

**Q: Kerala will soon have its own red list of birds. Consider the following statement:**

1. Kerala has 64 threatened species of birds.
2. The IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list have five main criteria.
3. Red-headed vulture and White-rumped vulture are endangered.

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:

- According to the global IUCN red list, **Kerala has 64 threatened species of birds.**
- The IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list have five main criteria. The population size reduction measured over 10 years or three generations is one of the major guidelines.
- In that, Red-headed vulture and White-rumped vulture are critically endangered. Steppe Eagle, Banasura Chilappan and Nilgiri Chilappan are endangered and 11 species are vulnerable.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. Rajasthan has four wetlands recognised as Ramsar sites.
2. Menar in Udaipur district is set to be notified as Rajasthan's new wetland.

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:

- Recognised as the “bird village” following community-driven conservation efforts, Menar in Udaipur district is set to be notified as Rajasthan's new wetland.
- Environmental activists in the region have high expectations of the declaration of Menar as a Ramsar site under the 1971 Ramsar convention on wetlands of international importance.
- At present, Rajasthan has two wetlands recognised as Ramsar sites – Keoladeo Ghana in Bharatpur district and Sambhar Salt Lake in Jaipur district.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Zika Virus:**

1. It is a mosquito-borne flavivirus.
2. It was first identified in Rwanda.
3. It is transmitted by the bite of infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.

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: c

Explanation:

- Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- A virus transmitted primarily by the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes, mainly *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, causes the Zika virus.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding role of climate change and Aerosol in excess and deficit rainfall in Assam:**

1. In 2022, Assam received 41% above normal rainfall.
2. Climate change have increased the water and surface temperature of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal causing the frequent formation of low-pressure areas and cyclonic circulations, resulting in heavy rains.
3. Rising black carbon emissions, leads to a decrease in low-intensity rainfall while pushing up severe rain in the pre-monsoon season in northeast 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: d

Explanation:

- Assam, which receives rainfall beyond the June-September monsoon phase, does not always get above-normal or excess rain. But in 2022, according to the IMD, it received 41% above normal rainfall during the pre-monsoon season (March to May), and it has received 71% more than normal rainfall up to June 25.
- Climate change is said to have increased the water and surface temperature of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal by up to 2 degrees, causing the frequent formation of low-pressure areas and cyclonic circulations, resulting in heavy rains.
- A recent study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati said aerosols, including black carbon, released by biomass burning, influence the western part of northeast India close to the Indo-Gangetic Plain the most.
- Rising black carbon emissions, leads to a decrease in low-intensity rainfall while pushing up severe rain in the pre-monsoon season in northeast India.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Anti Defection Law:**

1. 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule had spoken of a 'split' in a legislature party as an exception.
2. In 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule disqualification on account of defection will not apply in case of a merger of one party with another.
3. There is a deemed merger only if one-thirds of the party's total strength agrees to the merger.

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:

- Originally, the 10th Schedule had spoken of a 'split' in a legislature party as an exception to the disqualification rule. That is if one-thirds of a legislature party leaves it or joins another party, it amounts to a 'split' and such members would not attract disqualification.
- This proved to be an escape clause for legislators to form a group that amounted to one-third of the legislature party's total strength and then cross over.
- Paragraph 3, which allowed the use of a split to avoid disqualification for defection, was deleted by the Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003.
- Under Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule, disqualification on account of defection will not apply in case of a merger of one party with another. However, there is a rider. There is a deemed merger only if two-thirds of the party's total strength agrees to the merger.

