

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the SIPRI Report:

1. India was the biggest arms export market to Russia, France and Israel.
2. India was also the third largest market for South Africa.
3. India was the third largest arms supplier to Saudi Arabia.

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:

- As per latest SIPRI data, among the top 10 arms exporters for the period 2018 to 2022, India was the biggest arms export market to three countries; Russia, France and Israel and the second largest export market to South Korea.
- India was also the third largest market for South Africa, which was ranked 21 in the list of arms exporters.
- For the same period, India remained the largest arms importer followed by Saudi Arabia. Russia accounted for 45% of India's imports followed by France (29%) and the U.S. (11%).
- Also, India was the third largest arms supplier to Myanmar after Russia and China accounting for 14% of its imports.

Q: Recently, the Supreme Court referred the pleas seeking legal validation of same-sex marriages to a five-judge constitution bench for adjudication. Consider the following statement:

1. The centre was in favour of seeking legal validation of same sex marriage.
2. The three-judge Bench invoked Article 145(3) of the Constitution to refer the case to a five-judge Bench.
3. The bench observed growing up with lesbian or gay parents will not necessarily make a child lesbian or gay.

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:

- Chief Justice said the case involved an "interplay" between constitutional rights of life, liberty, dignity, equal treatment of members of the LGBTQ+ community on one side and specific statutory enactments that consider only a married union between a biological man and woman on the other.
- The three-judge Bench, also comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala, invoked Article 145(3) of the Constitution to refer the case to a five-judge Bench.
- The Centre has opposed in the top court a batch of petitions seeking legal validation of same-sex marriages, claiming they will cause a complete havoc with the delicate balance of personal laws and accepted societal values.
- Growing up with lesbian or gay parents will not necessarily make a child lesbian or gay, the Supreme Court observed, as it confronted the government's concern about the "psychological" impact same-sex marriages may have on children.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. NIRDPR, ICRISAT sign MoU to promote dryland crops, climate-smart farming.
2. Under the agreement, it encourage rural incubation by integrating with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) activities.

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 National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed a MoU to strengthen evidence-based research and capacity building on critical development issues.
- The Memorandum of Understanding aims to promote collaboration between the two institutions in areas such as climate change adaptation, rural entrepreneurship development, value chain development, sharing international best practices, scaling-up of identified agricultural and rural technologies, and livelihood development.

- Under the agreement, the two institutions will focus on different collaborative activities by sharing each other's strengths, including developing Rurban' clusters for ICRISAT mandate crops through value chain development, encouraging rural incubation and entrepreneurship development by integrating with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) activities.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding recently released SIPRI Report:

1. India is the largest arms importer.
2. Russia was the largest supplier of arms to India.
3. France is the second largest arms supplier to India.

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:

- India remained the world's largest arms importer for the five-year period between 2018 and 2022 even though its arms imports dropped by 11% between 2013-2017 and 2018-2022, according to the Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- Russia was the largest supplier of arms to India from 2013 to 2022, but its share of total imports fell from 64% to 45% while France is the second largest supplier.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding exercise La Perouse

1. This is a biennial exercise.
2. This exercise is conducted by French Navy.
3. This year the exercise is conducted in Pacific Ocean.

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 third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse commenced in the Indian Ocean Region recently.
- The biennial exercise La Perouse is conducted by the French Navy, and is aimed at enhancing maritime domain awareness and optimising maritime coordination amongst the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific Region.
- This edition will witness participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy and the United States Navy.