

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Bulava Ballistic Missile:

1. It is a new Russian submarine-launched Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.
2. It was designed to be the backbone of Moscow's nuclear triad.
3. It is two stage solid fuel missile.

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:

- Bulava Ballistic Missile is a new Russian submarine-launched Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).
- Development of this missile commenced in 1998. The first powered flight test of the Bulava missile occurred in September 2005. It's first submerged test launch followed in December.
- It was designed to be deployed onto Russia's Borey-class ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).
- It was designed to be the backbone of Moscow's nuclear triad and has a range of over 8,000 kilometres (close to 5,000 miles).
- It is a three-stage solid-fuel missile.

Q: Consider the following statement following statement regarding Alycaeus himalayae:

1. It is a new butterfly species to be found from Himalayas.
2. The genus is the first to be reported in India.
3. All other known Alycaeus species are reported from Laos, Vietnam, southern Thailand, and Peninsular Malaysia.

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:

- Alycaeus himalayae is a new snail species belonging to the genus Alycaeus.
- Alycaeus is a genus of small land snails.
- The genus is the first to be reported in India, as this genus is restricted to Southeast Asia and not known in the Indian region.
- This new species differs from all other Himalayan alycaeid species due to its yellowish, conical shell.
- The most similar shell in the vicinity is Stomacosmethis spratti from the Shan States, Myanmar.
- It differs from all other Alycaeus species by the characteristic trumpet-like projection on the outer side of the operculum.
- It is, so far, the only Alycaeus species inhabiting the Himalayas.
- All other known Alycaeus species are reported from Laos, Vietnam, southern Thailand, and Peninsular Malaysia.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the Ken River:

1. It is one of the major rivers of the Bundelkhand region.
2. It is a tributary of the Yamuna River.

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:

- Ken River is one of the major rivers of the Bundelkhand region of central India, and it flows through two states, namely Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a tributary of the Yamuna River.
- It originates near the village of Ahirgawan on the northwest slopes of Kaimur Range in the district of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Panna Tiger Reserve:

1. It is a critical tiger habitat located in the Vindhyan mountain range.
2. It is characterised by a 'Table Top' topography.
3. The dominant vegetation type is dry deciduous forest interspersed with grassland areas.

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:

- Panna Tiger Reserve is a critical tiger habitat located in the Vindhyan mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.
- It was declared a Project Tiger Reserve by the Government of India in 1994.
- It is characterised by a 'Table Top' topography.
- It consists of extensive plateaus and gorges.
- Ken River flows from south to north through the reserve.
- The dominant vegetation type is dry deciduous forest interspersed with grassland areas.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Cnemaspis Rashidi:

1. It is a new species of gecko.
2. The new species is also called Rashid's dwarf gecko, as it is the smallest among the genus.
3. It is critically endangered to the Eastern Ghats.

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:

- Cnemaspis Rashidi is a new species of gecko.
- So far, 93 species of gecko have been documented, and this is the 94th species.
- The new species is also called Rashid's dwarf gecko, as it is the smallest among the genus.
- It was found at an altitude of 1,245 metres at the Kottamalai estate near Rajapalayam.
- It displayed a combination of beautiful colour patterns of yellow, white and black adorning its back, making it stand out among its gecko relatives.
- It is endemic to the Western Ghats.