

Q: Recently “Operation Joint Sword” was in news. It was

- Combat readiness patrol by China against Taiwan.
- Pakistan operation against Balochi rebels.
- France conducting operation against Serian rebels.
- Israel operation against Hizballah militants.

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Recently, China’s military declared that it is “ready to fight” after completing three days of large-scale combat exercises around Taiwan that simulated sealing off the island in response to the Taiwanese President’s recent trip to the U.S.
- The “combat readiness patrols” named **Joint Sword** were meant as a warning to self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own.
- The exercises were similar to the ones conducted by China in 2022 August, when it launched missile strikes on targets in the seas around Taiwan in retaliation for then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan, but have been smaller and less disruptive.
- The exercises serve both as intimidation and as an opportunity for Chinese troops to practice sealing off Taiwan by blocking sea and air traffic, an important strategic option the Chinese military might pursue in the event it uses military force to take Taiwan.

Q: Consider the following statement:

- Orion is an exercise that is being hosted by USA.
- Iniochos-23, which is being hosted by Greece.
- India and the US began their bilateral air exercise ‘Cope India 23’ in Panagarh sector.

Chose the correct option from the codes given below:

- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3
- 1 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Recently, India and the US began their bilateral air exercise ‘Cope India 23’ in the crucial Panagarh sector under the Eastern Command, home to XVII Corps, the India’s only mountain strike corps aimed at China.
- The exercise will see transport aircraft and fighters in action.
- India will also send its Rafale fighters to France in April 2023 to take part in their multilateral air exercise that will see the participation of the country’s NATO allies.
- Orion is an exercise that is being hosted by France, involving many of its NATO and other important allies.
- This would be the first time when Rafales will fly off to take part in an exercise.
- After this, the IAF will send in its Su-30 MKI for Iniochos-23, which is being hosted by Greece. Also participating will be the US, France, Italy, Jordan and Saudi Arabia among others.

Q: Consider the following statement:

- All India National Party status of All India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Communist Party of India (CPI) had been revoked.
- The AAP has the status of a national party as it secured nearly 13% of the vote share and five seats.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- 1 and 2
- None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Recently, the Election Commission recognised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a national party, while revoking that status of the All-India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Communist Party of India (CPI).
- The AAP has the status of a national party as it secured nearly 13% of the vote share and five seats in the Gujarat Assembly polls earlier in 2023, making it a State party in four States; Delhi, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat.
- The NCP lost its status as a State party in Goa, Manipur and Meghalaya; the CPI in West Bengal and Odisha; while the Trinamool was derecognised as a State party in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the condition to be consider as a National Party:

1. Party should be 'recognised' in four or more states.
2. If its candidates polled at least 6% of total valid votes in any four or more states in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections and has at least four MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls.
3. If it has won at least 2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from not less than three states.

Chose 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:

- A National Party would be one that has a presence 'nationally', as opposed to a regional party whose presence is restricted to only a particular state or region.
- As per the ECI's Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook, a political party would be considered a national party if:
 - a) it is 'recognised' in four or more states; or
 - b) if its candidates polled at least 6% of total valid votes in any four or more states in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections and has at least four MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls; or
 - c) if it has won at least 2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from not less than three states.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

1. It is a military alliance established by North Atlantic Treaty.
2. Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Norway its original members.
3. Canada withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966.

Chose 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:

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- There are currently 31 member states.
- Its original members were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Joining the original signatories were Greece and Turkey (1952), West Germany (1955, from 1990 as Germany), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017), North Macedonia (2020) and Finland (2023).
- France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organization, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.