



DATE: 24.10.2026

- 1) Consider the following statements regarding tropical cyclones:
1. Tropical cyclones generally develop over warm ocean waters with sea surface temperatures of about 26.5°C or higher.
 2. Tropical cyclones are associated with a high-pressure centre and descending air at their core.
 3. The Coriolis force is responsible for the rotation of tropical cyclones and is very weak near the Equator.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 2) Consider the following statements regarding Black Holes:
1. A black hole is a region of spacetime where gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape from it.
 2. The boundary surrounding a black hole beyond which no light or radiation can escape is known as the Event Horizon.
 3. The singularity is a point of zero volume and infinitely high density at the centre of a black hole where current laws of physics break down.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 3) Which one of the following best describes a 'Mule Account' in the context of cybercrime and money laundering?
- (a) A bank account exclusively used by financial institutions to monitor suspicious transactions.
 - (b) A bank account used by cybercriminals to receive and transfer illicit funds, concealing their original source.
 - (c) A bank account created by the RBI to facilitate digital payments between banks.
 - (d) A bank account used by the Government to transfer subsidies directly to beneficiaries.

- 4) With reference to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:
1. The Union Finance Minister chairs the Council, while the Governor of the RBI chairs its Sub-Committee
 2. The Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India are ex-officio members of the Council.
 3. It coordinates India's engagement with international bodies like the Financial Action Task Force and the Financial Stability Board.

Which of the statements given above are correct?



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

5) Consider the following statements regarding the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI):

1. It is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Textiles and has been granted 'Miniratna' status.
2. It purchases raw cotton directly from farmers at the government-announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) without any quantitative limits whenever market prices drop below the MSP.
3. It acts as the nodal agency for executing the 'Kasturi Cotton Bharat' initiative to provide end-to-end digital traceability, quality certification, and global branding for Indian cotton.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Explanation

1) **Answer: (B)**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tropical cyclones require warm sea surface temperatures, typically around **26.5°C or higher**, extending to a depth of about 60 meters, to provide the necessary moisture and latent heat of condensation to fuel the storm.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Tropical cyclones are characterized by a **low-pressure center** (the eye) at their core, with warm, moist air rapidly rising, rather than descending air (descending air and high-pressure centers are characteristic of anticyclones or stable weather systems).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Coriolis force** deflects winds and gives the cyclone its characteristic rotation. Because the Coriolis force is zero at the Equator and very weak within 5 degrees latitude of it, tropical cyclones cannot form directly over the Equator.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

2) **Answer: (D)**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A black hole is defined as a region of spacetime exhibiting gravitational acceleration so strong that nothing—no particles or even electromagnetic radiation such as light—can escape from it once past the point of no return.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **event horizon** is the boundary marking the limits of a black hole—the point of no return beyond which the gravitational pull becomes infinite and inescapable.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** According to general relativity, the core of a black hole contains a **gravitational singularity**, a point where mass is crushed into an infinitely small space (zero volume), resulting in infinite density and breaking down the current laws of physics.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**



3) Answer: (B)

- A **mule account** is a bank account, often belonging to an unsuspecting individual or a willing accomplice (money mule), used by criminals to transfer and launder illegally obtained money.
- **Mechanism:** Cybercriminals route funds obtained through fraud, extortion or other cybercrimes through multiple intermediary mule accounts to conceal their origin and make it difficult for law enforcement agencies to trace the ultimate beneficiary.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

4) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Union Finance Minister heads the apex Financial Stability and Development Council. Its operational **Sub-Committee** is chaired by the **Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Council includes key regulators including the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)—along with key government secretaries, including the **Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Council is mandated to handle inter-regulatory coordination and manage India's international interface with global regulatory bodies such as the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** and the **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

5) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT:** The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is a wholly Government-owned Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), **established in 1970**, under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles**. It has been granted **Miniratna Category-I status**, and its headquarters is located in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - Its primary objective is **to protect cotton farmers against distress sales by undertaking Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations**.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT:** CCI acts as the Central Nodal Agency for MSP procurement of cotton. Whenever market prices fall below the government-announced MSP, CCI undertakes price-support operations by purchasing **Fair Average Quality (FAQ) seed cotton** (kapas) directly from farmers **without any quantitative ceiling**, subject to prescribed eligibility and quality requirements. The MSP for cotton is announced by the Central Government based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT:** CCI is a key implementing agency of the Kasturi Cotton Bharat initiative, launched by the **Ministry of Textiles** in collaboration with industry stakeholders to promote premium-quality Indian cotton in global markets. The initiative uses blockchain-based traceability, QR-code-enabled certification and quality-assurance mechanisms to ensure the authenticity and traceability of Indian cotton across the supply chain. It aims to strengthen the global branding and competitiveness of Indian cotton.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**



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