

Q1. With reference to the E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory regulatory authority established by an Act of Parliament to oversee digital commerce platforms.
2. It functions as a unified industry platform for engagement with government ministries and regulatory authorities on e-commerce-related issues.
3. It promotes the digital onboarding of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to enable their participation in domestic and global e-commerce markets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI)** is **not a statutory body** and has not been established under an Act of Parliament. It is an industry-led council operating under the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** and does not possess regulatory or enforcement powers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The council serves as a common industry platform for interaction with government ministries, regulators, and policymakers on issues such as digital commerce, taxation, consumer protection, logistics, digital payments, and data governance.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** One of the major objectives of the ECCI is to facilitate the digital integration of MSMEs, enabling them to access both domestic and international markets through e-commerce platforms while strengthening India's digital economy.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Vikram-1 and Mission Aagaman:

1. Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle.
2. Mission Aagaman was undertaken with authorization and support from the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).
3. Vikram-1 employs a multi-stage cryogenic propulsion system as its primary launch configuration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Developed by **Skyroot Aerospace**, Vikram-1 is India's first privately built orbital-class launch vehicle designed to place small satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mission received authorization and facilitation from **IN-SPACe**, the nodal agency responsible for promoting and regulating private sector participation in India's space sector.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Vikram-1 does **not** use cryogenic propulsion. Instead, it employs **solid-fuel stages** along with a **3D-printed liquid rocket engine**, making it suitable for economical small-satellite launches.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Manasbal Lake:

1. It is situated in the Ganderbal district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is regarded as the deepest natural freshwater lake in India.
3. The lake drains directly into the Arabian Sea through underground channels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Manasbal Lake is located in **Ganderbal district**, approximately 30 km north of Srinagar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is widely recognized as the **deepest natural freshwater lake in India** and is known for its clear waters, lotus vegetation, and aquatic biodiversity.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The lake's surplus water flows through the **Jarokbal Nallah** into the **Jhelum River**, which eventually joins the **Indus River system** before reaching the Arabian Sea. There is **no direct underground drainage**.

Q4. With reference to the FIFA World Cup 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The tournament was jointly hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the United States.
2. It was the first FIFA World Cup to feature 48 participating teams.
3. Spain defeated Argentina in the final after extra time to win its second FIFA World Cup title.

Which of the statements given above is/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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 2026 FIFA World Cup became the first edition to be co-hosted by three countries—Canada, Mexico, and the United States.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It introduced the **48-team format**, replacing the earlier 32-team structure and expanding the tournament to **104 matches**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Spain defeated Argentina **1–0 after extra time** in the final at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey**, securing its second FIFA World Cup title after its maiden triumph in 2010.

Q5. Mount Olympus, the highest mountain massif in Greece, is located nearest to which one of the following water bodies?

- A. Ionian Sea
- B. Gulf of Thermaic (Aegean Sea)
- C. Sea of Crete
- D. Adriatic Sea

Answer: B

Explanation

Mount Olympus, Greece's highest mountain, rises to **2,918 metres** at **Mytikas Peak** and lies on the boundary of the **Thessaly** and **Central Macedonia** regions.

It is situated about **20 km from the Gulf of Thermaic**, an inlet of the **Aegean Sea**, which influences the mountain's climate and biodiversity. Mount Olympus is also Greece's first national park and a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**. In Greek mythology, it is revered as the legendary abode of the **Twelve Olympian gods**.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the strategic objectives of the E-Commerce Council of India (ECCI):

Statement I: The ECCI seeks to strengthen cross-border e-commerce by facilitating international market access for Indian enterprises.

Statement II: Integration with global supply chains reduces trade barriers and improves market access for domestic businesses.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of 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

- **Statement I is correct:** The ECCI works to strengthen India's digital commerce ecosystem by promoting **cross-border e-commerce**, particularly for MSMEs, startups, and domestic brands.
- **Statement II is correct:** Integration into **global supply chains** lowers market-entry barriers, improves logistics efficiency, enhances export competitiveness, and expands access to international consumers.
- Since participation in global supply networks directly supports the objective of expanding cross-border e-commerce, **Statement II correctly explains Statement I.**

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India's measures to encourage mobilisation of fresh FCNR(B) deposits:

Fresh FCNR(B) deposits mobilised under the special regulatory window are exempt from the maintenance requirements of both the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).

Interest rates on FCNR(B) deposits are linked to international benchmark rates but are generally lower than interest rates offered on comparable domestic rupee fixed deposits.

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 Reserve Bank of India has periodically introduced regulatory relaxations to encourage banks to attract foreign currency deposits from overseas Indians.

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Fresh FCNR(B) deposits mobilised under the special window were exempted from the CRR and SLR requirements, enabling banks to deploy these funds more efficiently.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** Interest rates on FCNR(B) deposits are linked to international benchmark rates. Consequently, they are generally lower than domestic rupee fixed deposit rates because global interest rates are typically lower than domestic interest rates in India.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the cultivation requirements of the GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi:

The crop grows best in deep, well-drained alluvial or loamy soils enriched by deposits from the Brahmaputra River basin.

It thrives in a humid subtropical climate with cool, frost-free winters that favour floral bud initiation.

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 distinctive quality of the GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi is closely associated with the favourable agro-climatic conditions of the Brahmaputra Valley.

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The crop performs best in deep, fertile, well-drained alluvial or loamy soils that receive nutrient-rich deposits from the Brahmaputra River system.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** It requires a humid subtropical climate with cool, frost-free winters for proper floral bud initiation, followed by warm and humid summers that promote healthy fruit development.

Q9. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Every candidate contesting an election to Parliament or a State Legislature is required to submit Form 26 along with the nomination papers under the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

Statement II: Form 26 is an affidavit requiring candidates to disclose details relating to criminal antecedents, assets, liabilities, educational qualifications, and other prescribed information to ensure electoral transparency.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of 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

Transparency in the electoral process is ensured through mandatory disclosure requirements prescribed under the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

- **Statement I is correct.** Every candidate contesting elections to Parliament or a State Legislature must submit Form 26 along with the nomination papers.
- **Statement II is correct.** Form 26 contains mandatory disclosures regarding criminal cases, movable and immovable assets, liabilities, educational qualifications, and other prescribed particulars to enable informed voting by the electorate.
- **Statement II correctly explains Statement I** because the statutory requirement to file Form 26 exists to ensure transparency and public disclosure of relevant information about candidates.

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding the Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft programme in India:

The Airbus C-295 is a twin-turboprop tactical transport aircraft intended to replace the ageing transport fleet of the Indian Air Force.

Under the programme, 16 aircraft are delivered in fly-away condition from Spain, while the remaining aircraft are manufactured in India through a partnership between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

The Airbus C-295 programme represents a major step towards strengthening India's defence manufacturing ecosystem under the Make in India initiative.

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The C-295 is a modern twin-turboprop tactical transport aircraft designed to replace ageing transport aircraft in the Indian Air Force.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Of the 56 contracted aircraft, the first 16 are supplied in fly-away condition from Spain, while the remaining 40 are manufactured and assembled in India through a partnership between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), promoting indigenous aerospace manufacturing.

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the Sitapur 250 MW Solar-BESS Project:

The project integrates utility-scale solar photovoltaic generation with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The project has been developed to provide reliable green electricity to defence establishments by utilising vacant defence land.

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 Sitapur Solar-BESS Project is an integrated renewable energy initiative designed to strengthen energy security for defence infrastructure.

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The project combines 250 MW of solar power generation with a large Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), enabling reliable and continuous electricity supply.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Developed on vacant defence land, the project aims to provide dependable green energy to defence establishments while reducing dependence on conventional grid electricity.

Q11. Consider the following countries:

1. Syria
2. Iraq
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Egypt

Which of the above share a direct land border with Jordan?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

Explanation

Jordan is strategically located in West Asia and shares land borders with several neighbouring countries.

- **Syria** shares Jordan's northern border.
- **Iraq** borders Jordan to the northeast.
- **Saudi Arabia** shares Jordan's eastern and southern borders.
- **Egypt does not share a land border** with Jordan. The two countries are separated by the Gulf of Aqaba, although they maintain maritime connectivity through the Red Sea.

Jordan also shares borders with Israel and the West Bank, making it an important geopolitical and trade corridor in the region.

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):

The Chief of Defence Staff is appointed by the President of India based on the recommendations of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Serving or retired Lieutenant Generals, Vice Admirals, and Air Marshals are eligible for appointment as the CDS, subject to the prescribed eligibility conditions.

The CDS serves up to the age of 65 years, and the post is not governed by a fixed tenure.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

The appointment and tenure of the Chief of Defence Staff are governed by the relevant service rules and decisions of the Government of India.

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The CDS is appointed by the President of India following the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Following amendments to the eligibility rules in 2022, serving or retired three-star officers (Lieutenant General, Vice Admiral, or Air Marshal) meeting the prescribed conditions are eligible for appointment as the CDS.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The CDS does not have a fixed tenure and may serve up to the age of **65 years**, subject to the applicable service rules.