

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Argoland:**

1. It was a lost continent that once broke off from northwestern Australia.
2. It disintegrated as tectonic forces stretched the landmass out and drove it away from the rest of the continent.
3. It contributed to the formation of several Island in Greenland.

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:

- Argoland was a lost continent that once broke off from northwestern Australia 155 million years ago.
- The elusive, 3,106-mile stretch was once an integral part of the supercontinent Gondwana.
- It disintegrated as tectonic forces stretched the landmass out and drove it away from the rest of the continent before scattering it across Southeast Asia.
- It had initially drifted northwest, where several Southeast Asian islands currently exist today.
- But unlike India, which broke off the ancient supercontinent Gondwana 120 million years ago and still forms an intact landmass today, Argoland splintered into fragments.
- These fragments, reaching their destinations simultaneously, formed an archipelago rather than a unified landmass.
- Argoland, now dispersed as an archipelago separated by ocean basins, contributed to the formation of several Southeast Asian islands.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):**

1. The largest PVTG is found in Chhattisgarh.
2. The Dhebar Commission set up a separate category for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).
3. They are a more vulnerable group among tribal groups in India.

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:

- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are a more vulnerable group among tribal groups in India.
- These groups have primitive traits, geographical isolation, low literacy, zero to negative population growth rate and backwardness.
- Moreover, they are largely dependent on hunting for food and a pre-agriculture level of technology.
- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission set up a separate category for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). In 1975, the Centre identified 52 tribal groups as PTGs. In 1993, 23 more groups were added to the list. Later, in 2006, these groups were named PVTGs.
- According to the 2011 Census, Odisha has the largest population of PVTGs at 866,000. It is followed by Madhya Pradesh at 609,000 and Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana) at 539,000.
- The largest PVTG is Odisha's Saura community, numbering 535,000.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Nirbhay Cruise Missile:**

1. It is a long-range sub-sonic cruise missile.
2. It is India's first indigenously-produced cruise missile.

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:

- Nirbhay Cruise Missile is a long-range sub-sonic cruise missile.
- It is India's first indigenously-produced cruise missile.
- The missile was developed by the Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment, a lab under India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is capable of deep penetration into adversary territory to strike high-value targets with precision.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):**

1. It is a regional arrangement to build cooperation and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. It currently includes 14 partner countries.
3. The IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

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:

- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is a regional arrangement to build cooperation and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific region.
- IPEF will seek to complement and build on existing regional architecture and support the global rules-based trading system.
- It currently includes 14 partner countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam.
- The IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), but it allows members to negotiate the parts they want to.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Mars solar conjunction:**

1. During this time, Sun expels hot, ionised gas from its corona.
2. It could corrupt radio signals sent from Earth to Mars.
3. It is a phenomenon which occurs when the Earth is between Sun and Mars.

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:

- Mars solar conjunction is a phenomenon which occurs when the Sun is between Earth and Mars.
- It happens once every two years.
- During this time, Sun expels hot, ionised gas from its corona.
- It could corrupt radio signals sent from Earth to Mars.
- Also, this could cause unexpected behaviour from the spacecraft on Mars.
- This year, it is occurring between November 11 and November 25.