

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Panamaram heronry:

1. It is formed on a sandbank on the Panamaram River.
2. The tiny islet is a haven for globally threatened waterfowls.
3. Panamaram heronry is the largest breeding ground of different species of herons in Coromandel Coast

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:

- Panamaram heronry is the largest breeding ground of different species of herons in the Malabar region.
- The heronry, formed on a sandbank on the Panamaram River, is a breeding ground for nine species of waterbirds.
- The tiny islet is a haven for globally threatened waterfowls, including the black headed-ibis, purple heron, large egret, median egret, little egret, pond heron, night heron, and little cormorant.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Elaben Bhatt:

1. She was the member of Parliament.
2. She also served as an Adviser to the World Bank.
3. She is the recipient of Padma Bhushan, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, and the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.

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:

- Elaben Bhatt was globally recognised as a woman leader who carried out pioneering work in organising the informal sector for self-employment and empowerment of women not only in India but across South Asia.
- She was the Chairperson of the Sabarmati Ashram and recently resigned as the Chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi-founded Gujarat Vidhyapith.
- She was also a member of the Rajya Sabha and the Planning Commission in the 1980s.
- In 2007, she became part of a group of world leaders called the Elders, founded by Nelson Mandela to promote human rights and peace across the world.
- She served in many international organisations, including Women's World Banking, a global network of microfinance organisations, which she co-founded.
- She also served as an Adviser to the World Bank.
- She is the recipient of several national and international awards, including the Padma Bhushan, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, and the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding interceptor AD-1 Missile:

1. It is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric.
2. It is propelled by a two-stage solid motor.

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:

- Recently, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful maiden flight-test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile with large kill altitude bracket.
- The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.
- It is propelled by a two-stage solid motor and equipped with indigenously-developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithm to precisely guide the vehicle to the target.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
2. India will host the SCO summit next year in 2023.
3. Iran and Belarus are likely to be the two newest additions to the SCO.

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:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- It was created in 2001.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
- In SCO Summit to be held in September 2022 in Uzbekistan, Varanasi has been selected as the SCO region's first "Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2022-23.
- India will host the SCO summit next year in 2023.
- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five.
- Iran and Belarus are likely to be the two newest additions to the SCO.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The first Biosphere Reserve in South Asia was established at Hurulu Biosphere Reserve, in Sri Lanka.
2. In India, the first biosphere reserve was Nigiri Biosphere Reserve.
3. Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal have biospheres.

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:

- In South Asia, over 30 biosphere reserves have been established. The first one was the Hurulu Biosphere Reserve, in Sri Lanka, with 25,500 hectares of tropical dry evergreen forest.
- In India, the first biosphere reserve was designated by UNESCO in 2000, namely, the blue mountains of the Nilgiris stretching over Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. India's network of reserves has gone from strength to strength.
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal do not have biospheres as yet, but help is on its way: The 'South and Central Asia MAB Reserve' Networking Meeting (where MAB stands Man and the Biosphere) is planned for 2023, to advance biosphere reserve establishment, and management.