

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention was to be held in Indore city.
2. President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana will be the chief guest.
3. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is being held annually.

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 Prime Minister inaugurated the 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city.
- The theme of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention 2023 is: "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal".
- President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali will be the chief guest and the Republic of Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi will be the special guest of honour.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on January 9 to mark the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in Mumbai from South Africa on that day in 1915.
- Since 2003, PBD conventions have been held annually. However, its format was revised since 2015 to celebrate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas once every two years.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the disease Kala-azar:

1. It is caused by Virus.
2. It is transmitted to human being by the bite of an infected female phlebotomine sandfly.
3. It is also called by the name Black Fever.

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 malaria, kala-azar is the deadliest parasitic disease in the world. It is one of the three conditions in the disease group called leishmaniasis caused by the protozoa parasite Leishmania.
- The parasite is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected female phlebotomine sandfly, a tiny 2-3 mm long insect vector, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- India is committed to eliminating Kala-azar or Black Fever from the country by 2023.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Perseverance rover:

1. It carried a unique instrument, MOXIE.
2. It carried Ingenuity, the first ever helicopter to fly on Mars.

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:

- Perseverance rover was launched in 2020 aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V.
- It carried a unique instrument, MOXIE or Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment: which for the first time manufactured molecular oxygen on Mars using carbon dioxide from the carbon-dioxide-rich atmosphere (ISRU means In Situ Resource Utilization: or the use of local resources to meet human needs or requirements of the spacecraft).
- It carried Ingenuity, the first ever helicopter to fly on Mars.
- It is the planned first step to bring back rock samples from Mars for analysis in sophisticated laboratories on Earth: with the goal of looking for biosignatures: or signatures of present or past life.

Q: India and Australia have entered into an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. Consider the following statement regarding the major areas it covered:

- a) Trade in Goods
- b) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
- c) Phytosanitary (SPS) measures
- d) All the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

The IndAusECTA covers the following major areas:

- Trade in Goods
- Trade in Services
- Rules of Origin
- Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures
- Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation
- Trade Remedies
- Legal & institutional Issues
- Movement of Natural Persons

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. India's import from Australia is less than export.
2. More than 74% of Australia's exports to India is raw Uranium.

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:

- India's imports from Australia amount to 17 US \$ billion while its exports to Australia amount to 10.5 US \$ billion. However, India's imports from Australia are primarily (96%) raw materials & intermediate goods. They are highly concentrated in Coal (74% of Australia's exports to India) out of which 71.4% is coking coal.
- On the other hand, India's exports to Australia are broad-based and dominated by finished products (consumer goods). India also spends \$ 4 bn approx. each year on education of students in Australia.