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1) **With reference to the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It seeks to promote a unique product from every district to develop local economies and boost exports.
2. Financial support for infrastructure and quality improvement is provided under schemes such as PMFME.
3. The initiative is limited only to industrial products and does not include agricultural or handicraft items.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative aims to identify and promote products that are unique to each district of India. It focuses on enhancing local production, branding, and market access to generate employment and increase exports.

- **Statement 1 is correct** because ODOP intends to convert districts into export hubs by promoting district-specific products with competitive advantages.
  - **Statement 2 is correct** as the initiative supports infrastructure creation, processing facilities, packaging, and quality testing through schemes like the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME).
  - **Statement 3 is incorrect** because ODOP is not restricted to industrial goods alone. It also includes agricultural products, food items, handloom, handicrafts, and traditional products. Examples include honey, silk, spices, handicrafts, and regional food products.
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2) **In the context of international finance, consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** The primary objective of the European Central Bank (ECB) is to maintain price stability in the Eurozone.

**Statement-II:** The ECB has the exclusive authority to approve the issuance of Euro banknotes and supervises the quantity of Euro coins issued by member countries.

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: (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I**

**Explanation:**

The European Central Bank is the central monetary authority of the Eurozone and plays a key role in managing the Euro currency system.

- **Statement-I is correct** because the ECB's main objective is to ensure price stability by keeping inflation under control across the Eurozone. Stable prices support economic growth, savings, and investment.

- **Statement-II is also correct** as the ECB has the exclusive legal authority to authorize the issuance of Euro banknotes and regulates the volume of Euro coins issued by member states.
  - However, **Statement-II is not the correct explanation of Statement-I**. Price stability is mainly maintained through monetary policy measures such as interest rate decisions, liquidity management, and control of money supply, rather than merely through the authority to issue currency.
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3) **Consider the following statements regarding the European Central Bank (ECB):**

1. The ECB became an official institution of the European Union through the Treaty of Lisbon.
2. Central banks of all 27 EU member countries hold shares in the ECB, irrespective of Eurozone membership.
3. The Governing Council is entrusted with implementing ECB decisions and issuing instructions to national central banks.
4. The ECB operates the T2 (TARGET2) system for large-value Euro payments and settlements.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (c) Only three**

**Explanation:**

The European Central Bank (ECB) is the principal monetary authority of the Eurozone and an important institution within the European Union's financial framework.

- **Statement 1 is correct** because the ECB formally acquired the status of an EU institution under the Treaty of Lisbon, which came into force in 2009.

- **Statement 2 is correct** as the national central banks of all 27 EU member states are shareholders in the ECB, including countries that have not adopted the Euro. Their capital contribution is based on population and GDP.
  - **Statement 3 is incorrect** because the **Executive Board**, not the Governing Council, is responsible for implementing monetary policy decisions and giving operational instructions to national central banks. The Governing Council mainly formulates monetary policy.
  - **Statement 4 is correct** since the ECB manages the T2 (TARGET2) payment and settlement system, which facilitates secure and efficient large-value Euro transactions across Europe.
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4) **With reference to the Revolt of 1857, consider the following statements:**

1. The annexation of Awadh in 1856 on the grounds of maladministration created widespread resentment among sepoys.
2. The Summary Settlement introduced in Awadh led to the displacement of many taluqdars and increased rural discontent.
3. The uprising was confined only to soldiers and did not attract support from peasants, artisans, or local rulers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

The Revolt of 1857 was not merely a military mutiny but a widespread uprising against the rule of the East India Company.

- **Statement 1 is correct** because the annexation of Awadh by Lord Dalhousie in 1856 angered many sepoys, especially since a large number of soldiers in the Bengal Army belonged to Awadh. The annexation was seen as an insult to a loyal kingdom.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as the Summary Settlement of 1856 removed many taluqdars from their traditional rights over land. This created resentment among landlords and peasants due to higher revenue demands and economic hardship.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because the revolt soon expanded beyond the sepoys and gained support from peasants, artisans, dispossessed rulers, and local chiefs. Leaders such as Nana Saheb and Begum Hazrat Mahal played important roles in mobilising civilian resistance.

5) Match the following pairs related to the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative:

District/State	Product/Focus
1. Baksa, Assam	A. High-value Honey
2. Agra, Uttar Pradesh	B. Leather Products
3. Bhagalpur, Bihar	C. Silk Textiles

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative promotes products that are unique to specific districts in order to strengthen local economies and increase exports.

District/State	Correct Match	Explanation
Baksa, Assam	A. High-value Honey	Baksa is known for its premium-quality honey, which is being promoted for domestic and international markets.
Agra, Uttar Pradesh	B. Leather Products	Agra has a long-established leather industry and is famous for leather footwear and related products.
Bhagalpur, Bihar	C. Silk Textiles	Bhagalpur is popularly known as the “Silk City” due to its renowned silk weaving tradition.

6) **The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) has played a major role in promoting regional connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region. Which of the following projects are mainly associated with this objective?**

- (a) Sagarmala Project and Bharatmala Pariyojana
- (b) International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
- (c) Asian Highway Network and Trans-Asian Railway
- (d) Blue Dot Network and Build Back Better World (B3W)

**Answer: (c) Asian Highway Network and Trans-Asian Railway**

**Explanation:**

UN ESCAP works to strengthen regional economic cooperation and trade integration by improving cross-border transport connectivity across Asia and the Pacific.

- The **Asian Highway Network** is a cooperative initiative aimed at developing and upgrading road connectivity among Asian countries.
- The **Trans-Asian Railway (TAR)** project seeks to establish an integrated railway network linking countries across Asia and Europe to facilitate efficient freight movement and trade.

These projects are central to ESCAP’s efforts to reduce transportation costs, improve market access for landlocked countries, and enhance regional integration.

- Options such as **Sagarmala** and **Bharatmala** are domestic infrastructure initiatives of India.

- The **INSTC** is a separate international transport corridor initiative.
  - **Blue Dot Network** and **B3W** are infrastructure and investment initiatives led by other multilateral partnerships.
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7) **With reference to the Samridh Gram initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. The initiative seeks to use high-speed broadband connectivity to deliver integrated physical and digital (“phygital”) services in rural areas.
2. It is mainly implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for monitoring MGNREGA activities.
3. The initiative uses the BharatNet network to support services such as healthcare, education, and e-governance in villages.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:**

The Samridh Gram initiative is designed to strengthen rural digital infrastructure and improve access to essential services through broadband connectivity.

- **Statement 1 is correct** because the initiative follows a “phygital” model that combines physical service centres with digital technologies to improve rural service delivery.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** since the initiative is led by the Department of Telecommunications and is not primarily meant for MGNREGA monitoring under the Ministry of Rural Development.

- **Statement 3 is correct** because it relies on the BharatNet broadband infrastructure to provide services such as telemedicine, digital education, e-governance, and smart agriculture solutions in rural areas.
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8) **Regarding the First Battle of Panipat (1526), consider the following statements:**

1. The battle led to the decline of the Delhi Sultanate and laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire in India.
2. Babur's success in the battle was aided by the use of the Tulughma military tactic.
3. After his victory, Babur immediately gained broad support and acceptance from the Indian population.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Explanation:**

The First Battle of Panipat was a turning point in Indian history and marked the beginning of Mughal rule in India.

- **Statement 1 is correct** because the defeat of Ibrahim Lodi by Babur ended the Delhi Sultanate and established the Mughal Empire.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as Babur effectively used the **Tulughma** tactic, involving swift flanking movements to surround and weaken the enemy forces. He also combined this with field artillery and defensive formations.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because Babur did not receive immediate acceptance after his victory. He faced resistance from local rulers and populations, including the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga, which culminated in the Battle of Khanwa (1527).

Hence, the correct answer is **(b) Only two**.

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9) **Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** Glass substrates are increasingly being used in advanced semiconductor packaging instead of conventional organic or silicon materials.

**Statement-II:** Glass offers better thermal stability and supports high-density vertical interconnections through Through-Glass Vias (TGVs).

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: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I**

**Explanation:**

Advanced semiconductor packaging technologies are increasingly shifting towards the use of glass substrates to improve performance and efficiency.

- **Statement-I is correct** because glass substrates are emerging as an alternative to traditional silicon and organic materials in high-performance semiconductor packaging.
  - **Statement-II is also correct** as glass provides greater thermal stability, lower signal loss, and supports **Through-Glass Vias (TGVs)** that enable dense vertical interconnections in 3D chip architectures.
  - Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I because these advantages make glass highly suitable for advanced applications such as AI processors, 5G systems, data centres, and high-performance computing.
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10) **The functioning of Smart Washbasins is mainly based on which of the following scientific principles?**

- (a) Acoustic resonance and ultrasonic wave reflection
- (b) Piezoelectric effect produced by water pressure
- (c) Infrared sensing and the response of semiconductor electrons to light
- (d) Capacitive sensing based on human body conductivity

**Answer: (c) Infrared sensing and the response of semiconductor electrons to light**

**Explanation:**

Smart washbasins operate using **infrared (IR) sensing technology**. These systems typically consist of an infrared emitter and a photodiode sensor.

- The IR emitter continuously sends out invisible infrared light.
- When a user places their hand near the sensor, the infrared light is reflected back to the photodiode.
- The reflected light excites electrons in the semiconductor material of the sensor, generating an electrical signal.
- This signal activates a solenoid valve, allowing water to flow automatically.

The system shuts off once the hand is removed, making the process touchless and water-efficient. Such technology is widely used in public spaces to improve hygiene and reduce water wastage.

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11) **Arrange the following events in their chronological order and select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

- A. Hunter Commission
- B. Saddler Commission
- C. Wood's Despatch
- D. Sargent Plan

- A. A B D C
- B. C B A D
- C. A B C D
- D. C A B D

**Answer: D. C A B D**

**Explanation:**

Understanding the **timeline of British educational reforms** is key:

- **Wood's Despatch (1854):** Known as the **Magna Carta of English Education in India**, it laid the foundation of modern education system.
- **Hunter Commission (1882):** Focused on **primary and secondary education**, especially expansion of vernacular education.
- **Saddler Commission (1917–1919):** Concerned with **university education**, recommended separation of secondary and university education.
- **Sargent Plan (1944):** A **post-war comprehensive education plan** aiming universal education.

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**12) Consider the following statements**

1. India is the largest producer and consumer of cotton in the world.
2. India has the largest cotton acreage globally.
3. India grows all four species of cotton.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (c) All the three**

**Explanation:**

India holds a **unique position in global cotton production** due to its agro-climatic diversity.

- **Statement 1 ✓** : India is one of the **largest producers and consumers of cotton** globally. Its large textile industry drives high domestic consumption.
- **Statement 2 ✓** : India has the **largest area under cotton cultivation** in the world, although productivity per hectare may be lower compared to countries like China or the USA.

- **Statement 3** ✓ : India is the **only country in the world** that grows all four cultivated species of cotton:
  - *Gossypium arboreum* (desi cotton)
  - *Gossypium herbaceum*
  - *Gossypium hirsutum* (American cotton)
  - *Gossypium barbadense* (Egyptian cotton)

👉 This biodiversity gives India a comparative advantage in cotton varieties and textile diversity.

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13) Consider the following statements regarding the Mukhyamantri Krishi Utpadan Sanrakshan Yojna (MKUSY):

1. The scheme is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture of Himachal Pradesh.
2. It was initially introduced during 2016–17 as a crop protection initiative for farmers.
3. A budget allocation of ₹15 crore has been provided for the scheme in FY 2025–26.

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: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

The Mukhyamantri Krishi Utpadan Sanrakshan Yojna (MKUSY) is a farmer-oriented scheme aimed at protecting crops and improving agricultural productivity in Himachal Pradesh.

- **Statement 1 is correct** because the scheme is implemented by the state Department of Agriculture.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as the initiative was originally launched in 2016–17 with a focus on crop protection measures for farmers.
- **Statement 3 is correct** because a budget provision of around ₹15 crore has been earmarked for the scheme for the financial year 2025–26.

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