

Q: Consider the following statement regarding DART mission:

1. It stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.
2. It is aimed at giving Earth a defence tool against future asteroids.
3. It is develop by ISRO.

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:

- DART is aimed at giving Earth a defence tool against future asteroids headed our way.
- The DART stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.
- DART, launched by a SpaceX rocket in November 2021, made most of its voyage under the guidance of NASA's flight directors, with control handed over to an autonomous on-board navigation system in the final hours of the journey.
- The DART spacecraft developed by the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University, was the size of a vending machine.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Iprodione and Terbufos:

1. Iprodione is a soil insecticides.
2. Iprodione used on vines, fruits, trees and vegetables.
3. Terbufos has also been found to pose risk to aquatic organisms due to its toxicity.

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 India, the use of these chemicals was permitted by the 2015 Anupam Verma committee report. The country is among the largest exporters of Terbufos.
- Iprodione, a fungicide used on vines, fruits, trees and vegetables, has been classified as carcinogenic and toxic for reproduction.
- Terbufos is a soil insecticide used commonly on sorghum, maize, beet and potatoes. It has also been found to pose risk to aquatic organisms due to its toxicity.
- Both the pesticides, which are used in agriculture, are known for their harmful impacts on human health and the environment.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ):

1. It was established on December 30, 1996.
2. It aims to protect Taj from pollution.

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:

- Environmentalist MC Mehta had filed the plea pertaining to the protection of the Taj Mahal, the fragile ecosystem surrounding it, and construction in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), an “eco-sensitive area” having four world heritage sites including the Taj Mahal.
- The mausoleum is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The TTZ, established on December 30, 1996, to protect the Taj Mahal from pollution through an order of the Supreme Court, is a 10,400 sq km area spread across the districts of Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah in Uttar Pradesh and Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding National Tourism Policy 2022:

1. Promoting sustainable, responsible and inclusive tourism is the guiding principles.
2. The National Tourism policy also aims to give impetus to digitalisation, innovation and technology through the National Digital Tourism Mission.
3. The policy gives a special impetus to private sector participation.

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 Ministry of Tourism, after wide-ranging consultations, has prepared a draft National Tourism Policy 2022, which aims at improving the framework conditions for tourism development in the country, supporting tourism industries, strengthening tourism support functions and developing tourism sub-sectors.
- The guiding principles include promoting sustainable, responsible and inclusive tourism in line with civilisational ethos. The National Green Tourism Mission aims at institutionalising this approach.
- The National Tourism policy also aims to give impetus to digitalisation, innovation and technology through the National Digital Tourism Mission and skilling through the Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Mission.
- The policy also gives a special impetus to private sector participation through public-private-partnerships (PPP). After 2002, this has been the first such attempt to bring forth a transformative tourism policy.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Thamiraparani River:

1. It is the only perennial river in Tamil Nadu.
2. The river supports wildlife such as the Nilgiri marten, slender loris and lion-tailed macaque.
3. It originates in Tamil Nadu and ends in Kerala.

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:

- Thamiraparani River is the only perennial river in Tamil Nadu.
- It originates in the Pothigai Hills of the Western Ghats in Tirunelveli district.
- The river flows through Tirunelveli and then neighbouring Thoothukudi and ends in the Gulf of Mannar at Punakayil. It thus originates and ends in the same state.
- The river supports wildlife such as the Nilgiri marten, slender loris, lion-tailed macaque, white spotted bush frog, galaxy frog, Sri Lankan Atlas moth and the great hornbill.