

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Whitefly:

1. These are winged insects that have soft bodies and are closely related to aphids.
2. It mainly infests coconut palms and other broad-leaved hosts in its native range.
3. It is not an invasive insect.

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:

- Whitefly are winged insects that have soft bodies and are closely related to aphids.
- These are tiny, sap-sucking insects that may become abundant in vegetable and ornamental plantings, especially during warm weather.
- It is naturally distributed in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico (Martin, 2008), and subsequently, it has spread to 22 other countries in Central and South America.
- It mainly infests coconut palms and other broad-leaved hosts in its native range
- It is an invasive insect.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding World Competitiveness Index:

1. Japan tops the list in this index.
2. It is a comprehensive annual report and worldwide reference point on the competitiveness of countries.
3. It is based on 336 competitiveness criteria and four factors.

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:

World Competitiveness Index

- The IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY), was first published in 1989.
- It is a comprehensive annual report and worldwide reference point on the competitiveness of countries.
- It analyses and ranks countries according to how they manage their competencies to achieve long-term value creation.
- It is based on 336 competitiveness criteria and four factors, namely Economic performance, Government efficiency, Business efficiency, and Infrastructure.
- Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland have been named the top three among 64 economies measured for their global competitiveness.
- India fell three rungs to finish 40th but is still in a better position than it was between 2019-2021 when it was placed 43rd three years in a row.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Kharchi Puja:

1. It is one of the main festivals of Tripura.
2. The fourteen Gods are worshipped by the Royal priest, 'Chantai'.

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:

- Kharchi Puja is one of the main festivals of Tripura.
- It is performed during the months of July-August on the eighth day of the new moon.
- The meaning of Kharchi can be understood by splitting the word into two Tripuri words "Khar" or Kharta meaning sin and "Chi" or si meaning cleaning. Hence it signifies the cleansing of our sins.
- It occurs during the month of 'Ashad' on the 'Shukla Ashtami' day.

- The fourteen Gods are worshipped by the Royal priest, 'Chantai.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is one of the world's largest organizations in terms of clientele.
3. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment

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:

- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is a statutory body that came into existence under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, of 1952.
- The Act and Schemes framed there under are administered by a tripartite Board known as the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund, consisting of representatives of Government (Both Central and State), Employers, and Employees.
- The Board administers a contributory provident fund, a pension scheme, and an insurance scheme for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.
- It is one of the world's largest organizations in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken by it.
- The Board is assisted by the Employees' PF Organization (EPFO), consisting of offices at 122 locations across the country.
- The EPFO is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Hyenas:

1. They are doglike carnivores found in Asia and Africa.
2. Spotted hyenas are the largest among all the types.
3. According to IUCN, they are near to extinct species.

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:

- Hyenas are doglike carnivores found in Asia and Africa and are noted for their scavenging habits.
- It belongs to the family Hyaenidae.
- There are three hyena species — spotted (*Crocuta Crocuta*), brown (*Arahyaena brunnea*), and striped (*Hyaena hyaena*). Spotted hyenas are the largest of the three.
- Forest edges, grasslands, savannas, sub-deserts, and even mountains at an elevation of about 13,000 feet.
- These animals live throughout Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia.
- According to IUCN, Spotted Hyena populations are of least concern. However, brown and striped hyenas are classified as near threatened.