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1) Which of the following statements best describes the distinguishing features of **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**?

1. They enjoy enhanced financial and operational autonomy compared to Navratna CPSEs.
2. They can undertake equity investments up to ₹5,000 crore without prior government approval.
3. Any profit-making Public Sector Undertaking is eligible for Maharatna status by default.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Maharatna companies have **greater autonomy** than Navratna firms (investment, expansion, mergers, etc.).
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** They can invest up to **₹5,000 crore or 15% of net worth** (whichever is lower).
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Maharatna status is **not automatic**—strict criteria (turnover, net worth, global presence, etc.) must be met.

2) With reference to the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to establish a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem including fabrication and packaging.
2. It is implemented under the administrative control of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
3. It is limited exclusively to design-linked incentives and excludes manufacturing support.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** ISM covers **fabs, ATMP units, design ecosystem.**
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It operates under **MeitY.**
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** It **includes manufacturing,** not just design.

3) Consider the following statements regarding the **SAMARTH Scheme:**

1. It is aimed at capacity building and skill development in the textile sector.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
3. It seeks to generate sustainable employment across the textile value chain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Focus on **textile workforce skilling.**
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Implemented by **Ministry of Textiles,** not MSDE.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Employment generation is a core aim.

4) With reference to **Eri Silk,** consider the following:

1. It is popularly referred to as 'Ahimsa Silk'.
2. The production process involves killing the silkworm to extract silk fibre.
3. It is predominantly produced in the northeastern region of India.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Called **Ahimsa Silk** as worms are not killed.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Silk is extracted **without killing** the worm.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Mainly produced in **Assam and NE India.**

5) The **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005** was enacted with which of the following objectives?

1. Promotion of exports of goods and services
2. Development of world-class infrastructure
3. Attraction of foreign direct investment

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

All three are **explicit objectives** of SEZ policy:

- Export promotion

- Infrastructure creation
- FDI attraction

6) Consider the following statements regarding India's textile sector:

1. India is among the leading producers of both cotton and jute globally.
2. The textile sector is the largest employer in India.
3. India contributes significantly to global handloom and handicraft production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** India is a **top cotton & jute producer**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Agriculture is largest; textiles is **second-largest employer**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Major contributor to **handloom sector globally**.

7) With reference to the **Viability Gap Funding Scheme**, consider the following:

1. It provides financial support to infrastructure projects that are economically justified but not financially viable.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Finance.
3. The financial assistance under VGF can exceed 50% of the total project cost.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Core idea = **bridge viability gap**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Managed by **Dept of Economic Affairs (MoF)**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Generally capped at **20% (can extend to 40%)**, not beyond 50%.

8) Consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide free electricity through rooftop solar installations.
2. The scheme is restricted exclusively to rural households.
3. It contributes to reduction of carbon emissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Free electricity (up to limit) via rooftop solar.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Covers **both rural & urban households**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Promotes **clean energy transition**.

- 9) With reference to **Green Hydrogen**, consider the following:
1. It is produced using renewable energy sources such as solar or wind.
 2. Its production process emits significant greenhouse gases.
 3. It is a key component of India's National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Electrolysis using **renewables**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** It is **low/zero emission**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Central to India's hydrogen strategy.

- 10) Consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization operating within the OECD framework.
2. Membership is restricted to OECD countries.
3. India is a full member of the IEA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Works under **OECD framework**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Full membership = **OECD members only**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** India is an **association country**, not full member.

- 11) With reference to coal resources in India, consider the following:

1. Classification of coal grades in India is based on Gross Calorific Value (GCV).
2. India is the world's leading producer of anthracite coal.
3. Gondwana coalfields account for the bulk of India's coal reserves and production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** GCV-based grading.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** India has **very little anthracite**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Gondwana = **~98% coal reserves**.

- 12) Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Direct Investment:

1. It includes reinvestment of earnings by foreign entities.

- 2. It necessarily implies transfer of management control to the foreign investor.
- 3. It includes intra-company loans between parent and subsidiary firms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Reinvested earnings are part of FDI.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Control is **not mandatory** (can be minority stake $\geq 10\%$).
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Includes **intra-company debt transactions**.

13) Match List-I (Greenhouse Gas) with List-II (Primary Anthropogenic Source):

List-I

List-II (Primary Anthropogenic Source)

Methane (CH₄)

4. Livestock digestion, rice paddies, landfills

Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)

3. Agricultural activities (soil management, fertilizer use)

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

2. Combustion of fossil fuels, deforestation

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) 1. Industrial processes, use in refrigerants

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 4 3 2 1
- b) 2 1 4 3
- c) 4 1 2 3
- d) 2 3 4 1

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Methane (CH₄): Produced mainly by enteric fermentation in livestock, rice paddies, and decomposition of organic waste in landfills → matches with 4.
- Nitrous Oxide (N₂O): Emitted primarily from agricultural activities, including synthetic fertilizers, manure management, and some industrial processes → matches with 3.
- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): Released largely from fossil fuel combustion and deforestation → matches with 2.

- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs): Synthetic gases used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and foams → matches with 1.

14) Which of the following best explains why the LICONN (Light-Microscopy-Based Connectomics) technique is considered a major breakthrough in neuroscience?

- a) It enables real-time decoding of human thoughts and emotions.
- b) It allows nanoscale mapping of neuronal connections using conventional light microscopy, earlier possible mainly with electron microscopy.
- c) It employs MRI to construct 3D vascular maps of the brain.
- d) It enables regeneration of damaged neurons in the central nervous system.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- LICONN is significant because it enables synapse-level mapping of neuronal connections at nanoscale resolution using light microscopes, a feat earlier limited to electron microscopy.
- It achieves this by expanding brain tissue using hydrogels, applying fluorescent labeling, and using AI-based image analysis, making connectomics more accessible and scalable.

15) Which one of the following best describes the purpose of the 'Unwilling or Unable' doctrine in international law?

- a) To force states to accede to international treaties
- b) To justify humanitarian intervention to protect civilian populations
- c) To permit the use of force against non-state actors located in another state when that state cannot or will not neutralise the threat
- d) To penalise states failing to meet their UN financial obligations

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The 'Unwilling or Unable' doctrine relates to the right of self-defence. It allows a state to use force against non-state actors (such as terrorist groups) operating from another state's territory if the host state is unwilling or incapable of preventing those threats.
- The doctrine is controversial, as it can undermine state sovereignty, and it is not recognised as settled customary international law, though it has been invoked by countries such as the United States in counter-terrorism operations.