

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Aravalli Range:

1. It is one of the oldest fold mountains of the world.
2. The highest peak is Guru Shikhar.
3. Banas, Sahibi and Luni River flow from the Aravalli.

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:

- Aravalli Range is one of the oldest fold mountains of the world.
- It runs approximately 670 km (430 mi) in a south-west direction, starting near Delhi, passing through southern Haryana and Rajasthan, and ending in Gujarat.
- The highest peak is Guru Shikhar at 1,722 metres (5,650 ft). Guru is a peak in the Arbuda Mountains of Rajasthan.
- Three major rivers and their tributaries flow from the Aravalli, namely Banas and Sahibi rivers which are tributaries of Yamuna, as well as Luni River which flows into the Rann of Kutch.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding World Food Programme (WFP):

1. The organization's work is guided by Sustainable Development Goal 4.
2. It deals with hunger eradication and promotes food security in the world.
3. It is a member of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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:

- World Food Programme (WFP) is a branch of the United Nations that deals with hunger eradication and promotes food security in the world.
- WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency and was established in 1961.
- The organization's work is guided by Sustainable Development Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030.
- It operates in more than 120 countries, provides food assistance during emergencies and works with communities to enhance nutrition and generate resilience.
- WFP is funded by voluntary donations from governments, corporates and private donors.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Permafrost:

1. These are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes near the North and South Poles.
2. Almost a quarter of the land area in the Northern Hemisphere has permafrost underneath.

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:

- Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder—for at least two years straight.
- Global Distribution:
- These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes—near the North and South Poles.
- Permafrost covers large regions of the Earth. Almost a quarter of the land area in the Northern Hemisphere has permafrost underneath.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme:

1. The PM SHRI Schools will be developed as Green Schools, incorporating environment-friendly aspects.
2. The focus will be on the learning outcomes of every child in every grade.
3. A School Quality Assessment Framework (SQUAF) is being developed.

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:

- Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored scheme announced in 2022.
- The duration of the scheme is from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which it shall be the responsibility of the States/UTs to continue to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools.
- The selected schools will act as exemplar schools showcasing all components of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) and offering mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.
- The PM SHRI Schools will be developed as Green Schools, incorporating environment-friendly aspects.
- The focus will be on the learning outcomes of every child in every grade.
- Assessment at all levels will be based on conceptual understanding and application of knowledge to real-life situations and will be competency-based.
- Linkage with Sector Skill Councils and local industry for enhancing employability and providing better employment opportunities will be explored.
- A School Quality Assessment Framework (SQUAF) is being developed, specifying the key performance indicators to measure outcomes.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Pedicularis Revealiana:

1. It is stout and woody stems, bears minute flowers of pinkish-purple colour.
2. It is a hemiparasitic plant species.
3. This species are not found in a place where it is covered with snow.

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:

- Pedicularis Revealiana is unique among all Pedicularis species.
- It is stout and woody stems, bears minute flowers of pinkish-purple colour.
- It is a hemiparasitic plant species.

- Along with making its own food, it has the ability to gather nutrients from the roots of trees and plants located nearby.
- This new flora is found in remote forests, which are covered with snow for most of the year.
- This genus includes about 677 species worldwide, of which 82 species, 13 subspecies and nine varieties have been reported so far in India.
- *Pendicularis revealiana* is the 83rd species reported by the botanists and the plant is commonly known as a perennial herb.