DATE: 29.10.2026

1) Consider the following statements regarding the genesis and implementation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):
   1. PMEGP is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
   2. It was formed by merging two earlier schemes namely the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).
   3. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) acts as the single national-level nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme.

   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

2) With reference to the technological features and weapon suites onboard modern Indian warships like *INS Sahyadri*, consider the following capabilities:
   1. It integrates the indigenous Electronic Warfare (EW) suite *Shakti*, designed to intercept, classify, and jam modern hostile radar signals.
   2. It is capable of launching vertical-launched supersonic cruise missiles for surface strikes as well as medium-range surface-to-air missile defense systems.
   3. It completely dispenses with hull-mounted sonar systems, relying exclusively on towed array sonar to maintain stealth during anti-submarine operations.

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

3) Consider the following statements about the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA):
   1. It was constituted in 1997 under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
   2. It derives its power to fix drug prices from the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
   3. It monitors the availability of medicines and takes remedial measures to address shortages.

   Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?
   (a) There are two correct statements, which include Statement 1.
   (b) There are two correct statements, which are Statements 2 and 3.
   (c) There is only one correct statement.
   (d) All three statements are correct.

4) Consider the following statements regarding Genome Sequencing
   1. Gene sequencing is an active therapeutic intervention that directly modifies the genetic material of an organism during analysis.

2. Genome sequencing uses targeted tools such as CRISPR-Cas9 and TALENs to add, remove, or alter specific DNA sequences
3. Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) is an analytical technique used to obtain sequence data without altering the genetic material.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

5) With reference to the F-16 Fighting Falcon, consider the following statements:

1. It is a hypersonic fourth-generation fighter.
2. It is a multirole fighter aircraft powered by two engines in its standard configuration.
3. The aircraft uses a fly-by-wire flight-control system.
4. It is designed exclusively for air-to-air combat.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) Only four

Explanation

1) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a **Central Sector Scheme** administered by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**. It aims to generate self-employment opportunities through the establishment of micro-enterprises in non-farm sectors across rural and urban areas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** PMEGP was introduced in 2008 by merging two existing schemes:
    - **Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY)**
    - **Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** At the national level, the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, a statutory body under the Ministry of MSME, functions as the **single nodal agency** responsible for implementing and coordinating the scheme across the country.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *INS Sahyadri* is integrated with advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) protection systems. Modern Indian frontline surface combatants, including the *Shivalik*-class, feature advanced indigenous EW suites (such as the *Shakti* EW system and legacy Ajanta suites developed by DLRL/BEL) designed for dense electromagnetic environments to detect and jam threat radars.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The vessel features multi-role capabilities across air, surface, and sub-surface domains. It is equipped with Vertical Launch Systems (VLS) capable of deploying supersonic anti-ship/land-attack cruise missiles (BrahMos) alongside

medium-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems (such as Shtil-1 and Barak systems) for multi-layered air defense.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The ship does **not** dispense with hull-mounted sonar. *INS Sahyadri* employs a comprehensive, dual-sonar suite consisting of both an indigenous **Hull-Mounted Sonar Array (HUMSA)** for active/passive acoustic detection and a **Towed Array Sonar (ATAS)** system to detect deep-water contacts. Stealth design features minimize the ship's own radiated noise and radar cross-section, but they do not eliminate the operational necessity of hull-mounted sonar in anti-submarine warfare (ASW).
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

3) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** was established on **August 29, 1997**, as an attached office under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers)** to function as an independent statutory regulator for drug pricing.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The NPPA derives its core legal power to regulate, fix, and revise prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations from the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO)**, which is promulgated under Section 3 of the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Apart from price regulation, NPPA is tasked with monitoring the market availability of essential drugs, tracking shortages, and coordinating with manufacturers and state drug controllers to take immediate remedial measures to restore supply.
- **Therefore option D is the correct answer.**

4) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Gene sequencing is strictly an analytical and diagnostic process that reads nucleotide sequences; it does not directly modify or therapeutically alter an organism's genetic material.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** CRISPR-Cas9 and TALENs are specialized molecular tools used for **gene editing** (making targeted physical modifications to DNA sequences), not for genome sequencing.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) is an analytical sequencing technique designed to read and decode genetic material without altering its underlying structure.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

5) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The F-16 is a **supersonic** (reaching speeds around Mach 2), fourth-generation fighter, not a hypersonic aircraft (hypersonic refers to speeds of Mach 5 or higher).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The F-16 Fighting Falcon is powered by a **single engine** (such as the Pratt & Whitney F100 or General Electric F110), not two engines.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** The F-16 was a pioneer in aviation technology, being the first operational fighter aircraft designed with a computerized **fly-by-wire (FBW)** flight control system to handle its relaxed static stability.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** While it began as a lightweight day fighter for air-to-air combat, it was later developed into a true **multirole** aircraft capable of conducting all-weather air-to-ground, precision-strike, and reconnaissance missions.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**