

**Q: Recent excavations at Bharatpur in West Bengal have revealed the presence of a Buddhist monastery. Consider the following statement:**

1. A Buddhist stupa is a commemorative monument usually housing sacred relics associated with the Buddha or other saints or priests.
2. Votive stupas have similar significance but are smaller structures originating in eight cylindrical structures.
3. Black and Red ware pottery from the Mauryan Period was also discovered.

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:

- What makes the site unique in terms of Buddhist sites in the State is the presence of a large stupa along with a monastery complex and black and red ware pottery from the Chalcolithic or Copper Age.
- In other sites across West Bengal, such as Karnasubarna in Murshidabad, Moghalamari in Paschim Medinipur and Jagjivanpur in Malda, archeologists have found only smaller votive stupas.
- A Buddhist stupa is a commemorative monument usually housing sacred relics associated with the Buddha or other saints or priests, whereas votive stupas have similar significance but are smaller structures originating in eight cylindrical structures.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. Rubella virus is one of the world's most contagious human viruses.
2. In Rubella and Measles, symptoms are rash and fever.
3. Measles has a high fatality rate.

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 measles virus is one of the world's most contagious human viruses that kills more than 1,00,000 children every year globally, and rubella is a leading vaccine-preventable cause of birth defects, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Both measles and rubella can be prevented by just two doses of a safe and effective vaccine.
- Over the past two decades, the measles vaccine is estimated to have averted more than 30 million deaths globally.
- In both diseases, the symptoms are a rash and fever.
- While measles has a high fatality rate, rubella infection in a pregnant woman will have an impact on the foetus, resulting in birth defects.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding the cause of mercury to dip so low in Fingerpost:**

1. It is related to the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. According to World Meteorological Organisation, ongoing La Niña is the first in the 21st century to span three consecutive winters.

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:

- The cause of mercury to dip so low in Fingerpost is related to the **equatorial Pacific Ocean**.
- This is a La Niña winter. This means heavy winds blow warm water on the sea surface away from the South American mainland, roughly off the coast of Ecuador.
- This heat movement across the Pacific has global consequences. Over India, the La Niña can intensify summer monsoons, bring excess rainfall, and cause colder winters.
- In early 2022, the World Meteorological Organisation said the **ongoing La Niña is the first in the 21st century to span three consecutive winters**. But in a break from convention, the coldness is deeper in the south. This reveals the second driver.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. Ahom rule lasted for 600 years until British annexed Assam in 1826.
2. Charaideo was the first capital of the Ahom dynasty.
3. The Charaideo Maidams enshrine the mortal remains of the members of the Ahom royalty.

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 Ahom rule lasted for about 600 years until the British annexed Assam in 1826.
- Charaideo, more than 400 km east of Guwahati, was the first capital of the Ahom dynasty founded by Chao Lung Siu-Ka-Pha in 1253.
- Out of 386 Maidams or Moidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative of and the most complete examples of mound burial tradition of the Ahoms.
- The Charaideo Maidams enshrine the mortal remains of the members of the Ahom royalty, who used to be buried with their paraphernalia.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. China is constructing a new dam on the Mabja Zangbo River in Tibet.
2. The new dam is located opposite the Kalapani area of Uttarakhand.
3. India is also developing a dam in the Yarlung Zangbo river near Arunachal Pradesh.

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:

- In a development that is a matter of concern to both India and Nepal, China is constructing a new dam on the Mabja Zangbo River in Tibet, close to the tri-junction, satellite imagery has revealed.
- The new dam is located around 16 km north of the tri-junction and is **opposite the Kalapani area of Uttarakhand**.
- In addition to using water as leverage, the possibility of a military establishment by China near the tri-junction cannot be ruled out as the country had **developed the same in the Yarlung Zangbo river near Arunachal Pradesh**.

