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Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

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1. With reference to the ecological role of the Asiatic Elephant, consider the following statements:

- I. Asiatic elephants facilitate natural forest regeneration through long-distance seed dispersal.
- II. Elephant dung contributes to nutrient cycling and enhances soil fertility.
- III. Elephant conservation can contribute to enhancing forest carbon stocks by maintaining ecosystem integrity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

All three statements are correct.

The recent study published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* highlights that the **Asiatic Elephant** functions as an important **ecosystem engineer**.

Its ecological contributions include:

- **Long-distance seed dispersal**, promoting genetic diversity and natural regeneration.
- **Dung-mediated nutrient recycling**, enriching soil and supporting microorganisms.
- **Creation of habitat heterogeneity** by opening forest patches and facilitating regeneration.
- Healthy elephant habitats indirectly improve **forest carbon sequestration** by maintaining resilient forest ecosystems.

The study also reported that **carbon stored within elephant reserves increased by about 38% between 1992 and 2025**, demonstrating the close linkage between wildlife conservation and climate mitigation.

2. Which one of the following best explains why the Asiatic Elephant is often referred to as an "ecosystem engineer"?

- (a) It constructs permanent nesting habitats for other mammals.
- (b) It modifies forest structure and ecological processes in ways that influence numerous other species.**
- (c) It is the apex predator regulating herbivore populations.
- (d) It fixes atmospheric nitrogen through symbiotic microorganisms.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

An **ecosystem engineer** is a species that significantly modifies its environment, thereby influencing ecological processes and biodiversity.

The **Asiatic Elephant** performs this role by:

- **Dispersing seeds** over long distances.
- Creating forest openings that allow sunlight to reach the forest floor.
- Maintaining grasslands and forest mosaics.
- Enriching soils through dung deposition.
- Improving habitat suitability for numerous plant and animal species.

These ecological functions support biodiversity conservation, ecosystem resilience and long-term carbon storage.

3. With reference to e-Sushrut@Clinic, recently developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), consider the following statements:

- I. It is a cloud-based Hospital Management Information System designed primarily for small healthcare facilities.
- II. It has been developed to reduce dependence on manual record-keeping in outpatient clinics.
- III. It is intended exclusively for AIIMS and other tertiary care hospitals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements **I** and **II** are correct, whereas Statement **III** is incorrect.

e-Sushrut@Clinic is a lightweight **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** developed by **C-DAC**.

Its objectives include:

- Digitalisation of patient records.
- Improving efficiency of small healthcare facilities.
- Reducing paperwork.
- Providing an affordable digital healthcare solution.

The platform specifically targets:

- **Primary Health Centres (PHCs)**
- **Health Sub-Centres**
- **Small outpatient clinics**
- **Private clinics**

It is **not designed exclusively for tertiary hospitals such as AIIMS.**

4. Which one of the following institutions has developed e-Sushrut@Clinic?

- (a) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- (b) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**
- (c) National Health Authority (NHA)
- (d) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), functioning under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, has developed **e-Sushrut@Clinic**.

The initiative supports:

- Digital Health Mission
- Digital Public Infrastructure
- Affordable hospital digitisation
- Electronic health records
- Better governance in primary healthcare.

5. With reference to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, consider the following statements:

- I. NGOs must disclose the States and Union Territories in which foreign contributions will be utilised.
- II. Registration under the amended Rules is granted only for specified approved purposes.
- III. The amended Rules prohibit receipt of foreign contributions for all educational and cultural activities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements I and II are correct, while Statement III is incorrect.

The amended Rules strengthen **transparency and accountability** in the utilisation of foreign contributions.

Key provisions include:

- Mandatory disclosure of:
 - **Programme activities**
 - **Purpose of receiving foreign funds**
 - **States/UTs of operation**
 - Official website and social media accounts.
- Registration will be granted only for **specified approved purposes**.
- Existing FCRA organisations must update their approved purposes within one year.

Foreign contributions **continue to be permitted** for:

- **Educational activities**
- **Social welfare**
- **Economic development**
- **Cultural programmes**
- **Religious activities**

However, activities of a **political or ideological nature** are subject to stricter restrictions.

6. Which one of the following best describes the objective of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026?

- (a) To permit unrestricted receipt of foreign contributions by all organisations.
- (b) To enhance transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions.
- (c) To transfer the regulation of foreign contributions from the Union Government to State Governments.

(d) To exempt charitable institutions from disclosure requirements under the FCRA.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026** seek to strengthen **transparency, accountability and regulatory oversight** over foreign-funded organisations.

The amendments require organisations to disclose:

- **Specific approved purposes** for utilisation of foreign contributions.
- **States and Union Territories** where funds will be utilised.
- **Official website and social media details.**

- Updated organisational information for improved public accountability.

The objective is **not to liberalise foreign funding**, but to ensure that foreign contributions are utilised strictly for approved purposes in accordance with the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Institution/Portal	Primary Function
I. C-DAC	Development of indigenous advanced computing technologies
II. e-Sushrut@Clinic	Digital Hospital Management Information System
III. FCRA Portal	Filing and monitoring of foreign contribution compliance
IV. National Biodiversity Authority	Regulation of foreign donations received by NGOs

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three**
- (d) All four

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Pairs **I, II and III** are correctly matched.

- **C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing)** functions under **MeitY** and develops indigenous high-performance computing and digital technologies.
- **e-Sushrut@Clinic** is a **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** developed by C-DAC for primary and secondary healthcare facilities.
- The **FCRA Portal** enables online registration, renewal, filing of annual returns and regulatory compliance under the FCRA.
- The **National Biodiversity Authority** regulates **access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge** under the Biological Diversity Act; it has **no role in regulating foreign contributions**.

8. With reference to Exercise SHAKTI, consider the following statements:

- I. It is a bilateral military exercise conducted between India and France.
- II. The exercise primarily focuses on enhancing interoperability in sub-conventional operations and counter-terrorism.
- III. It is conducted under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**

- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Statements **I** and **II** are correct, whereas Statement **III** is incorrect.

Exercise SHAKTI is a **bilateral Army exercise between India and France**.

Its objectives include:

- **Counter-terrorism operations**
- **Sub-conventional warfare**
- **Joint tactical planning**
- **Interoperability between the two armies**
- **Exchange of operational best practices**

It is **not conducted under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**; rather, it is an independent bilateral defence exercise.

9. Which one of the following is the principal objective of bilateral military exercises such as Exercise SHAKTI?

- (a) Establishing permanent overseas military bases.
- (b) Enhancing interoperability and operational coordination between participating armed forces.**
- (c) Negotiating bilateral trade agreements.
- (d) Conducting joint maritime boundary delimitation.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Bilateral military exercises are organised to strengthen defence cooperation through:

- **Operational interoperability**
- **Exchange of tactical expertise**
- **Joint training under realistic scenarios**
- **Capacity building**
- **Confidence-building between armed forces**

Exercise SHAKTI particularly emphasises **counter-terrorism and sub-conventional operations**, reflecting evolving security challenges.

10. With reference to BharatGen, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

- I. BharatGen is India's indigenous Multimodal Large Language Model initiative.
- II. It aims to develop generative AI systems capable of supporting multiple Indian languages.

- III. The initiative is being implemented under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III**

Answer: (d)

Explanation

All three statements are correct.

BharatGen is India's flagship initiative to develop an **indigenous Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM)** tailored to the country's linguistic and cultural diversity.

Key features include:

- **Support for multiple Indian languages.**
- Development of **text, speech, image and multimodal AI capabilities.**
- Promotion of **responsible and inclusive Artificial Intelligence.**
- Reduction of dependence on foreign AI ecosystems.
- Strengthening India's digital public infrastructure.

The initiative is supported under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**, with the objective of building globally competitive indigenous AI technologies aligned with the vision of **Digital India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.