

Q1. With reference to India's sovereign-backed Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Insurance Product, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
2. It operates under the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP).
3. It is designed to provide third-party liability coverage to shipowners and charterers during maritime operations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

India launched its first **sovereign-backed Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Insurance Product** to strengthen domestic maritime insurance capacity, reduce dependence on foreign insurers, and safeguard maritime trade against geopolitical disruptions.

Statement 1 is correct:

The sovereign-backed P&I insurance product was launched by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance**, in collaboration with public sector general insurance companies. The product was designed by **The New India Assurance Company Limited**.

Statement 2 is correct:

The insurance product functions under the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)**, a government-backed risk-pooling mechanism supported by a sovereign guarantee to provide comprehensive maritime insurance within India.

Statement 3 is correct:

Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Insurance provides **third-party liability coverage** to shipowners and charterers. Unlike Hull & Machinery (H&M) insurance, it covers liabilities such as:

- Death or injury of crew members and passengers
- Cargo loss or damage
- Oil pollution and environmental liabilities
- Wreck removal expenses
- Collision and other third-party liabilities arising during maritime operations

Hence, **all three statements are correct.**

Q2. According to the 2025 report published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India achieved which of the following milestones in global ship recycling?

- A. It became the second-largest ship recycling nation after European Union facilities.
- B. It emerged as the world's leading ship recycling nation with a 35.4% share of the global market.
- C. It witnessed a 60% decline in recycled gross tonnage compared to 2024 because of stricter environmental compliance.
- D. Ship recycling capacity remained stagnant at Alang due to inadequate institutional coordination.

Answer: B

Explanation

According to the **2025 UNCTAD report**, India emerged as the **world's largest ship recycling nation**, reflecting its growing leadership in the global maritime recycling industry.

Option B is correct:

India captured **35.4% of the global ship recycling market**, recycling nearly **9.9 million Gross Tons (GT)** in 2025, a substantial increase from **1.86 million GT** in 2024.

The remarkable growth was driven by:

- Policy reforms promoting ease of doing business
- Improved compliance with international environmental and safety standards
- Coordination among the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Gujarat Maritime Board**, classification societies, cash buyers, and the ship recycling industry

These measures strengthened India's position as the world's leading hub for sustainable ship recycling.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Nipun:

1. It is a Diving Support Vessel designed for deep-sea diving, underwater salvage, submarine rescue, and search-and-rescue missions.
2. It can function as a mother ship for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles (DSRVs).
3. It was indigenously built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Nipun is the second indigenous **Diving Support Vessel (DSV)** delivered to the Indian Navy, significantly enhancing India's underwater operational and submarine rescue capabilities.

Statement 1 is correct:

Nipun is specifically designed to undertake:

- Deep-sea saturation diving
- Underwater salvage operations
- Submarine rescue missions
- Search and Rescue (SAR) operations

These capabilities strengthen India's strategic underwater preparedness.

Statement 2 is correct:

The vessel is equipped with advanced Dynamic Positioning Systems, Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), and specialized launch-and-recovery equipment, enabling it to serve as a **mother ship for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles (DSRVs)** used in submarine rescue operations.

Statement 3 is correct:

Nipun was designed and constructed by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**, with more than **75–80% indigenous content**, contributing to India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in naval shipbuilding.

Therefore, **all three statements are correct.**

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ):

1. India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone is being established at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The zone aims to promote indigenous manufacturing along with research and development in 5G and 6G technologies.
3. It will be governed through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with 51% equity held by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and 49% by the Department of Telecommunications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Government of Madhya Pradesh** have signed an MoU to establish India's first integrated **Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** at **Gwalior**.

Statement 1 is correct:

The Telecom Manufacturing Zone will be developed across nearly **350 acres** at **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**, creating an integrated ecosystem for telecom manufacturing.

Statement 2 is correct:

The project aims to strengthen indigenous capabilities in:

- 5G and 6G technologies
- Optical fibre manufacturing
- Telecom equipment production
- Semiconductor ecosystem
- Advanced testing, certification and R&D infrastructure

Statement 3 is correct:

The TMZ will be administered through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** with:

- **51% equity** held by the **Government of Madhya Pradesh**
- **49% equity** held by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**

Thus, **all three statements are correct**.

Q5. The concept of "Just Transition" is best described as:

- A.** A fair, inclusive and rights-based transition towards environmentally and socially sustainable economies in which no one is left behind.
- B.** A purely technological transition that gives little importance to workers, communities, or vulnerable groups.
- C.** A transition driven solely by market efficiency without legal or social safeguards.
- D.** A development model that prioritizes resource extraction over environmental sustainability.

Answer: A

Explanation

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, in its report "**No Transition Without Justice: Strengthening Environmental Rule of Law for People and Planet**," emphasizes that climate action must be accompanied by fairness, legal protection, and social inclusion.

Option A is correct:

A **Just Transition** refers to a **fair, inclusive, and rights-based transformation** towards environmentally sustainable and low-carbon economies while ensuring that workers, communities, and vulnerable groups are protected and **no one is left behind**.

The concept seeks to:

- Protect workers affected by the shift away from fossil fuels.
- Generate decent green employment opportunities.
- Support communities dependent on carbon-intensive industries.
- Reduce social and economic inequalities.
- Strengthen environmental rule of law and participatory governance.

The framework is recognized under the **Paris Agreement** and subsequent **COP decisions**, making it a key principle guiding equitable climate action globally.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the revolutionary activities of Shaheed Udham Singh:

1. He was associated with the Ghadar Party during his stay abroad and was arrested in India in 1927 for possessing illegal arms and revolutionary literature, including *Ghadar-di-Gunj*.
2. He was the principal founder and chief strategist of the Chittagong Armoury Raid conducted under the leadership of Surya Sen.

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

Shaheed **Udham Singh** was one of India's most celebrated revolutionary freedom fighters, remembered primarily for avenging the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** by assassinating **Michael O'Dwyer** in London in 1940.

Statement 1 is correct:

During his stay abroad, particularly in the **United States and Europe**, Udham Singh came into contact with the **Ghadar Party**, a revolutionary organisation working for India's independence. On returning to India in **1927**, under the guidance of **Bhagat Singh**, he was arrested in **Amritsar** for possessing:

- Unlicensed firearms and ammunition.
- Copies of the banned revolutionary publication **Ghadar-di-Gunj**.

He was sentenced to **five years' imprisonment** for these offences.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

Udham Singh had **no role** in planning or executing the **Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930)**.

The raid was organised by **Surya Sen (Masterda)** and members of the **Indian Republican Army**, including:

- Ananta Singh
- Ganesh Ghosh
- Lokenath Bal
- Pritilata Waddedar

Udham Singh's revolutionary contribution was distinct and culminated in the assassination of **Michael O'Dwyer** at **Caxton Hall, London**, on **13 March 1940**, in retaliation for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Hence, **only Statement 1 is correct.**

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Vidyalaxmi (PM-Vidyalaxmi) Scheme:

1. It is implemented by the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education.
2. The scheme explicitly provides equal access to education loans for women and transgender students.
3. Canara Bank serves as the nodal bank for the implementation of the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

The **PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme** is a **Central Sector Scheme** aimed at ensuring affordable, collateral-free education loans for meritorious students pursuing higher education in recognised institutions.

Statement 1 is correct:

The scheme is implemented by the **Department of Higher Education (DoHE)** under the **Ministry of Education**. It facilitates collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans for students admitted to **Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs)**.

Statement 2 is correct:

The scheme follows a **gender-inclusive and non-discriminatory approach**, ensuring equal access to financial assistance for:

- Women students
- Transgender students

- Other eligible beneficiaries

Eligible students may also receive interest subvention based on the prescribed criteria.

Statement 3 is correct:

Canara Bank functions as the **Nodal Bank** for the PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme. It is responsible for:

- Coordinating with participating banks and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- Managing the central online portal.
- Facilitating interest subvention and digital benefit transfers.

Hence, **all three statements are correct.**

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) in India:

1. The authority to notify an area as a Biodiversity Heritage Site rests with the State Government in consultation with local bodies.
2. Financial and technical support for climate-resilient agriculture and agro-biodiversity conservation in these sites may involve central agencies such as the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).

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

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are unique ecosystems notified under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** to conserve areas of ecological, cultural, and genetic significance.

Statement 1 is correct:

Under **Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, the **State Government** has the statutory authority to notify Biodiversity Heritage Sites after consultation with:

- Local self-government institutions
- Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)
- Local communities and stakeholders

This participatory process ensures conservation without adversely affecting community interests.

Statement 2 is correct:

The long-term conservation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites is supported through technical guidance from the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** and financial or programmatic support from central institutions, including the **National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)**, particularly for:

- Agro-biodiversity conservation
- Conservation of crop wild relatives
- Climate-resilient agricultural practices
- Sustainable land management

Therefore, **both statements are correct.**

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding the role of IN-SPACe:

1. It serves as an interface between ISRO and Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs).
2. It authorises and supervises activities such as the development of satellites and launch vehicles by private entities.
3. It prohibits the sharing of space infrastructure and facilities under the Department of Space (DoS) and ISRO with non-governmental entities.

Based on the above statements, which of the following inferences can be drawn?

1. IN-SPACe promotes private sector participation in India's space programme.
2. It facilitates better utilisation of national space infrastructure and resources.
3. It completely excludes non-governmental entities from space-based activities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) is an autonomous agency under the **Department of Space** established to promote and regulate private participation in India's space sector.

Inference 1 is correct:

Statements 1 and 2 indicate that IN-SPACe acts as a bridge between **ISRO** and **Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs)** by authorising and facilitating private participation in satellite development, launch vehicle manufacturing, and other space activities.

Inference 2 is correct:

By enabling private entities to access ISRO's expertise and infrastructure, IN-SPACe ensures more efficient utilisation of national space assets, encourages innovation, and expands India's overall space capabilities.

Inference 3 is incorrect:

Statement 3 is factually incorrect because IN-SPACE was created specifically to **enable**, rather than prohibit, the participation of private entities. It allows authorised access to ISRO and Department of Space infrastructure under prescribed conditions.

Hence, **only Inferences 1 and 2 are correct.**

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the Board of Peace (BoP):

1. It is a United States-led international organisation.
2. It was initially endorsed by a United Nations Security Council Resolution in 2025 to oversee the transitional administration and redevelopment of Gaza.
3. It was later established as a permanent international organisation through its charter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

The **Board of Peace (BoP)** was established as an international mechanism to coordinate post-conflict governance, reconstruction, and peace-building efforts, with its initial focus on Gaza.

Statement 1 is correct:

The Board of Peace is a **United States-led international body**, proposed under the leadership of the U.S. government to coordinate international peace-building initiatives and regional security arrangements.

Statement 2 is correct:

In **November 2025**, the **United Nations Security Council**, through **Resolution 2803**, endorsed the Board of Peace as a transitional administrative mechanism to oversee the governance, reconstruction, and coordinated funding of Gaza following the ceasefire.

Statement 3 is correct:

Following its initial mandate, the Board of Peace was formally established as a **permanent international organisation** through its charter in **January 2026**, expanding its mandate beyond Gaza to support broader global peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

Therefore, **all three statements are correct.**