

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Navy new ensign:**

1. It has gold octagonal at the center of the fly side.
2. The octagonal shape symbolising the Indian Navy's global outreach.
3. The twin octagonal borders draw their inspiration from Seal of Chola ruler, Rajendra Chola.

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 White Ensign identified nation-wide with the Navy, now comprises of two main constituents - the National Flag in the upper left canton, and a Navy Blue - Gold octagon at the centre of the fly side (away from the staff).
- The Navy Blue colour of the above octagonal shape depicts the blue water capabilities of the Indian Navy.
- The twin octagonal borders draw their inspiration from Seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, one of the prominent Indian kings with a visionary maritime outlook, who built a credible Naval Fleet that earned grudging admiration from European Navies operating in the region at the time.
- The octagonal shape also represents the eight directions (four cardinal and four inter cardinal), symbolising the Indian Navy's global outreach. The Octagon stands for good fortune, eternity, renewal and draws positive energy from all directions.

**Q: Recently, an Educational Survey Division (ESD) of NCERT releases a report titled. 'Projection and Trends of School Enrolment by 2025'. Consider the following statement regarding the key highlights:**

1. Overall enrolment in schools will increase by more than 15 per cent by 2025.
2. The enrolment of scheduled caste students would remain unchanged for the next 5-10 years.
3. Decline in the child population in different age groups is reflected in the enrolment at each stage.

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:

- It has projected that the overall enrolment in schools will have declined by more than 14 per cent by 2025, beginning from 2011, with the enrolment of girls expected to decline by over 2 per cent more than that of boys.
- The enrolment of scheduled caste students would remain unchanged for the next 5-10 years, while the number of students from scheduled tribe will face stagnation after 2023-24.
- The report said that enrolment is a function of population, so a decline in the child population in the age groups of 6-11, 11-14, and 14-16 years is reflected in the enrolment at each stage.

**Q: Recently, Greenpeace India released a report titled "Different Air Under One Sky". Consider the following statement:**

1. PM2.5 refers to fine particles which penetrate deep into the body and affect lungs and respiratory tract.
2. The highest exposure to PM 2.5 is Haryana.
3. The greatest proportion of people living in India are exposed to PM2.5 concentrations.

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: c

Explanation:

- PM2.5 refers to fine particles which penetrate deep into the body and fuel inflammation in the lungs and respiratory tract, leading to the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory problems, including a weak immune system.
- The greatest proportion of people living in India are exposed to PM2.5 concentrations more than five times the WHO annual average guideline.
- The 62 per cent of pregnant women in the country live in the most polluted areas, compared to 56 per cent people in the whole population.
- As per the report's annual average PM2.5 exposure analysis, the region with the highest exposure to pollution in the country is Delhi-NCR.
- It listed older adults, infants and pregnant women as the most vulnerable groups who are "exposed to worse air."

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding old INS Vikrant:**

1. It played a major role in 1962, India-China War.
2. The ship was decommissioned in 2003.

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 old INS Vikrant played a major role in India's decisive victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan. It helped suppress the ground movements and resupply the Pakistani Army in the east by blockading East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) as a whole.
- The ship was decommissioned in 1997 and laid anchored off Mumbai Harbour, serving as a museum.
- In 2013, the central government decided to scrap the ship as it was becoming too expensive for its upkeep. Despite opposition from certain groups, the ship was sold off to Darukhana ship-breaker for Rs 60 crore. The ship was finally scrapped in 2014.

**Q: Consider the following statement:**

1. Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty
2. Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF)
3. New START Treaty

Which of the above following treaty, US withdraw?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The first signal was the U.S. withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 2002 on the grounds that it unduly constrained its missile defence activities.
- Limits imposed by the ABM Treaty had been a critical element in creating mutual vulnerability as a means of underwriting deterrence stability. It was a unipolar world with the U.S. as the dominant power. Russia gradually responded by embarking on its nuclear modernisation.

- In 2019, the U.S. notified Russia of its decision to quit the 1987 Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty that had obliged both countries to get rid of all ground-launched missiles with a range of 500-5,500 km. The U.S. blamed Russia for cheating on its obligations and pointed out that China's missile developments created new security threats that needed to be addressed.
- The only surviving arms control treaty between Russia and the U.S. is the New START Treaty that imposes a ceiling on operational strategic nuclear weapons of 700 launchers and 1,550 warheads each. It expires in 2026 and there are no signs of any follow-on discussions.