gain international recognition.
- No Indian city have been formally accredited in the Wetland City Accreditation.

**Q: Consider the following pairs**

Places in news	–	Countries
1. Kerman	–	Iran
2. Beirut	–	Lebanon
3. Haifa	–	Israel

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Kerman – Recently Islamic State claimed the responsibility for Iran bombings in Kerman. Kerman is a city in Iran.
- Beirut – The Hamas leader Saleh al-Arouri was recently killed in a drone strike at Beirut, Capital of Lebanon.
- Haifa – Recently a Hezbollah drone was intercepted over Haifa area in Israel. Haifa is a bay-side suburban of Israel.