

**Q: Bat habitats in South Western Ghats lie predominantly outside protected areas. Consider the following statement:**

1. Study was conducted in biodiverse regions in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
2. South Western Ghats has six major biodiversity hotspots.
3. Cynopterus sphinx and Greater false vampire bat are home to rare and endangered bat species in Southern Western Ghats.

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:

- According to study, area around 1,600 km of the Southern Western Ghats, encompassing biodiverse regions in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Six major biodiversity hotspots— Agastyamalai, Periyar Tiger Reserve, Anamalai, the Nilgiris, the Wayanad-Mudumalai complex and Brahmagiri— were part of the study area.
- The Southern Western Ghats was home to rare and endangered bat species such as Salim Ali's fruit bat (*Latidens salimalii*) and the Pomona roundleaf bat (*Hipposideros pomona*).

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. More than 50% of habitats suitable for 37 species of bats in the North Eastern Ghats.
2. It increases threats faced by the animals due to poaching for their meat and habitat loss.

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: b

Explanation:

- A recent study indicates that more than 50% of habitats suitable for 37 species of bats in the Southern Western Ghats lie outside protected areas.
- It increases threats faced by the animals due to poaching for their meat, habitat loss and stigma from local communities, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry formed Sanjay Agrawal.
2. The aim of the committee is to make MSP more effective and transparent.

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 Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry formed a committee, as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19, 2021 while announcing the repeal of three controversial farm laws.

- It is headed by former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal, to promote zero budget based farming, to change crop pattern keeping in mind the changing needs of the country, and to make MSP (minimum support price) more effective and transparent.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary:**

1. It is in Assam.
2. It spread between Barak River and the Sonai River.
3. It is also an important habitat for king cobra.

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:

- Assam's Barak Valley will soon get a second wildlife sanctuary with Governor approving a proposal for the creation of Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Barak Valley also houses the Borail Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary will be spread over an area of 320 sq km between the Barak river and the Sonai river.
- The area has eight recorded species of primates; slow loris, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, capped langur, phayre's leaf monkey and hoolock gibbon.
- It's also an important habitat for king cobra.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Monkeypox:**

1. WHO has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a PHEIC, one step below that of a 'pandemic'.
2. The virus is transmitted from infected animals to humans
3. The majority of the cases occurs among women.

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:

- Recently, the World Health Organisation has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC), one step below that of a 'pandemic'.
- A pertinent question is doing rounds among people about how an individual get infected with monkeypox virus.
- According to the WHO, the virus is transmitted from infected animals to humans via indirect or direct contact.
- The majority of monkeypox cases are reported in males, and most of these cases occur among males who identified themselves as gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM), in urban areas, and are clustered in social and sexual networks.