

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV):**

1. It is a virus with ten double-stranded RNA segments.
2. It is transmitted by a white-backed plant hopper (WBPH).
3. It was first recorded in Taiwan.

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:

- Recently, the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has stated that the disease-causing 'dwarfing' in rice plants across Haryana and Punjab is due to the Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV), belonging to the genus Fijivirus.
- SRBSDV is a virus with ten double-stranded RNA segments.
- It is transmitted by a white-backed plant hopper (WBPH). Apart from rice, it can also be found in several weed species.
- IARI conducted surveys in 24 fields across Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala, and Yamunanagar.
- The survey showed that the damage in the field ranged from 2 to 20 per cent. The highest damage was recorded in the fields of Panipat, with 20 per cent of the plants damaged by the virus.
- The case of SRBSDV was first recorded in Southern China in 2001.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding the rice dwarfing:**

1. It is caused by fungal disease.
2. Insecticides like buprofezin, acetamiprid, dinotefuran or flonicamid can be sprayed to prevent it.
3. Other method is transplanting the paddy plant.

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:

**Steps taken to prevent rice dwarfing**

- There is no exclusive corrective measure for viral diseases. But IARI has suggested the farmers monitor their fields continuously for the presence of WBPH.
- The plants must be tilted and tapped twice or thrice at the base in a week.
- If WBPH is seen floating in the water, insecticides like buprofezin, acetamiprid, dinotefuran or flonicamid can be sprayed.
- Punjab Agriculture University (PAU) has suggested that the paddy plants be transplanted. This will not only save the plants from diseases but also help in saving water.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Wildlife Corridor in India:**

1. Delhi-Dehradun Expressway is India's first and Asia's largest wildlife corridor.
2. A wildlife corridor is an area of habitat that provides passage for wildlife across artificial obstacles.

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:

- India is paving a new way for wildlife protection. The upcoming Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, which will provide for an elevated wildlife corridor is India's first and Asia's largest.
- A wildlife corridor is an area of habitat that provides passage for wildlife across artificial obstacles such as dams, roads, and railways. It is also known as a habitat corridor or a green corridor.
- In addition to connecting wildlife to habitats, the corridors also facilitate the migration and interbreeding of animals.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Banihal-Katra railway link:**

1. It is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line project.
2. This is the third longest tunnel of Indian railway.
3. It is the world's highest rail bridge over Chenab River.

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:

- Recently, the 9.8 km tunnel connecting two stations on 111 km under-construction Banihal-Katra railway link in Jammu and Kashmir was completed.
- It is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project.
- This is the third tunnel following the 12.6 km tunnel T-49B, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, which was completed in January 2022.
- On 14 August, the world's highest rail bridge over the Chenab river in the Kouri area of Reasi district achieved a milestone when the overarch deck of the bridge was completed with a golden joint.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India".
2. The number of suicides in the daily wage group rose by 11.52 per cent during 2020 to 2021.
3. Tamil Nadu record the highest number of suicides in 2021.

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:

- Recently, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India".
- At the national level, the number of suicides increased by 7.17 per cent from the years 2020 to 2021. However, the number of suicides in the daily wage group rose by 11.52 per cent during this period.
- From the nationwide number in 2021, the maximum of 22,207 suicides were recorded in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (18,925), Madhya Pradesh (14,956), West Bengal (13,500) and Karnataka (13,056).
- Among Union Territories, Delhi recorded the highest number of 2,840 suicides.