

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Takeshima Island:

1. It is lying almost equidistant between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.
2. It has also been known as the Liancourt Rocks.
3. It is situated in the East China Sea.

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:

- Takeshima Island is situated in the middle of the Sea of Japan.
- It is lying almost equidistant between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.
- It is called Dokdo in South Korea and Takeshima in Japan.
- It has also been known as the Liancourt Rocks, named by French whalers after their ship in 1849.
- The islands themselves consist of two main islands and about 30 smaller rocks.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Indian Grey hornbill:

1. According to IUCN they are listed as vulnerable species.
2. They are also found in North-East Pakistan, South Nepal and North-West Bangladesh.
3. These birds are known to be arboreal.

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:

- Indian Grey hornbill is a common hornbill found on the Indian subcontinent.
- It is commonly sighted in pairs.
- These birds are known to be arboreal, spend most of their time on tall trees, but may descend for food and to collect mud pellets for nesting.
- They are found from north-east Pakistan and south Nepal east to north-west Bangladesh and south throughout most of India except in Assam.
- IUCN had listed this species as Least Concern.

Q: Recently the term “Geocoding” was in news. Consider the following statement:

1. It converts an address or description of a location into geographic coordinates
2. It has been introduced to ensure the accuracy of address details in GSTN records.

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, the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) made the geocoding functionality live for all states and union territories.

- Geocoding converts an address or description of a location into geographic coordinates.
- It has been introduced to ensure the accuracy of address details in GSTN records and streamline the address location and verification process.
- GST Network has already geocoded 1.8 crore principal places of businesses.
- The functionality is available for normal, composition, SEZ units, SEZ developers, input service distributor and casual taxpayers who are active, cancelled, and suspended.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):

1. It is a multilateral treaty that bans chemical weapons and requires their destruction within a specified period of time.
2. The CWC is open to all nations.
3. India is a signatory and party to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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:

- Recently, the United States has destroyed the last of its declared chemical weapons stockpile, a milestone in the history of warfare dating back to the First World War.
- Chemical Weapons Convention is a multilateral treaty that bans chemical weapons and requires their destruction within a specified period of time.
- It entered into force on April 29, 1997.
- It requires states-parties to declare in writing to the OPCW their chemical weapons stockpiles, chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs), relevant chemical industry facilities, and other weapons-related information.
- The CWC is open to all nations and currently has 193 states-parties.
- India is a signatory and party to the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- It has signed the treaty at Paris on 14th day of January 1993.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Solar Flares:

1. These are magnetic plasma ejected at great speed from the solar surface.
2. They can affect power grids and navigation signals and endanger astronauts and spacecraft.
3. The energy particles released by solar flares into space impact the Stratosphere.

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:

- Solar flares are magnetic plasma ejected at great speed from the solar surface.
- They occur during the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots ('dark' regions on the Sun that are cooler than the surrounding photosphere), and can last for a few minutes or hours.
- These flares can be divided into various categories based on their brightness in X-ray wavelengths
- The energy particles released by solar flares into space impact the ionosphere and radio communications at the Earth.
- They can even affect power grids and navigation signals and endanger astronauts and spacecraft.