

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

1. Prior to the creation of SCO, it was termed as Shanghai Five.
2. Kyrgyzstan was the founding member of Shanghai Five.
3. Following the accession of Tajikistan to the organization in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.

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:

- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It was created in 2001. The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- The SCO countries comprise of Member States, Observer States and Dialogue Partners, including China, Russia and Mongolia. Several scholars – delegates from SCO are resending research papers on the topic including from Dunhuang Research Academy, China; State Museum of the History of Religion, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Myanmar, among others.
- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five.
- Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organization in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.
- On 17th September, 2021, it was announced that Iran would become a full member of the SCO.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding PTO Shaft:

1. It is a critical component in the UAVs.
2. It enables it to negotiate different operating engine speeds.
3. It transmits higher power between engine gear box.

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:

- The PTO shaft, which is a critical component in the aircraft, will support the requirements of future fighter aircraft & their variants and offers competitive cost & reduced time of availability.
- The PTO shaft was designed with unique innovative patented 'Frequency Spanning Technique' which enables it to negotiate different operating engine speeds.
- The light weight high speed, lubrication free PTO shaft transmits higher power between aircraft engine gear box and Aircraft Mounted Accessory Gear Box while accommodating misalignments that arise in the drive line.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Exercise Bold Kurukshetra:

1. The exercises are conducted between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army.
2. This year the exercise is conducted in India, Jodhpur.

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:

- The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise from 06-13 March 2023 at Jodhpur Military Station, India.
- Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is conducted under the ambit of the bilateral arrangement for the joint Army Training and exercises between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army.
- First conducted in 2005, this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies.

- Both defence establishments also interact regularly through high-level visits, policy dialogues, courses and other professional exchanges.

Q: Consider the following statement the pillars of ATL Sarthi and choose the incorrect option:

- a) Regular process improvements
- b) Ensure financial and non-financial compliances
- c) Collaboration with relevant local authorities through Cluster-based Approach
- d) It does not provide ownership to schools.

Ans: d

Explanation:

- As the name suggests, Sarthi is a charioteer and ATL Sarthi will enable the ATLS to be efficient and effective.
- The initiative has four pillars ensuring the performance enhancement of ATLS through
 - a) regular process improvements like a self-reporting dashboard known as ‘MyATL Dashboard’
 - b) Compliance SOPs for schools to ensure financial and non-financial compliances
 - c) on-ground enablement of ATLS in collaboration with relevant local authorities through Cluster-based Approach
 - d) providing ownership to schools to analyze their performance through Performance-Enablement (PE) Matrix.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding AUKUS:

1. It is aimed at preserving a “free and open” Indo-Pacific.
2. The first aspect of the pact is equipping Australia with submarines.
3. It is a comprehensive trade agreement between Australia, UK and the US.

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 defence deal called AUKUS was agreed upon by Australia, UK and the US in September 2021.
- The first aspect of the pact is equipping Australia with submarines and this part of the agreement is called Pillar One. The US and UK will share plans for their submarines that will help Australia build its own eventually.
- The AUKUS agreement is aimed at preserving a “free and open” Indo-Pacific.
- Before the pact, Australia planned to buy diesel-powered subs from France in a \$60 billion deal in 2016.