

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding GSIMIA:**

1. It is an intelligence pact generally known as General Security of Military Information Agreement.
2. It is a military agreement between Japan and South Korea.
3. The agreement enables Japan and South Korea to share information about China's military and nuclear activities directly with each other.

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:

- South Korea wanted a “complete normalisation” of a 2016 military agreement called the **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**, which enables the two U.S. allies (South Korea and Japan) to share military secrets, particularly over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile capacity.
- The intelligence pact, known as GSOMIA (General Security of Military Information Agreement), allowed the two countries to share information about North Korea's military and nuclear activities directly with each other.
- Without it, information would have had to go through their joint-allies in Washington, slowing the process down.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding the recent study on Sucralose on mice:**

1. Sucralose is less sweetener than Sucrose.
2. It affects the membrane order of Tcells.
3. Normal intake of sucralose is immunosuppressive.

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:

- A recent study, provides evidence that high doses of sucralose, a calorie-free sugar substitute that is 600 times sweeter than sucrose and approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use as a general-purpose sweetener, can limit immune responses in mice.
- Sucralose is generally regarded as safe, the reason why the FDA has approved it. However, of late, concerns have been raised about the long-term safety of certain sweeteners.
- In line with these concerns, the latest study has shown that intake of high doses of sucralose in mice results in “immunomodulatory effects by limiting Tcell proliferation and Tcell differentiation”.
- The researchers have now shown that sucralose affects the membrane order of Tcells, accompanied by a reduced efficiency of Tcell receptor signalling and intracellular calcium mobilisation.
- The findings do not provide evidence that normal sucralose intake is immunosuppressive, but they do demonstrate that at high (but achievable) doses, sucralose has an unexpected effect on Tcell responses and functions in autoimmune, infection as well as tumour models.

**Q: Tamil Nadu has pioneered an initiative across the State to reduce the mortality rate among people with tuberculosis. Consider the following statement regarding tuberculosis:**

1. It is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
2. It only affects the lungs in human being.
3. The bacteria can affect both human and animal.

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:

- TB is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis, belonging to the Mycobacteriaceae family consisting of about 200 members.
- Some of Mycobacteria cause diseases like TB and Leprosy in humans and others infect a wide range of animals.
- In humans, TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other organs (extra-pulmonary TB).
- TB is a very ancient disease and has been documented to have existed in Egypt as early as 3000 BC.
- TB is a treatable and curable disease.

**Q: Consider the following:**

1. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act
2. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act
3. The Whistleblower Protection Act

Which among the following act empowers women in India?

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- In India, laws like **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, The Pregnancy Discrimination Act, The Equal Pay Act, The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)**, The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and **The Whistleblower Protection Act** have empowered women.
- Employers are subject to reputational damage and expensive legal proceedings if the laws are not enforced in the workplace. This depicts human behaviour when subjected to punishments.

**Q: Recently, Constitutional Bench referred petitions to legally recognise same-sex marriages. Consider the following statement:**

1. In K.S. Puttaswamy verdict, it upheld the right to privacy to LGBTQIA+.
2. In Navtej Singh Johar case, it decriminalised homosexuality.
3. LGBTQIA+ couples can have a child by surrogacy.

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:

- After the K.S. Puttaswamy verdict (2017) which upheld the right to privacy and Navtej Singh Johar (2018) that decriminalised homosexuality, there was hope that same-sex marriages would be legalised, but that has not been the case, prompting many couples to move court.
- It submitted that despite the decriminalisation of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, the petitioners cannot seek same-sex marriage to be treated as a fundamental right and be recognised under the laws of the country.
- For example, LGBTQIA+ couples cannot adopt children or have a child by surrogacy; they do not have automatic rights to inheritance, maintenance and tax benefits; after a partner passes away, they cannot avail of benefits like pension or compensation.