

Q: Consider the following statement regarding black soil:

1. It is extremely fertile soil.
2. It constitutes 5.6 per cent of global soils.
3. This soil does not suffered from erosion processes.

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:

- Black soils are characterised by a thick, dark-coloured soil horizon rich in organic matter.
- Most of the black soils suffered from moderate to severe erosion processes, as well as nutrient imbalances, acidification and biodiversity loss, the report said.
- Black soils are extremely fertile and can produce high agricultural yields thanks to their elevated moisture storage capacity.
- They constitutes 5.6 per cent of global soils and contain 8.2 per cent of the world's SOC stocks: Approximately 56 billion tonnes of carbon.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. IMF release India Development Report titled 'Navigating the Storm'.
2. It revised the GDP forecast considering the strong upturn in the July-to-September.
3. The Bank expects the Indian economy to grow at a slightly slower 6.6% in 2023-24.

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:

- Recently, the World Bank released its latest India Development Report titled 'Navigating the Storm'.
- It lifted its growth forecast for India's economy in 2022 to 6.9%, after having downgraded it to 6.5% in October.
- It revised the GDP forecast considering the strong upturn in the July-to-September quarter of 2022-23, when it grew 6.3% despite inflationary pressures and tighter financing conditions, "driven by strong private consumption and investment".
- The government's focus on bolstering capital expenditure also supported domestic demand in the first half of 2022-23. High frequency indicators indicate continued robust growth of domestic demand at the start of Q3 (October to December quarter).
- The Bank expects the Indian economy to grow at a slightly slower 6.6% in 2023-24 as a challenging external environment and faltering global growth will affect its economic outlook through different channels.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Y.K. Alagh devised the first ever poverty estimates based on calorie requirements.
2. He reorganised Indian planning on an agro-climactic basis.

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:

- Alagh headed a task force in 1979 which devised the first ever poverty estimates based on calorie requirements.
- Between 1992 and 1996, he served as the Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) where he raised non-government funding from zero to 25%, recruited 23 scholars from the finest universities around the world and as a member of the International Rectors' Group sponsored by New York University, pushed the university towards globalisation.

- As the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission during 1982-83, he reorganised Indian planning on an agro-climatic basis. From 1980 to 1982, he was the Executive Vice-Chairman of the Narmada Planning Group.
- He also chaired the Expert Group on the Cauvery dispute.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Section 188 of the IPC related to disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant.
2. Section 144 empowers police and district magistrates to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance of apprehended danger.
3. The maximum punishment under the Section 188 is six months imprisonment

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:

- Recently, the Centre cleared a State legislation that empowers police officers to register cases without informing the local court in writing against persons who protest and agitate violating Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- Section 144 empowers police and district magistrates to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance of apprehended danger.
- The bill seeks to make any violation of prohibitory orders issued under Section 144 CrPC, a cognisable offence under Section 188 of the IPC (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).
- It amends Section 195 of the CrPC, which states that no court shall take cognisance of any criminal conspiracy for contempt of lawful authority of public servants, except on the complaint in writing of the public servant concerned.
- The maximum punishment under the Section is six months imprisonment.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Sunflower seeds, small millet, sugar beet and potatoes were harvested from black soils.
2. North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia account for 70 percent of Black soil.

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: a

Explanation:

- Globally in 2010, 66 per cent of sunflower seeds, 51 per cent of small millet, 42 per cent of sugar beet, 30 per cent of wheat and 26 per cent of potatoes were harvested from black soils.
- The distribution of black soil areas used as croplands varied in each region. Europe and Eurasia accounted for 70 per cent of the soil in the total cropland, while North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia had 10 per cent each.