

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding dust storms in Northwest India:

1. Dust storms in Northwest India primarily occur during the winter season due to temperature inversions and associated downbursts over the Thar Desert.
2. These storms are mainly caused by high-pressure systems carrying moist sea breezes from the Arabian Sea.

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: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Dust storms in Northwest India occur predominantly during the **pre-monsoon season (April–June)**. They are triggered by intense surface heating, which creates unstable atmospheric conditions and promotes strong convective activity. They are **not associated with winter temperature inversions**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Dust storms are **not driven by high-pressure systems or moist Arabian Sea breezes**. Instead, they result from **low-pressure conditions**, strong surface heating, thunderstorms, and powerful downdrafts that lift loose sand and dust from the **Thar Desert** and transport it across Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and adjoining regions.

Q2. The establishment of the Price Stabilization Fund for Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) represents which one of the following types of economic policy intervention?

- A. A permanent subsidy mechanism that fixes aviation fuel prices irrespective of global market conditions.
- B. A long-term fiscal instrument intended to finance the disinvestment of public sector oil marketing companies.
- C. A temporary counter-cyclical buffer mechanism designed to cushion the aviation sector against sudden external price shocks.
- D. A trade restriction aimed at preventing Indian airlines from procuring Aviation Turbine Fuel from foreign markets.

Answer: C

Explanation

The **Price Stabilization Fund for Scheduled Indian Airlines** is a **temporary counter-cyclical policy instrument** introduced to protect the aviation sector from sudden spikes in international **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** prices arising from external disruptions, such as geopolitical crises.

- It provides **interest-free advances** to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to offset sudden increases in ATF prices.
- The mechanism operates on a **revolving basis**, with recoveries made through a **true-up mechanism** when global fuel prices decline.
- It is **not a permanent subsidy**, nor is it intended for disinvestment or trade restrictions. Instead, it serves as a **temporary stabilizing measure** against external market volatility.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026:

1. The amended rules relax birth reporting requirements for children born to two foreign-national parents.
2. The amendment abolishes the obligation of hospitals to report foreign nationals receiving medical treatment.
3. The rules constitute a new Act of Parliament replacing the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025.

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. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The relaxation in birth reporting applies to **mixed-parentage cases**, where **one parent is an Indian citizen** and the child retains Indian citizenship. It does **not** apply where **both parents are foreign nationals**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The amendment **does not remove** the obligation of hospitals and institutions to report foreign nationals. Instead, it **revises and streamlines** the reporting procedures while retaining monitoring requirements.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026 are **executive amendments** issued by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** under the existing legal framework. They are **not a separate Act of Parliament** and do not repeal the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025.

Q4. Astronomers used slow-transit spectroscopy with the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to study the exoplanet WASP-94A b. This technique primarily involves:

- A. Measuring the gravitational wobble of the host star caused by the planet's orbital motion.

- B. Analyzing starlight at different wavelengths as it passes through the planet's atmosphere during transit to identify atmospheric constituents.
- C. Capturing high-resolution optical images of the planet's surface features and continents.
- D. Detecting radio waves reflected from the planet's metallic core during periods of intense solar activity.

Answer: B

Explanation

Slow-transit spectroscopy is a specialized application of the **transit method** used to study the atmospheres of exoplanets.

- As the planet passes in front of its host star, a small portion of the **starlight passes through the planet's atmosphere** before reaching the telescope.
- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** separates this light into different wavelengths. Different atmospheric gases absorb specific wavelengths, allowing scientists to identify the chemical composition of the atmosphere.
- This technique enables researchers to detect atmospheric molecules, cloud structures, and temperature variations, providing valuable insights into the nature and evolution of distant exoplanets.
- It **does not involve gravitational wobble measurements (radial velocity method), direct imaging of planetary surfaces, or radio-wave analysis.**

Q5. With reference to the Anti-Defection Law in India, consider the following statements regarding disqualification under the Tenth Schedule:

1. An independent member of a House incurs disqualification if they join any political party after being elected.
2. A nominated member of a House incurs disqualification if they join a political party at any time after taking their seat in the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?

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

Answer: B. 2 only

Explanation

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, inserted through the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985**, lays down the grounds for disqualification of legislators on the basis of defection.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** An **independent member** who joins any political party after the election becomes liable for disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A nominated member is permitted to join a political party **within six months** from the date of taking their seat in the House. Disqualification arises only if the member joins a political party **after the expiry of this six-month period**.

Further, the **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** strengthened the Anti-Defection Law by abolishing the earlier exemption for a **one-third split** in a legislature party. At present, only a **merger supported by at least two-thirds of the members** of a legislature party is exempt from disqualification.

Q6. With reference to the National Award-winning short film *Angen*, consider the following statements:

1. It became the first Santhali-language film to receive a National Film Award.
2. The story is based on an indigenous folktale about a shepherd boy who is drawn to the celestial realm by a deity.
3. The film uses this narrative as a social allegory to depict rural-to-urban migration and the erosion of cultural identity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: C. All three

Explanation

Angen (Invisible), directed by **Ravi Raj Murmu**, won the **Best Debut Film of a Director (Non-Feature Category)** at the **72nd National Film Awards**.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the **first Santhali-language film** to win a National Film Award.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The film is inspired by an indigenous folktale in which a **shepherd boy is taken to the celestial realm by a deity** and later returns to find his village transformed.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Beyond its folklore, the film serves as a metaphor for **rural migration, urbanization, and the gradual loss of indigenous identity and cultural heritage**.

Q7. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The right to protest in India is a democratic right, but it is not an absolute Fundamental Right.

Statement II: Article 19(1)(b) guarantees citizens the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(3).

Statement III: In *Amit Sahni v. Commissioner of Police* (Shaheen Bagh Case, 2020), the Supreme Court held that public spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely for protests.

Which one of the following is correct?

- 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: A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both explain Statement I.

Explanation

The Constitution recognizes peaceful protest as an essential feature of democracy, but the right is **subject to constitutional and judicial limitations**.

- **Statement I is correct:** The right to protest is not an independent Fundamental Right and is **not absolute**.
- **Statement II is correct:** **Article 19(1)(b)** guarantees the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, while **Article 19(3)** allows the State to impose **reasonable restrictions** in the interests of sovereignty, integrity, and public order.
- **Statement III is correct:** In the **Shaheen Bagh judgment (2020)**, the Supreme Court ruled that **public roads and spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely**, emphasizing the need to balance the right to protest with the rights of the general public.

Thus, both Statements II and III provide the constitutional and judicial basis for Statement I.

Q8. The historic incident in which Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw low-intensity bombs inside the Central Legislative Assembly in 1929 was primarily intended to protest against which of the following colonial legislations?

- A. Vernacular Press Act and Arms Act
- B. Indian Councils Act and Ilbert Bill
- C. Rowlatt Act and Defence of India Act
- D. Public Safety Bill and Trade Disputes Bill

Answer: D. Public Safety Bill and Trade Disputes Bill

Explanation

On **8 April 1929**, **Bhagat Singh** and **Batukeshwar Dutt** threw two low-intensity bombs into the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi.

- The action was **symbolic rather than violent**, intended "to make the deaf hear."
- They deliberately avoided causing casualties and surrendered voluntarily after throwing leaflets explaining their objective.
- The protest was directed against:
 - **Public Safety Bill**, which sought to suppress revolutionary and nationalist activities.

- **Trade Disputes Bill**, which imposed severe restrictions on labour movements and trade unions.

The event became one of the most iconic acts of the Indian revolutionary movement.

Q9. From the perspective of flood management, the Belwa–Minapur Link Channel project in Bihar has been designed primarily to address which of the following hydrological challenges?

- A. Preventing saline intrusion into coastal aquifers
- B. Diverting excess monsoon floodwater from the Bagmati River to the Budhi Gandak River
- C. Mitigating glacial lake outburst floods in the Himalayas
- D. Generating hydroelectric power through inter-basin water transfer

Answer: B. Diverting excess monsoon floodwater from the Bagmati River to the Budhi Gandak River

Explanation

North Bihar experiences recurrent floods due to heavy monsoon flows in rivers originating in Nepal, particularly the **Bagmati River**.

- The **Belwa–Minapur Link Channel** has been constructed to **divert surplus floodwater** from the Bagmati River near **Belwa Ghat** to the **Budhi Gandak River**, which has a greater carrying capacity.
- The channel is designed to transfer up to **50,000 cusecs** of floodwater during peak monsoon periods.
- The project aims to:
 - Reduce flood damage in vulnerable areas of North Bihar.
 - Protect agricultural land and settlements.
 - Improve water management and support irrigation during lean seasons.

Hence, the project is primarily a **flood mitigation and river interlinking initiative**, rather than one related to desalination, glacial floods, or hydropower generation.

Q10. Consider the following statements with reference to disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India:

Statement I: A legislator is protected from disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law if at least one-third of the members of the legislature party split to form a separate group.

Statement II: The **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** abolished the exemption for a one-third split and now grants protection only in cases of a merger supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the legislature party.

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.

Answer: D. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Explanation

The **Tenth Schedule** was inserted into the Constitution by the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985** to curb political defections.

- **Statement I is incorrect:** The earlier provision protecting legislators in the event of a **one-third split** is **no longer in force**.
- **Statement II is correct:** The **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** deleted the split provision and retained protection only in cases of a **merger**, provided that **not less than two-thirds** of the members of the legislature party support the merger.

Thus, under the present Anti-Defection Law, a **one-third split does not provide immunity from disqualification**, whereas a valid **two-thirds merger** does.

Q11. Consider the following pairs of freedom fighters and their associated organizations or movements:

Revolutionary Leader Associated Organization/Movement

1. Batukeshwar Dutt Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)
2. Bhagat Singh Naujawan Bharat Sabha
3. Mahatma Gandhi Quit India Movement

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: C. All three

Explanation

All three pairs are correctly matched.

- **Pair 1 is correct:** **Batukeshwar Dutt** was an active member of the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** and participated with Bhagat Singh in the Central Legislative Assembly bombing of 1929.

- **Pair 2 is correct:** Bhagat Singh founded the **Naujawan Bharat Sabha** in **1926** to mobilize youth and promote revolutionary nationalism.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** Mahatma Gandhi launched the **Quit India Movement** on **8 August 1942**, calling for an immediate end to British rule.

Interestingly, after his release from prison, **Batukeshwar Dutt** also participated in the **Quit India Movement** and was subsequently re-arrested by the British authorities.

Q12. With reference to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, consider the following statements:

1. India was one of the original contracting parties that adopted the Ramsar Convention in 1971.
2. The **Montreux Record** is a register of Ramsar Sites that are free from ecological threats.
3. A wetland must satisfy at least one of the nine Ramsar criteria to be designated as a Wetland of International Importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C. 3 only

Explanation

The **Ramsar Convention** is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, adopted in **Ramsar, Iran, in 1971**.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India was **not** an original contracting party. It **acceded to the Convention on 1 February 1982**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Montreux Record** is a register of Ramsar Sites **where ecological character has changed, is changing, or is likely to change** due to human activities or other factors. It is not a list of ecologically secure wetlands.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A wetland qualifies as a **Ramsar Site** if it satisfies **at least one of the nine internationally accepted criteria**, such as supporting threatened species, representative wetland types, or significant waterbird populations.

Q13. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are exempt from income tax on both interest income and capital gains arising from eligible investments in Indian Government Securities (G-Secs).

Statement II: The tax exemption became effective from **1 April 2026**, with the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 providing retrospective applicability from the beginning of the financial year.

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.

Answer: A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

Explanation

The Government introduced tax incentives to encourage greater participation of global investors in India's sovereign debt market.

- **Statement I is correct:** Eligible **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** are exempt from income tax on **interest income and capital gains** arising from investments in specified **Government Securities (G-Secs)**.
- **Statement II is correct:** The **Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026** made the exemption effective **from 1 April 2026**, thereby providing a retrospective operational effect from the start of the financial year.

Since Statement II explains the legal framework through which the exemption under Statement I is implemented, it is the correct explanation.

Q14. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) living abroad can file, pursue, and obtain resolution of consumer disputes in India through the **e-Jagriti** platform without travelling to the country.

Statement II: The e-Jagriti platform includes international onboarding facilities for overseas users and integrates secure online payment gateways to facilitate consumer dispute resolution.

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.

Answer: A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

Explanation

The **e-Jagriti** platform provides a fully digital ecosystem for consumer dispute resolution under the Consumer Protection framework.

- **Statement I is correct:** The platform enables **NRIs** to file complaints, upload documents, attend virtual hearings, monitor case progress, and receive consumer redressal remotely without visiting India.
- **Statement II is correct:** To facilitate seamless access for overseas users, the platform provides **international onboarding features** and integrates secure payment systems such as **Bharat Kosh, PayGov, and SBI ePay** for payment of statutory fees.

These digital features eliminate procedural and geographical barriers, thereby directly enabling the remote dispute resolution described in Statement I.

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