

Q: Consider the following statement regarding World Snakebite Awareness:

1. It is observed on September 19 every year.
2. India has the dubious distinction of accounting for half the number of bites,
3. Snakebite envenoming (SBE) is not added to the list of Neglected Tropical Diseases.

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:

- International World Snakebite Awareness Day is observed on September 19 every year.
- India has the dubious distinction of accounting for half the number of bites, approximately two million and 58,000 deaths annually.
- Over 70 per cent of SBE occurs in males, typically in the productive ages of between 20 and 60 years and therefore having a tremendous socio-economic impact especially in case of death of the sole earning member of the family.
- Snakebite envenoming (SBE) was added to the list of Neglected Tropical Diseases in 2017 by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which also estimates that there are 4.5-5.4 million snakebites worldwide resulting in 1.8-2.7 million envenoming, 81,000-138,000 deaths, and permanent disabilities in 400,000 annually.

Q: Alphabet Inc's Google has been asked by the Indian government and the RBI to introduce more stringent checks to help curb the use of illegal digital lending applications in India. Consider the following statement:

1. Google fall under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ambit.
2. Regulators seek to control the proliferation of such apps by charging excessive interest rates that engage in unscrupulous activities.
3. Google dominates India's app market with 95% of smartphones using its Android platform.

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:

- Google doesn't fall under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ambit, the U.S. tech giant has been called several times in the last few months to meetings by the central bank and the Indian government and urged to introduce tougher checks and balances that can help in weeding out such apps.
- Indian regulators have already asked lenders to step up checks against illegal lending apps, which became popular during the pandemic.
- Regulators seek to control the proliferation of such apps that engage in unscrupulous activities such as charging excessive interest rates and fees or in recovery practices which are not authorised by the central bank or violate money laundering and other government guidelines.
- Google dominates India's app market with 95% of smartphones using its Android platform.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Wild arctic wolf was successfully cloned by China.
2. The cloning is also known as the white wolf or polar wolf.

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:

- For the first time ever, a wild arctic wolf was successfully cloned by a China-based gene firm.
- The firm, Sinogene Biotechnology, released a video of Maya, the world's first cloned wild arctic wolf, 100 days after her birth in a Beijing lab.
- The cloning of the Arctic wolf, also known as the white wolf or polar wolf, which is native to the High Arctic tundra of Canada's Queen Elizabeth Islands, is considered a milestone achievement in conserving rare and endangered species through cloning technology.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Karnataka High Court judgment that upheld the ban on the use of the hijab by students in Karnataka:

1. Use of a hijab is not essential to the practice of Islam.
2. There exists no substantive right to freedom of expression or privacy inside a classroom.
3. Law did not discriminate, either directly or indirectly, against Muslim students.

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:

The Karnataka High Court made three primary findings in its judgment:

- a) First, it held that the **use of a hijab is not essential to the practice of Islam**. Thus, the right to freedom of religion was not violated.
- b) Second, it ruled **that there exists no substantive right to freedom of expression or privacy inside a classroom** and, therefore, these rights were simply not at stake here.
- c) Third, it held that the **ban did not stem directly out of the government's order**, which only called for a uniform dress code to be prescribed by the State or school management committees, and, hence, **the law did not discriminate, either directly or indirectly**, against Muslim students.
- To decide on the correctness of this verdict, the Supreme Court need not answer all the questions posed before it. A reversal of any of the three findings made by the High Court ought to result in a nullification of the ban.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA):

1. This treaty is in consonance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. It provides scale-free solutions to achieve food and nutritional security
3. It is a legally binding comprehensive agreement under UNESCO.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- e) 1 and 2
- f) 2 and 3
- g) 1 and 3
- h) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The ITPGRFA is a legally binding comprehensive agreement signed during the 31st session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome in November, 2001, which took effect on 29 June 2004, and currently has 149 Contracting Parties including India.

- This treaty, in consonance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, seeks to achieve food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), equitable sharing of profits from its use, as well as playing an important role in the recognition of rights of farmers.
- PGRFA provides scale-free solutions to achieve food and nutritional security as well as climate resilient agriculture. Countries are mutually interdependent for the PGRFA, leading to the need for a global system to facilitate access and profit sharing.