

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Indian-Spot Billed Duck:**

1. It is a large dabbling duck that is a non-migratory breeding duck.
2. Conservation Status of this species by IUCN Red List is Least Concern.
3. They inhabit only in coastal wetlands.

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:

- Indian-Spot Billed Duck is a large dabbling duck that is a non-migratory breeding duck throughout freshwater wetlands in the Indian subcontinent.
- The name is derived from the red spot at the base of the bill that is found in the mainland Indian population.
- It is a resident throughout Pakistan and India in freshwater wetlands.
- They inhabit both inland and coastal wetlands such as ponds, lakes, pools, streams, creeks, estuaries, tidal flats and marshes.
- They mostly feed on grasses and other vegetations. Sometimes they may feed on insects.
- Conservation Status of this species by IUCN Red List is Least Concern.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Sea urchins:**

1. They are omnivorous.
2. They belong to a group of marine invertebrates.
3. They live on the ocean floor.

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:

- Sea urchins belong to a group of marine invertebrates called echinoderms, which means spiny-skinned animals.
- It includes other well-known marine creatures like starfish and sea cucumbers.
- Sea urchins are characterized by their spherical to somewhat flattened, spiny bodies, and they are found in oceans worldwide, from shallow coastal waters to deep-sea environments.
- They live on the ocean floor, usually on hard surfaces, and use tube feet or spines to move about.
- They are herbivorous, primarily feeding on algae and plant material.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Overseas Citizen of India (OCI):**

1. The scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955.
2. It does not confer political rights to vote.

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:

- Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) is given to overseas Indians.
- OCI Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, in August 2005.
- It provides long-term visa-free travel and stay in India and gives the cardholders a host of privileges normally not given to a foreign national.
- OCI is not to be misconstrued as 'dual citizenship'. OCI does not confer political rights to vote and to be a member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of the Parliament of India;

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding South China Sea:**

1. It is bordered by China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam.
2. It is connected by the Taiwan Strait and by the Luzon Strait.
3. The South China Sea and the East China Sea together form the China Sea.

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:

- South China Sea is an arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- It is bordered by China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam.
- It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).
- The South China Sea and the East China Sea together form the China Sea.
- The two major archipelagos are known as the Paracel Islands, controlled by China, and the Spratly Islands.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Cabomba furcata:**

1. It is popularly called Pink Bloom.
2. It is a submerged perennial aquatic plant that grows in stagnant to slow-flowing freshwater.
3. It requires very less quantity of oxygen for its growth.

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:

- Cabomba furcata is popularly called Pink Bloom due to its massive flowering.
- It is native to central and South America which was brought to Kerala as an aquarium plant and has escaped to the wild.
- It is a submerged perennial aquatic plant that grows in stagnant to slow-flowing freshwater.
- The plant has a high natural dispersal potential due to its ability to readily fragment and spread both actively and passively.
- It requires a large quantity of oxygen for its growth and will choke water bodies and drainage canals.
- It causes decline in diversity of native aquatic plants and causes economic losses by affecting yield of freshwater fishes.