

Q: Consider the following statement regarding International Solar Alliance:

1. Prime Minister of India and Former President of France started this initiative in 2015.
2. It works for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
3. It function under the guidance of UN General Assembly.

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:

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) initiative was laid down by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and H.E. Francois Hollande, former President of France in 2015 at COP 21 in Paris.
- The ISA is an alliance of 121 signatory countries and 32 partner organizations including many UN organizations.
- ISA works for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- ISA strives to devise cost effective and transformational solutions for using renewable energy to member countries with a particular focus in delivering on impact in LDCs and SIDCs.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has granted Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Bandhavgarh:

1. It was never ruled by dynasties like Sengars, Kalchuris, and the Baghels.
2. It resides on the extreme north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh.
3. It was declared a tiger reserve in 1993

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:

- Bandhavgarh resides on the extreme north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpura mountain ranges.
- In 1968, it was notified as a national park and in 1993 was declared a tiger reserve- under the Project Tiger Network at the neighbouring Panpatha Sanctuary.
- It was ruled by major dynasties including Sengars, the Kalchuris, and the Baghels (believed to rule the regions for the longer period).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding India's commitment in COP 26:

1. India has pledged a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy of which 100 GW will be solar energy by 2022.
2. Cochin International Airport in India became the world's first fully Solar powered airport in the world.

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:

- India has pledged for Net Zero Carbon goal in 2070 in COP 26. Its approach continues to be human-centric, based on respect and national ownership principles, with commitment to one and all.
- India has pledged a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy of which 100 GW will be solar energy by 2022 and reduction in emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030, to let solar energy reach the most unconnected villages and communities.
- Cochin International Airport in India became the world's first fully Solar powered airport in the world in 2015.

Q: Recently, the Archaeological Survey of India took exploration work at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. Consider the following statement:

1. Large monolithic sculptures of various avatars of Vishnu like 'Varaha' and 'Matsya'.
2. A votive stupa and a Buddhist pillar fragment.
3. Coins belonging to Mughal-era and Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur Sultanate.

Which among the following is been discovered by ASI from this place?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Explanation:

- During the exercise, ASI reported many ancient sculptures, including large monolithic sculptures of various avatars of Vishnu like 'Varaha' and 'Matsya', and "board games made in natural caves".
- A votive stupa and a Buddhist pillar fragment containing miniature stupas carving, which roughly date back to 2nd-3rd century AD have been documented.
- The noteworthy feature is the names of old cities like Mathura and Kaushambi, located in Uttar Pradesh, found in ancient inscriptions.
- Coins belonging to Mughal-era and Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur Sultanate have also been found.

Q: Recently Centre has appointed new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Consider the following statement:

1. The Centre decided to establish the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) – on the recommendations of a committee headed by Lt General DB Shekatkar.
2. The Centre has appointed Lt General Anil Chauhan as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
3. A retired three-star officer is not eligible for the post of CDS.

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:

- The Centre has appointed Lt General Anil Chauhan as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who shall also function as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Military Affairs.
- Additionally, this is also the first time that a retired three-star officer returns to active service in a four-star position.
- The Centre decided to establish the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Armed Forces in 2019 – on the recommendations of a committee headed by Lt General DB Shekatkar – to bolster the nation's military prowess and bring about more operational cohesiveness between the army, the navy and the air force.
- The CDS brings about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance of the three services.

