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1) Consider the following Statements:

1. Statement 1: Under the new Labour Codes, Fixed-Term Employment is considered a tool for formalisation of the workforce.
2. Statement II: FTE workers are entitled to same wages and social security benefits as permanent employees, and their gratuity eligibility is reduced to one year.

Which one of the following is correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Fixed-Term Employment allows firms flexibility while ensuring parity in wages and social security with permanent workers. Reduced gratuity eligibility (1 year) removes hesitation in hiring formally, directly supporting the objective of formalization of the workforce

2) Consider the following statements regarding the “Moltbook” platform:

1. Moltbook allows direct interaction between human users and AI agents in a Reddit-like discussion format.
2. The platform has witnessed emergent behavior such as the spontaneous formation of belief systems and governance structures by AI agents.
3. Interactions on Moltbook are driven by consciousness and predefined scripts designed by AI developers.
4. Only AI agents are permitted to post or comment on the platform, while humans can merely observe.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Moltbook is an AI-only social media platform.
- Statement 1 is incorrect: Human users cannot interact; they can only observe AI-generated content.
- Statement 2 is correct: AI agents have shown emergent behavior, including creating mock religions, currencies, and political systems without explicit programming.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: AI interactions are unscripted and non-conscious, driven by probabilistic language modeling rather than intent or awareness.
- Statement 4 is correct: Posting and commenting are restricted exclusively to AI agents via APIs.

3) **With reference to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, consider the following statements:**

1. Statement I: The INF Treaty was the first arms control agreement to abolish an entire category of weapons.
2. Statement II: It prohibited all land-based ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges from 500 km to 5,500 km.

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 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:

- The INF Treaty (1987) was historic because it eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons, not just limited them. This was achieved by banning all ground-launched missiles in the 500–5,500 km range, which explains why it is regarded as a landmark arms control agreement.
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4) Match the following:

List I (Mineral)

List II (Use)

List III (Importance)

A. Nickel (Ni)

1. Catalytic converters

X. Enables net-zero transition

B. Copper (Cu)

2. Electric vehicle batteries

Y. Vital for renewable energy

C. Platinum Group Elements (PGE)

3. Electrical wiring

Z. Key to green hydrogen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) A-3-X, B-1-Y, C-2-Z
- b) A-2-X, B-3-Y, C-1-Z
- c) A-1-Z, B-2-Y, C-3-X
- d) A-2-Y, B-3-X, C-1-Z

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Nickel (A–2–X) is a core material in EV battery cathodes, making it critical for achieving net-zero carbon goals.
 - Copper (B–3–Y) is extensively used in electrical wiring due to high conductivity, making it indispensable for renewable energy systems and power grids.
 - Platinum Group Elements (C–1–Z) function as catalysts in catalytic converters and are crucial for green hydrogen production through electrolysis and fuel cells.
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5) Consider the following statements regarding the features of cyberspace:

1. Actions in cyberspace are confined within national borders and have limited impact.
2. Cyberspace exhibits a dual-use character, supporting both civilian and military activities.
3. Identifying the origin of cyber actions is easy due to clear digital traces.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Cyberspace is inherently borderless; activities can have global and transnational impacts.
- Statement 2 is correct: The same cyber infrastructure supports civilian services and military operations, making cyberspace a dual-use domain.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Attribution in cyberspace is complex, as actors can conceal identity using tools like VPNs, proxies, and malware.

6) Consider the following statements with reference to the measurement of inflation in India:

1. Statement I: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate may decline significantly even when the prices of goods and services continue to rise marginally in the current period.
2. Statement II: The base effect refers to the impact of a high price level in the corresponding period of the previous year, which can make the current year's inflation rate appear lower.

Which one of the following is correct?

- 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: a)

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct: In India, CPI inflation is calculated on a year-on-year basis, comparing prices in a given month with those in the same month of the previous year rather than with the immediately preceding month. Hence, inflation can fall even when prices are stable or rising slightly.
- Statement II is correct: The base effect arises when the price level in the base period (last year) is unusually high, which mechanically lowers the calculated inflation rate in the current period.
- Thus, the base effect directly explains how inflation can decline without any actual reduction in prices.

7) The “FAST DS 2026” scheme announced in the Union Budget 2026–27 refers to:

- a) A fast-track mechanism for settling GST disputes
- b) A programme for deploying solar-powered fishing vessels
- c) A digital system for rapid seed distribution to livestock farmers
- d) A one-time disclosure scheme for small taxpayers to declare foreign assets without prosecution

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- FAST DS 2026 stands for Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme. It provides a one-time, six-month window for individuals with small overseas assets to disclose them by paying due taxes, with immunity from prosecution.
 - The scheme aims to improve tax compliance while reducing litigation and criminalization of minor defaults.
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8) With reference to the strategic shift towards Livestock and Fisheries as engines of agricultural growth, consider the following statements:

1. Livestock and fisheries generally experience lower price volatility than food grains because they are not covered under a Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime.
2. This policy shift reflects a transition from calorie-based food security to protein-based nutritional security.
3. Diversification into livestock is viewed as a climate-resilient strategy, as animals are relatively less vulnerable to rainfall variability than rain-fed crops.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Livestock and fisheries often face higher price volatility due to perishability, demand–supply fluctuations, and the absence of MSP support.
- Statement 2 is correct. The policy emphasis marks a shift from ensuring cereal availability to improving nutritional outcomes through protein-rich foods such as milk, eggs, meat, and fish.
- Statement 3 is correct. Livestock provides income stability during climatic shocks, acting as a buffer against crop failure caused by rainfall uncertainty, thereby enhancing climate resilience.

9) With reference to the Digital Food Currency pilot programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a programmable variant of the e-Rupee (Central Bank Digital Currency) developed by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The pilot is being implemented only in regions where the physical Public Distribution System (PDS) has been fully discontinued.
3. The digital tokens are “locked” and can be redeemed only at authorized Fair Price Shops for foodgrains.

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 correct: Digital Food Currency is a programmable form of CBDC (e-Rupee), developed by the RBI in coordination with NPCI as a pilot initiative.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The pilot spans both DBT-based regions and areas with an active PDS, allowing testing across varied delivery models.
- Statement 3 is correct: The tokens are purpose-locked and can be used only at designated Fair Price Shops, ensuring food subsidies are spent exclusively on foodgrains.

10) With reference to bio-resources and traditional medicine initiatives in the Union Budget 2026–27, consider the following statements:

1. Bharat-VISTAAR is a multilingual AI-based platform that integrates agricultural best practices with bio-resource management.
2. The value of biogas is excluded while computing Central Excise duty on biogas-blended CNG.
3. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at Jamnagar is being converted into a National Institute of Ayurveda.

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. Bharat-VISTAAR uses AI to combine ICAR's agricultural packages with bio-resource management support for farmers.
 - Statement 2 is correct. Excluding biogas value from excise duty on blended CNG promotes the circular bioeconomy and renewable energy use.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre is being strengthened as an international research hub, not converted into a National Institute of Ayurveda.
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11) Kharg Island, recently seen in the news due to regional conflicts, is located in:

- a) The Gulf of Oman, near the Port of Chabahar.
- b) The Caspian Sea, serving as a primary maritime hub for energy trade.
- c) The Red Sea, guarding the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.
- d) The Northern Persian Gulf, northwest of the port of Bushehr.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kharg Island lies in the northern part of the Persian Gulf, about 50–55 km off the Iranian coast, northwest of Bushehr.
 - It is Iran's main crude oil export terminal, handling around 90% of the country's oil exports.
 - The island's deep-water location allows Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) to dock.
 - It gained strategic importance during the Iran–Iraq War and remains geopolitically sensitive due to its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz.
 - Hence, Kharg Island is located in the northern Persian Gulf, making option (d) correct.
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12) Consider the following statements regarding the geography of Gulf nations:

1. The Arabian Shield is a stable Precambrian formation located in the eastern part of the peninsula.
2. The Rub' al Khali is the largest continuous sand desert in the world and overlies ancient lake beds associated with hydrocarbon deposits.
3. The Strait of Hormuz carries nearly half of the world's daily oil shipments.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect- The Arabian Shield lies in the western Arabian Peninsula, mainly in Saudi Arabia. The eastern region consists largely of sedimentary basins where major oil reserves occur.
 - Statement 2: Correct- The Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter) is the largest continuous sand desert and contains ancient lake-bed sediments linked with regional hydrocarbon resources.
 - Statement 3: Incorrect- The Strait of Hormuz is a critical oil chokepoint but handles about 20% of global oil and LNG shipments, not half.
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13) Which of the following geographical features are associated with Malawi?

1. East African Rift Valley
2. Lake Nyasa
3. Shire River
4. Mulanje Mountain Massif

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa with diverse geographical features.
 - Statement 1 is correct as it lies along the East African Rift Valley, which defines its topography.
 - Statement 2 is correct; Lake Malawi is also known as Lake Nyasa and covers a significant portion of the country's eastern boundary.
 - Statement 3 is correct because the Shire River is the sole outlet of Lake Malawi, flowing into the Zambezi.
 - Statement 4 is correct as the Mulanje Mountain Massif is the highest point in the country at over 3,000 meters. Malawi is currently facing a food crisis due to El Niño-induced drought, prompting humanitarian aid such as rice from India. The country's economy is heavily tied to agriculture, particularly in the fertile highlands and plateaus.
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14) Consider the following statements regarding “Jhumka” jewellery and its heritage:

1. It is a three-dimensional, bell-shaped earring that originated during the Mughal Era in Northern India.
2. Such traditional designs are not eligible for patent protection under modern Intellectual Property laws because they do not have a single identifiable inventor.

- The design of Jhumkas is linked to ancient temple sculptures and developed significantly during the Chola Dynasty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect- The Jhumka design predates the Mughal period and can be traced to ancient South Indian temple traditions around 300 BCE.
- Statement 2: Correct- Traditional crafts like Jhumkas lack a single inventor, so they generally cannot be patented under modern intellectual property regimes.
- Statement 3: Correct- Jhumkas evolved from temple jewellery traditions, particularly flourishing during the Chola period, where such ornaments were used to decorate temple deities and later adopted in royal and public adornment.

15) Consider the following statements about Green Banks:

- Green Banks primarily rely on individual savings accounts as their main source of funding.
- They finance only large-scale renewable energy projects, excluding smaller community initiatives.
- Recovered capital from loans is reinvested into new green projects to sustain funding cycles.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Answer: a)

Explanation

- Statement 1: Incorrect: Green Banks are mainly funded through government grants, environmental cesses, and green bonds, not individual savings accounts.
- Statement 2: Incorrect: They finance projects of different scales, including small and community-level renewable initiatives.
- Statement 3: Correct: Repaid loans are reinvested into new green projects, creating a self-sustaining financing cycle.

- What are Green Banks?
 - Green Banks are public or mission-driven financial institutions that mobilize finance to support clean energy and climate-friendly projects.

Thank You

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