

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Deep sea mining could affect aquatic ecosystems.
2. International Seabed Authority (ISA) headquarter is located in France.

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:

- Noise produced by mining the seabed for nickel, cobalt and other metals for the green energy transition could interfere with whales' ability to navigate the ocean depths and communicate with one another, according to a recent study.
- The study argues that more research is needed to assess the risk deep-sea mining could pose to large marine mammals, although researchers did not collect field data themselves.
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA), a Jamaica-based United Nations body, may approve deep-sea mining for international waters as soon as this summer. Leaders in France, Fiji, Canada and Germany have voiced concerns about the practice.

Q: Recently, the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar was awarded Consider the following statement

1. Ustad Bismillah Khan was a famous Sarangi player.
2. The award was given to artists up to the age of 40 years.
3. He was a recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Bharat Ratna.

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 Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, **given to artists up to the age of 40 years**, was **introduced in the year 2006** with the objective of identifying and encouraging outstanding young talents in diverse fields of the performing arts and giving them national recognition early in their life, so that they may work with greater commitment and dedication in their chosen fields.
- The legendary shehnai player, Ustad Bismillah Khan was one of India's most celebrated classical musicians.
- He was a recipient of many honors and awards. These include: Padma Vibhushan (1980), Padma Bhushan (1968), Padma Shri (1961), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1956) etc.
- In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan became the third classical musician to be awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Carbon Border Tax:

1. European Union will impose this tax from 2026.
2. Under this, border tax will be imposed on imports of carbon-intensive goods such as steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizers and electricity.

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:

- Under the new scheme, European Union (EU) from 2026 onwards shall impose a border-taxes on imports of carbon-intensive goods such as steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizers and electricity via carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).
- The aim is to help slash the EU's overall greenhouse gas emissions 55% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- The tax plan, yet to be legally formalized, will come into force from 2026.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN”:

1. The 4th edition of this exercise was held in India.
2. India and Australia jointly conducted this exercise.

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: d

Explanation:

- Recently, the 4th edition of joint military exercise, “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN”, between India and Japan is being conducted at Camp Imazu in Shiga province, Japan from 17 February to 02 March 2023.
- It is an annual training event with Japan, is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of current global situation.
- The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Leprosy:

1. It is a chronic bacterial infection.
2. It affects skin, nerves, lungs and eyes
3. India achieved zero leprosy case in 2005.

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:

- With a renewed focus on tackling leprosy, the Union Health Ministry has devised a strategic road map for achieving zero cases of the Leprosy infection by 2030.
- Despite India being declared “Leprosy Eliminated” in 2005, the country still accounts for over half (52%) of the world’s new leprosy patients, Union Health Minister said in a written message of the National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023-2027.
- Leprosy is a chronic bacterial infection, which affects skin, nerves, lungs and eyes.