Current Affairs

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Q1.

With reference to Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) and the Lokayukta institution in India, consider the following statements:

1. APMCs are established under state legislation to regulate the marketing of specified agricultural produce.
2. The Lokayukta and Upalokayukta institutions are established under a uniform constitutional provision applicable to all Indian states.
3. Irregularities in weighing, unauthorised commission charges and failure to issue sale receipts can undermine transparency and farmers' bargaining power in agricultural markets.

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

Correct answer: Option B — 1 and 3 only

Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct: APMCs are statutory market committees established under state laws to regulate specified agricultural markets and facilitate fair transactions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Lokayukta and Upalokayukta institutions operate under the relevant statutory frameworks; they are not created by a uniform constitutional provision applicable to all states.
- Statement 3 is correct: Manipulated weights, excessive commissions and missing transaction records can reduce farmers' realised prices and weaken accountability.

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Q2.

With reference to startup financing and inclusive entrepreneurship in India, consider the following statements:

1. Impact investing seeks to generate measurable social or environmental benefits alongside financial returns.
2. Clean technology and recycling can contribute to the transition towards a circular economy.
3. AI-enabled rural service centres can potentially improve access to digital services and entrepreneurial support, but their effectiveness depends partly on digital infrastructure and local capacity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct: Impact investing combines financial objectives with the intention of generating measurable positive social or environmental outcomes.
- Statement 2 is correct: Clean technology reduces environmental harm, while recycling keeps materials in productive use and can reduce waste and resource extraction.
- Statement 3 is correct: AI-enabled rural centres may help entrepreneurs access information, digital services and business support. However, connectivity, digital literacy, affordability and reliable implementation are essential for effective outcomes.

Q3.

With reference to corporate governance and the ongoing dispute involving Tata Trusts and Tata Sons, consider the following statements:

1. Tata Sons is the principal holding company of the Tata Group.
2. The Articles of Association of a company can prescribe procedures for the appointment of its directors and chairman, subject to applicable law.
3. A disagreement among shareholders automatically establishes criminal wrongdoing by the company's management.
4. The Companies Act, 2013 and applicable rules provide a legal framework for corporate governance in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2, 3 and 4 only

C. 1, 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option C — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

- Statement 1 — Correct: Tata Sons is the principal holding company of the Tata Group.
- Statement 2 — Correct: A company's Articles of Association (AoA) govern its internal management, including procedures for board decisions and appointments, subject to the Companies Act and other applicable laws.
- Statement 3 — Incorrect: A shareholder or boardroom disagreement does not, by itself, establish fraud or criminal wrongdoing. The facts and applicable legal requirements must be examined.
- Statement 4 — Correct: The Companies Act, 2013 provides the principal statutory framework for companies in India, including provisions concerning directors, boards, shareholder rights and corporate accountability.

The current controversy concerns a disagreement between Tata Trusts and Tata Sons over the process used to approve N. Chandrasekaran's proposed reappointment as executive chairman. The allegations and legal interpretations of the parties should not be treated as adjudicated findings.

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Q4.

With reference to Goa's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The policy seeks to integrate AI into governance, public services, skill development and local industries.
2. It proposes developing AI skills among students and the wider workforce.
3. It emphasises responsible AI, including privacy protection and human oversight for high-risk applications.
4. The policy aims to replace human decision-making entirely with automated systems in public administration.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 1, 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option C — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

- Statement 1 — Correct: Goa's AI Policy 2026 seeks to promote AI across governance, public services and economic sectors.
- Statement 2 — Correct: The policy includes AI education, skill development and workforce certification.
- Statement 3 — Correct: It emphasises responsible AI, privacy, transparency and human oversight, particularly for high-risk applications.
- Statement 4 — Incorrect: The policy envisages human-centred AI, not the complete replacement of human judgement.

Q5.

With reference to Bulgaria and regional security in the Black Sea, consider the following statements:

1. Bulgaria is a member of both NATO and the European Union.
2. The Black Sea connects to the Mediterranean Sea through the Bosporus and Dardanelles straits.
3. Article 5 of the NATO Treaty provides for collective defence among member states.
4. The origin of every drone involved in the recent Black Sea attacks has been conclusively established by Bulgarian authorities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 2, 3 and 4

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 — Correct:** Bulgaria is a member of NATO and the EU.
2. **Statement 2 — Correct:** The Bosporus, Sea of Marmara and Dardanelles form the maritime connection between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.
3. **Statement 3 — Correct:** NATO Article 5 establishes the principle of collective defence; each ally takes the action it considers necessary in response to an armed attack.
4. **Statement 4 — Incorrect:** Bulgarian authorities have stated that identifying the drones' origins requires evidence, including recovered wreckage. Attribution should not be assumed without confirmation.

Q6.

फ्रांस में हालिया विरोध प्रदर्शनों और ‘येलो वेस्ट आंदोलन ’ के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए :

1. वर्ष 2018 का येलो वेस्ट
आंदोलन ईंधन करों में वृद्धि
और जीवन -यापन की बढ़ती लागत
के विरोध से शुरू हुआ था।
2. फ्रांस में हालिया विरोध प्रदर्शनों में छात्रों की शिक्षा संबंधी माँगों के साथ महँगाई और सार्वजनिक सेवाओं
के मुद्दे भी शामिल हुए।
3. फ्रांस यूरोपीय संघ का सदस्य नहीं है।
4. महँगाई और बेरोजगारी से
जुड़ा जन -असंतोष हमेशा
राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में
स्थिरता बढ़ाता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन - से सही हैं?

A. केवल 1 और 2

B. केवल 1, 2 और 3

C. केवल 2 और 4

D. 1, 2, 3 और 4

Correct answer: Option A — केवल 1 और 2

Explanation

सही उत्तर : (a) केवल 1 और 2

व्याख्या :

1. कथन 1 — सही: येलो वेस्ट आंदोलन की
शुरुआत 2018 में ईंधन करों और बढ़ती जीवन -
यापन लागत के विरोध से हुई थी।
2. कथन 2 — सही: अक्टूबर 2026 के विरोध
प्रदर्शनों में शिक्षा व्यवस्था ,
महँगाई , ईंधन की कीमतों और सार्वजनिक
सेवाओं से संबंधित माँगें शामिल रहीं।
3. कथन 3 — गलत: फ्रांस यूरोपीय संघ का सदस्य देश है।
4. कथन 4 — गलत: आर्थिक असंतोष राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और सरकार के प्रति अविश्वास
बढ़ा सकता है।

Q7.

With reference to humanitarian ceasefires in international conflicts, consider the following statements:

1. A humanitarian ceasefire may facilitate the delivery of relief supplies to civilians in conflict zones.
2. A temporary humanitarian ceasefire necessarily brings the entire armed conflict to an end.
3. Humanitarian ceasefires can provide opportunities for the safe evacuation of civilians.
4. International diplomatic efforts may help negotiate temporary pauses in hostilities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (B) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 — Correct:** A humanitarian ceasefire can facilitate food, medicines and other essential supplies.
2. **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** A temporary ceasefire does not necessarily end the wider conflict or establish lasting peace.
3. **Statement 3 — Correct:** It may allow civilians to leave dangerous areas under agreed conditions.
4. **Statement 4 — Correct:** Diplomatic negotiations can help establish temporary pauses in fighting.

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Q8.

With reference to the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), consider the following statements:

1. It provides a platform to discuss maritime security and strategic developments in the Indo-Pacific.
2. The Indian Navy is associated with organising the dialogue.
3. The Indo-Pacific region is strategically important only because of its mineral resources.
4. Maritime cooperation can help address challenges such as piracy, illegal fishing and disruptions to sea lanes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option C — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (B) 1, 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 — Correct:** IPRD facilitates discussions on maritime and strategic issues.
2. **Statement 2 — Correct:** The Indian Navy is associated with hosting the dialogue.
3. **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** The region is also important for trade routes, energy security, military strategy and connectivity.
4. **Statement 4 — Correct:** Cooperation can improve maritime domain awareness and collective responses to shared threats.

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Q9.

With reference to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. The UNSC has 15 members, including five permanent members.
2. All non-permanent members of the UNSC are elected for a term of two years.
3. Any amendment to the UN Charter requires ratification by all five permanent members.
4. India is a permanent member of the UNSC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

1. Correct: The UNSC consists of 15 members—five permanent and ten non-permanent.
2. Correct: Non-permanent members serve two-year terms and are not eligible for immediate re-election.

3. Correct: UN Charter amendments require ratification by two-thirds of UN members, including all five permanent members.
4. Incorrect: India is not currently a permanent member of the UNSC.

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Q10.

With reference to international peace and security, consider the following statements:

1. The UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, subject to recognised exceptions.
2. NATO is a collective-defence alliance.
3. A ceasefire automatically resolves the underlying political and territorial disputes between conflicting parties.
4. Security guarantees may form part of negotiations aimed at achieving a durable peace settlement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1, 2 and 4 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option A — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Article 2(4) of the UN Charter establishes the general prohibition on the threat or use of force, subject to exceptions such as self-defence under Article 51 and Security Council-authorised action.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** NATO's collective-defence framework is set out in Article 5 of its founding treaty.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** A ceasefire can stop or reduce hostilities without resolving the underlying disputes.
- **Statement 4 — Correct:** Security guarantees can help address concerns about future attacks and compliance with a peace agreement.