

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding peatlands:**

1. It is an ecosystem with a peat soil of any thickness.
2. It is covering around 3-4 per cent of the world's land surface area.
3. It does not have any role in water cycle.

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:

- UNEP proposes a definition for peatlands as an ecosystem with a peat soil of any thickness and provides an evidence base on the status of peatlands and their importance in the global carbon cycle.
- Covering around 3-4 per cent of the world's land surface area, peatlands are responsible for storing nearly one-third of its soil carbon. This is twice as much carbon as in all world's forest biomass combined.
- Peatlands also have a crucial local role in the water cycle, filtering and storing water, providing clean water, and preventing floods. They are home to unique species and carry significant cultural meaning for communities worldwide.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. Red-crowned roofed turtle is classified as vulnerable species by IUCN.
2. 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES is being held in Panama.
3. CITES had three appendices.

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 red-crowned roofed turtle is already classified as critically endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.
- The list cites threats like habitat loss due to pollution and hydrological projects specific in the Ganga lowlands of northern India and Bangladesh.
- Overharvesting the animal for illegal consumption and illegal international trade are other reasons for its extinction threat.
- CITES is an agreement regulating the movement across international borders of certain wild animal and plant species.
- The 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES is being held in Panama.
- It has three appendices and the first one is for species currently threatened with extinction.
- The second appendix is for species not necessarily threatened with extinction but demands intervention to keep a check on trade and avoid its utilisation that may threaten their survival.
- The third is used when a specific country wants to regulate trade in a given species.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. Norway-India Joint Working Group held discussion on use of alternative fuels like green ammonia and hydrogen.
2. India Norway is part of Green Voyage 2050 project.

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:

- MoPSW (Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways) is working diligently to develop the Maritime Sector as a goal of MIV 2030. In this regard 8th Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime meeting was held recently in Mumbai.
- The discussion was held on use of alternative fuels like green ammonia and hydrogen for futuristic shipping.

- Norwegian Green Shipping Programme has been successful and the experience and expertise was shared in the meeting.
- India Norway is part of Green Voyage 2050 project, both parties agreed on willingness, devotion, partnership and capacity building for achieving common goals.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996” (PESA):**

1. It is an Act to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part XI of the Constitution.
2. There is eight PESA states in India.

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:

- To bring the people residing in Fifth Schedule Areas in the mainstream, the Parliament, in terms of **Article 243M(4)(b) of the Constitution**, has enacted “**the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996” (PESA)** to extend Part IX of the Constitution, relating to Panchayats, to the Fifth Schedule areas, with certain modifications and exceptions. States, having Fifth Schedule Areas, have been empowered to make Panchayat Laws for these areas.
- Under “The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas), Act 1996” (PESA), State Legislatures have been empowered to frame all laws concerning the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats in Fifth Scheduled Areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as are provided in section 4 of the Act.
- PESA is an Act to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.
- In terms of section 2 of this Act, “Scheduled Areas” means the Scheduled Areas as referred to in clause (1) of article 244 of the Constitution.
- Out of the ten PESA States, eight States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana have framed and notified their State PESA Rules under their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. About 0.4 per cent of the world's land surface area of peatlands had been drained out.
2. 4 per cent of global human-induced GHG emissions annually emitted by peatlands.
3. Maximum peatland area id destroyed by natural calamities.

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:

- Around 50 million hectares of peatlands have been historically drained around the world.
- This damaged area is equivalent to around 12 per cent of current peatlands or about 0.4 per cent of the world's land surface area, but contributes 4 per cent of global human-induced GHG emissions annually.
- In addition, 500,000 hectares of peatlands are destroyed by human activities annually.