

24 July 2025

Question 1. With reference to the Supreme Court's recent judgment on the rights of gig workers, consider the following statements:

- 1.The judgment classifies gig workers as permanent government employees, entitling them to all associated benefits.
- 2.The legal basis for the verdict was a broad interpretation of the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- 3.As a consequence of the ruling, platform aggregator companies will be mandated to contribute to social security funds like PF and ESI for their workers.

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 judgment classifies gig workers as 'employees' for the purpose of social security benefits under the specific code. It does not make them permanent government employees. Their relationship is with private platform companies.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The news report clearly states that the court interpreted the provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020, broadly, establishing a de facto employer-employee relationship based on the control exercised by platforms.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The significance of the judgment lies in this mandate. Platform companies must now contribute to social security funds, including the provident fund (PF) and employee state insurance (ESI), providing a crucial safety net for these workers.

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Question 2. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Indo-Pacific Maritime Code of Conduct' (IPMCC) recently announced by India and ASEAN:

- 1.It is a legally binding treaty that imposes financial penalties for non-compliance.
- 2.It is primarily based on the principles of India's SAGAR doctrine and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).
- 3.It is exclusively focused on resolving territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The news article explicitly mentions that the IPMCC is a "non-binding framework" aimed at promoting cooperation, not a legally binding treaty with penalties.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The report states that the IPMCC "builds upon the principles of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine."
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The IPMCC is a framework for the entire Indo-Pacific region, not just the South China Sea. It is presented as a broader, more inclusive alternative to the specific and contentious Code of Conduct negotiations for the South China Sea.

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Question 3. In the context of the newly launched National Mission on Climate-Resilient Agriculture (NM-CRA), which of the following are its key focus areas?

1. Promotion of genetically modified (GM) cash crops.
2. Creation of 'Climate-Smart Villages' as demonstration hubs.
3. Integration of digital tools like AI-based weather forecasting.
4. Provision of universal loan waivers to all farmers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The mission focuses on climate-resilient crop varieties, which include conventionally bred and other advanced varieties, but the report does not specifically mention a focus on GM cash crops as a primary objective.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The news clearly states, "The mission will create a national network of 'Climate-Smart Villages' as demonstration hubs for new technologies."
- **Statement 3 is correct.** A key component mentioned is the integration of digital tools, including AI-based weather forecasting and satellite imagery.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** The mission is about building resilience through technology and adaptation strategies, not providing financial relief like loan waivers.

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Question 4. The 'Digital Mandir' project, recently launched by the Ministry of Culture, aims to:

- (a) Digitize all financial transactions and donations at major Indian temples.
- (b) Create high-resolution 3D digital twins of ancient temples for preservation and virtual tourism.
- (c) Build new temples in a modern architectural style across all state capitals.
- (d) Translate ancient temple inscriptions and manuscripts into all official Indian languages.

Answer: (b)

- The news report describes the 'Digital Mandir' project as an initiative to "create high-resolution 3D digital twins of India's most significant ancient and medieval temples." It specifies the objectives as creating a permanent digital archive for preservation, research, and making heritage accessible through virtual reality (VR) experiences, which corresponds to virtual tourism. The other options describe different, unrelated activities.

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Question 5. What is the key significance of India's first indigenous CAR-T cell therapy, 'NexCAR25', receiving commercial approval?

- (a) It is the first cure for all types of cancers.
- (b) It significantly reduces the cost of a revolutionary cancer treatment, making it accessible to more Indians.
- (c) It is a new type of vaccine that prevents the occurrence of blood cancer.
- (d) It replaces the need for chemotherapy and radiation in all cancer treatments.

Answer: (b)

- The news highlights that CAR-T cell therapy was previously available only abroad at an exorbitant cost (₹3-4 crore). The indigenous development of NexCAR25 "is expected to bring down the cost by over 90%, making this life-saving therapy accessible to a much larger number of Indian patients." This is its primary significance.
- **Option (a) is incorrect;** it's a treatment for specific blood cancers, not a cure for all cancers.
- **Option (c) is incorrect;** it is a therapy (treatment), not a vaccine (prevention).
- **Option (d) is incorrect;** it's an advanced option for specific cases and doesn't replace all other treatments.