

**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to Regional comprehensive economic agreement (RCEP)**

1. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the (ASEAN) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs.
2. India is not a proposed member country to the RCEP trade Bloc.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

**Q.1) Solution (a)**

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Burma, (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs

- Click [here](#) to read the news.

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Tiger conservation**

1. Global Tiger Forum is the only inter-governmental body for tiger conservation.
2. Project tiger is the government of India efforts for Tiger conservation started in the year 1972
3. CITES is an international agreement between governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants, including tigers, does not threaten their survival.

**Select the correct statement with respect to tiger conservation**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.2) Solution (d)**

- The Government of India started 'Project Tiger' in 1972 with a view to conserving the animal. As part of this project nine core buffer areas for maintaining tiger population were notified.

- CITES is an international agreement between governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants, including tigers, does not threaten their survival. India ratified this treaty in 1976.
- Established in 1994, the Global Tiger Forum is the only inter-governmental body for tiger conservation. Its membership includes seven tiger range countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam. International NGO members consist of World Wildlife Fund, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and TRAFFIC. Several national NGOs from India and Nepal are also members.
- Click [here](#) to read the news.

**Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Coral bleaching.**

1. Coral bleaching is the loss of Zooxanthellae through loss of algal pigmentation.
2. Abnormal environmental conditions like increased or reduced sea water temperature, increased sedimentation etc are believed to cause coral bleaching.

**Select the incorrect statement from the codes given below**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

**Q.3) Solution (d)**

- Bleaching occurs when the conditions necessary to sustain the coral's zooxanthellae cannot be maintained. Any environmental trigger that affects the coral's ability to supply the zooxanthellae with nutrients for photosynthesis (carbon dioxide, ammonium) will lead to expulsion.
- This process is a "downward spiral", whereby the coral's failure to prevent the division of zooxanthellae leads to ever-greater amounts of the photosynthesis-derived carbon to be diverted into the algae rather than the coral. This makes the energy balance required for the coral to continue sustaining its algae more fragile, and hence the coral loses the ability to maintain its parasitic control on its zooxanthellae.

**Causes of coral bleaching**

- Increased (most commonly due to global warming), or reduced water temperature
- oxygen starvation caused by an increase in zooplankton levels as a result of overfishing
- increased solar irradiance (photo synthetically active radiation and ultraviolet light)
- changes in water chemistry (in particular acidification caused by CO<sub>2</sub> pollution)
- increased sedimentation (due to silt runoff)
- bacterial infections
- changes in salinity
- herbicides

- Click [here](#) to read the news.
- Click [here](#) to know more about coral bleaching.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to IndArc:**

1. IndArc is the country's first moored-underwater observatory in the Antarctica.
2. IndArc observatory is developed by ESSO-National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) and the ESSO-National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
3. IndArc aims to understand the effects of polar climatic process and its influence on Indian monsoon system.

**Select the correct statement using the codes given below**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) All the above.

**Q.4) Solution (b)**

- IndArc is the country's first moored-underwater observatory in the Arctic.
- IndArc observatory is developed by ESSO-National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) and the ESSO-National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
- Indian observatory is collecting the data that is expected to help scientists understand the arctic climate process and its influence on the Indian monsoon system.
- ESSO-NCAOR has been continuously monitoring the Kongsfjorden since 2010 for understanding response of the fjord to climate variability at different time scales. The temperature and salinity profiles of the fjord, water column nutrients and diversity of biota are being monitored at close spatio-temporal scales throughout the spring-summer-fall seasons.
- Click [here](#) to read the news.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to Adarsh Smarak scheme.**

1. The scheme is spear headed by Ministry of culture and it aims to make monuments tourist friendly by revamping the existing infrastructure.
2. At present 25 monuments are covered under this scheme
3. Recently Humayuns tomb was restored under this scheme.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only

d) 1, 2, and 3.

### Q.5) Solution (d)

- Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) and Civil Aviation unveiled the restored 18 feet tall Finial at Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi today as part of the ongoing conservation effort under Adarsh Smarak scheme.

The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- To make monument visitor friendly.
- To upgrade/provide wash rooms, drinking water, signages, cafeteria and wi-fi facility
- To provide Interpretation and audio-video centres
- To streamline waste water and garbage disposal and rain water harvesting system
- To make monument accessible to differently abled
- To implement Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- Click [here](#) to read the news.
- Click [here](#) to know the list of 25 monuments covered under this scheme.