

Q.1) Ichthyosaur fossils have been found in which of the following?

1. India
2. Australia
3. South America
4. Europe

Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.1) Solution (d)

While many ichthyosaur fossils have been found in North America and Europe, the fossil record in the Southern Hemisphere has mostly been limited to South America and Australia.

Recently, Ichthyosaur fossil has been unearthed in Kutch, Gujarat.

It throws light on the evolution and diversity of ichthyosaurs in the Indo-Madagascan region of the former Gondwanaland and India's biological connectivity with other continents in the Jurassic.

Earlier too researchers have discovered evidence of ichthyosaurs in prehistoric India. Remnants were reported from Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu in 2016 but these were only fossils of teeth and part of the vertebra. In Kutch, the team reported the finding of vertebral column, ribs, neural spines and a part of the snout.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/fish-lizard-fossil-from-kutch-is-a-jurassic-first/article19920228.ece>

Q.2) Which one is not an encryption technique?

- a) RSA
- b) DES
- c) AES
- d) FTP

Q.2) Solution (d)

RSA, DES & Triple DES, AES are types of encryption techniques. Others being Blowfish, Twofish etc.

Source: <https://blogs.economictimes.indiatimes.com/et-commentary/digital-india-better-safe-atms-than-sorry/>

Q.3) 'Stubble burning' is concerned with

- a) Burning crop residue
- b) Solid waste disposal
- c) Burning of e-waste
- d) None of the above

Q.3) Solution (a)

Stubble burning is the deliberate setting fire of the straw stubble that remains after wheat and other grains have been harvested.

The burning of stubble, contrasted with alternatives such as ploughing the stubble back into the ground has a number of consequences and effects on the environment

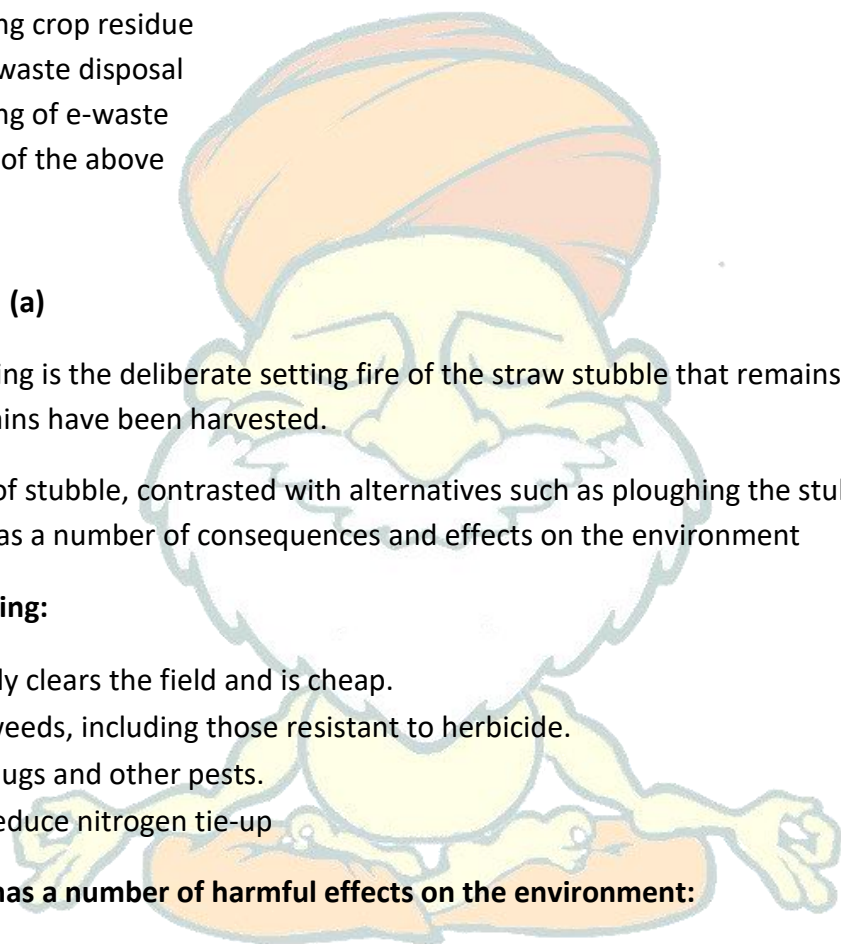
Stubble burning:

- Quickly clears the field and is cheap.
- Kills weeds, including those resistant to herbicide.
- Kills slugs and other pests.
- Can reduce nitrogen tie-up

However, it has a number of harmful effects on the environment:

- Loss of nutrients.
- Pollution from smoke.
- Damage to electrical and electronic equipment from floating threads of conducting waste.
- Risk of fires spreading out of control

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/delhis-air-quality-set-to-dip-but-stubble-burning-no-villain/articleshow/61226357.cms>



Q.4) 'T.K. Vishwanathan Committee' is associated with?

- a) Money Laundering
- b) Defence Procurement
- c) Cybercrime
- d) Education reforms

Q.4) Solution (c)

The TK Viswanathan committee was formed to propose new laws or amendments to deal with hate speech on the internet in particular and Cybercrimes in general. The committee was formed after the Supreme Court struck down section 66A of the Information Technology (IT) Act. The committee has recently submitted the report and Ministry of Home affairs is examining the report.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-studying-report-on-online-abuse/article19772279.ece>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about 'Mechi River'

1. It is a trans-boundary river flowing through Nepal and India
2. It is a tributary of the Mahananda River

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.5) Solution (c)

The Mechi River is a trans-boundary river flowing through Nepal and India. It is a tributary of the Mahananda River. The Mechi originates in the Mahabharat Range in Nepal. It flows through Nepal, forms the boundary between India and Nepal and then flows through the Indian state of Bihar to join the Mahananda in Kishanganj district.