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- 1) With reference to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), consider the following statements:
1. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is natural gas cryogenically reduced to a liquid state through intense cooling.
 2. Natural gas vapor is heavier than air, which causes it to pool near ground level during accidental leaks.
 3. India has a target of a 15% share for natural gas in India's total energy mix by 2030.
 4. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is primarily composed of heavy hydrocarbons like propane and butane.

Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?

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

- 2) Consider the following statements regarding the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the IRDA Act, 1999, based on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee.
2. It mandates insurance companies to maintain a Minimum Solvency Margin to ensure they have sufficient capital to settle claims.
3. It directly fixes prices and caps premiums for all personal line general insurance products in India through statutory administrative orders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 3) Which of the following statements with respect to the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, is/are correct?

1. The Act aims to protect personal data while permitting its processing for lawful purposes.
2. It balances the Right to Privacy under Article 21 with transparency under the RTI Act, 2005.
3. The Data Protection Board of India enforces compliance, investigates complaints and imposes penalties.
4. It prohibits cross-border data transfers under all circumstances.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

- 4) Which one of the following best describes 'Plastic Money'?

- (a) Physical currency notes made from polymer-based materials instead of conventional paper-based materials for greater durability.



- (b) Payment instruments such as debit and credit cards that facilitate financial transactions without using physical currency.
- (c) Digital legal tender issued by a central bank that facilitates electronic transactions without using physical currency.
- (d) Prepaid digital wallets that store monetary value electronically and enable transactions without directly accessing bank accounts.
- 5) Recently in the news, 'Operation Trident' was launched. Which of the following best describes the primary objective of this operation?
- (a) To execute a joint maritime security drive in the Bay of Bengal for intercepting illegal merchant vessels.
- (b) To conduct a multi-agency financial and network-centric crackdown targeting transnational narco-syndicates and hawala channels in the Northeast.
- (c) To establish an integrated border surveillance grid along the India-Myanmar border focused exclusively on anti-drone operations.
- (d) To implement a nationwide public health framework for the community-driven rehabilitation of substance abuse victims.

Explanation

1) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is natural gas that has been purified and **cryogenically cooled** to approximately -162 degree celsius converting it into a liquid state for economical long-distance transport.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Natural gas vapor (methane) is **lighter than air**, which allows it to rapidly rise and disperse into the upper atmosphere during accidental leaks. It is **LPG (propane/butane)** that is **heavier than air** and pools near the ground.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Under the **"One Nation, One Gas Grid" initiative**, the Government of India (PIB) has set a policy target to raise the share of natural gas in India's primary energy mix to **15% by 2030**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** LNG is primarily composed of **methane (CH_4)**, whereas heavy hydrocarbons like **propane and butane** form the main composition of **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)**.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** IRDAI is a statutory body established under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, following the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee (1994).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** IRDAI requires insurers to maintain a prescribed minimum solvency margin to ensure they have sufficient financial resources to meet their policyholder obligations, including claims.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** IRDAI regulates insurance products and premiums within the applicable legal framework, but it does not directly fix prices and cap premiums.



for all personal-line general insurance products through statutory administrative orders. Premium regulation varies by product and applicable regulatory provisions.

- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

3) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Preamble of the DPDP Act, 2023, aims to protect individuals' digital personal data while permitting its processing for lawful purposes. It seeks to balance the individual's right to protect personal data with the need for legitimate data processing.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Act seeks to balance the **Right to Privacy under Article 21** with transparency and access to public information. The Supreme Court recognised privacy as a fundamental right in *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017). Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act amends Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005, relating to the disclosure of personal information.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Section 18 provides for the establishment of the **Data Protection Board of India (DPBI)**. It functions as the adjudicatory body under the Act, handling complaints, inquiring into non-compliance, issuing directions and imposing monetary penalties for violations.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect:** Section 16 does not prohibit all cross-border data transfers. It permits the transfer of personal data outside India, subject to restrictions imposed by the Central Government on transfers to specified countries or territories.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

4) Answer: (B)

- **Option 1 is INCORRECT:**
 - **Plastic Currency:** Refers to physical banknotes manufactured using synthetic polymers instead of conventional paper-based materials.
 - **Key Features:** Polymer banknotes offer greater durability, resistance to moisture and enhanced security features.
 - **Distinction:** Plastic currency is a form of physical money, whereas plastic money refers to card-based payment instruments.
- **Option 2 is CORRECT:**
 - **Plastic Money:** Refers to payment instruments such as **debit cards, credit cards and prepaid cards** that facilitate financial transactions without using physical cash.
 - **Debit Cards:** Enable payments by directly debiting funds from the cardholder's linked bank account.
 - **Credit Cards:** Allow purchases using a pre-approved credit limit, with repayment made subsequently.
 - **Prepaid Cards:** Enable transactions using monetary value loaded onto the card in advance.
- **Option 3 is INCORRECT:**
 - **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):** Refers to digital legal tender issued by a country's central bank.
 - **Indian Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues the **Digital Rupee (₹₹)**, which represents a direct liability of the central bank.
 - **Distinction:** CBDC is digital currency itself, whereas plastic money consists of payment instruments used to access funds or credit.



- **Option 4 is INCORRECT:**
 - **Digital Wallets:** Electronic applications that store monetary value or payment credentials and facilitate digital transactions.
 - **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs):** RBI-regulated prepaid wallets allow transactions against previously loaded monetary value.
 - **Distinction:** Digital wallets are electronic payment instruments, whereas plastic money primarily refers to physical payment cards.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

- **Plastic Money:** Debit cards, credit cards and prepaid cards.
- **Plastic Currency:** Polymer-based physical banknotes.
- **Digital Currency:** Central bank-issued digital legal tender, such as e₹.
- **Digital Wallet:** Electronic facility for storing prepaid value or payment credentials.

5) Answer: (B)

- Spearheaded by central enforcement agencies (NCB, ED) alongside state police forces, **Operation Trident** executed synchronized strikes across **38 locations in Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur**. It targeted operational bases and illicit money trails running through the Myanmar–India–Bangladesh narco-corridor.
- Aligned with the *Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–2029)*, the operation represents a strategic shift from a conventional **seizure-centric model** (intercepting physical drug consignments) to a **network-centric and financial disruption strategy**. It dismantles cartels by tracing hawala channels, freezing bank accounts, and attaching illicit assets.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**