

Q: Globally, birds are already facing extinction threats due to climate change. Consider the following statement:

1. Species threatened with extinction tend to possess more extreme trait combinations than those not at risk of extinction.
2. Specialist birds have a limited diet and can dwell in only specific habitats.
3. Vultures are generalist birds and can inhabit a range of habitats.

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:

- Species threatened with extinction tend to possess more extreme trait combinations than those not at risk of extinction.
- Specialist birds have a limited diet and can dwell in only specific habitats, according to researchers.
- In forests with low morphological diversity, we might expect, on average, to see more seed-eating or generalist species that have a more ordinary beak shape and are medium to small in size.
- Mynas or house sparrows are likely to dominate. They are generalist birds, known to have a more flexible diet and can inhabit a range of habitats.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV):

1. SSLV is the first launch vehicle of the Indian Space Research Organisation.
2. It will free ISRO's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle for bigger missions.
3. It is designed to attract the emerging small satellite market.

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:

- The SSLV is third launch vehicle of the research organisation after Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
- The Small Satellite Launch Vehicles have been designed to attract the emerging small satellite market and provide launch-on-demand services to domestic and foreign customers.
- SSLV will free ISRO's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle for bigger missions. The maiden mission is aimed to demonstrate the technological advancement made by ISRO and its capability to deliver smaller payloads into low Earth Orbit.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Indian Oil is the first corporate which has come forward to support the "Project Cheetah" under CSR.
2. Indian Oil adopted Indian Single Horned Rhino as its mascot in 2021.

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:

- Indian Oil will be contributing Rs.50.22 crore in 4 years for the project components viz. Cheetah Introduction, its Habitat Management & Protection, Eco Development, Staff Training and Veterinary Healthcare.
- Indian Oil is the first corporate which has come forward to support the “Project Cheetah” under CSR, as the project has not only national importance but is also essential for balancing the ecosystem.
- Indian Oil adopted Indian Single Horned Rhino as its mascot in 2021 and, since then, has been at the forefront of India's Rhino conservation endeavors.

Q: Consider the following statement and choose the incorrect option:

- Rice could emerge as the next challenge for global food supply as a shortage of rain in different parts of India.
- Total rice planted area has declined 13% during this season.
- Drop in rice production will complicate India’s inflation fight and trigger restrictions on exports.
- India accounts for more than 50% of global rice trade.

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Rice could emerge as the next challenge for global food supply as a shortage of rain in parts of India, by far the world’s biggest exporter, has caused planting area to shrink to the smallest in about three years.
- Total rice planted area has declined 13% so far this season due to a lack of rainfall in some areas, including West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, which account for a quarter of India’s output.
- Traders are worried that a drop in rice production will complicate India’s inflation fight and trigger restrictions on exports. Such a move will have far-reaching implications for the billions of people that depend on the staple.
- India accounts for 40% of global rice trade, and the government has already curbed wheat and sugar exports to safeguard food security and control local prices.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Hellfire R9X missile:

- This missile is also known as ‘Ninja Missile’.
- Operation Geronimo was successfully conducted with the help of this missile.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- 1 and 2
- None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Better known in military circles as the AGM-114 R9X, the Hellfire R9X is a US-origin missile known to cause minimum collateral damage while engaging individual targets.
- Also known as the ‘Ninja Missile’, this weapon does not carry a warhead and instead deploys razor-sharp blades at the terminal stage of its attack trajectory. This helps it to break through even thick steel sheets and cut down the target using the kinetic energy of its propulsion without causing any damage to the persons in the general vicinity or to the structure of the building.
- The killing of Zawahiri brings to mind Operation Geronimo, which killed his predecessor Osama bin Laden in Pakistan’s Abbottabad on 2 May 2011.