

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the initiatives undertaken during recently held India-ASEAN defence relations:

1. India-ASEAN Initiative on Marine Plastic Pollution.
2. India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations.
3. India-ASEAN Initiative for creation for climate fund.

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:

- India proposed two major initiatives for further expanding the scope and the depth of the India-ASEAN defence relations.
 - One of the initiatives was the 'India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations' which includes conduct of tailor-made courses for women peacekeepers of ASEAN Member States at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India and conduct of a 'Table Top Exercise' in India for women officers from ASEAN incorporating facets of UN peacekeeping challenges.
 - The second initiative was 'India-ASEAN Initiative on Marine Plastic Pollution' which includes channelising of the energy of the youth towards addressing the critical issue of marine pollution.
 - India suggested coordination between the NCC and the equivalent youth organisations of ASEAN countries for a collective effort in this direction in the region.
 - It also proposed establishment of an India-ASEAN Marine Pollution Response Centre at Chennai by the Indian Coast Guard to address and supplement regional efforts to deal with marine pollution incidents.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages was declared first biodiversity heritage site in Karnataka.
2. It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian Pangolin, Slender Loris and pythons.
3. Raptors are missing in this site.

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:

- Recently, the Tamil Nadu Government declared Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- The site comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (Melur block) and 53.8 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk) will be known as the Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage site.
- Arittapatti village, known for its ecological and historical significance, houses around 250 species of birds including three important raptors - birds of prey, namely the Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle.
- It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian Pangolin, Slender Loris and pythons.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting was held at Cambodia.
2. India-ASEAN relationship was elevated recently to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

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:

- Recently, the maiden India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting was held at Siem Reap, Cambodia to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of India-ASEAN relations in 2022, which has also been designated as 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year'.

- The meeting was co-chaired by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia General Tea Banh.
- India-ASEAN relationship was elevated recently to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the ASEAN-India Summit held in Cambodia.

Q: Which among the following states had recently created Climate Change Cell?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Recently, the Andhra Pradesh government has created an exclusive Climate Change Cell (CCC) in its Environment, Forests, Science and Technology Department to implement a state action plan and make it climate resilient through improved climate change governance'.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Thelenota:

1. COP19 decided to include this species is not facing the threat of extinction.
2. Its trade must be regulated to avoid exploitation.
3. European Union, the Seychelles and the United States had opposed to put this species in Appendix II.

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:

- COP19 decided to include the genus 'Thelenota' in the category, which classifies that the species is not facing the threat of extinction.
- However, its trade must be regulated to avoid exploitation that will become incompatible to its survival.
- The European Union, the Seychelles and the United States proposed three species under Thelenota to be included in Appendix II.