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1) Consider the following statements:

1. Currently, India allows for foreign shareholding of 20% for Public sector banks & 74% for private banks.
2. The Government of India is planning to raise the foreign ownership limit for state-owned banks to 75% in the near future.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – Under current regulations, FDI in Public Sector Banks is capped at 20% (under the government route), while Private Sector Banks allow up to 74% (with 49% through the automatic route).
- Statement 2: Incorrect – While there have been ongoing discussions regarding banking reforms and privatization, there is no official legislative mandate currently set to raise the PSU bank foreign limit specifically to 75% in the "near future." The current cap remains strictly at 20%.

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Bannerghatta National Park:

1. It is located near Bengaluru in the Anekal hill range.
2. It hosts India's first butterfly enclosure established in 2006.
3. The vegetation is limited to tropical evergreen forests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – Bannerghatta National Park is situated on the outskirts of Bengaluru within the Anekal hill range.
- Statement 2: Correct – The Butterfly Park at Bannerghatta, inaugurated in 2006, was indeed the first of its kind in India.
- Statement 3: Incorrect – The vegetation is not "limited" to evergreen forests; it primarily consists of dry deciduous forests, thorny scrub, and some moist deciduous patches. The word "limited" makes the statement geographically inaccurate.

3) With reference to major international awards and recognitions (2025–26), consider the following statements:

1. Banu Mushtaq was awarded the International Booker Prize 2025 for her work "*Heart Lamp*".
2. The 60th Jnanpith Award (2025) has been conferred upon R. Vairamuthu.
3. The Abel Prize 2026, often called the Nobel Prize of Mathematics, was awarded to Masaki Kashiwara.
4. The UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2025 for climate leadership was given to Medha Patkar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – Banu Mushtaq won the International Booker Prize 2025 for “*Heart Lamp*”.
- Statement 2: Correct – R. Vairamuthu is the recipient of the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025).
- Statement 3: Correct – Masaki Kashiwara received the Abel Prize 2026.
- Statement 4: Incorrect – UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2025 was given to Sunita Narain, not Medha Patkar.

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- 4) With reference to the power of Parliament to reorganize states under Article 3 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:
1. A Bill for this purpose can be introduced in Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President.
 2. The President must refer the Bill to the concerned State Legislature to express its views within a specified period.
 3. Parliament is bound to accept the State Legislature’s views if passed by a special majority.
 4. The power to cede Indian territory to a foreign state is included under Article 3.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct- Bill requires prior Presidential recommendation.
- Statement 2: Correct- President refers it to State Legislature for views (within time limit).
- Statement 3: Incorrect- Parliament is not bound by State’s views.

- Statement 4: Incorrect- Cession of territory needs Constitutional Amendment (Article 368), as held in Berubari Union case 1960.
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5) Consider the following Statements:

1. The Doctrine of Pith and Substance says that the constitutionality of legislation is upheld if it is largely covered by one list and touches upon the other list only incidentally.
2. The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation tests the competence of the legislature against an enacted law.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court has used two mechanisms to solve the dispute between Centre and states over the entry list in Seventh Schedule. The mechanisms are Doctrine of Pith and Substance and Doctrine of Colourable Legislation.
 - Statement 1 is correct: The Doctrine of Pith and Substance says that the constitutionality of legislation is upheld if it is largely covered by one list and touches upon the other list only incidentally.
 - The doctrine relates to finding out the true nature of a statute.
 - Pith denotes the 'essence of something' or the 'true nature', while substance states the most significant or essential part of something.
 - Statement 2 is correct: The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation tests the competence of the legislature against an enacted law. This doctrine states the fact that what cannot be done directly, cannot also be done indirectly.
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6) Consider the following Pairs regarding Political Parties:

Name of the Party

Symbol

1. Communist Party of India : Hammer, Sickle and Star
2. All India Trinamool Congress : Flowers and Grass
3. National People's Party : Clock
4. Nationalist Congress Party : Book

Select the correct answer using the following codes:

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) Three only
- d) All four

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A political party is an organised group of persons that have common ideas on governance and work together as a political entity to gain control of government in order to forward their agenda and policies.
- The political parties in India's governance system are divided into two categories: national political parties and state or regional political parties.
- The status of political parties has been reviewed by the Election Commission.
- Following are the recognised Parties and their Symbols

S. No.	Name of the Party	Symbol
1.	Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	Elephant
2.	Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)	Lotus
3.	Communist Party of India (CPI)	Ears of Corn and Sickle
4.	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	Hammer, Sickle and Star
5.	Indian National Congress (INC)	Hand
6.	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	Clock
7.	All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	Flowers and Grass
8.	National People's Party (NPP)	Book

7) Consider the following statements regarding the federal structure of India:

1. The Indian Federation is characterised by a dual polity as well as a dual judiciary.
2. The Supreme Court of India has recognised federalism as a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
3. Confederalism refers to a system in which States are sovereign and are loosely coordinated by a weak central authority.

How many of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. While India follows a dual polity with a division of powers between the Union and the States, it does not have a dual judiciary. Instead, India has a single integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the apex and High Courts below it.
- Statement 2 is correct, as the Supreme Court has consistently held that federalism forms part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- Statement 3 is also correct. In a confederal system, the constituent States are supreme, and the central authority is weak, exercising only limited coordinating functions.

8) Which of the following sectors are included in the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?

1. Steel
2. Aluminium
3. Textiles

- 4. Cement
- 5. Hydrogen

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: a) Explanation:

- The EU's CBAM initially targets carbon-intensive sectors with high risk of carbon leakage.
 - Included: Steel (1), Aluminium (2), Cement (4), Hydrogen (5), along with Fertilizers and Electricity.
 - Excluded: Textiles (3) are not part of the initial transitional phase of CBAM.
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9) Consider the following statements:

1. In North-East India, tea bushes are predominantly grown under the canopy of leguminous shade trees.
2. Frequent frost during the winter months is essential for inducing dormancy and improving the flavour profile of the tea leaves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – Leguminous trees (like Albizia) are used to provide shade, fix nitrogen in the soil, and protect tea bushes from the intense sun.
 - Statement 2: Incorrect – While tea requires a cool climate, frequent frost is damaging to tea leaves. High-quality tea (like Darjeeling) benefits from cold, misty conditions, but actual frost can kill the young shoots.
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10) Consider the following reports published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

1. World Economic Outlook
2. Global Financial Stability Report
3. Fiscal Monitor
4. World Economic Prospects

Which of the above reports are released by the IMF?

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

Answer: b) Explanation:

- IMF Publications: World Economic Outlook, Global Financial Stability Report, and the Fiscal Monitor.
 - World Economic Prospects (4): This is incorrect; the similar-sounding report "Global Economic Prospects" is published by the World Bank.
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11) Which one of the following groups of countries shares a land border with Israel?

- a) Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt
- b) Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan
- c) Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey

d) Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt

Answer: a) Explanation:

- Israel is bordered by Lebanon to the north, Syria to the northeast, Jordan to the east, and Egypt to the southwest.
 - Iraq, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia do not share a direct land border with Israel.
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12) Consider the following statements regarding the Arctic Council:

1. It is a high-level intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by Arctic governments and indigenous people.
2. India is a permanent member of the Arctic Council.
3. The Ottawa Declaration formally established the Arctic Council in 1996.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – It focuses on sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
 - Statement 2: Incorrect – India is an Observer, not a permanent member. Only countries with territory in the Arctic (The "Arctic Eight") are permanent members.
 - Statement 3: Correct – The council was indeed established by the 1996 Ottawa Declaration.
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13) Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

1. It was established as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in 1972.
2. The headquarters of UNEP is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. The 'Global Environment Outlook' (GEO) is a flagship report published by UNEP.

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: c) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – UNEP was founded by Maurice Strong, its first director, following the Stockholm Conference in June 1972.
- Statement 2: Incorrect – The headquarters of UNEP is located in Nairobi, Kenya. It was the first UN agency to be headquartered in a developing country.
- Statement 3: Correct – The Global Environment Outlook is a series of reports that review the state and direction of the global environment.

14) With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:

1. The NGT was established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
2. It is bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
3. The Tribunal is mandated to make an endeavor for the disposal of applications or appeals finally within six months of filing.

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: c) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – It was established for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.
 - Statement 2: Incorrect – The NGT is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Instead, it is guided by principles of natural justice.
 - Statement 3: Correct – Expeditious justice is a core mandate, and the Act specifies a target of 6 months for final disposal.
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15) Consider the following statements regarding PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan):

1. It aims to provide energy security to farmers and de-dieselize the farm sector.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. One of its components includes the installation of standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – The scheme focuses on solarization of pumps and using barren land for solar energy production to increase farmer income and reduce diesel reliance.
- Statement 2: Incorrect – The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), not the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Statement 3: Correct – Component-B of the scheme specifically deals with the installation of 20 lakh standalone solar pumps.