

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the recent held G7 Summit:

1. G7 group announced \$600 billion for global infrastructure programmes in poor countries to compete with China's formidable Belt and Road Initiative.
2. Germany holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022.
3. European Union is the member of G7 Group.

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 G7 group announced an **attempt to compete** with **China's formidable Belt and Road Initiative** by raising \$600 billion for global infrastructure programmes in poor countries.
- The G7 is an informal forum of leading industrialised nations, which include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Representatives of the European Union are always present at the annual meeting of the heads of state and government of the G7.
- **Germany holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022.**
- Germany invited India, along with Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa to the 2022 Summit as partner countries.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, will take part virtually.

Q: Recently Russia has promised its ally Belarus to deliver Iskander missiles. Consider the following statement:

1. This missile carry only conventional warheads.
2. "SS-26 Stone" is the codename used by NATO for this missile.
3. Iskander system was inducted by Russia in 2006.

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:

- **Codenamed "SS-26 Stone"** by NATO, Iskander-M is a term used by Russia to define both the **transporter-erector launch system** and the **short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)** it fires.
- The Iskander-M missile has a **range of 500 km** and it can **carry a payload of up to 700 kg**. It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- The conventional warheads can be equipped with include cluster bombs, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) warheads and bunker-buster munitions, according to US-based Missile Defence Advocacy Alliance (MDAA).
- The export variant, Iskander-E, has a range of 280 km with a reduced 480 kg payload.
- While the Iskander system was **inducted by Russia in 2006.**

Q: The Forest Department in Odisha is experimenting with a siren system to reduce human-elephant encounters. Consider the following statement:

1. The siren system detects elephant herds by its infrared sensor system.
2. There is an in-built programme to identify jumbos from their sizes and other attributes.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- The Forest Department in Odisha is experimenting with a siren system, which would **go off automatically sensing elephant herds crossing the National Highway** to reduce human-elephant encounters.
- The system has been installed at two places at Ratasingha and Haldihabahal to assess its operability and how seamless it can work to prevent encounters with wild elephants.
- The siren system detects elephant herds approaching National Highway by its infrared sensor system.
- There is an in-built programme to identify jumbos from their sizes and other attributes.
- Once detected, the siren would go off alerting traffic from both sides.

Q: Recently China had built a Model Village near LAC. Consider the following statement:

1. Captive solar energy
2. Small hydel power projects
3. Winter sustenance capability

Which among the following is a part of Model Village?

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- They have also set up **captive solar energy and small hydel power projects** all along the LAC. This enhances their **winter sustenance capability** manifold, this is apart from the model villages they are building all along the LAC.
- Four PLA Divisions under the Xinjiang military district are being rotated on their side facing eastern Ladakh.
- All these Divisions are in the process of being converted into Combined Arms Brigade (CAB).

Q: Consider the following statement regarding India-Vietnam Defence Partnership:

1. India extended \$500 million Defence Line of credit to Vietnam.
2. India fails to support Vietnam's position in the South China Sea.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The two countries recently **deepened bilateral cooperation** with the signing of the **Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030** during the recent visit of India's Defence Minister to Vietnam.
- In the meeting, the early finalisation of the **\$500 million Defence Line of Credit extended by India** to the latter along with the implementation of existing projects which would complement India's 'Make in India, Make for the world' and Hanoi's defence capabilities were also discussed.
- Indeed, it is believed that **Vietnam used the term Indo-Pacific for the first time in 2018 in its joint statement with India.**
- India has supported Vietnam's position in the South China Sea with respect to China's destabilising actions and coercive tactics **backing the verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the case brought by Manila in 2016** and reiterating the irrefutability of the UNCLOS.