

**Q: Who among the following was/were the winner of Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga for 2021?**

- a) Bhikkhu Sanghasena
- b) Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues
- c) British Wheel of Yoga, United Kingdom
- d) All the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Recently, the **Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga**, was announced for the year 2021.
- Two individuals, namely Bhikkhu Sanghasena Leh, Ladakh and Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Two organisations, namely, **The Divine Life Society, Rishikesh**, Uttarakhand and the **British Wheel of Yoga, United Kingdom** are the recipients of the same.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding "NIPUN" project:**

1. The project is an initiative of Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It is a flagship Programme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The project NIPUN is an **initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** under its flagship scheme of the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** to train **over 1 lakh construction workers**, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding recently published annual report on lightning by the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC):**

1. Madhya Pradesh has reported the largest number of cloud to ground lightning strikes.
2. Lightning is classified as a natural disaster in India.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- A recently released **annual report on lightning by the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC)**, which works closely with government agencies like the India Meteorological Department, includes a lightning atlas which maps vulnerability at the district level.
- According to the report, **Madhya Pradesh has reported the largest number of cloud to ground lightning strikes**, followed by Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal. Other states with high strike rate include Bihar, UP, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.
- Lightning is **not classified as a natural disaster in India**. But recent efforts have resulted in the setting up of an early warning system that is already saving many lives.

**Q: Recently, two bird strike incidents 1000-kilometre apart prompted the aviation regulator DGCA to shoot off a letter to airports across the country. Consider the following statement:**

1. The Aircraft Rules 1937 prohibit dumping of garbage and slaughtering of animals in a way that could attract birds and animals within a 10 km radius of airports.
2. Constant surveillance of the airports by their respective wildlife control units is necessary.
3. Airports can employ various methods to keep birds away from their vicinity.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All the above

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The risk of bird hits at Patna airport, where the SpiceJet plane made the emergency landing, is higher due to the presence of an open abattoir and butcher shops around the airport.
- The Aircraft Rules 1937 **prohibit dumping of garbage and slaughtering of animals** in a way that could attract birds and animals within a 10 km radius of airports.
- Airports can employ various methods to keep birds away from their vicinity. The measures include trimming of grass, spraying of insecticide, frequent runway inspections, deployment of bird chasers, noise makers, reflective tapes, laser beam guns and regular garbage disposal.
- The DGCA also said that there should be no water concentration and open drains.
- Further, **constant surveillance of the airports by their respective wildlife control units** is necessary.

**Q: The Centre has banned the use of 'single-use plastic' from July 1. Consider the following statement:**

1. Single-use plastic including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene are banned.
2. India rank among the top three country of producing single-use plastic waste generation.
3. The single-use plastics account for a third of all plastic produced globally.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a gazette notification in 2021 announcing the ban, and has **now defined a list of items that will be banned**.
- The **manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene**, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022.
- It refers to plastic items that are used once and discarded. **Single-use plastic has among the highest shares of plastic manufactured and used from packaging of items**, to bottles (shampoo, detergents, cosmetics), polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, cling film, trash bags, food packaging etc.
- The single-use plastics **account for a third of all plastic produced globally**, with 98% manufactured from fossil fuels. Single-use plastic also accounts for the majority of plastic discarded, all of which is burned, buried in landfills or discarded directly into the environment.
- On the current trajectory of production, it has been projected that single-use plastic could account for 5-10% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- India features in the top 100 countries of single-use plastic waste generation – at rank 94 (the top three being Singapore, Australia and Oman).