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1) With reference to the SEHAT Mission (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation), consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The mission represents a transition in India's healthcare strategy from a reactive treatment-based model to a proactive prevention-oriented model.

Statement II:

The initiative creates a scientific convergence between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to establish a farm-to-plate nutritional chain.

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)

Explanation

The SEHAT Mission represents a major policy transformation in India's public healthcare approach. Traditionally, healthcare systems have largely followed a reactive model that focuses on treating diseases after their occurrence.

Statement I is correct because the mission specifically seeks to shift towards a proactive healthcare framework where prevention of diseases through nutritional interventions becomes the primary objective.

Statement II is also correct because it identifies the institutional mechanism responsible for enabling this transition. The initiative promotes convergence between Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Through the integration of agricultural science with medical research, the mission seeks to ensure that food production is scientifically aligned with the nutritional needs of the population.

This “farm-to-plate” scientific chain directly addresses the root causes of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Statement II correctly explains Statement I because the preventive healthcare approach mentioned in Statement I becomes operational through the institutional convergence and scientific framework described in Statement II.

This whole-of-government approach ensures that agricultural policy is not merely focused on crop yield, but also on nutritional security and disease prevention.

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB–G RAM G:

1. It provides a legal guarantee of 125 days of unskilled manual work per financial year to every rural household.
2. The mission mandates a 60-day pause in works during peak agricultural seasons to balance labour demand in farming activities.
3. It incorporates geospatial technology and biometric authentication for monitoring and financial transactions.

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)

Explanation

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, which is scheduled to replace Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from July 2026, introduces several structural reforms in the rural employment framework.

Statement 1 is correct because the mission increases the statutory employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days, thereby strengthening the social security net for rural households.

Statement 2 is also correct regarding the “Agricultural Season Pause.” This provision is intended to prevent labour shortages during critical agricultural operations such as sowing and harvesting. States are required to notify a 60-day suspension period annually during peak agricultural seasons so that the employment guarantee scheme does not compete with farming labour demand.

Statement 3 is correct because the mission emphasises technology-driven transparency and accountability. It incorporates:

- Face authentication for attendance.
- Biometric authentication for financial transactions.
- Geospatial technology for real-time monitoring of asset creation.

The mission seeks to move beyond survival-based manual employment and instead prioritises the creation of productive and durable assets related to:

- Water security.
- Livelihood infrastructure.
- Rural development.

These reforms are aligned with the broader vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and aim to enhance long-term financial resilience in rural India.

3) Regarding Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in international trade, consider the following statements:

1. They are policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs, that can influence the price or quantity of traded goods.
2. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are primarily designed to protect human, animal, or plant life from pests, diseases, and toxins.

3. Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) include regulations related to product labelling, packaging, and energy efficiency standards.
4. The World Trade Organization (WTO) completely prohibits the use of NTBs in order to ensure free and fair global trade.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct.

Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) are regulatory measures that act as indirect restrictions on international trade. Unlike tariffs, which are direct taxes imposed on imports, NTBs consist of various regulations and standards that influence trade flows.

Statement 1 is correct because NTBs include policy measures other than customs duties that affect the price or quantity of traded goods.

Statement 2 is correct because Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) are intended to ensure food safety and protect human, animal, and plant health from:

- Pests.
- Diseases.
- Harmful toxins.

For example, SPS measures may regulate pesticide residue limits in agricultural imports.

Statement 3 is correct because Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) cover technical standards and regulations concerning:

- Product labelling.
- Packaging.

- Energy efficiency.
- Product specifications.

Statement 4 is incorrect because the World Trade Organization (WTO) does not completely prohibit NTBs. Instead, the WTO recognises that many NTBs serve legitimate public policy objectives such as:

- Consumer safety.
- Environmental protection.
- Public health.

The WTO's role is to ensure that these measures are not misused as disguised forms of protectionism.

Through the SPS and TBT Agreements, the WTO requires that such regulations:

- Be based on scientific evidence.
- Be applied in a non-discriminatory manner.
- Be transparently notified to WTO members.

According to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), NTBs now impose greater trade costs than traditional tariffs for most countries.

4) With reference to the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand and was established mainly to conserve broad-leaf oak forests.
2. The sanctuary served as the summer capital of the Chand Kings between the 11th and 18th centuries.
3. The highest point of the sanctuary, Zero Point, offers panoramic views of Himalayan peaks such as Nanda Devi and Kedarnath.

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)

Explanation

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is an important protected area located in the Central Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.

Statement 1 is correct because the sanctuary was established in 1988 primarily to conserve the rapidly declining broad-leaf oak forests, which play a vital role in maintaining:

- Biodiversity.
- Water conservation.
- Ecological balance.

Statement 2 is correct because the region historically served as the summer capital of the Chand rulers of Kumaon between the 11th and 18th centuries.

Later, during British rule, the region also functioned as an administrative and retreat centre under officials such as Henry Ramsay.

Statement 3 is correct because Zero Point (Jhandi Dhaar), situated at an elevation of nearly 2,500 metres, is the highest point within the sanctuary.

It is famous for providing a 360-degree panoramic view of major Himalayan peaks including:

- Nanda Devi
- Kedarnath
- Trisul
- Panchachuli

The sanctuary's rugged ridges and deep gorges support diverse wildlife species such as:

- Leopards.

- Himalayan gorals.
- More than 200 species of birds.

Recent scientific surveys conducted in 2026 have further highlighted its importance as a wildlife movement corridor and habitat for species such as the red fox.

5) Consider the following statements regarding the 'One Case One Data' initiative:

Statement I:

The initiative aims to eliminate data fragmentation by creating a unified national case management system across all levels of the Indian judiciary.

Statement II:

The initiative ensures that information updated at Taluka or District Courts is automatically synchronised across the judicial network, including High Courts.

Statement III:

The 'Su Sahay' chatbot functions as the primary engine used by judges to automate the delivery of legal judgments in complex criminal cases.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Statement I is correct because the 'One Case One Data' initiative is specifically designed to integrate judicial information into a single unified digital platform that functions as a "single source of truth" for case management across the Indian judiciary.

Statement II is also correct and explains how the objective mentioned in Statement I is achieved. The initiative enables multi-level synchronisation of judicial records across:

- Taluka Courts.
- District Courts.
- High Courts.

Any information updated at one judicial level is automatically reflected across the broader judicial network, thereby eliminating data fragmentation and creating a comprehensive digital case trail.

Statement III is incorrect.

Although the 'Su Sahay' chatbot was launched alongside this initiative, it is not designed to automate judicial decision-making or deliver legal judgments.

Instead, the chatbot is a citizen-centric digital assistance platform developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to help litigants navigate court-related services.

Its functions include:

- Providing filing guidelines.
- Assisting with case status information.
- Acting as a 24×7 digital helpdesk for citizens.

The chatbot does not possess any legal authority or judicial function to deliver verdicts in criminal or civil cases.

6) With reference to the National Jute Board (NJB), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the National Jute Board Act, 2008.
2. The board functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
3. One of its important functions is to provide scholastic incentives to the children of jute workers.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct. National Jute Board (NJB) is a statutory body established under the National Jute Board Act, 2008 and became operational in 2009.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NJB functions under the Ministry of Textiles, not the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Statement 3 is correct. The board provides scholastic incentives and welfare support for the children of workers engaged in the jute sector.

The NJB also works on:

- Research and development.
- Modernisation of jute mills.
- Promotion of Indian jute in global markets.

7) Consider the following statements regarding Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs):

1. Quantitative restrictions such as quotas and bans are classified as Technical Measures.
2. Rules of Origin are used to determine the national source of a product for preferential trade treatment.
3. Anti-dumping duties and administrative fees are examples of price control measures under NTMs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect. Quantitative restrictions such as quotas and bans are classified as Non-Technical Measures, not Technical Measures.

Statement 2 is correct. Rules of Origin help identify the country where a product was manufactured, especially under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

Statement 3 is correct. Anti-dumping duties and administrative charges are considered price control measures under NTMs.

NTMs are widely used to regulate trade and may serve purposes such as:

- Consumer protection.
- Fair competition.
- Strategic trade regulation.

8) With reference to the Jute Crop Information System (JCIS), consider the following:

Statement I:

The system uses ISRO's satellite imagery and vegetation indices to monitor the health and area of jute cultivation.

Statement II:

Smart sampling for Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) improves the accuracy of yield estimation compared to traditional manual methods.

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)

Explanation

Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

Statement I refers to the use of satellite imagery and vegetation indices by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for monitoring the extent and health of jute cultivation.

Statement II refers to smart sampling techniques used in Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) for improving yield estimation accuracy.

However, Statement II does not explain Statement I because both statements describe different technological features of the JCIS platform.

The JCIS is a collaborative initiative involving:

- National Jute Board
- Indian Space Research Organisation
- Jute Corporation of India

It aims to modernise crop monitoring and support evidence-based policymaking in the jute sector.

9) Consider the following tectonic features of Japan with their descriptions:

Feature	Description
1. Pacific Ring of Fire	A. Region of intense volcanic and seismic activity
2. Mount Fuji	B. A near-perfect volcanic cone and the highest peak of Japan
3. Subduction	C. The process in which one tectonic plate sinks beneath another plate

Which of the above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

Feature	Correct Match	Explanation
Pacific Ring of Fire	1 – A	Pacific Ring of Fire is a region known for frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
Mount Fuji	2 – B	Mount Fuji is Japan's highest mountain and is famous for its nearly symmetrical volcanic cone shape.
Subduction	3 – C	Subduction refers to the sinking of one tectonic plate beneath another.

Japan's geography is strongly influenced by its location along the Pacific Ring of Fire.

The country experiences frequent tectonic activity because the:

- Pacific Plate.
- Philippine Sea Plate.

subduct beneath the Eurasian Plate.

This process creates:

- Deep ocean trenches such as the Nankai Trough.
- Frequent earthquakes.
- Volcanic eruptions.
- Tsunamis.

Japan also has nearly 60 active volcanoes, and several volcanic depressions known as calderas have formed lakes such as Lake Towada.

10) Consider the following statements regarding the integration of Sikkim into the Indian Union:

Statement-I:

The 36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975, was enacted to grant Sikkim full statehood within the Indian Union.

Statement-II:

The 1950 Indo-Sikkim Treaty had already abolished Sikkim's protectorate status and provided India complete control over its internal administration.

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: (c)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct. The 36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975 officially made Sikkim the 22nd state of India after a referendum that supported the abolition of monarchy.

Statement-II is incorrect. The 1950 Indo-Sikkim Treaty actually established Sikkim as an Indian protectorate. Under this arrangement:

- India controlled defence, external affairs, and communications.
- The Chogyal retained internal autonomy.

The protectorate status ended only after the 1975 referendum and formal merger with India.

11) Consider the following statements regarding the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

1. OPEC was established during the Baghdad Conference by five founding members, including the United Arab Emirates.
2. The headquarters of OPEC has been located in Vienna, Austria, since its establishment.

3. The 1968 Declaratory Statement recognised the permanent sovereignty of member countries over their natural resources.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect. Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded by:

- Iran.
- Iraq.
- Kuwait.
- Saudi Arabia.
- Venezuela.

The United Arab Emirates joined later.

Statement 2 is incorrect. OPEC's headquarters was initially located in Geneva, Switzerland, and shifted to Vienna, Austria, in 1965.

Statement 3 is correct. The 1968 Declaratory Statement affirmed the permanent sovereignty of member countries over their natural resources and petroleum wealth.

12) With reference to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) security architecture, the multilateral exercise 'Pragati' is primarily aimed at:

- (a) Establishing a naval blockade in the Malacca Strait to prevent piracy
- (b) Promoting partnership and transformation among regional armies for collective security
- (c) Conducting joint nuclear-deterrence drills among QUAD countries
- (d) Monitoring migration patterns of endangered marine species in the Indian Ocean Region

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Exercise Pragati stands for “Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean.”

The exercise is hosted by the Indian Army and focuses on:

- Military cooperation.
- Interoperability.
- Collective security among regional armies.

Unlike maritime-focused exercises, Pragati mainly emphasises land-based military coordination and joint tactical training among participating countries.

13) Consider the following statements regarding Leaf Spot Disease (LSD):

1. It is a physiological disorder caused by excessive accumulation of micronutrients in the soil.
2. The disease spreads mainly through soil-to-root transmission rather than atmospheric factors.
3. Symptoms generally appear first on the upper canopy leaves due to greater solar exposure.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

All three statements are incorrect.

Leaf Spot Disease is mainly caused by fungi and sometimes bacteria, not by nutrient accumulation.

The disease spreads primarily through:

- Wind.
- Rain splash.
- Irrigation water.

Symptoms usually first appear on lower and inner leaves because these areas retain higher moisture and humidity, which favour fungal growth.

Management methods include:

- Removal of infected leaves.
- Improving air circulation.
- Application of fungicides or bio-agents.

14) Which of the following geographical features/facts are correctly associated with the Bering Strait?

1. It connects the Arctic Ocean with the Bering Sea.
2. It forms the international maritime boundary between Russia and the United States.
3. The Diomed Islands located in the strait fall under two different calendar dates.
4. During the Pleistocene epoch, it formed a land bridge known as Beringia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

All four statements are correct.

Bering Strait:

- Connects the Arctic Ocean to the Bering Sea.
- Separates Russia and the United States.

The Diomedede Islands are divided between Russia and the USA, and the International Date Line passes between them, resulting in different calendar dates.

During the Pleistocene Ice Age, lower sea levels exposed a land bridge called Beringia, which enabled migration of humans, animals, and plants between Asia and North America.