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1) With reference to the JANANI Platform, consider the following statements:

1. It is a newly developed platform intended to replace the existing POSHAN Tracker for nutrition-related monitoring.
2. The platform creates a longitudinal health record that tracks beneficiaries from antenatal care to family planning services.
3. It uses biometric authentication and unique digital identifiers to avoid duplication of records, especially among migratory populations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. The JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) platform is not a replacement for the POSHAN Tracker. It is an upgraded and integrated version of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal, although it interoperates with nutrition-related systems for better monitoring.

Statement 2 is correct. JANANI is designed to maintain longitudinal health records across the continuum of care, covering maternal health, childbirth, neonatal care, immunization, and family planning.

Statement 3 is correct. The platform incorporates Aadhaar/OTP-based biometric verification and QR-enabled digital Maternal and Child Health (MCH) cards to ensure portability of health records and eliminate duplication, especially for migrant populations.

The platform reflects a shift toward integrated and citizen-centric digital public health systems.

2) Which of the following entities are eligible for membership in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)?

1. Sovereign States
2. Subnational Governments
3. National and International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
4. Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The IUCN has a broad and diverse membership structure that includes governments, civil society organizations, and Indigenous groups.

Sovereign States and government agencies form the governmental component of the organization. The IUCN also permits Subnational Governments, such as provincial or state administrations, to become members due to their important role in environmental governance.

National and International NGOs constitute a major part of the membership base and contribute scientific expertise, advocacy, and conservation efforts.

In addition, Indigenous Peoples' Organizations are recognized members, reflecting the importance of traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous stewardship in biodiversity conservation.

This inclusive structure enables the IUCN to function as a global platform where science, policy, and community-based conservation approaches converge.

- 3) In the context of international relations and global energy security, “Project Freedom” was strategically associated with which of the following developments?
- (a) The withdrawal of the UAE from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
 - (b) The signing of a maritime boundary agreement between Iran and Iraq
 - (c) The establishment of a permanent United States naval base in the Strait of Hormuz
 - (d) A coordinated GCC decision to impose sanctions on Iranian oil exports

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Project Freedom was strategically linked to the UAE’s decision to exit OPEC and expand its oil production capacity to increase market share.

However, the transportation of increased oil exports depended heavily on secure maritime access through the Strait of Hormuz, which had become unstable due to regional tensions and blockades.

The United States launched Project Freedom with the objective of ensuring uninterrupted energy flow through the Strait and supporting allied regional interests while maintaining strategic pressure on Iran.

The episode also highlighted growing differences within Gulf energy politics, particularly between the UAE and Saudi Arabia regarding oil production strategies and regional geopolitical alignments.

- 4) Consider the following statements regarding the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):
- 1. It acts as a repository of global environmental standards, scientific assessments, and best practices.
 - 2. The organization directly implements conservation and ecosystem restoration projects across different regions.
 - 3. The IUCN relies exclusively on modern scientific data and excludes traditional ecological knowledge from policymaking.

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. The IUCN serves as a major global knowledge platform, producing scientific assessments, guidelines, and internationally recognized standards such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Statement 2 is correct. In addition to its policy and research role, the organization also undertakes field-level conservation and ecosystem restoration projects across various countries.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The IUCN actively recognizes and incorporates traditional knowledge systems, especially those of Indigenous communities, alongside scientific research for sustainable conservation strategies.

The organization functions as a bridge between science, policy, and local knowledge systems in global environmental governance.

- 5) With reference to the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon system, consider the following statements:
1. It is India's first indigenously developed glide weapon system aimed at increasing the range and effectiveness of existing bombs.
 2. The system is designed to minimize collateral damage through precision targeting capabilities.
 3. It operates entirely through GPS-independent navigation systems for effectiveness in electronic warfare conditions.

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. TARA is India's first indigenous glide weapon system developed to convert conventional bombs into precision-guided stand-off weapons with extended strike range.

Statement 2 is correct. The precision guidance mechanisms incorporated into TARA improve targeting accuracy and reduce unintended collateral damage during military operations.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Although the weapon system uses advanced guidance technologies, there is no confirmed indication that it functions entirely independent of GPS-based systems.

The development of TARA reflects India's growing capabilities in indigenous precision-guided munitions technology.

- 6) With reference to the School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines 2026, consider the following statements:
1. The guidelines create a legally binding framework that supersedes existing State and Union Territory education regulations.
 2. The School Development Plan (SDP) prepared by the SMC is intended to function as a five-year academic roadmap.
 3. The guidelines require that a majority of the committee members must be parents or guardians of enrolled students.

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. The SMC Guidelines 2026 are intended as a national reference framework for harmonization and capacity building, not as a replacement for state-specific education laws and regulations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The School Development Plan under the guidelines is designed as a three-year plan with annual sub-plans for monitoring and implementation.

Statement 3 is correct. The guidelines mandate that at least 75% of the members of the School Management Committee should be parents or guardians, ensuring community participation and accountability in school governance.

The guidelines aim to strengthen decentralized and participatory management in school education.

7) Consider the following statements regarding the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

1. The IBCA is an inter-governmental organization headquartered in India that aims to reverse the decline in big cat populations globally.
2. The alliance functions as a platform for sharing successful conservation models such as Project Tiger with other countries.
3. Membership in the IBCA is limited exclusively to the 95 big cat range countries.

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. The International Big Cat Alliance is a global inter-governmental initiative headquartered in India and focused on conservation of major feline species.

Statement 2 is correct. One of the alliance's objectives is to facilitate the sharing of conservation experiences, expertise, and best practices such as India's Project Tiger and Project Cheetah.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Although the alliance includes big cat range countries, its membership is not restricted solely to them. It also includes conservation organizations, scientific institutions, and other partners.

The IBCA represents an important example of India's growing role in global wildlife diplomacy.

- 8) Regarding the constitutional role of the Governor in a Hung Assembly, consider the following statements:
1. The Governor is constitutionally bound to act on the advice of the outgoing Council of Ministers while appointing a new Chief Minister.
 2. The Sarkaria Commission recommended that the single largest party should always be invited first to form the government, even before a pre-poll alliance.
 3. The Supreme Court has held that the Governor can independently determine legislative majority through private verification of support letters.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. In the event of a hung Assembly, the Governor exercises constitutional discretion under Article 164(1) while deciding whom to invite to form the government.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions gave preference to pre-poll alliances commanding a majority over the single largest party.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Judicial precedents emphasize that the proper method of determining majority support is through a floor test conducted in the Legislative Assembly, not through private verification by the Governor.

The constitutional principle underlying these recommendations is that majority support must be tested transparently on the floor of the House.

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- 9) With reference to the Methane Alert and Response System (MARS), consider the following statements:
1. It is a satellite-based system managed by the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) for detecting methane super-emitters.

2. The system follows a confidential reporting policy and shares methane leak information only with governments.
3. MARS employs the “Persistency-Weighted Flux” method to differentiate temporary leaks from chronic methane emissions.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. MARS is a satellite-based monitoring system functioning under the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Statement 2 is incorrect. While governments and companies are initially informed about methane leak detections, the data is later made publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability.

Statement 3 is correct. The system uses the Persistency-Weighted Flux (PWF) method to identify whether methane emissions are isolated accidental events or persistent long-term leaks requiring structural intervention.

Methane monitoring systems like MARS are important because methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas contributing significantly to short-term global warming.

10) Consider the following statements regarding indigenous defense technology:

Statement-I: India’s transition toward germanium-free thermal imaging systems is driven by supply chain vulnerabilities and export restrictions related to critical minerals.

Statement-II: Chalcogenide glass permits infrared radiation to pass through, thereby enabling thermal imaging systems to detect heat signatures.

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 but 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:

Statement-I is correct. India's move toward germanium-free thermal imaging technologies is motivated by strategic concerns related to supply chain dependence, especially on imported critical minerals subject to export controls.

Statement-II is also correct. Chalcogenide glass possesses infrared transparency, unlike ordinary glass, allowing thermal imaging systems and drones to detect heat signatures effectively.

However, Statement-II does not directly explain Statement-I. The shift toward indigenous alternatives is primarily a strategic and geopolitical decision, whereas the infrared properties of chalcogenide glass merely describe the technical solution being adopted.

This transition also aligns with India's broader objective of technological self-reliance under the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

11) With reference to the Open Data Kit (ODK) platform adopted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, consider the following statements:

1. The ODK-based toolkit is mainly intended to gather real-time feedback from beneficiaries during public expenditure audits.
2. The platform functions independently and is not connected with the CAG's internal Operating System in order to maintain data privacy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The CAG has introduced the Open Data Kit (ODK) platform to modernize auditing processes by enabling auditors to collect real-time beneficiary feedback on government schemes and public service delivery. This allows audits to assess actual outcomes on the ground rather than relying solely on documents and expenditure records.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The ODK platform is integrated with the CAG's internal Operating System to ensure seamless incorporation of field data into the audit process. To maintain confidentiality and security, the system uses end-to-end encryption for secure transmission and storage of data.

The initiative strengthens transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric auditing through multilingual digital surveys and data-driven public expenditure assessment.

12) Consider the following statements regarding Sree Narayana Guru:

Statement-I: Sree Narayana Guru propagated the idea of "One Caste, One Religion, One God for All."

Statement-II: He believed that education, social reform, and religious harmony were essential for the upliftment of marginalized communities.

Statement-III: He openly advocated the forced conversion of oppressed communities into a separate universal religion to eliminate caste discrimination.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement-I reflects the core philosophical message of Sree Narayana Guru, who emphasized human unity beyond caste and religious divisions.

Statement-II is correct and explains Statement-I. Sree Narayana Guru believed that social equality, educational advancement, and religious harmony were necessary for the emancipation of oppressed sections of society. His reform movements sought to remove caste discrimination through peaceful transformation and spiritual unity.

Statement-III is incorrect. He did not advocate forced conversion or coercive religious change. Instead, he promoted internal reform, moral upliftment, and social awakening within society through non-violence and education.

His philosophy aimed at achieving social justice and dignity while maintaining communal harmony and spiritual inclusiveness.

13) Consider the following statements regarding Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV):

1. It is a DNA virus belonging to the Pneumoviridae family and mainly infects the upper respiratory tract.
2. Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs), such as RT-PCR, are commonly used for its diagnosis.
3. Although it often produces symptoms similar to the common cold, it may lead to severe respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis or pneumonia in vulnerable individuals.

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 incorrect. Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) is not a DNA virus; it is a negative-sense single-stranded RNA virus belonging to the Pneumoviridae family. It can affect both the upper and lower respiratory tracts.

Statement 2 is correct. Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs), particularly RT-PCR, are widely used for accurate diagnosis of HMPV because of their high sensitivity and specificity.

Statement 3 is correct. HMPV commonly causes mild cold-like symptoms, but infants, elderly individuals, and immunocompromised patients may develop severe respiratory complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

The virus is considered an important respiratory pathogen globally, especially among vulnerable populations.

14) In the context of Indian banking reforms, consider the following statements regarding the BAANKNET portal:

Statement-I: The BAANKNET portal acts as a centralized digital platform for improving the liquidity and recovery of distressed assets held by Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

Statement-II: The portal incorporates automated payment systems and a microservices-based architecture to facilitate a seamless e-auction process.

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 but 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:

Statement-I is correct. The BAANKNET portal has been introduced as a centralized e-auction platform for distressed assets such as residential, commercial, and industrial properties held by Public Sector Banks. Its objective is to improve recovery of non-performing assets and enhance liquidity in the banking system.

Statement-II is also correct. The portal uses advanced digital architecture, including automated payment gateways, integrated KYC systems, and microservices-based infrastructure to improve efficiency, transparency, and scalability in the auction process.

However, Statement-II does not directly explain Statement-I. Statement-I refers to the economic objective of distressed asset recovery, whereas Statement-II describes the technological framework used to operationalize the platform.

The portal represents a major step toward digital governance and streamlined asset monetization in the banking sector.

15) The LEADS 2024 report highlights the importance of “Competitive Federalism” in logistics performance. In this context, which of the following measures by a state government would likely improve its ranking in the report?

1. Reducing delays in regulatory approvals for logistics infrastructure such as warehouses.

2. Investing in last-mile transport connectivity for industrial and logistics hubs.
3. Increasing taxes on interstate transportation of goods to generate additional state revenue.
4. Introducing digital freight tracking and monitoring systems within the state.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) report evaluates states on the basis of logistics infrastructure, services, and regulatory environment.

Statement 1 is correct. Faster regulatory clearances improve the ease of doing business and strengthen the logistics ecosystem.

Statement 2 is correct. Last-mile connectivity is a critical infrastructure component that reduces delays and improves efficiency in goods movement.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Increasing taxes on interstate transport would raise logistics costs and reduce competitiveness, negatively affecting rankings.

Statement 4 is correct. Digital freight tracking systems improve transparency, efficiency, and predictability in logistics operations.

The report encourages states to adopt reforms that reduce logistics costs and improve supply-chain efficiency.

16) Consider the following statements regarding Mission ShakthiSAT:

Statement-I: Mission ShakthiSAT seeks to conduct scientific experiments in lunar orbit using payloads developed by school-going girls.

Statement-II: Space Kidz India (SKI) is the nodal agency responsible for designing and launching the PSLV rocket for the mission.

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 but 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. Mission ShakthiSAT aims to engage around 12,000 girls globally in space science and lunar exploration through participation in the development of scientific payloads and experiments.

Statement-II is incorrect. Although Space Kidz India (SKI) plays an important role in coordinating student participation and payload development, the PSLV launch vehicle is developed and operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). IN-SPACE also supports the mission framework.

The mission reflects India's growing emphasis on public-private partnerships in the space sector while promoting STEM education and gender inclusion in scientific research.