

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Saraswati Samman Award:**

1. It is given annually for outstanding literary works in 22 Indian languages in the last 10 years.
2. It is among the highest recognitions in the field of Indian literature.
3. It carries a prize money of 50 lakh rupees.

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:

- Saraswati Samman Award is given annually for outstanding literary works in 22 Indian languages in the last 10 years.
- It is among the highest recognitions in the field of Indian literature.
- The selection follows a rigorous three-tier process leading up to a final decision by Chayan Parishad
- It was instituted by the K. Birla Foundation. (the Vyas Samman and the Bihari Puraskar are other literary awards instituted by the foundation.)
- It carries a citation, a plaque and prize money of 15 lakh rupees.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Amur falcon:**

1. According to IUCN, it is listed as critically endangered.
2. It is a small raptor of the falcon family.
3. It is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and included under its Schedule IV.

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:

- Amur falcon is a small raptor of the falcon family.
- Locally known as Akhuipuina, the bird arrives mainly in Manipur and Nagaland.
- They breed in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China and migrate long distances in large flocks to winter in Southern and East Africa.
- The one-way journey via India is about 20,000 km long and the birds do this twice a year.
- It is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and included under its Schedule IV.
- Hunting of the birds or possessing its meat is punishable with imprisonment up to three years or a fine upto 25,000 or with bonds.
- In 2018, the forest department started a conservation programme by radio-tagging the birds to study their migratory route.
- IUCN: Least Concern.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding INS Sagardhwani:**

1. It is a marine acoustic research ship designed and developed by Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL).
2. The NPOL is involved in studying the ocean environment and other related fields.

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:

- INS Sagardhwani is a marine acoustic research ship designed and developed by Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO, Kochi and constructed indigenously by GRSE Ltd.
- It was launched in July 1994.
- The NPOL is involved in studying the ocean environment and other related fields.
- The vessel has been engaging in extensive oceanic observing missions and research for the last 25 years.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Grey whales:**

1. They have a hump and a ridge of sharp bumps along their backs, instead of a dorsal fin.
2. They stay close to shore and feed in shallow water.
3. They are found mainly in shallow coastal waters in the North Pacific Ocean.

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:

- Gray whales have a hump and a ridge of sharp bumps along their backs, instead of a dorsal fin.
- They are a type of baleen whale, which means they filter food from the water through special bristly structures in their mouths.
- They stay close to shore and feed in shallow water.
- They are found mainly in shallow coastal waters in the North Pacific Ocean, although during migration, they do sometimes cross deep waters far from shore.
- There are two geographic distributions of gray whales in the North Pacific:
  - ❖ The eastern North Pacific stock or DPS, found along the west coast of North America.
  - ❖ The western North Pacific stock or DPS, primarily found along the coast of eastern Asia.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Hepatitis C:**

1. It is a viral infection that affects the liver.
2. It is spread through contact with infected blood.
3. It can cause chronic illness only.

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:

- Hepatitis C is a viral infection that affects the liver.
- It can cause both acute (short term) and chronic (long term) illness. It can be life-threatening.
- It is spread through contact with infected blood.
- This can happen through sharing needles or syringes, or from unsafe medical procedures such as blood transfusions with unscreened blood products.
- It can be passed from an infected mother to her baby and via sexual practices that lead to exposure to blood.

