

Q: Recently, Russia halted gas supplies for three days to Europe via Nord Stream 1. Consider the following statement:

1. It is the biggest pipeline transporting natural gas between Russia and Europe via Germany.
2. It runs from Vyborg in Russia to Greifswald in Germany.
3. Russia has completely cut off supplies to France, Spain and Italy.

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:

- Nord Stream 1 is the biggest pipeline transporting natural gas between Russia and Europe via Germany. It runs from Vyborg in Russia to Greifswald in Germany. In 2021, Russia supplied nearly 40 per cent of the EU's natural gas needs through this pipeline.
- It is majorly owned by Gazprom. The twin pipeline system of Nord Stream can transport 55 billion cubic metres of gas from Russia to Europe through the Baltic Sea.
- In June, Russia slashed the supply via Nord Stream to 40 per cent. In July, it was further reduced to 20 per cent.
- Along with the pipeline, Russia has completely cut off supplies to Denmark, Bulgaria, Finland, the Netherlands, and Poland.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Energy price is highest in whole of Europe.
2. Russian threats to choke this gas supply to Europe present an economic threat to Germany.
3. Germany had decided to build Nord Stream 2 to double the supply from Russia.

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:

- Energy prices in Germany, Europe's largest economy, are among the lowest in the continent. This is made possible due to cheap gas supplies via Nord Stream 1.
- This also makes German manufactured goods more competitive in the international market. Russian threats to choke this gas supply to Europe present an economic threat to Germany.
- To expand its options and double the supply from Russia, Germany had decided to build Nord Stream 2. But it was halted in February post-Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Supreme Court held that the activities of the BCCI can be termed as a "shop".
2. The ESI Act is welfare legislation enacted by the Centre.

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:

- Recently, the Supreme Court held that the activities of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are commercial in nature and can be termed as a "shop" for the purposes of attracting the provisions of the Employees State Insurance Act.
- The ESI Act is welfare legislation enacted by the Centre and a narrow meaning should not be attached to the words used in the Act as it seeks to insure the employees of covered establishments against various risks to their life, health, and well-being and places the charge upon the employer.

Q: PM Modi will unveil the new naval ensign that will replace the current flag that has Saint George's Cross with the tricolour in the top left corner. Consider the following statement:

1. Saint George was a Christian warrior during third crusade.
2. The Cross of Saint George is a red cross on a white background.
3. The first ensign of the Indian Navy carried the symbol of the UK's Imperial Legislative Council.

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:

- The Saint George's Red Cross in the Indian Navy's ensign is named after the Christian warrior Saint George, who is believed to have been a crusader during the third crusade.
- The Cross of Saint George is a red cross on a white background.
- The first ensign of the Indian Navy carried the UK flag on a blue background and carried the symbol of the UK's Imperial Legislative Council.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding anti-radiation pills:

1. Potassium iodide (KI) tablets provide some protection in cases of radiation exposure.
2. The tablet help block absorption and subsequent concentration, of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland.
3. Anti-radiation pills provide 100% protection.

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:

- Potassium iodide (KI) tablets, or anti-radiation pills, are known to provide some protection in cases of radiation exposure.
- They contain non-radioactive iodine and can help block absorption, and subsequent concentration, of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland.
- Anti-radiation pills do not provide 100% protection. The effectiveness of KI also depends on how much radioactive iodine gets into the body and how quickly it is absorbed in the body.
- Also, the pills are not meant for everybody. They are recommended for people under 40 years of age. Pregnant and breastfeeding women are also advised to take them.