

Q: Consider the following OPEC+:

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries.
2. The core group consists of members mainly from middle eastern and African countries.
3. Bahrain was the founding member of this organisation.

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:

- OPEC+ is a group of 23 oil-exporting countries which meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market.
- It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries.
- These nations aim to work together on adjusting crude oil production to bring stability to the oil market.
- At the core of this group are the 13 members of OPEC (the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries), which are mainly Middle Eastern and African countries.
- It comprises 13 OPEC countries plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mexico, Malaysia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Oman.
- It was established in 1960 by the five founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Dudhwa Tiger Reserve:

1. It includes two sanctuaries Pilibhit sanctuary and Sohagi Barwa Sanctuary.
2. The vegetation is of Moist Deciduous type.
3. Spotbilled pelican is the variety of bird found in this reserve

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:

- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is located on the Indo-Nepal border in the district Lakhimpur-Kheri in Uttar Pradesh.
- It includes the Dudhwa National Park, and two nearby Sanctuaries, viz. Kishanpur and Katerniaghat, besides forest areas of North Kheri, South Kheri and Shahjahanpur forest divisions in its buffer.
- The Sharda River flows by the Kishanpur WL Sanctuary, the Geruwa River flows through the Katerniaghat WL Sanctuary and the Suheli and Mohana streams flow in the Dudhwa National Park, all of which are tributaries of the mighty Ghagra River.
- The vegetation is of the North Indian Moist Deciduous type, containing some of the finest examples of Sal forests (*Shorea robusta*) in India.
- The flora is predominantly Sal forest along with its associate tree species like *Terminalia alata* (Asna), *Lagerstroemia parviflora* (Asidha), *Adina cordifolia* (Haldu), *Mitragyna parviflora* (Faldu), *Gmelina arborea* (Gahmhar), *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Kanju) etc.
- Birds include a wide variety of species, which include migratory and resident ones like Dabchick, spotbilled pelican, Large cormorant, Little cormorant, Grey Heron, White stork, Black stork, White Ibis etc.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding sonic boom:

1. It is a thunderous noise caused by an object moving faster than the speed of sound.
2. Sonic booms create huge amounts of sound energy.

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 sonic boom is a thunderous noise caused by an object, like an aircraft, moving faster than the speed of sound.

- As the object zooms through the sky, the air molecules around it are pushed aside with tremendous force, generating shock waves along its flight path.
- The release of pressure, following the shock waves' buildup, is heard as the sonic boom.
- Sonic booms create huge amounts of sound energy.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Duty-free quota-free (DFQF) scheme:

1. It is duty free quota-free access for Least Developed Countries (LDC).
2. It was first taken at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting in 2005.
3. India became the first developing country to extend this facility to LDCs in 2008

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:

- Duty-free quota-free (DFQF) scheme is to provide duty-free quota-free (DFQF) access for LDCs was first taken at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting in 2005.
- India became the first developing country to extend this facility to LDCs in 2008, providing market access to 85 per cent of India's total tariff lines
- The scheme was expanded in 2014 providing preferential market access on about 98.2 per cent of India's tariff lines to LDCs.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Foot rot disease:

1. It is also known as Bakanae Disease.
2. It is caused by 'Fusarium verticillioides' fungi.
3. It is common in all types of paddy crops.

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:

- Foot rot disease is also known as Bakanae Disease.
- It is a soil and seed-borne deadly fungus which is seen only in the Basmati variety of paddy.
- It is caused by 'Fusarium verticillioides' fungi.
- The infected saplings turn pale yellow and become elongated and later, the saplings start drying and usually die.
- Symptoms sometimes appear after transplantation and the infected plants first grow way taller than the normal plants and die after a few days.