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1) **With reference to the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory regulatory authority functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines.
2. It is entrusted with the enforcement of the Mines Act, 1952, and the rules framed thereunder.
3. Its headquarters is situated at Dhanbad, popularly known as the Coal Capital of India.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Although DGMS regulates mining safety, it functions under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, not the Ministry of Mines. Its mandate relates to occupational safety, health, and welfare of mine workers.
- Statement 2 is correct: DGMS is the nodal authority for administering and enforcing the Mines Act, 1952, along with allied rules applicable to coal, metalliferous, and oil mines.
- Statement 3 is correct: The headquarters of DGMS is located in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, widely referred to as the Coal Capital of India due to its rich coal resources.

2) **Consider the following statements regarding the Official Secrets Act, 1923 (OSA):**

1. The Act exclusively criminalizes spying activities undertaken by foreign nationals on Indian soil.
2. Wrongful communication of sensitive information under Section 5 of the OSA is punishable only if it is proven to be intentional.
3. Prosecutions under the OSA must always be conducted in open court to ensure transparency.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect – The OSA applies to any individual, including Indian citizens, government officials, civilians, and foreign nationals. It is not limited to foreigners.
- Statement 2: Incorrect – Section 5 punishes wrongful communication even if unintentional or due to negligence; intent is not required to establish liability.
- Statement 3: Incorrect – Prosecutions can be held in-camera to protect national security; open court is not mandatory.

3) Consider the following statements regarding the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) of the Indian Air Force:

1. IACCS was indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. The system integrates inputs only from military radar systems and airborne surveillance platforms.
3. A key capability of IACCS is to generate a unified air situation picture enabling centralised control and decentralised execution of air defence operations.
4. IACCS is designed mainly to counter conventional aircraft and cannot effectively handle drone or missile threats.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. IACCS was developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), not exclusively by DRDO.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. IACCS integrates data from military and civilian radars, AWACS/AEW&C platforms, and networked aircraft, providing a comprehensive air picture.
- Statement 3 is correct. It enables a real-time common air picture, allowing centralised command with decentralised operational response.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. IACCS can detect and respond to aircraft, drones, and missile threats, and is designed to be future-ready for advanced aerial challenges.

4) Consider the following functionaries in the context of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):

1. Chief of Defence Staff
2. Secretary, Defence Research and Development
3. Minister of State for Defence (Raksha Rajya Mantri)
4. Union Finance Minister

Which of the above are members of the Defence Acquisition Council?

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Defence Acquisition Council is chaired by the Raksha Mantri and includes the Ministers of State for Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, and the Chiefs of the three Armed Services.
- Its bureaucratic members include the Defence Secretary, Secretary (Defence Production), Secretary (Defence R&D)—who also heads DRDO—and Secretary (Defence Finance).
- The Union Finance Minister is not a member of the DAC; financial inputs are provided through the Secretary (Defence Finance).

5) **Consider the following statements with reference to the Census of India, 2027:**

1. Statement I: The Census 2027 will be India's first synchronous decennial census conducted after a gap of more than ten years.
2. Statement II: The 2027 Census proposes to introduce a self-enumeration mechanism, enabling citizens to submit their details digitally.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
- b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct: India last conducted a synchronous census in 2011. The scheduled 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a prolonged gap. Hence, the 2027 Census marks the resumption of the decennial exercise.
- Statement II is correct: The upcoming census introduces a digital self-enumeration facility for the first time, allowing individuals to provide information through an online platform or mobile application.
- However, the digital self-enumeration feature does not explain the delay in conducting the census; the delay was caused by pandemic-related disruptions.

6) **What is the primary objective of the "Mission 100% Railway Electrification" undertaken by Indian Railways?**

- a) To convert all broad-gauge railway lines into dedicated high-speed rail corridors
- b) To introduce electric double-decker train connectivity to all North-Eastern State capitals
- c) To transfer freight train operations entirely to private operators
- d) To phase out diesel traction in order to reduce carbon emissions and dependence on imported fuels

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Mission 100% Railway Electrification seeks to eliminate diesel-based traction from the Indian Railways network. By shifting to electric traction, the initiative aims to cut carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels.
- Electric trains also lower operating costs and support India's broader goal of developing a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable railway system.

7) **Consider the following statements regarding the Kandha tribe and their tradition of facial tattooing:**

1. Statement-I: The practice of facial tattooing among Kandha women originated primarily as an aesthetic tradition to enhance marital eligibility and signify tribal identity.

2. Statement-II: The decline in the facial tattooing tradition among younger Kandha women is largely attributed to increased education, awareness campaigns, and a shift in cultural perceptions of relevance and protection.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement-I: Incorrect – Facial tattooing among Kandha women originated as a protective measure, to make women appear unattractive and prevent sexual exploitation by landlords and colonial authorities. Later, it became associated with tribal identity and marital eligibility, but protection was its primary purpose.
- Statement-II: Correct – The tradition has largely disappeared among women under 40 due to education, awareness campaigns, and changing cultural perceptions, reducing the perceived need for protection or identity marking.

8) Consider the following statements about different life forms of plants:

1. Epiphytic: Plants which derive nutrients from fungi attached to the roots of a vascular plant.
2. Terrestrial: Plants growing on land, including climbers.
3. Mycoheterotrophic: Plants growing on other plants.

Which of the above statements are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is Incorrect. Epiphytic plants grow on other plants or surfaces like rocks but do not derive nutrients from fungi.
- Statement 2 is Correct. Terrestrial plants include those growing on land, which can include climbers.
- Statement 3 is Incorrect. Mycoheterotrophic plants derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi attached to vascular plant roots, rather than growing directly on other plants.

9) Consider the following Statements regarding the Preamble of the Indian Constitution:

1. Inspired by the American constitutional model, India adopted the practice of beginning its Constitution with a Preamble.
2. The ideals that shaped India's freedom struggle find expression in the Preamble.
3. The Preamble embodies the philosophy and core values of the Constitution.
4. It serves as a guiding yardstick to assess the constitutionality and moral validity of laws and governmental actions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only

- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is Correct: The idea of a Preamble was inspired by the American Constitution, and many modern constitutions follow this practice.
- Statement 2 is Correct: Values such as justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, nurtured during the freedom struggle, are embedded in the Preamble.
- Statement 3 is Correct: The Preamble reflects the philosophy, objectives, and spirit of the Constitution and is often described as its “soul.”
- Statement 4 is Correct: While not enforceable by itself, the Preamble acts as a guiding principle for interpreting constitutional provisions and evaluating laws and state actions.

10) Consider the following statements regarding Shrutakevalins in Jainism:

1. Shrutakevalins refer to Jain ascetics who possessed complete knowledge of the Jain Agamas (canonical texts).
2. The Digambara tradition holds that Shrutakevalins never existed in the Jain tradition.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. In Jain philosophy, Shrutakevalins are ascetics who attained comprehensive scriptural knowledge, though not absolute omniscience (Kevala Jnana).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the Digambara sect, there were five Shrutakevalins, namely Govarddhana Mahamuni, Vishnu, Nandimitra, Aparajita, and Bhadrabahu.

11) Consider the following Statements regarding the Anubhava Mantapa established by Basavanna:

1. It functioned as an appellate body to hear cases decided by local public institutions.
2. It served as a forum for open discussion on spiritual and ethical questions of life.
3. It deliberated upon broader political issues affecting governance and administration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Anubhava Mantapa, meaning the “hall of spiritual experience”, was an innovative socio-religious institution introduced by Basavanna in 12th-century Karnataka.
- It provided an inclusive platform for men and women from all social backgrounds to engage in spiritual, ethical, and philosophical discussions, often expressed through Vachanas.
- It did not function as a judicial appellate body (Statement 1 incorrect) nor as a forum for formal political or administrative deliberations (Statement 3 incorrect).

12) Consider the following Statements regarding the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme:

1. The World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement makes it compulsory for all member countries to implement the AEO Programme.
2. The AEO Programme seeks to promote participation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in global trade by providing procedural simplifications and faster customs clearances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 7.7 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement encourages adoption of an AEO-type scheme but does not mandate its implementation. The AEO framework is developed under the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards.
- Statement 2 is correct: The AEO Programme facilitates MSME integration into international trade by offering benefits such as reduced documentation, simplified procedures, and expedited cargo clearance.

13) Consider the following pairs related to major committees related to economic reforms in India:

1. Narasimham Committee (1991 & 1998) — Reforms in the banking and financial sector
2. Kelkar Committee (2002) — Recommendations on restructuring direct and indirect tax systems
3. Abid Hussain Committee — Review and reform of policies concerning Small Scale Industries
4. Urjit Patel Committee — Introduction of a rules-based monetary policy with inflation targeting

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Pair 1 is Correct: The Narasimham Committees laid the foundation for financial sector and banking reforms, including prudential norms and reduction of NPAs.
- Pair 2 is Correct: The Kelkar Committee (2002) provided a comprehensive roadmap for reforms in both direct and indirect taxation.
- Pair 3 is Correct: The Abid Hussain Committee focused on restructuring and deregulating the Small Scale Industries sector.
- Pair 4 is Correct: The Urjit Patel Committee recommended adopting flexible inflation targeting as the core of India's monetary policy framework.

14) Consider the following Statements regarding the Angel Investors in the startup ecosystem:

1. Angel investors usually provide capital at the early or seed stage of startups using their personal funds.
2. In return for investment, angel investors may receive equity ownership or instruments such as convertible debt.
3. Angel investments are governed by the same regulatory framework as Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) under SEBI regulations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is Correct: Angel investors are typically high-net-worth individuals who invest at the early or seed stage, unlike venture capital firms which usually enter later.
- Statement 2 is Correct: They invest personal funds and generally receive equity or convertible instruments in return, along with offering mentorship.
- Statement 3 is Incorrect: Angel investments are private placements and are not regulated like IPOs, which involve public issuance and strict SEBI norms.

15) Consider the following statements with reference to a progressive taxation system:

1. Statement I: In a progressive tax system, the proportion of income paid as tax rises with an increase in taxable income.
2. Statement II: Such a taxation system is designed to promote equity by placing a relatively higher tax burden on individuals with higher income levels.

Which one of the following is correct?

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II correctly explains Statement I
- b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not correctly explain Statement I
- c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement I correctly describes the defining feature of progressive taxation—the average tax rate increases as income rises, typically through higher marginal tax slabs.
- Statement II correctly states the core objective of progressive taxation, which is to reduce income inequality by taxing individuals according to their ability to pay.