



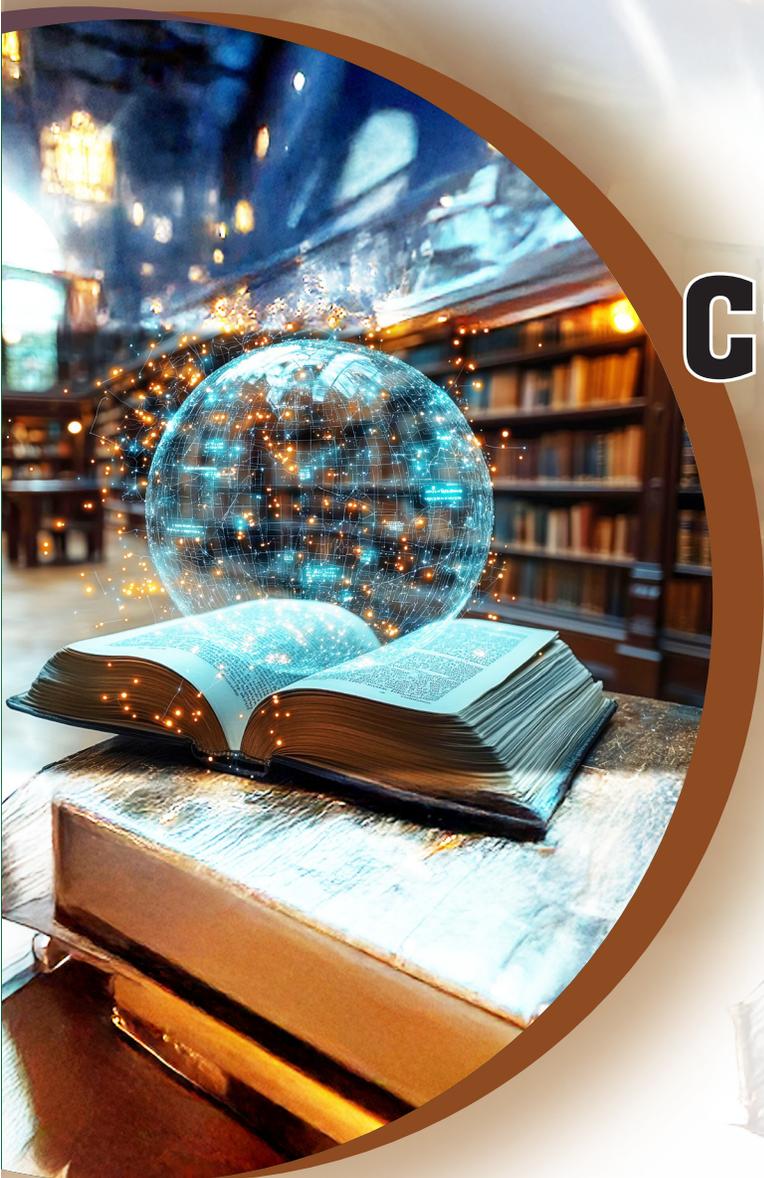
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MCQ CONSOLIDATION

January

2026

PART-II



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641,
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Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent
Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra
Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade
Mall, Burlington
Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha
Marg, Lucknow



12,
Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh



Crystal Heights,
Circular
Road, Lalpur
Chowk, Ranchi,
Jharkhand



Shahi Lane,
SP Verma Road,
South Gandhi
Maidan,
Patna

Practice Question

Polity and Governance

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. The CVC was originally established in 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee.
2. It became a statutory body after the enactment of the CVC Act, 2003.
3. The salary and service conditions of the Central Vigilance Commissioner are the same as those of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. Betting and gambling fall under the Union List of the Constitution.
2. A 28% GST is levied on online money gaming, casinos, and horse racing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to the North Eastern Council (NEC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.
2. It is a constitutional body formed under Article 263 of the Constitution.
3. It functions as the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None

4. With reference to Tax Residency Certificates (TRCs), consider the following statements:

1. A TRC confirms the tax residency of an entity for a given period.
2. Possession of a TRC automatically guarantees Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. (DTAA) benefits in India.

3. The Supreme Court ruled that TRCs must be supported by evidence of economic substance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 1 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to the MSDE–WEF India Skills Accelerator, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multistakeholder platform to address skill gaps in India's workforce.
2. It focuses exclusively on higher education reforms and excludes vocational training.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

6. Consider the following statements:

1. On 26th January 1950, India was constitutionally declared as a 'Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic'.
2. The terms 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added to the Preamble by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
3. The Constituent Assembly of India was fully elected by the adult population of India through universal adult franchise.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One B. Only Two
C. All Three D. None

7. cVIGIL, recently in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. An app to monitor implementation of MGNREGA works through geo-tagged images.
- B. An app to report Model Code of Conduct violations during elections.
- C. An app to track distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- D. An app to register grievances related to urban municipal services.

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8. With reference to the Arbitration Council of India (ACI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body created under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended in 2019.
2. Its Chairperson is appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Supreme Court collegium.
3. It is mandated to grade arbitral institutions and accredit arbitrators to promote institutional arbitration in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

9. With reference to the National Commission for Women (NCW), consider the following statements:

1. The NCW is a constitutional body established under Article 338A of the Constitution of India.
2. The Commission was established following the recommendations of the Committee on the Status of Women in India and the National Perspective Plan for Women (1988–2000).
3. The composition of the NCW mandates the inclusion of at least one member belonging to the Scheduled Castes and one member belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

International Relations

10. It was the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) mission in Sri Lanka under the 1987 Indo–Sri Lanka Accord, undertaken during the Sri Lankan Civil War (1983–2009), marking India's first major post-Independence international peacekeeping deployment. Which of the following best fits the above description?

- A. Operation Blue Star
- B. Operation Cactus
- C. Operation Pawan
- D. Operation Vijay

11. With reference to the Commonwealth, consider the following statements:

1. It is a voluntary association of independent and equal countries, mostly comprising former territories of the British Empire.
2. As of January 2026, all Commonwealth members recognize the King of Britain as their Head of State.
3. India is the largest Commonwealth member by population and has hosted the Commonwealth Summit (1983) and the Commonwealth Games (2010).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

12. Consider the following statements about the Polar Silk Road (PSR):

1. It is an extension of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) into the Arctic region.
2. The PSR primarily focuses on the Northern Sea Route along Russia's Arctic coast, offering a significantly shorter Asia–Europe distance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

13. The recently proposed 'Board of Peace for Gaza' has been a subject of international discussion. In this context, which of the following statements best describes its nature and mandate?

- A. It is a United Nations-administered peacekeeping force with a mandate to ensure security and conduct elections in Gaza.
- B. It is a US-led multilateral body to oversee reconstruction and transitional governance in Gaza.
- C. It is a temporary civilian authority formed by the Palestinian Authority to directly administer Gaza until political reconciliation is achieved.
- D. It is a coalition of regional Arab states tasked with funding and coordinating humanitarian aid for Gaza without external involvement.

14. With reference to India–UAE bilateral relations, consider the following statements:

1. The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner and second-largest export destination.

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2. Zayed Talwar is a bilateral naval exercise conducted between India and the UAE to enhance maritime and defence cooperation.
3. India and the UAE have agreed to integrate Digilocker with UAE digital platforms for cross-border authentication of academic and official documents.

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding the 6th ASEAN–India Digital Ministers’ Meeting (ADGMIN):

1. The meeting was co-chaired virtually by India and Malaysia which focused on enhancing cooperation in digital technologies, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.
2. India offered to share its expertise in Digital Public Infrastructure, including platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, and rural broadband initiatives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The year 2026 is marked as the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation.
2. India assumed the Chair of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) from Indonesia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

17. Consider the following statements about the European Union (EU):

1. The European Union (EU) originated from the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) established in 1951, and was formally established as the EU by the Maastricht Treaty in 1992.
2. All members of the European Union are part of the Eurozone and the Schengen Area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

Economy

18. With reference to the National Pension System (NPS), consider the following statements:

1. NPS was introduced on 1st January 2004 to replace the Old Pension System.
2. It is governed under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act, 2013.
3. It guarantees an assured pension to all subscribers.
4. The government contributes a higher share than employees for government subscribers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

19. With reference to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. MSMEs are classified under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 based on investment in plant and machinery and annual turnover.
2. The MSME sector contributes about 45% to India’s GDP and employs nearly 30% of the workforce.
3. The Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) aims to integrate informal micro enterprises into the formal sector.
4. As of October 2024, a larger proportion of registered MSMEs are engaged in manufacturing than in services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 1, 2 and 3 only
C. 2 and 4 only D. 1, 3 and 4 only

20. Consider the following statements regarding Chilli market in India:

1. India’s chilli exports increased in volume in 2024–25, but export earnings declined due to global price pressure.
2. China is focusing on paprika for colour and Teja chilli for high pungency and pharmaceutical use while processing imported Indian chillies for re-export.
3. The major chilli-producing states in India are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka.

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

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21. With reference to Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. VDAs are legally defined under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
2. They include cryptocurrencies, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), and other notified digital assets.
3. Indian and foreign currencies are included within the definition of VDAs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 only D. 1, 2 and 3

22. Consider the following statements regarding the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024:

1. It was released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) was first launched in 2020 to assess State and district-level export readiness.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

23. Consider the following statements regarding working poverty as per the Employment and Social Trends 2026 Report of the International Labour Organization (ILO):

1. Extreme working poverty declined to 7.9% globally between 2015 and 2025.
2. The reduction in working poverty during 2015–2025 was significantly faster than during 2005–2015.
3. In low-income countries, more than two-thirds of workers lived in extreme or moderate poverty in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 1 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

24. With reference to the term “Demographic Winter”, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to a long-term decline in population caused by persistently low fertility rates.
2. It leads to a declining dependency ratio in the long run.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

25. Consider the following statements regarding the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in India:

1. The ‘Labour Force’ consists only of persons who are currently employed in either formal or informal sectors.
2. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is released by the NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

26. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: A decline in domestic household financial savings can lead to an increase in India’s Current Account Deficit (CAD) and vulnerability to global interest rate hikes.

Statement II: When domestic savings fall short of investment requirements, the gap is often filled by Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) and external borrowing, which are sensitive to global monetary policy.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.
B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct.
D. Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct.

27. Consider the following statements regarding the Economic Survey of India:

1. The Constitution of India under Article 112 mandates the presentation of the Economic Survey annually before the Union Budget.
2. It is prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
3. The recommendations and projections made in the Economic Survey are binding on the government while framing the Budget.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None

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28. With reference to the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, consider the following statements:

1. ODOP is implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. The product selection under ODOP is done centrally by DPIIT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

Environment & Ecology

29. Consider the following statements:

1. The Holocene Epoch, part of the Quaternary Period, is characterised by stable and warm climatic conditions.
2. Kondagai is an inland lake located in Sivamoga district of Karnataka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

30. With reference to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The CCTS is a market-based mechanism that prices greenhouse gas emissions and issues Carbon Credit Certificates, each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂ equivalent reduced.

2. The CCTS initially covers the power sector, which accounts for about 40% of India's total emissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

31. It is a giant monocarpic herb with translucent, pagoda-like bracts that form a protective "glasshouse" around its flowers. Native to alpine zones, it has a life cycle of several years before a single, dramatic flowering event. Locally, its stems are consumed for their acidic flavor.

Which of the following high-altitude Himalayan plants has been described above?

- A. Sikkim Sundari B. Brahma Kamal
C. Himalayan Blue Poppy D. Buransh

32. With reference to the State of Finance for Nature 2026 report, consider the following statements:

1. For every dollar invested in protecting nature, nearly thirty dollars are spent on activities that degrade nature.
2. Global financial flows that harm nature account for less than 5% of global GDP.
3. The private sector constitutes the largest share of nature-negative financial flows.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 1 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

33. With reference to the sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), consider the following statements:

1. The sacred lotus is native to North and Central India and grows in stagnant as well as gently flowing water bodies.
2. During flowering, the sacred lotus exhibits thermogenesis by maintaining an internal temperature significantly higher than the surrounding air.
3. Thermogenesis in the sacred lotus is initiated by a rise in calcium ions that activates mitochondria to convert stored energy directly into heat.
4. The primary function of thermogenesis in the sacred lotus is to protect the flower from cold-induced tissue damage.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
B. 2 and 4 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

History, Art & Culture

34. Consider the following statements with reference to Rani Ahilyabai Holkar:

1. After the death of Malhar Rao, she took charge of Marwar and became its ruler in 1767.
2. She played a significant role in the restoration of prominent hindu religious architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

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35. Bagurumba Dwhou is a cultural festival featuring a traditional folk dance inspired by nature. Performed mainly by women, the dance mimics butterflies, birds, and flowers through circular and linear formations, symbolising peace, fertility, and community joy. The above dance is related to which of the following states?

- A. Assam B. Gujarat
C. Odisha D. Goa

36. A woman freedom fighter earned the title “The Mother Teresa of Western Odisha” and was also known as “Banhi Kanya” for her fiery patriotism. She actively participated in the Individual Satyagraha and Quit India Movement, and later devoted her life to famine relief and social reform in Odisha.

Which of the following best fits the description?

- A. Rama Devi B. Malati Choudhury
C. Sarala Devi D. Parbati Giri

37. This biennial tribal festival of the Koya community is among the world’s largest indigenous spiritual congregations, held inside the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary on the banks of Jampanna Vagu, a tributary of the Godavari River. It honors a mother-daughter duo with jaggery offerings and is free from Brahmanic influence.

Which of the following festivals has been described above?

- A. Hornbill Festival
B. Medaram Jatara
C. Thrissur Pooram
D. Karthigai Deepam

38. With reference to Kaladi, recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. Kaladi is a GI-tagged traditional dairy product of Udhampur district, Jammu & Kashmir.
2. It is prepared from raw full-fat milk using whey water as a natural coagulant, giving it a stretchable texture.
3. The primary constraint in expanding Kaladi to wider markets is its short shelf life, especially without refrigeration.
4. The scientific upscaling of Kaladi is being undertaken under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only B. 1, 3 and 4 only
C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 D. 2 and 4 only

39. The Zehanpora stupa, a major Buddhist archaeological discovery recently in the news, is mainly linked to which of the following dynasty?

- A. Gupta dynasty B. Mauryan dynasty
C. Kushan dynasty D. Pala dynasty

40. Consider the following statements regarding Subhash Chandra Bose:

1. He passed the Indian Civil Service examination and subsequently resigned to join the freedom struggle.
2. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress twice, in 1938 and 1939.
3. After resigning from the Congress, he formed the Forward Bloc as an alternative platform for anti-imperialist and socialist forces.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None

41. Consider the following statements:

1. INSV Kaundinya is India’s first modern vessel constructed using the ancient Tankai stitched shipbuilding method.
2. The ship’s design is inspired by 5th-century Ajanta cave paintings and from the ancient Sanskrit text Yuktikalpataru.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

42. With reference to Granth Kutir, recently inaugurated at Rashtrapati Bhavan, consider the following statements:

1. It is a dedicated book house showcasing India’s classical knowledge traditions.
2. Granth Kutir houses works written exclusively in Sanskrit and Tamil.
3. It includes both printed books and handwritten manuscripts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

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43. With reference to Lakkundi, recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Gadag district of Telangana.
2. Recent excavations at the site have yielded Neolithic-period relics.
3. The temples at Lakkundi are built in the Kalyana Chalukya architectural style.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 2 and 3 D. 1 and 3 only

44. With reference to the Bhil tribe, consider the following statements:

1. Bhils constitute the largest Scheduled Tribe group in India.
2. They are predominantly concentrated in eastern India.
3. The Mangarh massacre (1913) is associated with the Bhil tribal movement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

45. Which of the following are included in the Revised (2024) Criteria for Conferring Classical Language status in India?

1. Antiquity of early texts over 1500–2000 years
2. Presence of epigraphical and inscriptional evidence
3. Mandatory continuity between classical and modern forms
4. Availability of prose knowledge texts in addition to poetry

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Geography

46. With reference to Deep-Sea Mining, consider the following statements:

1. Deep-sea mining refers to extraction of minerals from ocean depths below 200 metres.
2. It includes collection of polymetallic nodules and mining of seafloor sulphide deposits.

3. The International Seabed Authority has already granted unrestricted commercial mining rights in international waters.

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

47. These are eastward-moving extra-tropical low-pressure systems that originate over the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Black Seas and bring winter rainfall and snowfall to northern India.

Which of the following best fits the description?

- A. Norwesters
B. Monsoon Depressions
C. Western Disturbances
D. Easterly Waves

48. Consider the following statements:

1. Spain is separated from Africa by the Bosphorus Strait.
2. Spain shares land borders with Portugal, France, and Andorra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

49. It is a high-altitude glacial lake located at over 13,000 feet in the eastern Himalayas, situated on the northern side of a mountain pass in Tawang. The lake is surrounded by sparse alpine vegetation due to extreme climatic conditions and serves as a summer grazing ground for yaks. It drains into the Nuranang River, a tributary of the Tawang River, and is considered sacred in Tibetan Buddhism.

Which of the following lakes is described above?

- A. Umiam Lake B. Pangong Tso
C. Sela Lake D. Gurudongmar Lake

50. Consider the following statements regarding land subsidence in river deltas:

1. More than half of the world's river deltas are subsiding at rates exceeding 3 mm per year.
2. Brahmani and Mahanadi deltas in India are among the fastest-sinking deltas globally.
3. Unsustainable groundwater extraction is identified as the primary driver of subsidence in several Indian deltas.

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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

Science & Tech

51. With reference to Bio-Safety Level-4 (BSL-4) laboratories, consider the following statements:

1. BSL-4 laboratories are designed to handle highly infectious pathogens with high fatality rates and no known vaccines or treatments.
2. Research in BSL-4 labs is conducted under internationally prescribed containment and safety protocols.
3. BSL-4 laboratories are used for routine diagnostic testing of common infectious diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 only D. 1, 2 and 3

52. Consider the following statements regarding the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme:

1. The programme focuses exclusively on semiconductor fabrication and not on chip design.
2. It utilises NIELIT SMART Labs and the ChipIN Centre at C-DAC for providing shared EDA tools and mentoring.
3. Student designs approved under C2S are aggregated and fabricated on shared wafers using 180 nm technology.
4. The programme is being implemented under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 2, 3 and 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

53. With reference to the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), consider the following statements:

1. PSLV is India's third-generation launch vehicle and has been operational since the mid-1990s.
2. It is primarily optimised for launches into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO).

3. PSLV was India's first launch vehicle to use cryogenic propulsion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

54. With reference to the 6 GHz frequency band recently de-licensed in India, consider the following statements:

1. The de-licensed portion of the 6 GHz band is permitted only for indoor wireless use.
2. It enables advanced WiFi standards that allow simultaneous data transmission across multiple frequency bands.
3. India has adopted a policy identical to the United States by fully de-licensing the entire 6 GHz band.

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

55. With reference to silk elasticity in Darwin's bark spider, consider the following statements:

1. Silk elasticity varies widely between males and females.
2. Elasticity is a genetically conserved trait across individuals.
3. Elasticity depends primarily on environmental temperature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

56. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Convention 108':

1. It is the world's first legally binding international treaty on data protection.
2. It was adopted under the aegis of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
3. India has ratified this convention to strengthen its Digital Personal Data Protection framework.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None

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57. Consider the following statements regarding Helium:

1. It is the most abundant element in the Earth's atmosphere, forming a major part of the air we breathe.
2. In India, a potential domestic source of Helium is associated with the geothermal area in the Rajmahal volcanic basin.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

58. The 'Discombobulator', recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. A new AI-based deep-sea exploration vehicle.
- B. A non-lethal, electronic warfare and directed energy weapon system.
- C. A high-efficiency carbon sequestration technology.
- D. A global satellite-based emergency communication network.

59. With reference to the Outer Space Treaty, 1967, which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. A State may claim sovereignty over a celestial body by establishing a permanent station on it.
- B. Enforces peaceful use of outer space, banning weapons of mass destruction and military bases on celestial bodies.
- C. States are not responsible for the space activities of private companies registered within their jurisdiction.
- D. India has signed the treaty but has not ratified it.

60. With reference to the C-295 aircraft being inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF), consider the following statements:

1. The C-295 is a twin-engine turboprop tactical transport aircraft.
2. It is being inducted to replace the ageing Avro-748 aircraft in the IAF.
3. The C-295 is capable of long-range intercontinental strategic airlift operations comparable to the C-17 Globemaster.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Defence & Security

61. Consider the following statements regarding the 78th Army Day 2026:

1. The theme of the 78th Army Day 2026 was "Decade of Transformation", focusing mainly on hybrid warfare capabilities.
2. The 78th Army Day parade showcased new Bhairav Battalion contingents, reflecting the Indian Army's move towards lean, agile, and rapid-response formations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

62. Consider the following statements:

1. Sagar Maitri (SM) is a collaborative initiative of the Indian Navy and ISRO aimed at strengthening scientific research and capacity building in the Indian Ocean region.
2. Under the Sagar Maitri-5 mission, INS Sagardhwani will retrace the historic routes of INS Kistna and was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

63. With reference to the National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS), consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first centralized national digital database of all bomb blasts since 1999.
2. It has been developed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
3. It follows the "One Nation, One Data Repository" approach for IED-related data.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

Miscellaneous

64. With reference to the Global Risks Report 2026, consider the following statements:

- It is released by the World Economic Forum and analyses global risks to help decision-makers balance immediate crises with long-term priorities.
- Globally, Geoeconomic confrontation has emerged as the most severe global risk in the immediate term, overtaking armed conflict and climate-related risks.

- The report states that cybersecurity has emerged as the top risk for India in 2026.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one B. Only two
C. All three D. None

65. The term "Shadow Fleet", recently seen in the news, refers to which of the following?

- A group of naval warships operating secretly for intelligence gathering.
- A network of oil tankers using deceptive practices to transport sanctioned crude and evade international sanctions.
- An informal alliance of countries coordinating offshore oil exploration.
- A set of unmanned maritime vessels used for surveillance in international waters.

Answers

1.	A	12.	B	23.	A	34.	B	45.	A	56.	A
2.	B	13.	B	24.	A	35.	A	46.	A	57.	B
3.	B	14.	D	25.	D	36.	D	47.	C	58.	B
4.	A	15.	B	26.	A	37.	B	48.	B	59.	B
5.	A	16.	A	27.	A	38.	C	49.	C	60.	A
6.	B	17.	A	28.	A	39.	C	50.	D	61.	B
7.	B	18.	A	29.	A	40.	C	51.	A	62.	B
8.	A	19.	A	30.	A	41.	C	52.	C	63.	A
9.	B	20.	D	31.	A	42.	A	53.	A	64.	C
10.	C	21.	A	32.	A	43.	B	54.	A	65.	B
11.	A	22.	B	33.	A	44.	A	55.	A		

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Explanation

Polity and Governance

1.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The Central Vigilance Commission was created in **1964** on the recommendations of the **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64)**.
 - ✦ At that time, it was **not a statutory body**; it functioned through an executive resolution of the Government of India.
 - ✦ Its main role was to advise and guide central government departments on vigilance and anti-corruption matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 In 1998, the government issued an **ordinance** giving statutory backing to the CVC following directions of the Supreme Court in the **Vineet Narain & Ors. v. Union of India case of 1997**.
 - ✦ This was later replaced by a full law, the **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**, which formally converted the CVC into a **statutory body with defined powers, functions and independence**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The salary and service conditions of:
 - ✦ Central Vigilance Commissioner are same as the UPSC Chairman and that of Vigilance Commissioners are same as UPSC Members
 - ✦ These conditions **cannot be altered to their disadvantage** after appointment to protect independence. They are **not equivalent to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** as mentioned in the statement. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

2.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 Betting and gambling are listed under **Entry 34 of the State List**, which means **states** have primary **legislative powers** over these activities.
 - ✦ The **Union Government** can regulate online gaming nationally only through specific laws, like the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025**, but this does not move the subject to the **Union List**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 The government has imposed a **28% Goods and Services Tax (GST)** on activities including online money gaming, casinos, and horse racing to standardise taxation on these services and ensure revenue collection from legal gaming operations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

3.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 **North Eastern Council (NEC)** is a statutory body established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **NEC is not a constitutional body**. It functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region (MDoNER)** and includes the Governors and Chief Ministers of these states along with three members nominated by the President. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 NEC serves as the nodal agency for economic and social development of the North-Eastern Region, comprising Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

4.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 A Tax Residency Certificate (TRC) is issued by the tax authority of a country to **confirm the tax residency of an entity or individual for a specified period**, enabling consideration under DTAA provisions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Supreme Court clarified that **possession of a TRC alone does not automatically guarantee DTAA benefits**, it is a necessary but not sufficient condition for claiming treaty relief. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Court ruled that TRCs must be backed by **genuine economic substance, control, and management**, reinforcing the principle that treaty benefits cannot be claimed through shell or conduit entities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

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5.

Answer: A**Explanation:**

- 💡 The **MSDE–WEF India Skills Accelerator** is a multistakeholder platform that brings together government, industry, academia, and global institutions to address skill gaps in India's workforce. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The initiative does not focus exclusively on higher education, instead, it strengthens the **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** ecosystem by integrating vocational and general education. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

6.

Answer: B**Explanation:**

- 💡 On 26th January 1950, the Constitution of India came into force, deliberately chosen to honour the Purna Swaraj Declaration of 1930. With this, the Government of India Act, 1935 was replaced and India formally became a **Sovereign Democratic Republic.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Through the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976, 'Socialist and Secular' were added, thereby making India **Sovereign, Socialist Secular Democratic Republic.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The Constituent Assembly of India was formed in 1946 through indirect elections by members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies, which were established under the Government of India Act of 1935. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

7.

Answer: B**Explanation:**

- 💡 cVIGIL is a mobile application launched by the Election Commission of India to enable citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.
- 💡 This mobile app empowers citizens to act as "election observers". Citizens can take a photo or video of MCC violations (like hate speech or bribe distribution). The app uses geo-tagging to pinpoint the location.
 - ✦ The ECI mandates that authorities must investigate and respond to cVIGIL complaints within 100 minutes.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

8.

Answer: A**Explanation:**

- 💡 The Arbitration Council of India is a **statutory body** created under **Part IA (Sections 43A–43M)** of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, through the **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019**, based on the recommendations of the **Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee (2017).** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The **Chairperson** of the Arbitration Council of India is **appointed by the Union Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India**, and **not by the President of India nor through the Supreme Court collegium.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Arbitration Council of India is mandated to **grade arbitral institutions, accredit arbitrators, maintain an arbitral awards depository, and promote institutional arbitration and ADR mechanisms.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

9.

Answer: B**Explanation:**

- 💡 The National Commission for Women is a **statutory body** established under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990.**
 - ✦ Article **338A** of the Constitution relates to the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**, not to NCW. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The creation of the NCW was based on the recommendations of the **Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI)** and further reinforced by the **National Perspective Plan for Women (1988–2000)**, which highlighted the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism for safeguarding women's rights. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The NCW Act provides for **mandatory representation of at least one member from the Scheduled Castes and one to the Scheduled Tribes** in the Commission to ensure inclusiveness and representation of marginalized women in decision-making processes. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

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International Relations

10.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- 💡 Operation Pawan was the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) mission in Sri Lanka under the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka Accord**, undertaken during the Sri Lankan Civil War (1983–2009), marking India's first major post-Independence international peacekeeping deployment.
 - ✦ The Accord signed by PM Rajiv Gandhi and President J. R. Jayewardene, sought to curb the intensifying conflict between the Sinhalese-majority government and **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)**.
- 💡 The IPKF was tasked with removing LTTE control over the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka and enforcing disarmament.
- 💡 The IPKF conducted a counter-insurgency campaign from December 1987 to March 1990, preventing the LTTE from retaking Jaffna. This mission came to be known as Operation Pawan.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

11.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Commonwealth** is a **voluntary association of independent and equal countries**, largely comprising former **British Empire** territories. It evolved from the equality principles of the **1926 Imperial Conference (London)** to the **1949 London Declaration**, which established the **modern Commonwealth** by admitting **republics** and **non-British monarchies**. Gabon and Togo joined in 2022. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 As of January 2026, **15 Commonwealth countries** recognize King Charles III (who succeeded Queen Elizabeth II in 2022) as their head of state. E.g., Canada, New Zealand. **Barbados removed** Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state in **2021** and became a **republic**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **India** is the **largest member** by population, the **4th largest financial contributor**, and has hosted major events like the **1983 Commonwealth Summit** and the **2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi**. India will host the **Commonwealth Games 2030**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

12.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Polar Silk Road** is an extension of **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** into the Arctic, not **IMEC** (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor).
- ✦ **IMEC** is a **separate proposed connectivity corridor linking India, the Middle East, and Europe**, not related to the Arctic region. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The PSR mainly emphasizes the **Northern Sea Route (NSR)** along **Russia's Arctic coastline**, which can reduce the Asia–Europe shipping distance by up to **40%** compared to traditional routes like the Suez Canal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

13.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 Board of Peace for Gaza is a **US-led** intergovernmental body, established under **UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2803 (2025)**, to enact a comprehensive US peace plan for the **reconstruction** of Gaza. The initiative is **not under UN command**, but the **"Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict"** it supports has **UNSC endorsement**, providing it international legitimacy.
- 💡 Its **mandate** is to provide **strategic oversight** and mobilize resources for **Gaza's demilitarization, reconstruction, economic recovery, and transitional governance** until a stable administration is in place. Its initial authorization lasts until **31st December 2027**.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

14.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- 💡 The **India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, signed in 2022, significantly boosted trade volumes. As a result, bilateral trade reached around **USD 100 billion in FY 2024–25**, elevating the UAE to **India's third-largest trading partner (after the US and China)** and **second-largest export destination**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Zayed Talwar** is a **bilateral naval exercise** conducted between the Indian Navy and the UAE Navy. It reflects growing maritime cooperation, joint operational

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readiness, and defence engagement, and has been acknowledged as a key pillar of India–UAE defence ties. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ⚡ During high-level engagements, India and the UAE agreed to integrate India's Digilocker system with UAE digital platforms to enable seamless cross-border verification of academic and official documents, strengthening digital governance and people-to-people connectivity. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option D is correct.

15.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- ⚡ The 6th ASEAN–India Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) was co-chaired virtually by India and Vietnam, not Malaysia.
 - ✦ Focusing on the theme "Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence". Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- ⚡ India highlighted its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) capabilities, including Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, and BharatNet.
 - ✦ It also offered to share technical expertise and best practices with ASEAN countries to strengthen digital transformation, capacity building, and safe AI adoption. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

16.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- ⚡ The year 2026 has been officially designated as the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation, highlighting India's focus on maritime diplomacy and regional engagement under the Act East Policy. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ India assumed the Chair of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) from Thailand, not Indonesia, in February 2026. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

17.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- ⚡ The European Union (EU) is a supranational political and economic union created post–World War II to promote peace and economic cooperation, notably between France and Germany.

- ⚡ The European Union traces its origins to the 1951 European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and was formally established as the "European Union" by the 1992 Maastricht Treaty. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ Out of 27 member states of the EU, currently 20 members are part of the Eurozone, with Bulgaria set to join in 2026. The Schengen Area is composed of 29 countries i.e., 25 EU Member States and 4 non-EU countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein). Two EU member states, Ireland and Cyprus, are not members of the Schengen Area. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

Economy

18.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- ⚡ The National Pension System (NPS) was introduced on 1st January 2004 to replace the Old Pension System (OPS) for new government recruits, shifting from an unfunded defined-benefit system to a contributory, market-linked model. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ NPS is regulated and administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the PFRDA Act, 2013, which provides the statutory framework for pension regulation in India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ⚡ NPS does not guarantee an assured pension. The final pension depends on market returns and annuity purchase at exit, unlike OPS which offered a defined benefit. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- ⚡ For government subscribers, employees contribute 10% of Basic Pay plus Dearness Allowance, while the government contributes a higher share of 14%, making the government's contribution larger than that of the employee. Hence, statement 4 is correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

19.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- ⚡ MSMEs are classified in accordance with the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, based on investment in plant and machinery and turnover, with a revised classification effective from 1st April, 2025. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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Enterprise	Earlier Classification		Revised Classification	
	Investment in plant and machinery	Turnover	Investment in plant and machinery	Turnover
Micro	Not exceeding Rs. 1 crore.	Not exceeding Rs. 5 crores.	Not exceeding Rs. 2.5 crore.	Not exceeding Rs. 10 crores.
Small	Not exceeding Rs. 10 crores.	Not exceeding Rs. 50 crores.	Not exceeding Rs. 25 crores.	Not exceeding Rs. 100 crores.
Medium	Not exceeding Rs 50 crores.	Not exceeding Rs. 250 crores.	Not exceeding Rs 125 crores.	Not exceeding Rs. 500 crores.

- ⚡ The **MSME sector** contributes between **27% and 30% to India's GDP**, employs **62%** of the country's workforce (approximately **28.13 crores**), and accounts for about **45%** of the country's exports. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- ⚡ The **Udyam Registration Portal** enables **self-registration**, while the **Udyam Assist Platform (UAP)**, integrates **Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs)** into the formal sector. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- ⚡ As of **October 2024**, only **25%** of registered MSMEs are in **manufacturing** while **75%** are involved in **service activities**. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct.**
- ⚡ Hence, **option A is correct.**

20.

Answer: D

Exp

- ⚡ In 2024–25, India recorded higher chilli export volumes, yet earnings declined because of **severe international price pressure**, showing a volume–value mismatch in the spice trade. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ China is strategically promoting **paprika** (used mainly for colour and mild flavour in food processing) and **Teja chilli** (known for high pungency and pharmaceutical applications).
 - ✦ It also imports raw Indian chillies, processes them domestically and **re-exports** finished products at competitive prices. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka** are India's leading chilli-producing states. Acreage in these regions has fallen sharply due to **weather losses and low realisations**, affecting domestic supply. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- ⚡ Hence, **option D is correct.**

21.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- ⚡ Virtual Digital Assets are **statutorily defined under Section 2(47A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**, inserted by the **Finance Act, 2022**, providing legal clarity for taxation and regulation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ The definition of VDAs explicitly includes **cryptocurrencies, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), and any other digital assets notified by the Central Government**, generated using cryptographic means. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ The legal definition of VDAs **explicitly excludes Indian and foreign currencies**, as they are already governed under separate monetary and foreign exchange laws. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
- ⚡ Hence, **option A is correct.**

22.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- ⚡ The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 was released by **NITI Aayog**, not the **Reserve Bank of India**. RBI deals with **monetary policy and financial regulation**, whereas **NITI Aayog** focuses on **policy planning and indices like EPI**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- ⚡ The **Export Preparedness Index** was first launched in **2020** to provide an **evidence-based assessment** of the export readiness of States and districts, helping to align **infrastructure, policy, and competitiveness for boosting exports**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ Hence, **option B is correct.**

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23.

Answer: A**Explanation:**

- 💡 The **Employment and Social Trends 2026 Report of the ILO** highlights that extreme working poverty declined to **7.9% globally between 2015 and 2025**, covering about 284 million workers. However, **this decline was modest**, indicating that employment growth has not sufficiently translated into better living standards. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The report clearly notes that progress in reducing working poverty **slowed significantly during 2015–2025** compared to the previous decade (2005–2015), when global working poverty fell by nearly **15 percentage points**. This **shows a stalling of improvements in job quality and income growth**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 In low-income countries, the report finds that **around 68% of workers continued to live in extreme or moderate poverty in 2025**, despite being employed. This underscores the **persistence of informal, low-productivity jobs** and limited access to decent work opportunities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

24.

Answer: A**Explanation:**

- 💡 Demographic winter refers to a **sustained decline in population** resulting from **fertility rates remaining below the replacement level** for a prolonged period.
 - ✖ Persistently low fertility leads to **population ageing and a shrinking working-age population**, increasing pressure on labour markets and social security systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Demographic winter causes an **increase in the dependency ratio**, as fewer workers support a growing elderly population, rather than a decline. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

25.

Answer: D**Explanation:**

- 💡 The *Labour Force* includes **both employed persons and those who are unemployed but actively seeking work**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- 💡 The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** is conducted and released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

26.

Answer: A**Explanation:**

- 💡 A decline in domestic household financial savings reduces the pool of resources available to finance domestic investment, leading to a widening savings–investment gap. This gap manifests in the external sector as a higher reliance on foreign savings, thereby worsening the Current Account Deficit (CAD). **Hence, Statement I is correct.**
- 💡 When domestic savings fall short of investment requirements, the savings–investment gap is filled through Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) and external borrowing, both of which are highly sensitive to global monetary conditions and interest rate changes. **Hence, Statement II is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II correctly explains Statement I.
- 💡 **Therefore, option A is correct.**

27.

Answer: A**Explanation:**

- 💡 The Constitution **does not** mention the Economic Survey. Article 112 refers to the “Annual Financial Statement” (Budget). The Survey is a government practice, not a constitutional requirement. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Economic Survey of India is prepared by the Economics Division of the **Department of Economic Affairs** (Ministry of Finance) under the overall guidance of the **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The Survey is a recommendatory document. Its projections and policy prescriptions are **not binding** on the government. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

28.

Answer: A**Explanation:**

- 💡 ODOP operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Department for Promotion of

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Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), which anchors selection, branding, and promotion activities across 761 districts (1,102 products as of 2025). Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 States identify ODOP products for their districts based on local potential (agro, handicrafts, textiles); DPIIT provides central branding/infrastructure support, not top-down selection. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

Environment & Ecology

29.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Holocene Epoch** began around **11,700 years ago** after the **last Ice Age**, providing a **stable and warm climate that supported the development of human civilization.**
 - ✦ Geological studies confirm that the Holocene is part of the **Quaternary Period** and marks the epoch in which human societies expanded and flourished. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Kondagai Lake** is located in **Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu**, not in Karnataka. The Lake site is near the **Keeladi archaeological site**, associated with ancient human settlements. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

30.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** is a **market-based mechanism** aimed at pricing and reducing **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.** Under the scheme, **Carbon Credit Certificates (CCC)** are issued, with each certificate representing a **reduction of one tonne of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e).** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The CCTS initially targets **sectors accounting for 16% of India's total emissions** (Iron & Steel, Aluminium, etc). The **power sector (40% of emissions)** may be included later. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

31.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 ***Rheum nobile***, commonly known as padamchal, or **Sikkim Sundari**, is a **giant herbaceous perennial plant**

native to the **high-altitude alpine zones** of the **Himalayas** (4,000–4,800 meters).

- 💡 Its **tall, translucent bracts** form a **natural glasshouse** that traps heat, protects the flowers from freezing winds and intense **UV radiation**, and gives the plant a **luminous, tower-like appearance** against the Himalayan landscape.
- 💡 A **monocarpic plant** (one that flowers only once in its lifetime), it spends **7–30 years** as a low rosette storing energy before a single **dramatic bloom** into a **tall pagoda-like spike**, after which it sets seed and **dies.**
- 💡 Its **stems** are locally consumed for their **acidic flavor**, and it has **traditional medicinal applications** in **Himalayan and Tibetan medicine.**
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

32.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The **State of Finance for Nature 2026** report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) highlights a stark imbalance in global finance, noting that for **every USD 1 spent on protecting nature, nearly USD 30 is spent on activities that harm ecosystems**, such as fossil fuel extraction and unsustainable agriculture. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Nature-negative financial flows are estimated at around **USD 7.3 trillion**, which is **about 7% of global GDP**, not less than 5%, indicating the scale of environmentally harmful investments. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The report finds that the **private sector is the largest contributor to nature-negative finance**, accounting for roughly **USD 4.9 trillion**, mainly in energy, utilities, and basic materials sectors. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

33.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The sacred lotus is **native to North and Central India** and grows in **ponds, lakes and gently flowing water bodies.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 During flowering the lotus maintains an internal temperature of **30–35°C**, even when ambient temperatures drop to **around 10°C**, showing thermogenesis. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

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- 💡 Thermogenesis begins when **petals turn pink**, triggering a rise in **calcium ions** in the pistil-bearing receptacle, which activates mitochondria through the **alternative oxidase pathway** to generate heat. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 The **primary role of thermogenesis is to enhance pollination**, by releasing fragrance and attracting insect pollinators, not mainly to prevent cold damage. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, the correct option is A.**

History, Art & Culture

34.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 Rani Ahilyabai Holkar belonged to the **Holkar dynasty of Malwa** and governed the Indore region. **Marwar** was ruled by the Rathore Rajputs and was never under Holkar control. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ✦ She appointed **Tukoji Rao Holkar** as army commander and made **Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh** the Holkar dynasty's capital.
- 💡 She is historically known for her patronage of **Hindu religious architecture** and supported the reconstruction of important **Shaiva pilgrimage centres, including the Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath temples.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✦ In the 18th century, she also restored **key Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva**, and patronised scholars such as **Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant, and Shahir Anantaphandi.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

35.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 **Bagurumba Dwhou** is a major **cultural festival in Guwahati (Assam)** celebrating the heritage of the **Bodo** community.
- 💡 **Bagurumba dance** is a **Bodo folk** form inspired by **nature**, symbolising harmony between humans and the environment.
- 💡 Performed mainly by women with male musicians, the dance **imitates butterflies, birds and flowers** through circular and linear formations and represents peace,

fertility, and collective joy, closely associated with festivals such as **Bwisagu (Bodo New Year).**

- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

36.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- 💡 Parbati Giri was born on 19th January 1926 in Saini, Bargarh district of Odisha, and was inspired by nationalist ideas through Congress activities led by her uncle Ramachandra Giri.
- 💡 **Entry Into Freedom Struggle:** In 1938, she left home to dedicate herself fully to the freedom struggle through the **Indian National Congress**, embracing **Gandhian ideals** such as **khadi, self-reliance, and constructive social work as a way of life.**
- 💡 **Role in National Movements:** Actively mobilised villagers during the **Individual Satyagraha (1940).**
 - ✦ She promoted **Khadi Andolan** and self-reliance and played a bold role in the **Quit India Movement (1942)**, leading rallies with the **tricolour.**
 - ✦ **Parbati Giri** famously challenged British authority in **Bargarh Court**, leading to **two years of imprisonment.**
- 💡 **Social Reform and Humanitarian Work:** Parbati Giri led **famine relief operations during the 1951 Odisha famine.**
 - ✦ She worked extensively on **prison reforms, leprosy eradication, and the welfare of the destitute and marginalized.**
- 💡 **Legacy and Recognition:** She earned the title "**The Mother Teresa of Western Odisha**" and was also known as "**Banhi Kanya**" for her fiery patriotism.
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

37.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 **Sammakka–Saralamma Jatara (Medaram Jatara)** is a **four-day, biennial tribal festival** of the **Koya** community, recognised as one of the **world's largest indigenous spiritual congregations.**
- 💡 The festival is held in the forests of **Dandakaranya within the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary**, on the banks of **Jampanna Vagu**, a tributary of the **Godavari** River.

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- ⚡ The festival centres on kinship worship, invoking Sammakka-Saralamma (mother-daughter duo), Pagididda Raju and Govinda Raju as a family.
- ⚡ It has **no Vedic or Brahmanic influence**, rooted entirely in **animist and clan-based belief systems** of the Koya community.
- ⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

38.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- ⚡ Kaladi is a **GI-tagged dairy product** from **Udhampur district of Jammu & Kashmir**, and the GI tag has enhanced its economic value and local livelihoods. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ Traditionally, Kaladi is made from **raw full-fat milk** using **wey water as a coagulant**, which gives it a **milky flavour and stretchable texture**, earning it the name “mozzarella of Jammu.” Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ⚡ Its **very short shelf life**, particularly under non-refrigerated conditions, is the **main bottleneck** restricting wider market reach. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ⚡ The government has assigned scientific support to **CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru and CSIR-IIIM, Jammu** for **nutrient profiling, value addition and shelf-life enhancement** under the **ODOP initiative**. Hence, statement 4 is correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

39.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- ⚡ Recent archaeological excavations in **Zehanpora, Baramulla** (North Kashmir), have uncovered a massive, **over 2,000-year-old Buddhist stupa** dating back to the **Kushan-era** (1st century CE to the 3rd century CE).
- ⚡ It is Kashmir’s **largest known Buddhist site**, featuring a **10-acre excavation** with a **wooden superstructure** and **undisturbed mounds** that offer unique historical insights.
- ⚡ Patronage from **Kushan kings** like **Kanishka** supported the rise of **Buddhist practices**, and **Kashmir** is considered the region where the **Mahayana sect** (4th **Buddhist Council** in Kashmir, around 72 AD) established its roots.
- ⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

40.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- ⚡ **Parakram Diwas** (Day of Valor) is celebrated annually on **23rd January** to honor the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** (SC Bose), one of India’s greatest freedom fighters.
- ⚡ SC Bose passed the **Indian Civil Service examination in 1920** but **resigned in 1921** to join the **Indian freedom struggle**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ He was elected President of the Indian National Congress twice, in **1938** at the **Haripura** session and in **1939** at the **Tripuri** session. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ⚡ Bose **resigned** from the chairmanship of the Indian National Congress in **1939** and formed the **Forward Bloc** to unite the **radical-left Congress members**, offering an **alternative leadership** based on anti-imperialism and socialism. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

41.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- ⚡ **INSV Kaundinya** revives India’s **ancient Tankai shipbuilding technique**, where **planks are stitched together using coir ropes** instead of metal fasteners.
- ✦ **INSV Kaundinya** is **India’s first modern vessel** constructed using the **ancient Tankai stitched shipbuilding method**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ The ship’s **design and symbolic motifs** draw inspiration from **5th-century Ajanta cave paintings** and the **ancient Sanskrit text Yuktikalpataru**, reflecting India’s maritime history, traditional craftsmanship, and cultural heritage.
- ✦ This helps connect modern Indian naval efforts with historical maritime knowledge. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

42.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- ⚡ **Granth Kutir** is a **dedicated book house** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** that showcases India’s **classical knowledge**

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traditions, including literature, philosophy, science, governance, and culture. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- 💡 The collection at Granth Kutir is **not limited to Sanskrit and Tamil**. It includes works in **11 Indian classical languages**, such as Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, and others. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 Granth Kutir houses **both printed books and handwritten manuscripts**, with several manuscripts written on traditional materials like palm leaf, bark, cloth, and paper. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

43.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 Lakkundi is located in **Gadag district of Karnataka**, not Telangana. It is a historically important village near Gadag town, known for its temples and stepwells. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 Recent archaeological excavations at Lakkundi have yielded **Neolithic-period relics**, indicating human habitation dating back to the prehistoric period and adding archaeological depth to the site. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The temples at Lakkundi are built in the **Kalyana Chalukya (Western Chalukya) architectural style**, which flourished in the **11th–12th centuries** under the Chalukyas of Kalyana.
 - ✦ This style represents a **transitional phase** between early **Chalukyan and later Hoysala architecture**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

44.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The Bhils are the **largest Scheduled Tribe group in India**, accounting for the highest share of the total Scheduled Tribe population as per the Census data. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The Bhils are **not predominantly concentrated in eastern India**. Their traditional homeland lies mainly in **central and western India**, particularly the hilly and forested regions.
 - ✦ They primarily inhabit parts of **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra**, with smaller populations in neighbouring states,

reflecting their wide geographic spread. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- 💡 The **Mangarh massacre (1913)** took place during the **Bhagat Movement** led by **Govind Guru**, a socio-religious reform movement among the **Bhil tribal community**.
 - ✦ British forces opened fire on a large gathering of Bhil tribals at **Mangarh Hill**, on the Rajasthan–Gujarat border, killing hundreds of people.
 - ✦ Due to its scale and brutality, and its role in suppressing tribal resistance, the episode is often referred to as the **“Adivasi Jallianwala.”** Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

45.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The **criteria for granting Classical Language status were revised by the Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) under the Sahitya Akademi in July 2024**. The revised guidelines used to approve the status for **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali include**:
 - ✦ **Antiquity of texts**: High antiquity of early texts or recorded history spanning 1500–2000 years. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ✦ **Evidence**: Presence of epigraphical and inscriptional evidence as part of the historical record. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ✦ **Discontinuity**: The classical language and literature may be distinct from its current form or could show discontinuity with later forms or offshoots. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - ✦ **Knowledge texts**: The requirement now specifically includes knowledge texts, particularly prose texts in addition to poetry. Hence, statement 4 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Geography

46.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 Deep-sea mining refers to the extraction of mineral resources from the ocean floor **below 200 metres depth**, an area that covers nearly two-thirds of the

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world's seabed and contains rich deposits of strategic minerals. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- 💡 Deep-sea mining is carried out through three major methods—collection of polymetallic nodules, mining of seafloor sulphide deposits, and stripping of cobalt-rich crusts, all aimed at obtaining strategic and critical minerals, including nickel, cobalt, copper, and in some cases rare earth elements. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has not granted unrestricted commercial mining rights; it is still developing a global regulatory framework to balance resource extraction with environmental protection in international waters. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

47.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- 💡 **Western Disturbances (WDs)** are large, eastward-moving rain-bearing **extra-tropical low-pressure systems** that originate over the **Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea**. Embedded in the **Westerly Jet Stream**, they are steered eastward during winter toward the Indian subcontinent.
 - ✦ While travelling across **West Asia, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**, they accumulate moisture.
 - ✦ On encountering the **Himalayan barrier**, the air is forced to rise, cool, and condense, producing **winter rainfall over the plains of northern India and snowfall at higher altitudes**.
 - ✍ Owing to this west-to-east movement, **Kashmir** usually receives snowfall first, followed by **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**, and occasionally **Nepal and parts of Northeast India**.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

48.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Bosporus Strait** is located in **Turkey**, connecting the **Black Sea** with the **Sea of Marmara** and separating **Europe and Asia**, not Europe and Africa. The **water body** that separates **Spain from Africa** is the **Strait of Gibraltar**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- 💡 Spain lies on the **Iberian Peninsula** and has terrestrial boundaries with **Portugal** to the west and **France and Andorra** to the northeast. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

49.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- 💡 Sela Lake is a **high-altitude glacial lake** (over 13,000 feet) situated on the northern side of the **Sela Pass** in **Tawang**, in the **eastern Himalayas**.
 - ✦ A glacial lake is a body of water formed from **glacial meltwater**, which is **trapped by ice, moraines, or bedrock depressions** carved by glacial erosion.
- 💡 It is surrounded by **sparse alpine vegetation** due to extreme climatic conditions, and is used as a **summer grazing ground** for yaks.
 - ✦ It drains into the **Nuranang River**, a **tributary of the Tawang River**.
- 💡 It is known as **"Paradise Lake"** for its scenic beauty, is one of the **sacred lakes** in Tibetan **Buddhism**, and holds **deep spiritual importance** for the local **Monpa communities**.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

50.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- 💡 The study published in *Nature* shows that **over 50% of global river deltas are subsiding at rates exceeding 3 mm per year** during the period **2014–2023**, which is comparable to or exceeds the global mean sea-level rise of about **4 mm per year**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The study identifies India's **Brahmani (77%) and Mahanadi (69%) deltas** as among the **fastest-sinking deltas**, with large portions of their area subsiding at rates **greater than 5 mm per year**, placing them at high flood and land-loss risk. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The study highlights **unsustainable groundwater extraction** as the **primary cause of land subsidence** in several Indian deltas such as the **Ganga–Brahmaputra and Cauvery**, where excessive pumping leads to **irreversible sediment compaction**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option D is correct.

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Science & Tech

51.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 Bio-Safety Level-4 (BSL-4) laboratories are meant for **highly infectious and life-threatening pathogens** such as Ebola and Nipah, which often **lack effective vaccines or treatments**, requiring maximum biological containment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 All work in BSL-4 facilities is carried out under **strict internationally prescribed biosafety and containment protocols**, including controlled access, air filtration, and specialized protective equipment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 BSL-4 laboratories are **not used for routine diagnostic testing** of common infectious diseases, which are typically handled in **Bio Safety Level-2 (BSL-2) or Bio Safety Level-3 (BSL-3) laboratories** depending on risk level. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

52.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- 💡 The Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme is **not limited to semiconductor fabrication**. Its core objective is **capacity building in chip design**, covering ASICs, SoCs, IP core development, prototyping, verification and research.
 - ✦ Fabrication support through shared wafer runs is only one component; the larger focus is on **design ecosystem creation, skill development and R&D exposure**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The programme utilises **NIELIT SMART Labs** and the **ChipIN Centre at C-DAC Bengaluru** to provide- access to shared **Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools**, IP libraries, mentorship and technical handholding and training in real-world semiconductor workflows. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Approved student designs are **aggregated every quarter**, verified for compliance and consolidated onto **shared wafers**.
 - ✦ These wafers are fabricated at the **Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali using 180 nm technology**, followed by packaging and delivery to institutions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 The C2S Programme functions as a **capacity-building pillar of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**, complementing national efforts for self-reliance in semiconductors and strengthening the domestic design ecosystem. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option C is correct**

53.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is India's **third-generation launch vehicle**, with its **first successful mission in 1994**, and has since formed the backbone of ISRO's space launch capability. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 PSLV is specifically optimised for **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and **Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO)** missions, making it ideal for Earth observation, remote sensing, and small satellite launches. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 PSLV does **not use cryogenic propulsion**. Cryogenic engines were first deployed by ISRO on the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**, not the PSLV. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

54.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The Department of Telecommunications has **de-licensed only the lower half of the 6 GHz band (5,925–6,425 MHz)** and restricted its use strictly to **indoor environments**.
 - ✦ This limitation is intended to **prevent interference with critical communication services**, especially those operating outdoors, on moving vehicles, or offshore installations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The newly available spectrum enables **WiFi 6E and WiFi 7**, which support **Multi-Link Operation (MLO)**. MLO allows devices to transmit and receive data simultaneously across **2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, and 6 GHz bands**, resulting in **higher speeds, lower latency, and improved reliability**, particularly for data-intensive applications such as VR, AR, and cloud gaming. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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India has **not fully de-licensed the entire 6 GHz band**. Unlike the **United States**, which has opened the full band for unlicensed use.

- India has adopted a **balanced approach**, keeping part of the band reserved for potential future mobile technologies like **5G/6G, similar to the European model**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

55.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In Darwin's bark spiders **Silk elasticity does not differ significantly between male, female, or juvenile**. While adult females produce much **stronger and tougher silk**, elasticity remains similar across all individuals. This means **sexual dimorphism affects strength, not elasticity**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

Silk elasticity is a **genetically conserved trait**, meaning it is **hard-wired into the species' genetic makeup**. **Regardless of body size, sex, or ecological role, all individuals produce silk with similar elastic properties**, suggesting elasticity is essential for basic web function and survival. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

There is no evidence that **environmental temperature is the primary factor determining silk elasticity**. Instead, **elasticity is largely governed by genetics**, while silk strength and toughness are adaptively modified depending on energy availability and ecological need. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

56.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Convention 108 (1981), formally titled the *Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data*, is **the world's first legally binding international treaty on data protection**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

The Convention was adopted under the **Council of Europe (CoE)**, headquartered in **Strasbourg, France**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

All Council of Europe members have ratified it, and several non-European countries have acceded to it. India has not signed or ratified the Convention 108. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

57.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Helium is a chemically **inert noble gas** that is **colourless, odourless, tasteless, and non-toxic** under standard conditions.

- Helium is **not abundant** in Earth's atmosphere. Although it is the **2nd most abundant** element in the **universe**, on Earth it is a **trace gas** due to its lightness and **tendency to escape into space**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

Geological studies in India have identified the **Rajmahal volcanic basin** (specifically the Bakreswar-Tantloi geothermal area) as a **potential helium source**, with ongoing research to assess viability. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Hence, option B is correct.

58.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The **Discombobulator** is a **classified military system** reportedly deployed by the United States during **Operation Absolute Resolve in January 2026**. Experts suggest it is not a single weapon but a suite of advanced **non-lethal technologies and electronic warfare (EW) tools**.

Its primary functions include:

- Electronic Neutralization:** It uses **high-power microwaves (HPM) to "fry" or temporarily disable electronic circuitry** in radars, sensors, and missile launchers (such as Russian and Chinese-made air defense systems) without physical destruction.
- Anti-Personnel Effects:** It incorporates **directed energy tools like the Active Denial System (heat ray) and Acoustic Hailing Devices (sonic cannons)** to cause temporary disorientation, nausea, and vertigo in enemy personnel, effectively incapacitating them during a raid.
- Cyber Integration:** The system likely integrates with programs like Suter, which allows for the **hacking and seizing of control over enemy communication networks**.

Hence, option B is correct.

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59.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Outer Space Treaty, 1967**, is formally known as the **Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space**, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.
 - ✖ It enforces peaceful use of outer space, banning weapons of mass destruction and military bases on celestial bodies.
- 💡 **Foundational Principles:**
 - ✖ **Article I:** Mandates space exploration for the benefit of all mankind, with space free for all states.
 - ✖ **Article II:** Establishes the **non-appropriation principle**, prohibiting sovereignty claims in space.
 - ✖ **Article IV:** Enforces **peaceful use**, banning weapons of mass destruction and military bases on celestial bodies.
 - ✖ **Article VII:** Establishes **state liability** for damage caused by its space objects.
 - ✖ **Article VI:** Confirms **state responsibility** for all national space activities, including private ones.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

60.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 The C-295 is a **twin-engine turboprop tactical transport aircraft**, designed for medium-range missions such as troop transport, logistics, medical evacuation, and special operations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 It is being inducted to **replace the ageing Avro-748 transport aircraft** in the Indian Air Force, which have been in service since the 1960s. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The C-295 is a **tactical and medium-lift aircraft**, not a strategic airlifter. Long-range intercontinental airlift is performed by aircraft like the **C-17 Globemaster**, which is far larger and heavier. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Defence & Security

61.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 The Indian Army marked its **78th Army Day** on **15th January 2026**. The theme of the **78th Army Day 2026** was **"Year of Networking and Data Centricity"**, which highlighted the Army's push for **digital transformation, AI-driven warfare, cyber resilience**, and integrated battle management systems. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 The debut of **Bhairav Battalion** contingents during the 78th Army Day parade symbolised the **Army's shift towards lean, agile, and rapidly deployable formations** suited for **modern battlefield** requirements. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

62.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Sagar Maitri (SM)** programme is a joint effort of the **Indian Navy and DRDO**, not ISRO.
 - ✖ Its primary objective is to enhance **oceanographic research, underwater domain awareness (UDA), and scientific collaboration** with Indian Ocean Rim nations, in line with India's **MAHASAGAR vision**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 **INS Sagardhwani**, a marine acoustic research vessel, is participating in **SM-5** to **retrace the routes of INS Kistna**, which took part in the **1962–65 International Indian Ocean Expedition**.
 - ✖ The ship was **designed by Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)**, Kochi and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, Kolkata, and serves as India's primary platform for **long-term oceanographic observation and research**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

63.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- 💡 **National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)** serves as India's first centralized national digital database, cataloging all

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bomb blasts and IED incidents since 1999 with standardized forensic details, locations, and device signatures for pan-India investigator access. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The platform was developed by the National Security Guard's (NSG) National Bomb Data Centre, not the NIA, with operational custody under NSG and MHA policy oversight; NIA accesses it as one of multiple user agencies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 NIDMS explicitly follows the "One Nation, One IED Data Repository" model, enabling two-way data upload/access, AI pattern analysis, and integration with CCTNS, NAFIS, and other national security databases. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Miscellaneous

64.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- 💡 The Global Risks Report 2026 is released by the World Economic Forum and analyses global risks to help policymakers and stakeholders balance immediate crises with long-term strategic priorities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The report identifies geoeconomic confrontation as the most severe global risk in the immediate term, overtaking state-based armed conflict and climate-related risks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✦ **Geoeconomic Confrontation** refers to the strategic use of economic tools such as trade restrictions, sanctions, investment controls, and technology bans by states to advance geopolitical

interests and constrain rivals, weakening **multilateralism and rising protectionism.**

- 💡 Cybersecurity has been identified as the top risk for India in 2026 due to increased dependence on digital governance, fintech systems, and critical digital infrastructure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ✦ **Income and wealth inequality** is the **second biggest risk for India**, highlighting social and regional disparities.

65.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- 💡 The **Shadow Fleet** refers to a **vast global network of oil tankers** that operate outside transparent maritime norms to **transport crude oil from sanctioned countries** such as **Russia, Iran, and Venezuela.**
 - ✦ These vessels evade sanctions through practices such as **Disabling AIS (Automatic Identification System)** to hide real-time location, **GNSS spoofing** to falsify navigation data, **Opaque ownership structures** and frequent flag changes and **Covert ship-to-ship transfers** in international waters
- 💡 The shadow fleet expanded significantly **after the Russia-Ukraine war**, as Western sanctions and oil price caps intensified.
 - ✦ Many vessels are **old, poorly insured**, and registered in **jurisdictions with weak maritime oversight**, posing **environmental and safety risks** in addition to undermining sanctions.
 - ✦ The **United States has recently intensified a military-led crackdown** on such vessels to enforce sanctions and protect global maritime security.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.



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