

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Strait of Hormoz:

1. Most of the crude oil of OPEC countries are exported through this Strait.
2. It links Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
3. This waterway separates UAE and Kuwait.

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:

- The Strait of Hormoz waterway separates Iran and Oman, linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- The Strait is 33 km wide at its narrowest point, but the shipping lane is just three km wide in either direction.
- Most crude exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Kuwait and Iraq – all members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) – is shipped through this waterway.
- It is also the route used for nearly all the liquefied natural gas (LNG) produced by the world's biggest LNG exporter, Qatar.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Lakshadweep:

1. It is a temperate archipelago.
2. Parali 1 island of this archipelago submerged in water due to sea erosion.
3. This island comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court.

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:

- Lakshadweep is a tropical archipelago of 36 atolls and coral reefs in the Laccadive Sea, 280 km to 480 km off the coast of Kerala. 11 are inhabited.
- But currently, there are 35 islands, as the Parali 1 island submerged in water due to sea erosion.
- The islands form the smallest union territory of India and their total surface area is just 32 km square.
- Kavaratti serves as the capital of the Union Territory and the region comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding butterfly mimetic communities of the Western Ghats:

1. The mimicry is an adaptive phenomenon.
2. Mimicry in butterflies is not limited to the resemblance in wing colour patterns alone.

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:

- In a five-year study, scientists of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru have discovered secrets of a long evolutionary game through which butterflies come to warn, fool, and escape their predators using traits such as wing colour patterns and even flight behaviour.
- The study has investigated the butterfly mimetic communities of the Western Ghats.
- The mimicry is an adaptive phenomenon, and in mimicry, a palatable organism resembles an unpalatable organism to deceive predators.
- The unpalatable one is called models (Müllerian co-models) and the palatable one is called mimics (Batesian mimics).
- Interestingly, mimicry in butterflies is not limited to the resemblance in wing colour patterns alone, as some mimics have also evolved to imitate the flight behaviours of model species.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding International Court of Justice:

1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
2. It is the only UN organisation not to be located in New York (USA).
3. Judges of this court are elected for nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

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:

- ICJ was established in 1945 by the United Nations charter and started working in April 1946.
- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Unlike the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA).
- It settles legal disputes between States and gives advisory opinions in accordance with international law, on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Sweden will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2023.
2. Greenland comprises the Nordic region.

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: a

Explanation:

- Sweden will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 1 January 2023 at a transformational inflection point in European and global politics.
- The change of guard in the Council presidency has implications for the EU and its ties with other countries across the globe including India.
- Beyond closer ties with the EU and traditional European powers like France, India has also creatively enhanced its ties with smaller European states with significant engagement to expand its presence throughout Europe.
- In this context, the Nordic region comprising Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Iceland has emerged amongst the brightest spots in India's ties with Europe.