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Question 1. Consider the following statements regarding the recent joint development project for an advanced combat jet engine between India and the USA:

1. The project involves the joint development of the GE-F414 engine to power India's fifth-generation AMCA.
2. The collaboration is solely between India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and America's General Electric (GE) Aviation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The news report clarifies two distinct aspects. The GE-F414 engine is for the Tejas Mk2. The new joint development project is for a "next-generation, 120-kilonewton (kN) thrust class engine," which is slated to power the AMCA.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The news specifies that the Indian partner in the collaboration is the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), not HAL.

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Question 2. The term 'Price Viability Mechanism', recently seen in the news, is associated with:

- (a) Ensuring a minimum support price for all Kharif crops.
- (b) Regulating the retail price of medicines under the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.
- (c) Providing a guaranteed price to oil palm farmers to protect them from market volatility.
- (d) A mechanism to control inflation in the housing sector in urban areas.

Answer: (c)

- The news report on the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP 2.0) explicitly mentions the introduction of a new 'Price Viability Mechanism'. Its stated purpose is "to provide farmers with a more stable and remunerative price, insulating them from fluctuations in the international Crude Palm Oil (CPO) market" through viability gap funding.

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Question 3. India's recent ratification of the Hong Kong Convention is a significant step towards regulating which of the following industries in an environmentally sound manner?

- (a) Leather and tanning industry
- (b) Ship recycling industry
- (c) E-waste processing industry
- (d) Coal mining industry

Answer: (b)

- The news item clearly states that India has ratified the "Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009." It further connects this to India's large ship recycling industry in Alang, Gujarat, making it clear that the convention is aimed at regulating the ship recycling industry.

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Question 4. The 'human-in-the-loop' approach, as mentioned in the 'Ethical Framework for AI in Governance', primarily aims to:

- (a) Create more jobs for humans in the field of AI data annotation.
- (b) Ensure that AI systems can be manually overridden to prevent errors in critical public services.
- (c) Mandate that all AI algorithms must be written and coded by human programmers.
- (d) Promote the use of AI only as a tool to assist, not replace, government officials.

Answer: (b)

- The news report on the AI ethical framework explains that the "human-in-the-loop" approach is advocated, especially in critical decision-making processes in sectors like law enforcement, justice, and social benefit distribution, to prevent purely machine-driven errors." This directly corresponds to option (b).
- The other options are either too narrow, too broad, or misinterpret the core objective of this specific governance principle.

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Question 5. The expert committee report on gig workers recommends a 'tripartite contribution model' for their Social Security Fund. This model involves contributions from:

- (a) The Central Government, the State Government, and the worker.
- (b) The aggregator platform, the worker, and the Central Government.
- (c) The aggregator platform, the consumer, and the worker.
- (d) The State Government, the aggregator platform, and the worker.

Answer: (b)

- The news item on the gig worker panel explicitly details the financing of the proposed 'Gig Workers' Social Security Fund'.
- It describes a "tripartite contribution model: a 1-2% levy on the annual turnover of aggregator platforms, a small contribution from the workers themselves, and a matching contribution from the central government." This matches the combination in option (b).