

Q: The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, explicitly recognises the role of forests in maintaining biodiversity. Consider the following statement:

1. Forests cover 31 per cent of the world's land surface.
2. The world's forests provide habitats for about 80 per cent of amphibian species.
3. 60 per cent of all vascular plants occur in Deciduous forests.

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:

- Forests cover 31 per cent of the world's land surface, store an estimated 296 gigatonnes of carbon and are home to most of the world's terrestrial biodiversity.
- The world's forests provide habitats for about 80 per cent of amphibian species, 75 per cent of bird species and 68 per cent of mammal species.
- In addition, about 60 per cent of all vascular plants occur in tropical forests. But forests and their biodiversity continue to be lost at an alarming rate.

Q: Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted a Task Force for monitoring Cheetah. Consider the following statement:

1. National Cheetah Conservation Authority (NCCA) had been constituted to look after Cheetah.
2. The Task force will be in force for 2 years.
3. Eight cheetahs were brought to India from Namibia were released in Kuno National Park.

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 National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) would facilitate the working of Cheetah Task Force and render all necessary help.
- The Task Force shall be in-force for a period of two years.
- This task force may appoint a subcommittee to regularly visit the Cheetah introduction area as and when decided by them.
- Eight cheetahs were brought to India from Namibia on September 17 2022 on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, 70 years after they were declared extinct in the country and were released in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park in Sheopur and Morena districts.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Supercontinent:

1. It is formed because of the convergence of several other existing continents.
2. A scientist called Alfred Wegner first proposed the concept.

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:

- A supercontinent is one large landmass that is formed as a result of the convergence of several other existing continents.
- The concept was first proposed by a scientist called Alfred Wegner, who tried to explain the idea behind supercontinents in 1912. He included the concept in his theory of continental motion.

Q: The X-ray spectrometer 'CLASS' on the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter has mapped which among the following mineral in the moon?

- a) Monazite
- b) Phosphorus
- c) Sulfur
- d) Sodium

Ans: d

Explanation:

- The **X-ray spectrometer 'CLASS'** on the **Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter** has mapped an abundance of sodium on the moon for the first time, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Chandrayaan-1 X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (C1XS) detected sodium from its characteristic line in X-rays which opened up the possibility of mapping the amount of sodium on the Moon.
- The Chandrayaan-2 mapped the abundance of sodium on the Moon for the very first time using CLASS (Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Central Bank Digital Currency:

1. It is a legal tender issued in a digital form by a central bank.
2. It is a "fungible legal tender".
3. RBI's digital currency cannot be easily converted against commercial bank money and cash.

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 Central Bank Digital Currency is a legal tender issued in a digital form by a central bank.
- It is akin to sovereign paper currency but takes a different form, exchangeable at par with the existing currency and shall be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender, and a safe store of value. CBDCs would appear as a liability on a central bank's balance sheet.
- RBI's digital currency can be easily converted against commercial bank money and cash.
- CBDC is a "fungible legal tender" for which holders do not require to have a bank account.
- The central bank digital currency is expected to generate huge sets of data in real time.