

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The year 1963 is regarded as the beginning of Indian Space Programme.
2. ISRO started launching a series of indigenous rockets named 'Rohini'.
3. At present, India does not operate any sounding rocket variants.

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:

- November 21, 1963, is widely regarded as the beginning of the Indian Space programme, as the maiden launch of the sounding rocket took place from the then Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (now a part of the larger VSSC campus).
- In 1967, ISRO started launching a series of indigenous sounding rockets named 'Rohini' from TERLS. RH-75, with a diameter of 75mm, was the first truly Indian sounding rocket, which was followed by RH-100 and RH-125 rockets.
- The sounding rocket programme was indeed the bedrock on which the edifice of launch vehicle technology was built. The experience gained was of immense value in the mastering of the solid propellant technology and allied systems of the launch vehicles.
- Several scientific missions with national and international participation have been conducted using the Rohini sounding rockets.
- At present, India operates three sounding rocket variants —RH-200, RH-300-Mk-II and RH-560-Mk-III.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Panda committee reports about the obstacle in preventing OBC communities from being listed in OBC category.
2. Proposal for the scheduling of a new community as Schedule Tribes has to originate from the Central Government.
3. Only after the approval of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), it is sent to the Cabinet.

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:

- In its report, the Panda committee had explained that there were multiple obstacles unnecessarily preventing at least 40 communities from being listed as ST.
- For instance, several tribes pronounced or spelt their community's name in different ways; some communities were split when new States were created, leaving them as ST in one State and not in the other; and some tribespeople were forcefully taken as indentured labour to other States where they were left out of the ST list.
- As per the current procedure, each proposal for the scheduling of a new community as ST has to originate from the relevant State Government, and is sent to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which sends it to the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI).
- Once approved by the Office of the RGI, it is sent to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), and only after its approval is it sent to the Cabinet.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Nyingma sect:

1. It is the oldest of all Buddhist sects.
2. The Rinpoche used to live in the Takthok monastery of Ladakh.

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 Nyingma sect is the oldest of all Buddhist sects, and Taklung Setrunga Rinpoche was a profound scholar renowned for his expertise in Tibetan Tantric school.

- The Rinpoche used to live in the Takthok monastery of Ladakh, one of the oldest monasteries related to the Nyingma sect.
- The followers of the sect are spread across Tibet, Bhutan, Ladakh, Sikkim and other Himalayan Buddhist pockets. The Rinpoche was widely consulted by the followers of the faith.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022:

1. India's rank was 101 out of 121 countries.
2. It is not an important indicator of nutrition.

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: d

Explanation:

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 ranked India 107 out of 121 countries.
- The Government of India attempted to discredit the index immediately in its attempt to deny the findings of the report, even going so far as to term it a conspiracy against India.
- The GHI is an important indicator of nutrition, particularly among children, as it looks at stunting, wasting and mortality among children, and at calorific deficiency across the population.
- India's National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) from 2019-21 reported that in children below the age of five years, 35.5% were stunted, 19.3% showed wasting, and 32.1% were underweight.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Switzerland lost 6 per cent of the glacier ice volume from 2021-2022.
2. The Greenland ice sheet lost mass in 2022 for the 26th year in a row.
3. In last three year, La-Nina is not experienced in any part of the earth.

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:

- Melting of glaciers, ice sheets, river and lake ice as well as permafrost accelerated over the last couple of years, propelled by global warming. This year was annus horribilis for many frozen regions of the world, with September breaking multiple records.
- Switzerland lost 6 per cent of the glacier ice volume from 2021-2022, according to the Provisional State of the Global Climate in 2022 report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- The Greenland ice sheet lost mass in 2022 for the 26th year in a row. In September, it rained on the ice sheet instead of snowing for the very first time.
- On February 25, 2022, the volume of Antarctic sea ice was at the lowest on record.
- Arctic sea-ice extent was below the long-term average for most of the year.
- This is despite 2022 being the third year in a row the Earth is experiencing La Nina, the phase of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation global climate pattern that is associated with cooling of sea surfaces.