

Q: Consider the following statements:

1. They are the largest, heaviest land animals.
2. They are the natural heritage animal of India.
3. The young ones of the species can walk within 1-2 hours of birth.
4. They are categorized as Endangered by IUCN Red List.

The above statement(s) correspond to which of the following species?

- a) Elephants
- b) Tigers
- c) Hippopotamus
- d) Rhinoceros

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Elephants are the natural heritage animal of India.
- They are the largest, heaviest land animals.
- The Asian elephant is the largest mammal living on the land of Asia.
- Scientific name - *Elephas maximus*; Gestation period - 22 months
- Elephant calves are able to walk within one or two hours of birth.
- IUCN Red List - Endangered; Wildlife Protection Act 1972 - Schedule I; CITES - Appendix I
- Population - there are about 50,000-60,000 Asian elephants in the world.
- The number of elephant reserves in India is 32 with the latest addition being the Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve in 2022.
- About 101 elephant corridors have been identified in the country which need to be secured for conservation of elephants.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to the Election Seizure Management System (ESMS):

1. It is a dedicated technology platform where all the enforcement agencies share information in real time.
2. Only the Central enforcement agencies are allowed to share the information.
3. The system was first used in the Parliamentary elections of 2019 in India.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has developed Election Seizure Management System (ESMS) for real-time updates.
- The ESMS is a dedicated technology platform where all the enforcement agencies such as police, transportation authorities, Central tax agencies and others share information in real time.
- Both the Central and State government enforcement agencies share the information on the platform.
- It was used for the 1st time during the State Assembly Elections in November 2023 in the 5 states of Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana.
- Objective - To check the flow of illegal cash, drugs and freebies such as sarees, liquor etc. thereby ensuring free and fair elections.
- Nodal agencies - State nodal officers, District nodal officers and flying squad teams.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to the Parvatmala Pariyojana:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
2. Parvatmala Scheme aims to build sustainable and robust ropeway infrastructure in India.
3. The funding is based on Private-Public Partnership (PPP) model.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- The National Ropeways Development Programme, known as the 'Parvatmala Pariyojana', is set to undertake over 200 projects over the next five years.
- The project was proposed during the Union Budget 2022.
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- The focus will be on public-private partnership (PPP) through the Hybrid Annuity Model, with the government providing 60% of the funding support.
- The Parvatmala Pariyojana is being started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North Eastern states.

Q: Which of the following statement(s) is associated with the term Muirburn, recently seen in news?

- a) Skin disease caused by a chemical components in cosmetics.
- b) Thawing of ice sheets in the third pole of the world, Tibet.
- c) It is a sacrifice practice followed by the Kamba Tribes.
- d) Burning of vegetation to promote growth in moorland.

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Muirburn is the burning of vegetation in moorland areas, usually in a controlled manner, in order to promote growth and maintain open moorland.
- It is a tool used by land managers in Scotland to improve grazing, provide food and shelter for gamebirds, and reduce the risk of wildfires and for selected conservation objectives for habitats and species.
- The Muirburn season runs from 1 October to 15 April inclusive in Scotland, but this can be extended to 30 April at the landowner's discretion.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian Tectonic Plate:

1. It is a minor tectonic plate that spreads on both sides of the Equator.
2. It is bounded by the Eurasian plate, Australian plate, African plate and the Arabian Plate.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- It is a minor tectonic plate in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- The plate straddles the Equator.
- It is bound by four major tectonic plates:
 - North - Eurasian plate
 - South-east - Australian plate
 - South-west - African plate
 - West - Arabian plate
- The Indian Plate encompasses the majority of South Asia, that is, the Indian subcontinent, as well as a piece of the basin beneath the Indian Ocean.

- This includes parts of South China and western Indonesia, as well as Ladakh, Kohistan, and Balochistan.