DATE: 28.10.2026

1) Consider the following statements regarding the G20:
   1. The G20 was established in 1999 in the aftermath of the Asian Financial Crisis.
   2. The G20 presidency rotates annually among member countries divided into regional groups.
   3. The European Union is a member of the G20.

   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 and 2 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1 and 3 only
   (d) 1, 2 and 3

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA):
   1. CARA is a statutory body constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
   2. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment.
   3. CARA functions as the nodal agency for in-country adoption and is not empowered to regulate inter-country adoptions.
   4. Under CARA guidelines, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) are given equal priority as Resident Indian citizens in the adoption process.

   Which of the following is/are ***incorrect***?
   (a) 1,2 and 4 only
   (b) 1,3 and 4 only
   (c) 2,3 and 4 only
   (d) 1 only

3) Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G):
   1. At least 60% of the target houses allocated to a State/UT are earmarked for SC and ST beneficiaries.
   2. The minimum floor area of a house constructed under the scheme is 25 square meters, including a dedicated cooking area.
   3. Release of installment payments to beneficiaries is mandatory-linked to geo-tagged photographic evidence of construction stages via *AwaasSoft*.

   Which of the following is correct?
   (a) All three statements are correct
   (b) There are two correct statements, which include statement 1
   (c) There are two correct statements, which include statement 3
   (d) There is only one correct statement

4) With reference to Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), consider the following statements:
   1. CCUS technologies can capture carbon dioxide from industrial processes as well as directly from the atmosphere.

2. Captured carbon dioxide can be utilised in the production of synthetic fuels, chemicals and construction materials.
3. Geological storage of captured carbon dioxide requires its conversion into solid carbonates before injection into underground formations.

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 Ballon d'Or:

1. The Ballon d'Or is the most prestigious individual award in world football (soccer), presented annually by the French magazine France Football since 1956.
2. The men's Ballon d'Or was restricted to European players when it was first introduced.
3. Cristiano Ronaldo has won the men's Ballon D'or more times than any player.
4. The Women's Ballon D'or was first awarded in 2018 only.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Explanation

1) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Group of Twenty (G20) was formed in **1999** in response to the **Asian Financial Crisis** of 1997–1998. It initially functioned as a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors to discuss global economic and financial issues before being elevated to the head-of-state/government level in 2008.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The G20 operates without a permanent secretariat. Its presidency **rotates annually** among member states. To select the presidency each year, the 19 individual member countries are divided into **5 regional groups** (up to 4 countries in each group).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **European Union** (EU) is a full institutional member of the G20 (represented by the European Commission and the European Central Bank), alongside the **African Union** (AU) and 19 individual member nations.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (C)

Statement 1 is correct: CARA is a **statutory body** constituted under Section 68 of the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**. (It was originally established as an autonomous body in 1990 and gained statutory status under the JJ Act, 2015).

Statement 2 is incorrect: CARA functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**, *not* the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Statement 3 is incorrect: CARA is mandated to monitor and regulate **both in-country and inter-country adoptions** of orphan, abandoned, and surrendered children in India. It also acts as the designated Central Authority for inter-country adoptions under the **1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.**

Statement 4 is incorrect: Under CARA adoption guidelines, **Resident Indian citizens are given the highest priority.** Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and foreign prospective adoptive parents are categorized separately and considered only after in-country prospective parents.

Statements 2,3 and 4 are incorrect.

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

3) **Answer: (A)**
- **Statement 1 is Correct:** PMAY-G guidelines mandate that **60%** of the target allocated to each State or UT must be reserved for **SC and ST households**.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Upgraded from the erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana (20 sq. mt.), the minimum house size is **25 square meters**, explicitly requiring a dedicated cooking space.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Installments are released strictly after verifying construction milestones (foundation, plinth, lintel, roof) using **geo-tagged, time-stamped photographs** uploaded on the **AwaasSoft** portal.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

4) **Answer: (A)**
- **Statement 1 is CORRECT:** Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies capture carbon dioxide (CO_2) from industrial processes and power plants. CO_2 can also be captured directly from the atmosphere through **Direct Air Capture (DAC)** technologies.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT:** Captured CO_2 can be utilised to produce **synthetic fuels, chemicals (such as methanol and urea), and construction materials (such as concrete and aggregates)**, thereby promoting carbon utilisation and reducing dependence on conventional raw materials.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT:** Geological storage does not require CO_2 to be converted into solid carbonates before injection. Captured CO_2 is generally compressed and injected into suitable underground geological formations, such as **depleted oil and gas reservoirs and deep saline aquifers**. Mineralisation may occur subsequently through reactions with surrounding rocks.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

5) **Answer: (D)**
- **Statement 1 is correct**: The Ballon d'Or was established by the French magazine France Football in 1956 and is widely regarded as one of the **most prestigious individual awards in world football.**
- **Statement 2 is correct**: The award was initially restricted to European players; in 1995, eligibility was extended to players of any nationality playing for European clubs, and in 2007, it was opened to footballers worldwide, irrespective of nationality or club location.

- **Statement 3 is correct**: **Lionel Messi** holds the record with eight men's Ballon d'Or awards, while Cristiano Ronaldo has won it five times.
- **Statement 4 is correct**: the Women's Ballon d'Or was introduced in 2018, with Norwegian footballer Ada Hegerberg becoming its inaugural winner.
- Therefore, **option D** is the correct answer.