

Q: Consider the following statement regarding International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):

1. It was established by Iran, Russia and India.
2. The main purpose of the corridor was to reduce carriage costs and transit time between India and Russia.
3. INSTC links the Pacific Ocean to the Oman Sea via the Persian Gulf.

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:

- International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200 km-long transportation network offering the shortest connectivity route to its member states.
- It was established on September 12, 2000, by Iran, Russia and India. The corridor encompasses sea, road and rail routes.
- The main purpose of the corridor was to reduce carriage costs and transit time between India and Russia. The transit time is expected to reduce to almost half, once the corridor becomes fully functional.
- The agreement has been ratified by 13 countries namely, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Ukraine.
- INSTC links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea via the Persian Gulf.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the recently launched Platform of Platform:

1. Finance Minister had launched Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).
2. It will facilitate farmers to sell the produce outside their state borders.
3. It will increase farmers' digital access to multiple markets.

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 Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, launched the Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) on the sidelines of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers' Conference in Bengaluru.
- Equity grant of over Rs 37 crore was also released to 1,018 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) that will benefit about 3.5 lakh farmers.
- With the introduction of POP, farmers will be facilitated to sell the produce outside their state borders.
- This will increase farmers' digital access to multiple markets, buyers and service providers and bring transparency in business transactions with the aim of improving price search mechanism and quality commensurate price realisation.

Q: The US House of Representatives approves an India-specific waiver for punitive CAATSA sanctions for its purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Russia. Consider the following statement:

1. The US has already imposed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia.
2. CAATSA is a tough US law that authorises the US administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014

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:

- Authored and introduced by Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna, the amendment urges the Biden administration to use their authority to provide India with a Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAASTA) waiver to help deter aggressors like China.
- CAATSA is a tough US law that authorises the US administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections.
- The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.
- The US has already imposed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of a batch of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia.

Q: Four labour codes, which had been passed by the Parliament, had not yet been implemented. Consider the following statement:

1. Injeti Srinivas Committee is working towards the issues of minimum wages.
2. Labour is a State subject.

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:

- The Code on Wages (passed in Parliament in August, 2019), the Industrial Relations Code, the Code on Social Security, and the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (all passed on September 22 and 23, 2020 in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha) have not yet been implemented.
- As labour is a concurrent subject, both the States and the Centre will have to prepare rules for the codes. The Centre had also offered help to the States so that the codes can be implemented from July 1, 2022.
- The Centre intends to implement the four codes together.
- The SP Mukherjee committee, which is working towards the issue of minimum wages, is yet to complete its task. Setting a national minimum wage is important in the implementation of the Code on Wages.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding "Right to Repair"

1. It aims to reduce e-waste.
2. Vasudev Committee is set to develop comprehensive framework on 'Right to repair'.

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:

- Recently, the Department of Consumer Affairs has set up a committee chaired by Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare to develop comprehensive framework on 'Right to repair'.
- To empower consumers, harmonise trade between the original equipment manufacturers and the third-party buyers and sellers, and reduce e-waste.

- The move comes in a bid to put a greater emphasis on Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) movement through sustainable consumption which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.