

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Goan cashew:

1. It is one of the most important plantation crops in India.
2. Cashew was native to northeast Brazil in Latin America.
3. Black soils are the best for growing cashew in India.

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:

- Goan cashew is one of the most important plantation crops in India
- Cashew was native to northeast Brazil in Latin America and was introduced to Goa by the Portuguese in the 16th century (1570).
- At the time of its introduction on Indian coasts, cashew was known mainly as a crop for afforestation and soil conservation.
- In the state of Goa, it occupies the largest area among horticultural crops.
- Well-drained deep sandy loam soils are the best for growing cashew. In general, all soils from sandy to laterite are well suited for this crop.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Egyptian Vulture:

1. It is a native bird of Egypt.
2. It inhabits open, arid areas near humans.
3. Conservation status by IUCN is listed as Endangered

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:

- The Egyptian Vulture (Neophorn Percnopterus) is a native bird of Europe, Central Asia and Africa, and in winter, it travels towards Asian countries, including India.
- The residential sub-species of Egyptian vulture is Neophron Percnopterus Ginginianus, which resides in India throughout the year.
- It inhabits open, arid areas near humans, with plenty of food options.
- These are monogamous, migrating between breeding seasons as a pair. They build a large nest and will constantly replenish it during the breeding season.
- One of the primary threats facing this species is illegal poisoning aimed at carnivores.
- Conservation status by IUCN is listed as Endangered

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Chilika Lake:

1. It is a brackish water lake and a shallow lagoon.
2. It is located at the mouth of the Daya River.

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:

- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lake and a shallow lagoon with estuarine character spread across the districts of Puri, Khurda and Ganjam in the state of Odisha.
- It is connected to the Bay of Bengal by a 32 km long and 1.5 km wide channel that mostly runs parallel to the Bay separated by a narrow spit.
- It is located at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 km².
- It can be broadly divided into four ecological sectors based on salinity and depth, namely the southern zone, the central zone, the northern zone and the outer channel.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Rasmussen's encephalitis:

1. It is a very rare, chronic inflammatory neurological disease.
2. It most often occurs in children under the age of 10.
3. Progressive loss of neurological functions including motor skills, speech, and eventual paralysis.

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:

- Rasmussen's encephalitis is a very rare, chronic inflammatory neurological disease that usually affects only one hemisphere (half) of the brain.
- It most often occurs in children under the age of 10 but can also affect adolescents and adults.
- Symptoms
 - ❖ Frequent and severe seizures
 - ❖ Inflammation of the brain (encephalitis)
 - ❖ Mental deterioration
 - ❖ Progressive loss of neurological functions including motor skills, speech, and eventual paralysis on one side of the body (hemiparesis)

Q: Consider the following statement regarding White Phosphorous Bombs:

1. It is a highly combustible chemical that burns quickly and brightly when exposed to air.
2. It burns at a temperature of 800°C and spontaneously ignites at up to 1,300 degrees Celsius when it is exposed to oxygen.
3. White phosphorus munitions are banned under international law.

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:

- White phosphorus is a waxy, yellowish-to-clear chemical with a pungent, garlic-like odour.
- It is a highly combustible chemical that burns quickly and brightly when exposed to air.
- It is used in incendiary weapons by militaries around the world for a variety of purposes, such as illuminating targets at night or to inflicting damage on enemies.
- It burns at a temperature of 800°C and spontaneously ignites at up to 1,300 degrees Celsius when it is exposed to oxygen, and producing white, dense smoke, which is used by armies to create smokescreens in sensitive zones.
- White phosphorus can cause fast-moving and widespread fires on the ground.

White phosphorus munitions are not banned under international law, but because of their incendiary effects, their use is supposed to be tightly regulated.