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1) **In the context of epidemiology and infectious diseases, which of the following best describes ‘Nosocomial Amplification’ during highly lethal viral outbreaks?**

- (a) Rapid viral evolution within wildlife reservoirs that increases zoonotic spillover potential.
- (b) Viral mutation enabling escape from human immunity during incubation.
- (c) Accelerated transmission of pathogens within healthcare settings due to inadequate Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures.
- (d) Disease transmission through community rituals and unsafe burial practices.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Nosocomial amplification refers to the **rapid spread of infections within healthcare facilities** such as hospitals and clinics. It usually occurs due to weak **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)** systems, lack of PPE, inadequate isolation facilities, or poor clinical protocols.

Option (a) refers to reservoir adaptation, while option (d) describes community transmission pathways. Option (b) relates to immune evasion rather than healthcare-associated spread.

2) **With reference to the Panzath Nag Spring Conservation Festival, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a government-funded restoration project focused on intensive aquaculture development.
2. The festival is celebrated across major wetlands of northern Jammu and Kashmir.

3. The conservation process involves chemical treatment of water bodies to remove invasive species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) None

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect because the **Panzath Nag festival** is a **community-led conservation initiative**, not a state-run aquaculture project.

Statement 2 is incorrect as the festival is **localized to Panzath village in Anantnag district of South Kashmir**, supporting water needs of nearby villages.

Statement 3 is incorrect because conservation is carried out through **manual cleaning of silt, weeds, and debris**, without chemical treatment.

3) **Match the following pairs concerning constitutional articles and their legal provisions:**

Column I Column II

- A. Article 213 1. Governor's power to promulgate ordinances
- B. Article 355 2. Union's duty to protect states against external aggression and internal disturbance
- C. Article 365 3. Failure of state compliance with Union directions as a ground for President's Rule

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Pair B is correct because **Article 355** places a constitutional duty upon the Union to protect states from **external aggression and internal disturbance**.

Pair C is correct because **Article 365** allows constitutional action where a state fails to comply with Union directions, potentially leading to **Article 356**.

4) **With reference to zoonotic pathogens, which of the following best describes a 'Natural Reservoir'?**

- (a) An animal host where severe illness and rapid mortality accelerate disease spread.
- (b) A vector species mechanically transporting pathogens without replication.
- (c) A climatic zone forcing rapid viral mutation before human transmission.
- (d) A species or population where a pathogen persists and multiplies without causing severe disease.

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

A **natural reservoir** is a species or population in which a pathogen **lives, reproduces, and persists over long periods**, generally causing little or no severe illness. Such hosts act as long-term sources of infection for spillover into other species.

For example, **fruit bats** are considered natural reservoirs for **Ebola virus**.

Options (a) and (b) describe amplifying hosts and vectors respectively, while option (c) refers to environmental factors.

5) **The newly launched SHG Savings Account by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) seeks to promote financial inclusion primarily through:**

- (a) Providing high-interest loans to women-led SHGs.
- (b) Integrating SHGs into formal banking through zero-balance accounts.
- (c) Providing insurance and pension coverage to rural women entrepreneurs.
- (d) Enabling international remittances for export-oriented SHGs.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The SHG Savings Account aims to integrate **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** into the **formal financial system** by offering **zero-balance accounts** and removing barriers such as minimum balance requirements.

It supports women-led rural groups under initiatives linked to **NRLM** and **NABARD**, promoting savings and financial inclusion.

The account facilitates accessible banking rather than direct credit, insurance, or export support.

6) **In the context of military operations such as Op Netra 1.0, the term “Humanitarian Outreach” primarily refers to:**

- (a) Use of military force to secure medical supply chains during conflict.
- (b) Non-combat initiatives by armed forces providing essential services to civilians.
- (c) Recruitment of civilians into auxiliary medical units.
- (d) Intelligence gathering through medical interaction with local populations.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Humanitarian Outreach refers to **non-combat welfare initiatives** undertaken by the armed forces to support civilian populations.

Op Netra 1.0 is an example where the Indian Army delivered **specialized eye-care services** to residents of Ladakh. Such missions strengthen civil-military relations and improve access to essential services in remote regions.

It is a welfare initiative rather than a combat or intelligence activity.

7) **Consider the following statements:**

Statement-I: Weakening or collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) may cause a southward shift of the tropical rain belt.

Statement-II: AMOC functions as a global heat conveyor transferring heat from tropical regions to the North Atlantic and influencing rainfall patterns.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (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.

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement-I is correct because weakening of the **AMOC** may shift the **tropical rain belt (ITCZ) southward**, affecting monsoon systems and rainfall distribution.

Statement-II is also correct because AMOC transports **warm tropical waters to the North Atlantic**, influencing atmospheric circulation and global precipitation patterns. This heat transport mechanism explains the rainfall shifts associated with AMOC weakening.

8) Consider the following statements regarding the Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE) Mission:

1. It is a collaborative deep-space mission jointly developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).
2. The mission aims to observe the interaction between the solar wind and Earth's magnetosphere from a highly elliptical orbit above the North Pole.
3. The spacecraft carries instruments capable of capturing soft X-ray and ultraviolet images to study solar-terrestrial interactions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The **SMILE Mission** is a joint scientific mission between the **European Space Agency (ESA)** and the **Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)**. It is not a collaboration with NASA.

Statement 2 is correct. The mission is designed to study solar-terrestrial interactions by placing the spacecraft in a highly elliptical orbit approximately **1.21 lakh km above Earth's North Pole**, allowing continuous observation of the magnetosphere boundaries.

Statement 3 is correct. The mission carries instruments such as the **Soft X-ray Imager (SXI)** and **Ultraviolet Imager (UVI)**, which will capture global X-ray and ultraviolet images of Earth's magnetosphere.

The mission is expected to improve understanding of space weather processes and strengthen forecasting capabilities for protecting satellites, communication systems, GPS infrastructure, and power grids.

9) With reference to the Judges Inquiry Committee, consider the following statements:

1. It is an ad-hoc statutory body constituted under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 for investigating allegations against judges.
2. The committee submits its report to the Speaker of Lok Sabha or Chairman of Rajya Sabha, depending upon the House initiating the motion.
3. The committee consists of a sitting Supreme Court judge, a sitting Chief Justice of a High Court, and an eminent jurist.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The **Judges Inquiry Committee** is not a permanent institution; it is an **ad-hoc statutory body** constituted whenever removal proceedings against a judge are initiated.

Statement 2 is correct. The committee submits its report to the **presiding officer of the House** where the motion originated, namely the Lok Sabha Speaker or Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Statement 3 is correct. The committee comprises exactly three members:

- A sitting Judge of the Supreme Court
- A sitting Chief Justice of a High Court
- An eminent jurist

The committee enjoys powers similar to those of a Civil Court while conducting inquiries.

10) Consider the following statements regarding Norway:

1. Norway occupies the western and northern portions of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
2. It shares land boundaries with Sweden, Finland, and Russia.
3. Its coastline is characterised by fjords formed through glacial activity.
4. Most of its electricity generation comes from hydropower resources.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d) All four

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Norway occupies the **western and northernmost regions of the Scandinavian Peninsula.**

Statement 2 is correct. It shares borders with **Sweden, Finland, and Russia.**

Statement 3 is correct. Norway's famous **fjords** were created by glacial erosion during repeated ice ages.

Statement 4 is correct. Norway generates more than **95% of its domestic electricity from hydropower**, supported by rivers, waterfalls, and snowmelt-fed systems.

11) Consider the following statements regarding bioenergy conversion pathways:

1. Gasification is a thermochemical process generally used for dry biomass.
2. Anaerobic digestion occurs in the absence of oxygen.
3. Syngas produced during gasification mainly contains carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. **Gasification** is a thermochemical process operating at high temperatures and is suitable for **dry biomass feedstocks**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Anaerobic digestion** takes place in an oxygen-free environment using anaerobic microorganisms.

Statement 3 is correct. **Syngas (Synthesis Gas)** mainly consists of **carbon monoxide (CO)** and **hydrogen (H₂)**.

Anaerobic digestion produces **biogas**, which mainly contains methane and carbon dioxide.

12) With reference to the SHE-MART initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Rural Development under DAY-NRLM.
2. The initiative focuses on financially stable Self-Help Groups with established incomes.
3. It is integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. **SHE-MART (Self Help Entrepreneurs – Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation)** has been launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development** under **DAY-NRLM**.

Statement 2 is correct. The initiative targets **mature SHGs** having stable income levels rather than newly formed groups.

Statement 3 is correct. It integrates with **ONDC** to facilitate commission-free digital commerce for rural women entrepreneurs.

13) An MP in the Rajya Sabha intends to move a privilege notice against a Union Minister. Which of the following correctly describes the parliamentary privilege framework?

- (a) Privilege notices apply only to breaches of individual privileges.
- (b) Every privilege notice must be referred to the Committee on Privileges.
- (c) Parliamentary privileges are comprehensively codified by legislation.
- (d) The presiding officer determines whether a prima facie case exists.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The **presiding officer** acts as the first-level authority and determines whether a **prima facie breach of privilege** exists.

Parliamentary privileges may relate to both **individual and collective privileges**.

India does not have a comprehensive codified law defining all parliamentary privileges and relies on constitutional provisions, conventions, and judicial interpretations.

14) With reference to the Grey Market Premium (GMP) associated with IPOs, consider the following statement:

- (a) It represents an officially verified valuation approved by SEBI.
- (b) It is determined through formal stock exchange trading mechanisms.
- (c) It reflects speculative market sentiment but remains unregulated and volatile.
- (d) It functions as a post-listing price stabilisation mechanism.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The **Grey Market Premium (GMP)** operates outside regulated exchanges and reflects **informal investor sentiment and speculative demand** regarding IPO shares.

It is:

- Unofficial and unregulated
- Not monitored by SEBI
- Highly volatile
- Susceptible to manipulation

The GMP disappears after official listing.

15) With reference to the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), consider the following statements:

1. AMOC is influenced by salinity and density variations in ocean waters.
2. Weakening of AMOC may lead to reduced wet season intensity over India.
3. AMOC is primarily a thermohaline circulation system.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Salinity changes strongly affect AMOC because dense salty water sinks into deeper ocean layers.

Statement 2 is correct. AMOC weakening may shift rainfall patterns and contribute to **weaker monsoon conditions over India**.

Statement 3 is correct. AMOC is fundamentally a **thermohaline circulation**, driven by differences in **temperature and salinity**.

AMOC also contributes significantly to carbon transport and climate regulation.

16) Consider the following statements regarding the election of the United Nations Secretary-General:

1. The UN Charter does not prescribe a formal term limit.
2. Appointment takes place after recommendation by the Security Council and approval by the General Assembly.
3. Permanent members of the Security Council can veto candidates.
4. Regional rotation is followed as a customary practice.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d) All four

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The **UN Charter** does not establish formal term limits.

Statement 2 is correct. Appointment requires **Security Council recommendation** followed by **General Assembly approval**.

Statement 3 is correct. The **P5 members** possess veto power during recommendation.

Statement 4 is correct. Regional rotation exists as an informal convention.

17) The ecological significance of the location of Kanha Tiger Reserve in the Maikal ranges of the Satpuras primarily lies in:

- (a) Conservation of high-altitude desert ecosystems supporting snow leopards
- (b) Representation of Central Indian biodiversity dominated by Sal forests
- (c) Functioning as the principal catchment of the Brahmaputra basin
- (d) Conservation of the only wild population of Asiatic Lions

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Kanha Tiger Reserve is renowned for representing the characteristic biodiversity of **Central India**.

Its vegetation is dominated by **Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests**, grasslands, plateaus, and meadows.

The reserve was among the original tiger reserves established under **Project Tiger (1973)** and remains one of India's most important protected areas.

The other options are incorrect because:

- Snow leopards occur in Himalayan regions
- Brahmaputra catchment lies elsewhere
- Asiatic Lions survive only in Gir National Park.