

Q: Scientists have recorded four species of azooxanthellate corals for the first time from Indian waters. Consider the following statement:

1. Truncatoflabellum crissum, T. incrustatum, T. aculeatum, and T. irregulare are the four species.
2. Azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae.
3. Azooxanthellate corals derive nourishment from Sun.

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:

- All the four groups of corals are from the same family Flabellidae under the Genus Truncatoflabellum (Scleractinian: Flabellidae)
- Truncatoflabellum crissum, T. incrustatum, T. aculeatum, and T. irregulare under the family Flabellidae were previously found from Japan to the Philippines and Australian waters while only T. crassum was reported within the range of Indo-West Pacific distribution including the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf.
- Azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of plankton.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Interpol:

1. It is an international arrest warrant.
2. International Criminal Police Organisation, is an inter-governmental body with 194 member countries.
3. It is headquartered in Lyon.

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:

- Interpol is an international document against wanted persons, requesting law enforcement agencies around the world to locate and temporarily detain a suspect until their extradition, surrender, or other legal action.
- It is **not an international arrest warrant**.
- Interpol, or **International Criminal Police Organisation**, is an inter-governmental body with 194 member countries.
- It is **headquartered in Lyon, France**, and has offices in several countries around the world. Founded in 1923, it facilitates global police cooperation to fight international crime.

Q: Experts from the Wetlands International suggested five global based conservation efforts to protect and restore wetlands. Consider the following statement and choose the incorrect option:

- a) Remaining, undrained peatland carbon stores should be kept intact.
- b) 10 per cent increase of west African river Volta in tidal flats area
- c) Global wetland cover of 40 per cent.
- d) Preservation of free-flowing rivers and flood plains.

Ans: c

Explanation:

The five suggested targets to be achieved by 2030 include:

- a) Remaining, undrained peatland carbon stores should be kept intact and 10 million hectares of drained peatlands need should be restored

- b) Global mangrove cover of 20 per cent
- c) Preservation of free-flowing rivers and flood plains, along with enhancement of restoring floodplain ecosystem and its function in the area
- d) 10 per cent increase of west African river Volta in tidal flats area
- e) Identification of 50 per cent of the 7,000 critically important sites along the flyways to be brought under favourable management.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Heat trapping carbon dioxide emissions from making cement have reduced to half in the last 20 years.
2. India produces more than half of the world's cement emissions.

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: d

Explanation:

- Heat trapping carbon dioxide emissions from making cement, a less talked about but major source of carbon pollution; have doubled in the last 20 years, new global data shows.
- In 2021, worldwide emissions from making cement for buildings, roads and other infrastructure hit nearly 2.9 billion tons (2.6 billion metric tons) of carbon dioxide, which is more than 7% of the global carbon emissions, according to Norway's CICERO Center for International Climate Research and the Global Carbon Project.
- Twenty years ago, in 2002, cement emissions were some 1.4 billion tons (1.2 billion metric tons) of carbon dioxide.
- China is key because it produced more than half of the world's cement emissions in 2021, with India a distant second at about 9%.
- The United States spewed 2.5% of the emissions from cement, ranking fifth behind Vietnam and Turkey.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Central excise duties and varying State taxes contribute over 50% of the retail price of petrol and diesel.
2. Petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel are under the purview of GST.

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:

- Petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel are not under the purview of GST, but come under Central excise and State taxes.
- Central excise duties and varying State taxes contribute over 50% of the retail price of petrol and diesel, probably the highest in the world barring banana republics. There is distrust between the States and the Centre on revenue sharing.