

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Skimmer**

1. It is a migratory species that breeds in Russia and East Asia.
2. They spend most of their life cycle above the treeline.
3. It is listed under the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS).

How many of the statement(s) given is/are above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Recently India and Bangladesh submitted the joint proposal to list Indian skimmer under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals at the 14th COP meeting of CMS.
- It is almost completely restricted to India as a breeding bird, with only occasional breeding in western Bangladesh.
- The recent population decline has been accompanied by a range contraction and there are no recent confirmed breeding records from Pakistan or Myanmar.
- It was formerly widely distributed across the Indian Subcontinent, along the major rivers of Myanmar and along the Mekong in Indo-China.
- In India the species remains widely distributed, but breeding areas are now highly restricted along the rivers such as Chambal, Ganges, Yamuna, Mahanadi and Son.
- It is listed as endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature red list.
- It is listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It is not listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- The declines appear to be driven by very low nesting success due to disturbance and predation.
- Sand mining, agricultural activities, cattle movement and human disturbance are major threats to the bird.
- Widespread increases in exploitation and degradation of rivers and lakes through irrigation schemes and transportation.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Article 142:**

1. It bestows the Supreme Court with extraordinary authority to ensure complete justice in situations where existing laws or statutes may lack adequate remedies.
2. Orders or decrees issued under Article 142 must adhere to existing laws established by the Parliament.
3. Article 142 is not universally applicable and may not be invoked in every case.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Article 142 provides a unique power to the Supreme Court, to do “complete justice” between the parties, where, at times, the law or statute may not provide a remedy.
- While the powers under Article 142 are extraordinary in nature, the apex court has defined its scope and extent through its judgments over time.
- In the Prem Chand Garg case, the supreme court has ruled that that orders or decrees issued under Article 142 must be:
  - Consistent with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution and
  - Adhere to existing laws established by the Parliament.

- The limitations imposed by ordinary laws (those passed by Parliament or State Legislatures) do not automatically apply to Article 142.
- Article 142 derives its power from the Constitution itself, which is higher than any ordinary law.
- Under the Article 142 the court has significant discretion in using this power to achieve justice, even if it means deviating from established legal norms.
- Despite its expansive power, the Supreme Court clarified in a 2023 ruling that Article 142 is not universally applicable and may not be invoked in every case.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**

1. The Treaty of Purandar (1665) was signed between Aurangzeb and Shivaji.
2. He was influenced by the religious heads such as Ramdas and Tukaram.
3. He allowed his half-brother Venkoji or Ekoji to carry on administering Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.

How many of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Shivaji was born in Shivner near Junnar. He was the son of Shahji Bhonsle by his first wife Jijabai.
- Shivaji began his military career at the age of 19. In 1646, he captured the fortress of Torna from the Sultan of Bijapur.
- The fort of Raigad, located five miles east of Torna, was captured and wholly rebuilt.
- In 1656, Shivaji re-started his military activities. He captured Javli in the Satara district and the immense booty that he won made him popular among the Marathas.
- He allowed his half-brother Venkoji or Ekoji to carry on administering Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.
- Religious heads such as Ramdas and Tukaram, also influenced Shivaji.
- Ramdas was regarded by Shivaji as his guru.
- Shiv Jayanti, also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Birth Anniversary, is a festival and public holiday of the Indian state of Maharashtra.
- This festival is celebrated on February 19, celebrating the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the first Chhatrapati of the Marathas.

**Q: Which of the following are the objectives of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)?**

1. Collaborate with any international agency for development of cooperative marketing for mutual advantage in India or abroad.
2. Act as warehouseman under the Warehousing Act.
3. Facilitate, coordinate and promote the marketing and trading activities of the cooperative institutions.
4. Under takes grading, packing, standardization, scientific treatment and process of agricultural produce and other articles.

Choose the correct codes

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) is an apex organization that deals with marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India.

- It was established on 2nd October 1958 and registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act.
- NAFED was setup with the object to promote Co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers.
- Agricultural farmers are the main members of Nafed, who have the authority to say in the form of members of the General Body in the working of Nafed.
- It is a nodal agency to implement price stabilization measures under "Operation Greens" which aims to double the farmers' income by 2022.
- Act as warehouseman under the Warehousing Act and own and construct its own godowns and cold storages
- Under takes grading, packing, standardization, scientific treatment and process of agricultural produce and other articles.
- Act as insurance agent and to undertake all such works related to the agricultural activities.
- Organizes consultancy work in various fields for the benefit of the cooperative institutions in general and for its members in particular.

**Q: Consider the following statements with respect to African-Eurasian Migratory Land-birds Action Plan (AEMLAP)**

1. It is an initiative of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
2. The African-Eurasian migratory birds include Common Cuckoo, the Turtle Dove, swallows and songbirds.
3. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water-birds (AEWA) is a sub-component of the plan.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Explanation:

- African-Eurasian Migratory Land-birds Action Plan (AEMLAP) recently adopted at the 14th COP of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals.
- The Birds that migrate through the African-Eurasian Flyway can be divided in 3 main groups:
  - ❖ Water-birds
  - ❖ Land-birds
  - ❖ Birds of Prey (Raptors)
- The African- Eurasian migratory bird includes species such as Common Cuckoo, the Turtle Dove, swallows and songbirds.
- Throughout their migration, these birds are facing various threats, from habitat loss to illegal killing, most of them being anthropogenic such as pollution.
- Conserving migrant birds is a global challenge that is addressed by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- African-Eurasian Migratory Land-birds Action Plan (AEMLAP) – Is an initiative of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to conserve the migrant birds in the flyway.