

19 June 2025

Question 1. Consider the following statements regarding the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

1. The recently inaugurated facility in Dholera, Gujarat, is India's first commercial unit for full-scale silicon wafer fabrication.
2. The focus of this facility is on Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP), which is a critical stage in the semiconductor value chain.
3. The mission aims to reduce India's reliance on chip imports and establish it as a key player in the global supply chain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The news specifies that the facility is for Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP), not full-scale silicon fabrication. ATMP is a later stage in the chip-making process.
- Statement 2 is correct. The article explicitly mentions that the facility will focus on ATMP, which is a critical part of the value chain.
- Statement 3 is correct. The news highlights that a key objective is to drastically reduce chip imports and position India as a reliable partner in the global semiconductor supply chain, which is a core goal of the ISM.

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Question 2. With reference to the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The DAC is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions.
2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
3. The grant of 'Acceptance of Necessity' (AoN) by the DAC is the first step in the procurement process, allowing the armed forces to proceed with tendering.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The DAC is indeed the apex body for defence procurement.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The news article explicitly states that the DAC meeting was chaired by the Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, not the Prime Minister.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The article mentions that the DAC granted 'Acceptance of Necessity' (AoN) for the procurement of Tejas jets. The AoN is the essential first step that formalizes the military's requirement and kicks off the procurement procedure.

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Question 3. The recent expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) is significant because it:

- (a) Increased the financial cover from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh per family per year.
- (b) Made the scheme universally available to all Indian citizens, irrespective of their economic status.
- (c) Integrated traditional AYUSH treatments as a primary line of care.
- (d) Included comprehensive packages for mental healthcare and palliative care services.

Answer: (d)

- The news report from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare explicitly states that the significant expansion of PM-JAY is the inclusion of a comprehensive package for mental healthcare and palliative care services.
- The other options are not mentioned in the news report as being part of this specific expansion.

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Question 4. The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP), recently in the news, is primarily a:

- (a) Financial scheme to provide viability gap funding for stalled infrastructure projects.
- (b) Digital platform for integrated, data-driven planning and coordination of infrastructure projects.
- (c) Legislative framework to fast-track environmental clearances for large projects.
- (d) Skill development program for workers in the logistics and construction sectors.

Answer: (b)

- The news from PIB describes the PM Gati Shakti NMP as a unified digital platform that integrates geospatial data from various ministries and states.
- Its goal is to enable holistic, data-driven planning, break down silos, and improve logistics efficiency. This directly corresponds with option (b).
- The other options describe different types of government initiatives, but not the core function of Gati Shakti.

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Question 5. With reference to the appointment of judges to the High Courts in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court Collegium, which recommends names for appointment, is headed by the Union Minister of Law and Justice.
2. The Collegium can recommend candidates from both the Bar (i.e., practising advocates) and the subordinate judiciary.

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: (b)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The news states that the Supreme Court Collegium is led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), not the Union Law Minister. The Law Minister is part of the executive branch involved later in the appointment process, but does not head the Collegium.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The article explicitly mentions that the recent recommendations included 30 advocates from the Bar and 15 senior judicial officers from the subordinate judiciary, confirming that appointments are made from both streams.