

Q: Recently Birders' network found rare pelagic birds on Karnataka's coast. Consider the following statement:

1. Pelagic birds most of their lives in the Open Ocean.
2. The decline in fish populations has a direct effect on the density of pelagic birds.
3. They never return to land.

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:

- Pelagic means relating to or living in the open ocean, especially the upper layers far from the shore.
- Pelagic birds most of their lives in the Open Ocean and only return to land to breed and raise young.
- They must be able to withstand salt water, wind and waves and can be found in all oceans.
- The decline in fish populations has a direct effect on the density of pelagic birds.
- Examples – Sooty Shearwater, Brown Skua, Brown Booby, Streaked Shearwater and Masked Booby, Frigate birds, Fulmars, Shearwaters and Tropicbirds.

Q: ULFA Peace Accord is tripartite peace deal between ULFA, Government of India and which of the following State Government?

- a) Manipur
- b) Assam
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Chhattisgarh

Ans: b

Explanation:

- The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) recently signed a historic tripartite peace deal with the Government of India and the state government of Assam.
- ULFA has links to other insurgent outfits in the Northeast and Myanmar, as well as Islamic terror outfits like Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami and Al-Qaeda.
- The founders of ULFA wanted to establish a sovereign Assamese nation through an armed struggle against the Indian state.
- For over 44 years, this 'struggle' has been chequered with kidnappings and extortion, executions and bomb blasts, leading to tragic loss of life in Assam and beyond.
- Operation Bajrang – By Union Government in 1990 that led to the arrest of 1,221 ULFA insurgents.

Q: PREVALL, sometimes seen in the news recently, is related to which of the following?

- a) First humanoid space robot developed by NASA.
- b) A measurement method to measure distance between two galaxies.
- c) India's first oral chemo drug for Leukaemia.
- d) A Rural Diabetes Prevention & Control Campaign.

Ans: c

Explanation:

- India's first oral suspension of the chemotherapy drug is 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) and it was named as PREVALL.
- PREVALL was developed by Tata Memorial Hospital and Advanced Centre for Training Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), in collaboration with IDRS Labs, Bangalore.
- It is poised to revolutionise cancer treatment, specifically hematologic malignancies like Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL), providing a more precise alternative to traditional tablets.

Q: The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently launched. Consider the following statements with respect to National Transit Pass System (NTPS):

1. It is a One Nation-One Pass system that will be installed in all toll gates in national highways.
2. It is an initiative of National Highways Authority of India.

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: d

Explanation:

- National Transit Pass System (NTPS) is a One Nation-One Pass to facilitate the seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce across the country.
- It is an initiative of the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The QR coded transit permits generated under NTPS will allow check gates across various states to verify the validity of the permits and allow seamless transit.
- It will streamline the issuance of timber transit permits by providing a unified, online mode for tree growers and farmers involved in agroforestry, contributing to ease of doing business.
- It will help strengthen the journey towards greater transparency.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Kakad Bhairav

1. It is a 66-million-year-old fossilised egg of a titanosaur, a herbivorous dinosaur.
2. It was recently found in the small town of Karnataka.
3. The tribes believe that Kakad Bhairav protects their village and makes their wishes come true.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Kakad Bhairav was a tribal god, a stone deity worshipped by the Bhils in Bagh town of Madhya Pradesh.
- Recently it has been proved that Kakad Bhairav is a 66-million-year-old fossilised egg of a titanosaur, a herbivorous dinosaur.
- Kakad Bhairav is also known as Bhilat Baba and is found at the Bagh town of Madhya Pradesh.
- This site could be India's first UNESCO Global Geopark tag.
- Tribes in the Narmada Valley worshipped fossilised Titanosaurus eggs, having cattle pray them for healthy offspring or performing animal sacrifices before harvests.
- The tribes in the region believe that Kakad Bhairav protects their village and makes their wishes come true.