

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Washington Declaration:

1. A nuclear consultative group would be formed to formulate principles of joint response tactics.
2. An American nuclear ballistic submarine would be deployed in South China Sea.

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:

According to the Washington declaration,

- a) an American nuclear ballistic submarine would be deployed in the Korean peninsula;
- b) a nuclear consultative group would be formed to formulate principles of joint response tactics;
- c) South Korea would receive Intel from the U.S. regarding nuclear advancements; and
- d) The U.S. will strengthen South Korea's nuclear deterrence capabilities through joint military training programs and an annual intergovernmental simulation.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change:

1. It was hosted by Russia.
2. Members States call for an Acceleration Agenda, where "all countries hit fast-forward on their Net Zero deadlines".
3. The Agenda calls for coal phaseout by 2030 in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries.

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:

- Recently, the Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change was held in Berlin from May 2-3, 2023.
- It was **hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates**, which is hosting the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Ministers from 40 countries attended the conference to discuss the way forward towards COP28.
- United Nations Secretary-General emphasised the need for "cleaning-up economies; breaking fossil fuel addiction and driving decarbonisation in every sector" to achieve a 1.5 degree global warming pathway.
- He also reiterated his earlier call for an **Acceleration Agenda**, where "all countries hit fast-forward on their Net Zero deadlines".
- The Agenda calls for **coal phaseout by 2030 in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, and by 2040 in all others**, as well as achieving Net Zero electricity generation and decarbonising major sectors.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Meitei community is a non-tribal community in Manipur.
2. There was a demand to grant Schedule tribe status to Meitei community.

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:

- Manipur has been restive since February when the BJP-led government launched an eviction drive seen as targeting a specific tribal group.
- The drive led to protests but not on the scale of the one on May 3 triggered by the Manipur High Court's direction to the State to pursue a 10-year-old recommendation to grant **Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the non-tribal Meitei community**.
- The Imphal valley, which comprises about 10% of Manipur's landmass, is dominated by the **non-tribal Meitei who account for more than 64% of the population of the State** and yields 40 of the State's 60 MLAs. The hills comprising 90% of the geographical area are inhabited by more than 35% recognised tribes but send only 20 MLAs to the Assembly.

Q: Laponite is a widely used raw material

- a) Pharmaceutical
- b) Cosmetics industries
- c) Space industry
- d) Both a and b

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Laponite is a widely used raw material in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. This clay comprises disk-shaped particles sized 25 to 30 nanometres (nm) and one nm in thickness.
- Polystyrene beads dispersed in Laponite clay suspension were used for the experimental setup. With time, microstructures were noted to have developed due to the electrostatic interactions between the clay particles.
- These microstructures grew stronger with time, with their network size dependent on the concentration of Laponite particles.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. It is a multilateral grouping comprising eight member states.
2. Iran and Belarus are set to be admitted as full members.
3. Afghanistan and Mongolia are the two dialogue partner.

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:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a multilateral grouping comprising eight member states of China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; four Observer States; and six "Dialogue Partners".
- In 2023 of the four observers, Iran and Belarus are set to be admitted as full members. Afghanistan and Mongolia are the two other observers.
- The dialogue partners are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.