

Q: Consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest producer of the pulses in the world.
2. Gram is the most dominant pulse having a major share in the production of pulses in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** India is the largest producer (25% of global production), consumer (27% of world consumption) and importer (14%) of pulses in the world.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gram is the most dominant pulse having a share of around 40 percent in the total production followed by Tur/Arhar at 15 to 20 percent and Urad/Black Matpe and Moong at around 8-10 percent each.
- The main regions with high productivity are Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal delta region, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, coastal and eastern Karnataka and some parts of Maharashtra.

Q: Makaravilakku is an annual festival of great importance held every year during Makara Sankranti in which of the following states?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Odisha
- d) Tamil Nadu

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Makaravilakku is an annual festival held on Makara Sankranti in Kerala at the shrine of Sabarimala. The festival includes the Thiruvabharanam (sacred ornaments of Lord Ayyappan) procession and a congregation at the hill shrine of Sabarimala.
- Sabarimala is a temple complex located at Sabarimala hill inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Perinad Village, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala, India.
- The temple is dedicated to the deity Ayyappan also known as Dharma Shasta, the son of Shiva and Mohini, the feminine form of Vishnu.

Q: 'Kalaram Temple', recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following states?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Odisha
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Kalaram temple.
- The Kalaram temple is situated within the Panchvati area of Nashik City (Maharashtra).
- Panchavati translates to five banyan trees where, according to Ramayana, Lord Ram, Sita and Lakshman lived during exile.
- Built in 1792, the temple was funded by Sardar Rangarao Odhekar Peshwa.
- The temple derives its name from a black statue of the Lord — Kala Ram translates literally to “Black Ram”.

Q: Consider the following statements:

1. Developed jointly by ISRO and JAXA, NISAR is a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite for an Earth-observing mission.

2. NISAR will operate in L-band and S-band frequencies, providing all-weather and day-night imaging capabilities.
3. NISAR's primary aim is to study volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.
4. NISAR will also contribute to shed light on the dynamics of sea ice near both poles.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) All four

Ans: b

Explanation:

- NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) represents a first-of-its-kind collaboration between NASA and ISRO for an Earth-observing mission. The radar satellite is set to launch in 2024,
- To monitor changes in Earth's frozen regions, including ice sheets, glaciers and sea ice.
- NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory will lead the US component and provide the mission's L-band SAR.
- ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre and Space Applications Centre will contribute the spacecraft bus, launch vehicle and S-band SAR electronics.
- It will employ two radar systems, an L-band and an S-band, to penetrate clouds and darkness, offering comprehensive data even during polar winter nights, making it a valuable tool for all-weather observations.
- NISAR will also shed light on the dynamics of sea ice near both the poles which are critical to understand global climate patterns.

Q: The first-ever confirmed record of the Tibetan brown bear in India, was recorded in which one of the following states of India?

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Ladakh
- c) Sikkim
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans: c

Explanation:

- The Tibetan brown bear also known as the Tibetan blue bear is one of the rarest subspecies of bears in the world, and is rarely sighted in the wild.
- There were only a few confirmed records from Nepal, Bhutan, and the Tibetan plateau.
- It is uniquely adapted to the harsh conditions of the Tibetan Plateau.
- Conservation status: It has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 by listing it under Schedule-I.
- It is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as a protected species.
- It is an omnivore with its diet generally consisting of marmots and alpine vegetation.
- This rare bear is very different from the more commonly found Himalayan Black Bear in terms of its appearance, habitat, and behaviour.