

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Mithun or gayal (Bos frontalis):

1. It is considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison.
2. It is known as the 'cattle of the mountain'.
3. The gayal is the state animal of Odisha.

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:

- The Mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*) is considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison.
- It plays an important role in the socio-economic and cultural life of tribes such as the Nyishi, Apatani, Galo and Adi in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is distributed in Northeast India, Bangladesh, northern Myanmar and in Yunnan, China.
- It is known as the 'cattle of the mountain'.
- The gayal is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Nuakhai Juhar:

1. It is an important social festival of Manipur.
2. The word nua means new, and khai means food.
3. It is an agricultural festival which is observed to welcome the new rice of the season.

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:

- Nuakhai Juhar is an important social festival of Western Odisha and adjoining areas of Simdega in Jharkhand.
- The word nua means new, and khai means food.
- It is an agricultural festival which is observed to welcome the new rice of the season.
- It is observed on the fifth day of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada or Bhadra (August–September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.
- Nuakhai is understood to have nine colours, and as a consequence, nine sets of rituals are followed as a prelude to the actual day of celebration.
- People offer the newly harvested crop called Nabanha to their respective presiding deities.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding SIMBEX-2023:

1. It is an annual bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy.
2. It holds the distinction of being the longest continuous naval 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: c

Explanation:

- SIMBEX-2023 is an annual bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- It has been conducted since 1994.
- It holds the distinction of being the longest continuous naval exercise that the Indian Navy has conducted with any other country.
- SIMBEX-2023 is being conducted in two phases - a harbour Phase at Singapore from September 21 to 24, 2023, followed by a Sea Phase.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Feline Panleukopenia Virus:

1. It is a highly contagious viral disease of cats.
2. It is also known as Feline Distemper.
3. It infects and kills the rapidly growing and dividing cells in the body, including cells in the bone marrow.

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:

- Feline Panleukopenia Virus is a highly contagious viral disease of cats.
- It is also known as Feline Distemper, which is a life-threatening infectious disease.
- It infects and kills the rapidly growing and dividing cells in the body, including cells in the bone marrow, intestines, and skin, and in a developing fetus.
- Once infected by Feline panleukopenia virus, the intestine of the animal gets completely affected.
- They develop severe diarrhoea, vomiting and dehydration, which ultimately leads to death.
- It spreads faster, and the infected animal dies within four to five days.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Rafflesia:

1. It is a genus of parasitic flowering plants native to Southeast Asia.
2. They are often referred to as "corpse flowers" due to their foul odour.
3. They inhabit specialised localities in the mangrove forest.

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:

- Rafflesia is a genus of parasitic flowering plants native to Southeast Asia.
- These plants are renowned for producing the largest individual flowers in the world, both in terms of size and weight.
- They are often referred to as "corpse flowers" due to their foul odour.
- They inhabit specialised localities in the tropical rainforests of Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Peninsular Malaysia, southern Thailand and the Philippines.
- There are 42 known species of Rafflesia, and the most famous species within this genus is Rafflesia arnoldii.