

Q: With reference to the Snow Leopard, consider the following statements:

1. It is the state animal of Himachal Pradesh.
2. It is listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Snow Leopard is indeed the state animal of Himachal Pradesh, India.
- While the Snow Leopard is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, it is not critically endangered.

Q: The "One Vehicle, One FASTag" initiative stands for?

- a) Encourages carpooling for cheaper tolls
- b) Mandates linking only one FASTag to a vehicle
- c) Offers discounts for using FASTag regularly
- d) Penalise drivers for avoiding toll plazas

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The "One Vehicle, One FASTag" initiative, launched by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), aims to streamline electronic toll collection and prevent misuse of FASTags.
- While carpooling can be beneficial, it's not the primary objective of the initiative.
- This is precisely the core of the initiative. Using a single FASTag per vehicle prevents issues like toll plaza delays and ensures accurate toll collection.
- While FASTag offers various benefits like cashback and discounts, it's not directly related to the "One Vehicle, One FASTag" initiative.
- The initiative focuses on proper FASTag usage, not penalizing toll avoidance, which is handled through separate mechanisms.

Q: Recently, India held the maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya', with which of the following countries?

- a) Azerbaijan
- b) Thailand
- c) Malaysia
- d) Seychelles

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The maiden edition of the Ex-Ayutthaya bilateral maritime exercise was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy in December 2023.
- The name "Ex-Ayutthaya" itself is symbolic, referencing the ancient capitals of both countries - Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand - highlighting the long-standing cultural and historical ties between the two nations.

Q: Consider the following reports:

1. Global Gender Gap Report
2. Global Inequality Crisis Report
3. Global Competitiveness Report
4. Global Financial Stability Report

Which of the above are published and or released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Global Gender Gap Report (1): Published by the World Economic Forum.
- Global Inequality Crisis Report (2): Published by Oxfam International.
- Global Competitiveness Report (3): Published by the World Economic Forum.
- Global Financial Stability Report (4): Published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Q: With reference to the Multidimensional Poverty in India, consider the following statements:

1. India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty.
2. Madhya Pradesh has registered the largest decline among the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Explanation:

- India has indeed registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty. According to the latest National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report by NITI Aayog (released in August 2023), the percentage of the population living in multidimensional poverty in India has decreased from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21.
- Madhya Pradesh has witnessed a remarkable reduction in multidimensional poverty, but attributing the largest decline solely to Madhya Pradesh might need further evaluation. The NITI Aayog report highlights that several states, including Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha, have also shown impressive progress in reducing poverty.