

Q: Consider the following statement regarding White Tufted Royal Butterfly:

1. The species had been spotted in Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Its larvae feed on *Scurrula parasitica*.
3. It is not protected under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act.

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:

- White Tufted Royal Butterfly is protected under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act.
- The species had been spotted in Agasthyakoodam in 2017 and the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary in 2018.
- The wingspan of the butterfly is just 32-40 mm.
- Its larvae feed on *Scurrula parasitica*, a plant belonging to the Loranthaceae family.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding VSHORAD:

1. It is meant to kill high altitude aerial threat at long range.
2. The missile which is propelled by a dual thrust 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: b

Explanation:

- Meant to kill low altitude aerial threats at short ranges, VSHORADS is a man portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) designed and developed indigenously by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- The DRDO, in September 2022, conducted two successful test flights of the VSHORADS missile from a ground based portable launcher at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- The missile which is propelled by a dual thrust solid motor incorporates many novel technologies including miniaturised Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The new integrated food security scheme has been named as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY).
2. The integrated scheme will strengthen the provisions of NFSA, 2013 in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of foodgrains for the poor.

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 Cabinet had approved new integrated food security scheme for providing free foodgrains to Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) & Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries, to be rolled out from 1st January 2023.
- New scheme has been named as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY).
- The integrated scheme will strengthen the provisions of NFSA, 2013 in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of foodgrains for the poor.

Q: The global reports released recently on child mortality and on stillbirths. Consider the following statement:

1. Globally, five million children died before their fifth birthday (under-five mortality) in 2021.
2. India's share in these child mortalities was estimated at 7,09,366 under-five deaths.
3. For every 1,000 live births, the infant mortality rate in Madhya Pradesh was six-fold of the rate in Kerala.

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:

- The report on child mortality, *'Levels and Trends in Child Mortality'*, by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) estimates that globally, five million children died before their fifth birthday (under-five mortality) in 2021.
- Over half of these (2.7 million) occurred among children aged 1-59 months, while the remainder (2.3 million) occurred in just the first month of life (neonatal deaths).
- India's share in these child mortalities was estimated at 7,09,366 under-five deaths; 5,86,787 infant deaths (death before first birthday); and 4,41,801 neonatal deaths. Many of these are preventable.
- For every 1,000 live births, the infant mortality rate in Madhya Pradesh was six-fold of the rate in Kerala. The children in rural parts in any age subgroup have much higher mortality rates than their urban counterparts.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Henley Passport Index:

1. Indian passport ranks 85th in the list of most powerful passports in the world.
2. Afghanistan's passport was the worst passport
3. Norway's passport continues to be the most powerful in the world.

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:

- Recently, the Henley Passport Index was released.
- With **visa-free entry in 59 countries**, the Indian passport ranks 85th in the list of most powerful passports in the world.
- It has slipped two spots from the 83rd rank in 2022.
- Japan's passport continues to be the most powerful in the world.
- Japanese citizens are now able to visit an astonishing 193 destinations out of 227 around the world visa-free, while South Koreans and Singaporeans, whose countries are tied in 2nd place on the index, enjoy a visa-free/visa-on-arrival score of 192.
- Germany and Spain are joint 3rd, with visa-free access to 190 destinations worldwide.
- The UK and the US remain in 6th and 7th places, with scores of 187 and 186, respectively.
- Afghanistan's passport was the worst passport.