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1) Consider the following:

1. Agricultural produce
2. Drugs and cosmetics
3. Gold jewellery hallmarking
4. Electric-vehicle charging cables
5. Banking regulation
6. Bomb disposal systems

How many of the above are within the scope of BIS's standardisation or certification activities?

- (a) Three only
- (b) Four only
- (c) Five only
- (d) All of the above

2) Which of the following statements is/are Not correct regarding the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO)?

1. It exercises statutory control over fixing the retail market prices of coal for private consumers across India.
2. It monitors the progress of development and operationalization of captive and commercial coal/lignite blocks.
3. It functions as an appellate authority to resolve quality and grade disputes between consumers and coal producers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

3) Which of the following best describes the primary mandate of the Rajindar Sachar Committee?

- (a) To recommend reservation quotas for religious minorities in public employment and educational institutions
- (b) To prepare a comprehensive report on the social, economic, and educational conditions of the Muslim community in India
- (c) To examine the status of women in India and suggest reforms in criminal laws regarding offences against women
- (d) To suggest constitutional measures for identifying and defining linguistic and religious minorities

4) With reference to 'Neutrinos', consider the following statements:

1. Neutrinos are electrically neutral elementary particles that interact with matter only through the weak nuclear force and gravity.
2. The 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics confirmed that neutrinos are completely massless particles moving precisely at the speed of light.
3. Because neutrinos pass unimpeded through dense matter, they can enable direct global communication through the Earth and remote nuclear reactor monitoring.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) Which of the following is the primary objective of SUVIKALP?

- (a) A government scheme for promoting solar energy in coal-mining regions.
- (b) A programme for the auction of coal blocks to private companies.
- (c) A financial assistance scheme for coal mine workers.
- (d) A digital decision-support tool for sustainable repurposing of mined-out coal land.

Explanation

1) **Answer: (B)**

- BIS functions under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** and develops Indian Standards, product certification and hallmarking.
- **Covered:** Gold jewellery hallmarking, EV charging cables and bomb disposal systems (IS 19445:2025).
- **Agricultural produce:** Grading and marking are covered under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 (AGMARK).
- **Drugs and cosmetics:** Primarily regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- **Banking regulation:** Falls under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

2) **Answer: (A)**

- **Statement 1 is NOT correct:** CCO does **not** control or regulate the market pricing of coal. Coal pricing was deregulated, and prices are determined by market forces or notified structures of coal companies (like CIL), not by the Coal Controller.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** CCO is actively entrusted with tracking and monitoring the milestone progress of captive and commercial coal/lignite blocks allotted to various companies.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The CCO acts as a designated appellate authority to resolve grade disputes and challenges regarding coal quality raised by consumers or industries under the Colliery Control Rules.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

3) **Answer: (B)**

- **Option B is correct:** The High-Level Committee constituted in March 2005 under the chair of Justice Rajindar Sachar was tasked specifically with preparing a comprehensive report on the social, economic, and educational status of the Muslim community in India.
- **Option A is incorrect:** Recommending affirmative action and statutory reservation quotas fell under the terms of reference of the **National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (Ranganath Misra Commission)**.
- **Option C is incorrect:** Examining women's safety and recommending changes to criminal law was the mandate of the **Justice Verma Committee (2012)**.



- **Option D is incorrect:** The committee was an administrative body set up via an order from the Prime Minister's Office; it was not tasked with suggesting constitutional definitions or statutory criteria for defining minorities.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

4) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT:** Neutrinos are **elementary particles** belonging to the lepton family. They have **zero electric charge and no colour charge**, so they do not participate in electromagnetic or strong nuclear interactions. Within the Standard Model, they interact with matter primarily through the **weak nuclear force and gravity**.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT:** The 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which established that **neutrinos have non-zero mass differences**.
 - **Neutrino oscillation** is the phenomenon in which a neutrino **changes flavour among electron, muon and tau neutrinos while travelling**. Since neutrinos have non-zero mass, they travel at speeds below the speed of light in a vacuum.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT:** Neutrinos interact extremely weakly with ordinary matter, allowing most of them to pass through the Earth without interacting.
 - **Global communication:** Neutrino beams can theoretically transmit information through the Earth **without requiring satellites or conventional communication cables**. An experiment in 2012 demonstrated neutrino communication through approximately 240 metres of earth, but global communication through Earth's core has not been demonstrated.
 - **Nuclear reactor monitoring:** Nuclear fission produces vast quantities of antineutrinos. Detecting their flux can help **monitor reactor power and changes in fuel composition**, supporting nuclear safeguards and non-proliferation efforts.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer**

5) Answer: (D)

- **SUVIKALP** is an in-house, **data-driven mine repurposing tool** developed by the Coal Controlling Organisation (CCO).
- It operates under India's **Ministry of Coal**.
- It is designed as an **interactive web application** to help stakeholders **make structured and transparent decisions** regarding the sustainable closure and reuse of mined-out land.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**