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Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Madhubani Paintings'

1. It is practised by people in Bihar and is done using twigs, fingers, brushes and even matchsticks.
2. It was given the coveted GI (Geographical Indication) status in 2006

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

Madhubani art (or Mithila painting) is practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar in India and Nepal. Painting is done with fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterised by eye-catching geometrical patterns.

Madhubani painting being accorded the coveted GI (Geographical Indication) status

Madhubani art has five distinctive styles, namely, Bharni, Katchni, Tantrik, godna and kohbar.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/trains-to-get-madhubani-makeover/article24466446.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about 'Dhole'

1. High populations of Dholes are found in the Western Ghats and central Indian forests
2. They are listed as 'Least Concern' under the IUCN Red List

Select the correct code:

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

Q.2) Solution (a)

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Dholes occur in several regions of India, and India undoubtedly contains the largest numbers of Dholes. Dholes have disappeared from 60% of their historic range in India during the past 100 years. Relatively high populations of Dholes are still found in the Western Ghats and central Indian forests, due to high prey numbers and extent of protected forests, whereas lower numbers of Dholes are found in the Eastern Ghats. Dholes are also found in the north-eastern states, although numbers are low and decreasing in this region due to a decreasing prey base and retaliatory killings from livestock predation. Dholes are found in some areas of Terai region in northern India, although their exact distribution there is unknown. In the Himalayan region, Dholes were recently reported from Sikkim, and in 2008 near Tso Kar in Ladakh, thus they may occur in other areas of Ladakh as well.

IUCN Status – Endangered

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/wildlife-scientists-satellite-collar-a-dhole/article24464757.ece>

Q.3) “Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan” was launched in which of the following states?

1. Odisha
2. Jharkhand
3. West Bengal

Select the correct code:

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

Q.3) Solution (b)

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is running “Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan” in five main stem Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180726>

Q.4) The term ‘Frankenfixation’ refers to

- a) Technology to fix carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the soil

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- b) Tool used to identify tumours
- c) Use of neem-coated urea
- d) Recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks

Q.4) Solution (a)

'Frankenfixation' refers to the use of genetic modification to fix carbon dioxide into the soil.

Q.5) SAFAR System is concerned with

- a) Connecting tier 2 & tier 3 cities through airways
- b) Tourism
- c) Air Quality
- d) Mines Allocation

Q.5) Solution (c)

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research

- SAFAR was introduced by Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location specific information on air quality in near real time.
- It was developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune along with India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- The main objective of SAFAR project is to increase awareness among general public regarding the air quality.
- The purpose awareness for general public is to take appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action for betterment of air quality and related health issues.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/deciphering-smog/article24437745.ece>