

**22 July 2025**

**Question 1. Consider the following statements with reference to the proposed 'Digital Sovereignty and Data Localisation Bill, 2025':**

1. It mandates the storage of all data of Indian citizens on servers located exclusively within India.
2. It proposes the creation of a 'National Data Commission' to act as the apex regulatory body for the digital economy.
3. The bill is intended to completely replace the existing Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The news report specifies that the bill mandates data localisation for "critical and sensitive" data, not all data of Indian citizens. This is a crucial distinction in a risk-based regulatory approach.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The news clearly mentions that the bill "proposes the creation of a 'National Data Commission' as an overarching regulatory body for the digital economy."
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The report describes the bill as a "significant step-up from the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023," implying it builds upon or supplements the existing law, rather than replacing it entirely.

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**Question 2. With reference to the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the Green Hydrogen Ecosystem, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme's primary focus is on providing subsidies for the large-scale consumption of green hydrogen in hard-to-abate sectors like steel and cement.
2. It aims to boost the domestic manufacturing of critical components such as electrolysers and fuel cells.
3. The ultimate goal of the scheme is to reduce India's import dependency and promote 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in the green hydrogen sector.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The news report states that the scheme aims to "incentivize the manufacturing of electrolysers, fuel cells, and other critical components." It focuses on the manufacturing (supply) side, not directly subsidizing consumption.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** This is the core objective of the scheme, as mentioned explicitly in the news item.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The analysis in the news report highlights that the government aims to "reduce this import dependency, create jobs, build technological capability," which aligns directly with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

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**Question 3. The recent inauguration of the National Tribal University in Kalahandi, Odisha, is a significant step towards tribal empowerment. Which of the following objectives best aligns with the vision for such specialized universities?**

1. Preserving indigenous knowledge systems by integrating them with modern scientific curricula.
2. Offering specialized courses in tribal art, culture, and languages.
3. Reducing the high dropout rate among tribal students at the higher education level.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**The news report on the inauguration covers all three aspects. It mentions that the university will:**

- **Statement- 1:** "Act as a nerve center for studies on tribal issues, helping preserve indigenous knowledge systems while integrating them with modern scientific advancements."
- **Statement- 2** "offer courses in tribal art, culture, traditions, and language, alongside modern subjects."
- **Statement 3** "aims to reduce the dropout rate among tribal students at the higher education level." (Statement 3)

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**Question 4. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) expert committee's report on the Himalayan states highlights the concept of 'Carrying Capacity'. What does this concept imply in an ecological context?**

- (a) The maximum weight of infrastructure a particular slope can bear before a landslide.
- (b) The maximum number of tourist vehicles that can be allowed in a region per day.
- (c) The maximum population size of a species that an ecosystem can sustain indefinitely without degradation.
- (d) The total financial investment a region can absorb for developmental projects.

**Answer: (c)**

- **While Statements (a) and (b)** are practical applications or components of assessing carrying capacity, the fundamental ecological definition is broader. 'Carrying Capacity' refers to the maximum population size of a biological species that can be sustained by a specific environment, given the food, habitat, water, and other resources available.
- In the context of the NGT report, this concept is extended to human activity, assessing the level of development and population that the fragile Himalayan ecosystem can support without irreversible damage.

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**Question 5. The posthumous awarding of the Bharat Ratna to Dr. M.S. Swaminathan brings his contributions into focus. He is associated with:**

1. The 'Evergreen Revolution'
2. The C2+50% formula for MSP
3. The 'White Revolution'

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The news analysis mentions Dr. Swaminathan was a "lifelong advocate for 'evergreen revolution' – increasing productivity in perpetuity without associated ecological harm."
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The analysis also explicitly states, "His formula for fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) at C2+50%... continues to be a central demand of farmer organizations."
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The 'White Revolution' (Operation Flood), which transformed India's dairy sector, is primarily associated with Dr. Verghese Kurien, not Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.