

Q: Consider the following statement regarding recently discovered two exoplanets:

1. They are discovered outside the solar system.
2. Their volumes are more than three times that of Earth.
3. These planets have much higher densities than Earth.

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:

- Astronomers have discovered that two exoplanets orbiting a red dwarf star that are unique in their composition.
- These two exoplanets are unlike any other discovered outside the Solar System. These two planets are filled with water.
- The researchers maintained that with volumes more than three times that of Earth and masses twice as big, planets c and d have much lower densities than Earth.
- This is surprising because most of the planets just slightly bigger than Earth that has been studied in detail so far all seemed to be rocky worlds like ours.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Lizards and snakes are warm-blooded squamates.
2. Remains of fossil lizards and snakes have been discovered recently from a late Miocene hominid in Himachal Pradesh.
3. Varanids have a limited fossil record in Asia.

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:

- Remains of fossil lizards and snakes have been discovered recently from a **late Miocene hominid** locality of India (dated 9.1 Million Years) in Haritalyangar, Himachal Pradesh.
- It indicates a seasonally wet sub-humid to semi-arid climate in the area with mean annual temperature of around 15–18.6°C during that period.
- It was similar to condition in the area today.
- Lizards and snakes are cold-blooded squamates whose distribution, richness, and diversity of are highly dependent on temperature and climatic conditions.
- The occurrence of taxa Varanus in Haritalyangar is important in regard to its past biodiversity because varanids have a limited fossil record in Asia.
- Also, the fossil Python from South Asia remains poor except for the earliest record from Pakistan (dated ca. 18 Ma) and Kutch, Gujarat (dated ca. 14-10 Ma).

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The Supreme Court has 193 working days a year.
2. High Courts function for approximately 210 days.

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:

- Recently, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D. Y. Chandrachud said that the Supreme Court will not have a vacation bench when it breaks next week for its annual winter vacation.
- The Supreme Court has 193 working days a year for its judicial functioning, while the High Courts function for approximately 210 days, and trial courts for 245 days. High Courts have the power to structure their calendars according to the service rules.

Q: Consider the following:

1. Attappady Attukombu Avara
2. Attappady Thuvvara
3. Onattukara Ellu

Which among the following agricultural product from Kerala is given GI Tag?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Recently, the five agricultural products of Kerala have been granted **Geographical Indication (GI) status**.
- The unique features of the products, imparted by the agro-climatic conditions of the geographical area of their production, are the basis for getting geographical indication tag.

The latest Geographical Indications that have been registered are

- a) Attappady Attukombu Avara (beans)
- b) Attappady Thuvvara (red gram)
- c) Onattukara Ellu (sesame)
- d) Kanthalloor-Vattavada Veluthulli (garlic)
- e) Kodungalloor Pottuvellari (snap melon).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding “Groups of Friends”:

1. India has launched a ‘Group of Friends’ to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.
2. Bangladesh and Egypt are not the co-chairs of the ‘Group of Friends’.

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:

- Recently, India has launched a ‘Group of Friends’ to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers during India’s current presidency of the UN Security Council.
- India will soon have a database that will record all crimes against the Blue Helmets.
- India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco, and Nepal are co-chairs of the ‘Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers’.