



drishti

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(Part-I)**

**Current
Affairs
MCQ
(Consolidation)**

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Practice Question

1. Regarding the tokenization in digital payments, consider the following statements:

1. It substitutes actual card details with a unique code, or "token," which acts as a secure identifier during transactions.
2. It prevents merchants from storing sensitive card details and safeguarding customers' information in case of a security breach.

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

2. Regarding the writs, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court under Article 32 can issue writs only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights (FRs).
2. The High Courts under Article 226 can issue writs for the enforcement of FRs and other legal rights.
3. The President under Article 32 can empower any other court to issue writs.

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

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

3. Regarding Manas River, consider the following statements:

1. It is the longest river in Bhutan.
2. It is transboundary in the Himalayan foothills between southern Bhutan and India.

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

4. The term Open Market Operations (OMO), often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. The buying and selling of government securities by the central bank to smoothen the liquidity conditions and minimise its impact on the interest rate levels.
- B. The process of commercial banks lending money to the public at market-determined interest rates.
- C. The government's direct intervention in foreign exchange markets to stabilize the currency.

- D. The process of banks maintaining reserves with the central bank as per statutory requirements.

5. With reference to the laws governing domestic work in India, consider the following statements:

1. India has a dedicated central law that covers household work, "workman," and "workplace," which also defines domestic work.
2. The Code on Social Security implemented in 2020, grants benefits to domestic workers and is successfully implemented nationwide.
3. The Child Labour Act, 1986, permits minors over 14 to work in homes, deeming them safe, however, in 2006 India banned minors under 14 from domestic work.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST):

1. It is an all-encompassing direct tax imposed on the provision of goods and services.
2. Article 279A of the Indian Constitution gives power to the President of India to constitute a joint forum of the Centre and States called the GST Council.

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the National Green Tribunal (NGT):

1. NGT is not required to follow the procedure prescribed in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but will be guided by the principles of natural justice.
2. A judge of the Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of a High Court is eligible to become Chairperson of the NGT.

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

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8. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:

1. The Right to Education Act guarantees free and compulsory education to children between the ages of 6 to 14.
2. The Act mandates that all private schools should reserve 25% of seats for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

1. FDI refers to investments made by a foreign entity in a country's assets, typically in the form of establishing or expanding businesses.
2. FDI inflows contribute directly to the country's foreign exchange reserves but do not impact employment generation.
3. FDI is regulated by the host country's government and can be restricted or incentivized based on national interests.

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

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding environmental impacts associated with coal mining:

1. Air pollution due to the release of sulfur dioxide
2. Water contamination from acid mine drainage
3. Reduced biodiversity in mining regions

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding Exoplanets:

1. Exoplanets are planets that orbit stars outside our solar system.
2. These are easy to detect because of their large size and the faintness of their host stars.

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding Whips in Indian parliamentary system:

1. A whip is a directive issued by a political party to ensure members attend important votes or vote in a specific manner.
2. It can also be issued in Presidential elections to instruct MPs or MLAs on whom to vote.

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding Black Hole:

1. A black hole is a region of space where gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape it.
2. They form when a small star expands, creating a dense object with no effect on space-time.
3. They contribute to the formation and evolution of galaxies, as well as the distribution of matter across the universe.

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

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

14. Consider the following statements:

1. The Equator passes through more countries in Africa than in any other continent.
2. The Great Rift Valley in Africa is formed due to the divergence of tectonic plates.

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

15. Consider the following statements with reference to antivenoms production in India:

1. Polyvalent antivenoms in India are produced using venom from all venomous snake species found in the country.

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2. The Irula tribe of Tamil Nadu plays a significant role in venom extraction for antivenom production.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

16. Regarding the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC), consider the following statements:

1. It helps borrowers access finance by sharing lending risks with lenders.
2. It was established under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.
3. It is a private limited company that is fully owned by the Government of India.

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

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

17. Regarding the Gender Budgeting in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) was first introduced in Budget 2014-15.
2. GBS 2025-26 is India's largest-ever gender budget.

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

18. Consider the following statements related to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

1. It is the statutory body established under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
2. Prior to SEBI, the Reserve Bank of India was the regulatory authority for capital markets.
3. Securities Appellate Tribunal handles appeals against SEBI's decisions,

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following features:

1. It is a permanent freshwater ecosystem, consisting of two oxbow lakes.
2. It is rain-fed and located in the Terai region.
3. The nearby Tikri Forest is also being developed as an eco-tourism site.

Which of the following areas is best described by above features?

- A. Harike Wetland
B. Keoladeo National Park
C. Deepor Beel
D. Parvati Arga Ramsar Site

20. Consider the following statements regarding:

1. The Potomac River originates in the Potomac River Highlands of West Virginia and empties into the Chesapeake Bay.
2. Chesapeake Bay is the second-largest estuary in the world after the Amazon River estuary.

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

21. Regarding the Grameen Credit Score, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by private sector banks to assess the creditworthiness of rural individuals.
2. This score will be integrated with the SVAMITVA Scheme.

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

22. Consider the following statements about the Urban Challenge Fund:

1. The fund has a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore.
2. It aims to support initiatives under Cities as Growth Hubs, Creative Redevelopment of Cities, and Water and Sanitation.
3. At least 50% of the funding will be sourced through bonds, bank loans, or public-private partnerships.

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How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements:

1. At UNFCCC COP 29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, developed nations committed to providing USD 1 trillion annually for climate finance.
2. The Union Budget 2025-26 set a goal to operationalize at least five Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.

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

24. Consider the following statements related to India's 3-Stage Nuclear Power Programme:

1. It was formulated by Dr. Homi Bhabha.
2. It focuses on efficiently using India's limited uranium resources while maximizing the potential of thorium.
3. Fast Breeder Reactors are a part of the second stage of the nuclear power programme.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

25. Budapest Treaty and Marrakesh VIP Treaty, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Environmental Protection
- B. Trade Agreements
- C. Human Rights Protection
- D. Intellectual Property Rights

26. Consider the following features:

1. It is located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean.
2. French is one of its official language.
3. It shares the island with the Dominican Republic.

Which of the following regions is best described by above characteristics?

- A. Cuba
- B. Jamaica

- C. Puerto Rico
- D. Haiti

27. Consider the following statements related to International Big Cat Alliance:

1. It is established through the National Tiger Conservation Authority under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
2. India is home to all big cat species, making their conservation crucial.

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

28. With reference to the constitutional provisions related to official languages in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 345 states that a state legislature can choose one or more languages to be used for official purposes.
2. Article 351 deals with the recognition of languages spoken by a section of a state's population.

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

29. State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) Report is prepared by which of the following organizations?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C. Centre for Development Studies (CDS)
- D. Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

30. Consider the following statements related to digital initiatives:

1. UMANG application provides access to essential services from various Central and State government organizations in multiple languages.
2. Digital India Bhashini of the Ministry of Culture, facilitates access to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources.
3. ₹2,000 crore has been allocated in the Union budget 2025-26 for the IndiaAI Mission.

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How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

31. Consider the following Pairs of Islands:

- 1. Auckland Islands- New Zealand
- 2. Farasan Islands- Saudi Arabia
- 3. Macquarie Island- Australia

Which of the given above is/are correctly matched?

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

32. Consider the following statements regarding Black Holes:

- 1. The event horizon of a black hole is the boundary beyond which nothing, not even light, can escape.
- 2. Black holes can be detected directly by observing their surface using telescopes.

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding Japan:

- 1. Japan is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it prone to frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- 2. The Kuroshio Current, a cold ocean current, significantly influences Japan's climate by lowering its temperatures.

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

34. Consider the following statements regarding Indo-European languages:

- 1. All major Indian languages, including Tamil and Telugu, belong to the Indo-European language family.
- 2. Sanskrit is one of the oldest known languages of the Indo-European language family.
- 3. The Indo-European language family includes languages spoken in both South Asia and Europe.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All are Correct

35. Consider the following statements regarding tribes in India:

- 1. The Jarwa tribe is an indigenous tribal community inhabiting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- 2. The Bhil tribe is the largest tribal group in India in terms of population.

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

36. The term Beggar-thy-Neighbour Policy often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A policy where a country seeks to improve its economic situation by exploiting or harming the economic interests of other countries.
- B. A diplomatic strategy where countries offer aid to one another to improve mutual relations.
- C. A policy promoting global trade cooperation and eliminating trade barriers.
- D. A trade agreement between neighboring countries aimed at increasing regional economic stability.

37. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Asteroids are rocky remnants from the solar system's formation 4.6 billion years ago, mostly orbiting the Sun in the Asteroid Belt, though some cross Earth's path.
- 2. The Main Asteroid Belt, situated between Mars and Jupiter, holds most of the known asteroids.
- 3. The Torino Scale, adopted by the IAU (International Astronomical Union) in 1999, categorizes asteroid impact risks on a 0 to 10 scale based on likelihood and severity.

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

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

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38. Consider the following statements regarding the Sahitya Akademi Awards:

1. This honors exceptional literary contributions in categories like novels, poetry, essays, and plays.
2. They are the second-highest literary honor in India, after the Jnanpith Award.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

39. Consider the following statements related to Repo Rate:

1. It is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank
2. Higher repo rate translates to higher interest rates for consumers & businesses.
3. It is used by the central bank to control money supply.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following actions:

1. Transitioning to low-carbon energy sources
2. Building defenses against rising sea levels
3. Diversifying crops for changing climates

How many of the measures mentioned above fall under climate mitigation efforts?

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding Medieval Indian Literature:

1. Sanskrit was the primary literary language during the Medieval period, widely spoken by the masses across India.
2. The decline of Pali as the dominant language of Buddhist literature occurred after the 12th century.
3. Tamil literature, especially during the Chola period, maintained its significance with works such as Kampan's 'Ramavatharam'.

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

42. Consider the following statements regarding the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM):

1. The NMCM aims to create a cultural map of India, documenting both tangible and intangible cultural assets across the country.
2. The mission includes the development of cultural hubs (Kala Grams) and the introduction of a Unique Cultural-ID (UCID) for artists.
3. The NMCM is managed by the Ministry of Education and implemented under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

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

43. Consider the following:

1. Living Will
2. Active Euthanasia
3. Passive Euthanasia

Which of the following provisions are associated with the concept of the "Right to Die with Dignity" in India?

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

44. Consider the following statements regarding Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS):

1. GBS is a neurological disorder where the body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system.
2. Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) is used as a treatment to aid recovery in GBS patients.

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

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45. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission':

1. It aims to survey, document, and conserve India's manuscript heritage, targeting over one crore manuscripts housed in various institutions and private collections.
2. It has been launched under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

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

46. Consider the following statements:

1. The high-pressure gas fermentation (HPGF) reactor used in CO₂ conversion relies on hydrogen (H₂) to produce ethanol and acetic acid more efficiently.
2. BioH₂ production from food waste uses microbial fermentation in a special reactor, reducing methane and CO₂ emissions compared to traditional biogas methods.

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

47. Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Privileges in India:

1. Parliamentary Privileges are defined under the Constitution of India.
2. Breach of Parliamentary Privileges can lead to imprisonment of the offender by the House concerned.

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

48. Consider the following statements regarding the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013:

1. The Act defines sexual harassment in accordance with the Supreme Court's Vishaka Guidelines.
2. The Local Complaints Committee (LCC) is established at the district level to address complaints from workplaces with fewer than 10 employees.

3. The Act provides protection only to women employees and does not cover interns, clients, or visitors at the workplace.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

49. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the primary US agency for global humanitarian and development aid.
2. It funds healthcare, food aid, disaster relief, and policy advocacy worldwide.
3. India's association with it began in 1951 with the India Emergency Food Aid Act, evolving over decades from food aid to infrastructure.

Which of the following bodies best matches the above description?

- A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- B. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- C. World Food Programme (WFP)
- D. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

50. Consider the following statements related to Mount Taranaki:

1. It is a stratovolcano with a distinct symmetrical structure.
2. It was formed by the subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Australian Plate.
3. It was recently granted legal personhood.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

51. Belonging to the Mustelidae family, these mammals are found in both marine and freshwater habitats. In Jammu and Kashmir, they are locally known as Vodur and play a crucial role in maintaining the health of aquatic ecosystems. Recently, they were sighted in the Gurez Valley of Kashmir, marking the first live documentation in 25 years.

Which species is being described based on the characteristics mentioned above?

- A. Eurasian Otter
- B. Indian Pangolin

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- C. Himalayan Marmot
- D. Red Panda

52. Consider the following statements with reference to grants:

1. Grants under Article 282 the Union or a State can grant funds for any public purpose, even if it lacks legislative authority over it.
2. Grants made under Article 282 are discretionary and not governed by the recommendations of the Finance Commission.
3. Articles 270 and 275 mandate that the Finance Commission determines the share of States in Union tax revenues.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

53. Consider the following statements with reference to Swavalambini program:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
2. It is a women entrepreneurship program designed to empower women in Northeast Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

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

54. New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1, sometimes in the news, is best defined as?

- A. It is a vaccine developed to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- B. It is an enzyme that makes bacteria resistant to a range of antibiotics.
- C. It is a type of bacterial strain causing severe respiratory infections.
- D. It is a gene found only in viruses that enhances their replication.

55. Consider the following statements related to Private Member Bill in India:

1. The responsibility for drafting it lies with the minister overseeing the relevant subject.

2. A minimum notice period of one month is required before its introduction in the House.
3. Its rejection by the House does not affect the government's parliamentary confidence.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

56. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the Indian Navy's biennial and largest maritime exercise that strengthens joint operations against maritime threats with participation from the Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.
2. It is being conducted in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) over a duration of 3 months (Jan - Mar 2025).
3. It includes Harbour and Sea Phases, featuring combat operations, cyber & electronic warfare, live weapon firings, and Amphibious Exercise (AMPHEX).

Which of the following exercises best matches the above description?

- A. TROPIC-25
- B. Malabar Exercise
- C. RIMPAC
- D. Varuna Exercise

57. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It conducts field visits, grievance redressal, policy reviews, and can take suo-motu cognizance of problems of Safai Karamcharis.

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. Consider the following statements with reference to the Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis):

1. Lymphatic Filariasis is caused by a virus.
2. The disease spreads through mosquito bites.
3. It damages the lymphatic system, leading to swelling of body parts

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How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

59. Regarding the Asian elephants, consider the following statements:

1. They communicate using trumpets, roars, rumbles, and chirps to seek attention and express emotions.
2. They are smaller than African elephants with proportionally smaller ears.
3. They are categorised as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

60. The term Bombay Blood Group is best described as:

- A. A rare blood group characterised by the absence of the H antigen, making it incompatible with all other blood groups, including O-negative.
- B. A universal donor blood group that can be safely transfused to individuals with any blood type.
- C. A variant of the O blood group, which can donate to A, B, AB, or O individuals without restrictions.
- D. A subtype of the AB blood group with enhanced compatibility for transfusions.

61. Consider the following statements:

1. The inner core of the Earth is a hot, dense ball primarily made of iron and nickel.
2. The boundary between the inner and outer core of the Earth is called the Lehmann Discontinuity.

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

62. Consider the following statements with reference to the Harmonized System (HS):

1. It facilitates identification, tariff determination, and trade statistics, ensuring uniformity in international trade.

2. It is managed by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
3. It is updated every five years and uses a six-digit code.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

63. Consider the following statement regarding epilepsy:

1. Epilepsy is a disorder caused by abnormal electrical activity in the heart.
2. National Epilepsy Day is observed on 17th November.

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

64. Consider the following features:

1. It originates from the Pavagadh hills in Gujarat.
2. It is fed by tributaries Dhadhar and Khanpur
3. Its banks housed ancient settlements, including Ankotakka, which flourished under the Guptas and Vallabhi rule.

Which of the following rivers is best described by above characteristics?

- A. Mahi River
- B. Vishwamitri River
- C. Sabarmati River
- D. Tapi River

65. Einstein Cross, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?

- A. A newly discovered exoplanet system with four planets in alignment
- B. A space telescope designed to study deep-space cosmic events
- C. A constellation pattern resembling a cross, visible in the northern hemisphere
- D. A gravitational lensing phenomenon forming four distinct images of a distant galaxy

66. Consider the following statements:

1. The First Amendment Act, 1951 introduced the Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution which lists laws that cannot be challenged in courts, protecting them from judicial review.

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2. The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 removed the Right to Property from the list of Fundamental Rights by repealing Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31.

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

67. Consider the following statements:

1. He focused on Antyodaya i.e., uplifting the last person and addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged.
2. His philosophy of "Integral Humanism" emphasized welfare, social justice, economic equality, and self-reliance.
3. Since 25th September 2014, his birth anniversary has been observed as Antyodaya Diwas to honor his contributions to the nation.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Deendayal Upadhyaya
B. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
C. Vinoba Bhave
D. Lala Lajpat Rai

68. With reference to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, established under the Stockholm Convention (1960).
2. India is among the largest trading partners of EFTA.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

69. Global Cybersecurity Outlook Report is published by which of the following organizations?

- A. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
B. World Economic Forum (WEF)
C. World Bank
D. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

70. Consider the following statements with reference to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951):

1. As per section 8(1), conviction for electoral offenses, corruption, or communal hate crimes leads to six-year disqualification.

2. Section 8(3) provides that a person sentenced to two or more years of imprisonment is disqualified for six years after release.
3. As per section 11, the Election Commission of India (ECI) can remove or reduce disqualification in specific cases.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

71. Consider the following features:

1. It was initially established as a wildlife sanctuary and later upgraded to a national park.
2. Dominated by dry deciduous forests, it features Kardhai, Khair, and Salai as key tree species.
3. A significant tributary of the Chambal River flows through its landscape.

Which of the following protected areas is best described by above features?

- A. Panna National Park
B. Ranthambore National Park
C. Madhav National Park
D. Kuno National Park

72. Consider the following statements related to Fort Williams:

1. It is located in Kolkata on the eastern banks of the Damodar River.
2. The original fort was built by the British in 1696 under William Bentinck.
3. It was recently renamed as Vijay Durg.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

73. Consider the following statements related to Joint Exercises of India:

| Country | Exercise |
|------------|--------------|
| Australia | Shakti |
| Bangladesh | Sampriti |
| China | Hand in Hand |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
B. Only two

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- C. All three
D. None

74. Consider the following statements regarding zoonotic diseases:

1. All zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses.
2. Climate change and deforestation can increase the risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks.

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding socio-religious reform movements in 19th-century India:

1. The Young Bengal Movement was led by Henry Vivian Derozio and emphasized rationalism and free thought.
2. The Brahmo Samaj opposed idol worship and caste-based discrimination.
3. The Wahhabi Movement was an Islamic revivalist movement that opposed British rule and sought to restore Islamic principles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

76. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, sexual intercourse between a man and his wife who is not under 18 years of age is not rape.

2. While marital rape is not a crime, a woman can seek relief under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for sexual abuse, humiliation, or violation of dignity.

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

77. Which of the following states of India share a border with Myanmar?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Nagaland
3. Manipur
4. Assam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

78. Consider the following statements regarding the Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF):

1. It is organized every five years by the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS), headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. The 14th AFAF was hosted by India under the theme "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific."

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

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (C) | 2. (B) | 3. (C) | 4. (A) | 5. (A) | 6. (B) | 7. (C) | 8. (C) | 9. (B) | 10. (D) |
| 11. (A) | 12. (A) | 13. (B) | 14. (C) | 15. (A) | 16. (B) | 17. (B) | 18. (A) | 19. (D) | 20. (A) |
| 21. (B) | 22. (C) | 23. (B) | 24. (C) | 25. (D) | 26. (D) | 27. (A) | 28. (A) | 29. (D) | 30. (B) |
| 31. (D) | 32. (A) | 33. (A) | 34. (A) | 35. (C) | 36. (A) | 37. (C) | 38. (C) | 39. (C) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (B) | 42. (A) | 43. (D) | 44. (C) | 45. (A) | 46. (B) | 47. (C) | 48. (C) | 49. (B) | 50. (C) |
| 51. (A) | 52. (C) | 53. (B) | 54. (B) | 55. (B) | 56. (A) | 57. (B) | 58. (B) | 59. (C) | 60. (A) |
| 61. (C) | 62. (B) | 63. (B) | 64. (B) | 65. (D) | 66. (C) | 67. (A) | 68. (D) | 69. (B) | 70. (C) |
| 71. (D) | 72. (A) | 73. (B) | 74. (B) | 75. (D) | 76. (B) | 77. (D) | 78. (B) | | |

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Explanations

1. (C)

Exp:

Tokenization:

- **Card tokenization** has become a significant **technological advancement** in India, **enhancing security and customer convenience** in **digital payments**.
- **Over 91 crore tokens** were issued by December 2024 and have enabled nearly **98% of e-commerce transactions** to be processed without actual card data, **reducing the risk of data breaches**.
- **Tokenization substitutes** actual card details with a **unique code, or "token,"** which acts as a **secure identifier** during transactions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Types: Device tokenization** (specific to each device) and **Card-on-File tokenization** (specific to each merchant).
 - ◆ Tokens **prevent** merchants from storing **sensitive card details**, safeguarding customers' information in case of a security breach. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Tokenization is expected to grow **beyond e-commerce** into contactless payments, recurring transactions, and potentially **UPI-linked credit card payments**.
 - ◆ In **October 2022**, RBI mandated that **merchants and payment processors** no longer store customer card data, relying entirely on tokenization.

2. (B)

Exp:

Writ:

- A writ is a **legal order** issued by **Constitutional courts** under **Articles 32 and 226** of the Indian Constitution to **protect citizens' rights**. It is adopted from English "**prerogative writs**."
- Authority to Issue Writs:
 - ◆ **Supreme Court under Article 32** can issue writs only for the enforcement of **Fundamental Rights (FRs)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **High Courts under Article 226** can issue writs for the enforcement of **FRs and other legal rights**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Before 1950** only the High Courts of **Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras** had the power to issue writs.
 - ◆ **Parliament under Article 32** can empower, by law, any other court to issue writs, but **no such provision** has been made yet. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

3. (C)

Exp:

- The **Manas river basin** is the largest in Bhutan, flowing north to south for 272 km in Bhutan and 104 km in Assam

before **joining the Brahmaputra** and eventually joining the Bay of Bengal.

- ◆ It is also the longest river in Bhutan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It is **transboundary** in the Himalayan foothills between southern Bhutan and India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

4. (A)

Exp:

Open Market Operations (OMO):

- Open Market Operations refers to the **buying and selling of bonds issued by the Government in the open market.**
 - ◆ OMO is one of the quantitative tools that the Reserve Bank of India uses to smoothen the liquidity conditions through the year and **minimise its impact on the interest rate and inflation rate levels.**
- **Quantitative tools** control the extent of the money supply by changing the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), bank rate, or open market operations.
- **Qualitative tools** include persuasion by the Central bank to make commercial banks discourage or encourage lending which is done through moral suasion, margin requirement, etc.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

5. (A)

Exp:

Laws Related to Domestic Work in India:

- **No Dedicated Central Law:** Domestic workers are excluded from mainstream labor laws as "workman" and "workplace" definitions do not cover household work, often seen as "**unproductive**" **women's labor**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Multiple attempts were made to pass a Central law to protect domestic workers, including the Domestic Workers (Conditions of Employment) Bill of 1959 and the Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill of 2017.
 - The 2019 National Domestic Worker Policy aimed to regulate agencies and ensure workers' rights, including wages, social security, and benefits. However, none of these proposed laws were enacted.
- **Weak Legal Protections:**
 - ◆ **Unorganised Sector Social Security Act, 2008:** Provided some benefits but was later replaced by the Code on Social Security, 2020, which has not been implemented. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- ◆ **Minimum Wages Act, 1948:** Recognizes domestic work, but **only 10 states** have set minimum wages for domestic workers.
- ◆ **Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013:** Recognizes domestic workers but lacks an enforcement mechanism.
- ◆ **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986:** In 2006, India banned minors under 14 from domestic work, deeming it "hazardous child labor," but the **Child Labour Act, 1986**, allows children over 14 to work in homes, considering them a "safe" place. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

6. (B)

Exp:

Good and Services Tax (GST):

- GST is a comprehensive indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services. It is a value-added tax (VAT). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 279A** of the Indian Constitution gives power to the President of India to constitute a joint forum of the Centre and States called the GST Council, consisting of:
 - ◆ Union Finance Minister as Chairperson
 - ◆ The Union Minister of State, in-charge of Revenue of finance
 - ◆ The **Minister in-charge of finance or taxation**, or any other Minister nominated by each State Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

7. (C)

Exp:

National Green Tribunal (NGT):

- NGT is not required to follow the procedure prescribed in the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, but will be guided by the principles of natural justice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A judge of the Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of a High Court is eligible to become Chairperson of the NGT. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

8. (C)

Exp:

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:

- The Right to Education guarantees free and compulsory education to children between the ages of 6 to 14 under Article 21A of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act mandates that private schools reserve 25% of seats for children from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

9. (B)

Exp:

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) **refers to an investment made by a foreign entity** in the assets or businesses of a host country, typically through establishing or acquiring business operations like subsidiaries, joint ventures, or mergers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While FDI inflows **do contribute to a country's foreign exchange reserves**, they also have a significant impact on employment generation. FDI typically **leads to the establishment of new businesses**, expansion of existing businesses, and creation of job opportunities in various sectors, thereby boosting employment. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- FDI is regulated by the host country's government, which **can impose restrictions on sensitive sectors** or offer incentives like tax breaks to attract investment in priority industries such as technology, infrastructure, or manufacturing. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

10. (D)

Exp:

- Coal mining and burning release sulfur dioxide, contributing to air pollution and acid rain, which harms ecosystems and water quality. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sulfuric acid forms when coal interacts with water, contaminating nearby water sources and harming aquatic life. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Coal mining destroys habitats, leading to a loss of plant and animal species, while pollution further degrades biodiversity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

11. (A)

Exp:

- Exoplanets are planets orbiting other stars outside our solar system, derived from "extrasolar planet," meaning beyond our star's influence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Discovering exoplanets is difficult due to their **small size and lack of emitted light**, making them hard to detect against the **bright glare of their host stars**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Most detection methods rely on indirect techniques, such as the transit method (measuring star dimming when a planet passes) and the radial velocity method (detecting a star's wobble due to a planet's gravitational pull).

12. (A)

Exp:

- A whip is an instruction issued by a political party to ensure members are present for key votes and vote in line with the party's stance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- A whip is also an official in a political party responsible for ensuring party discipline among its members, particularly during votes in legislative bodies.
- In certain situations, such as Presidential elections, whips **cannot** instruct MPs or MLAs on whom to vote, as the vote is a secret ballot and members vote according to their discretion. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

13. (B)

Exp:

- A black hole is a region in space where the gravitational pull is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape from it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Black Holes are formed when a massive star collapses in on itself at the end of its life, creating an incredibly dense object with a gravitational pull that is so strong that it warps space-time around it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Black holes shape galaxy formation and evolution by influencing star and gas movement, regulating star formation, and driving galactic winds. Their activity aids in galaxy growth and recycles matter, contributing to the formation of new stars and galaxies. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

14. (C)

Exp:

- The Equator passes through **6 African countries** (São Tomé and Príncipe, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, and Somalia), which is more than any other continent. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Great Rift Valley** in Africa is formed due to the divergence of the **African Plate and the Somali Plate**, leading to tectonic activity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

15. (A)

Exp:

- **Polyvalent antivenoms in India** are made using venom from the "Big Four" snakes, but they do **not** cover all venomous species like the **king cobra or pit vipers**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Irula tribe of Tamil Nadu** plays a crucial role in venom extraction, supplying nearly **80% of the venom** used in antivenom production. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

16. (B)

Exp:

National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC):

- **About:** NCGTC is a **common trustee company** to manage and operate **various credit guarantee trust funds** to help borrowers access finance by **sharing lending risks** with lenders. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ It provides **loan guarantees** to lenders (like **banks and financial institutions**), encouraging **credit extension** to underserved sectors like **MSMEs, startups, and vulnerable groups**.

- **Establishment:** It was established in **March 2014**, under the **Indian Companies Act, 1956**, with a paid-up capital of **Rs 10 crore**. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ It is a **private limited company** that is **fully owned by the Government of India** and operates under the **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

- **Coverage:** NCGTC currently manages **14 dedicated credit guarantee trust schemes** including **MCGS-MSME, Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU), Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** among others.

17. (B)

Exp:

Gender Budgeting in India :

- **About:** Gender budgeting is a **strategic tool** used by governments to allocate resources efficiently based on **the distinct needs of different genders**.
 - ◆ It ensures that policies and resource allocations are gender-sensitive and address specific needs within existing frameworks.
- **Background:** India's gender equality commitment, starting with the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979** ratification in 1993, led to the first **Gender Budget Statement (GBS) in 2005-06**, and it has been included annually since, reflecting ongoing focus on gender-sensitive policies. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Gender budgeting falls under the **Samarthya sub-scheme of Mission Shakti**.
- **Rise in Budget:** The **Gender Budget for FY 2025-26** is Rs 4.49 lakh crore (8.86% of total **Union Budget 2025-26**), a **37.5% increase** from Rs 3.27 lakh crore in **FY 2024-25**.
 - ◆ **GBS 2025-26 is India's largest-ever gender budget**, boosting women's welfare, education, and economic empowerment, with 49 ministries reporting gender-specific allocations. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

18. (A)

Exp:

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is a **Statutory Body (a Non-Constitutional body)** established under the SEBI Act, 1992. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was constituted as a non-statutory body on 12th April 1988 through a resolution of the Government of India

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- Prior to SEBI, the **Controller of Capital Issues**, governed under the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947, was the regulatory authority for capital markets. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- SEBI's main functions are to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote and regulate the securities market in India.
- SEBI's board includes a Chairman, and other whole-time, and part-time members.
- The **Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)** handles appeals against SEBI's decisions, with powers similar to those of a civil court. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It enables issuers to raise finance, ensures safety and accurate information for investors, and promotes a competitive market for intermediaries.

19. (D)

Exp:

- The **Parvati Arga Ramsar Site** is a **permanent freshwater ecosystem** situated in the **Terai region** of the Gangetic plains.
- It features **two oxbow lakes**, Parvati and Arga, which are **naturally rain-fed** and formed when a river's meander is cut off, creating a distinct U-shaped water body.
- Additionally, the nearby **Tikri Forest is being developed as an eco-tourism destination**, further highlighting the site's ecological and recreational significance.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

20. (A)

Exp:

- Potomac River originates in the **Potomac River Highlands** of West Virginia, US and **flows through Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C.**, and emptying into the **Chesapeake Bay**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Chesapeake Bay is the largest **estuary** in the US and the third largest in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ An estuary is a **semi-enclosed coastal area** where freshwater from rivers meets saltwater from the ocean, creating a unique ecosystem.
- The **Potomac River**, often referred to as "**America's River**," holds profound historical, cultural, and ecological significance.

21. (B)

Exp:

- **Grameen Credit Score:**
 - ◆ **About:** It is developed by **public sector banks** to **assess the creditworthiness of rural individuals**, facilitating easier access to loans. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- It aims to **improve repayment discipline** and **reduce fraud** by providing a more **accurate evaluation of borrowers** in rural areas.

- ◆ **Impact:** It will strengthen **microfinance**, boost **financial inclusion**, and support sectors like **agriculture, rural development, and MSMEs**.

- GCS will complement existing **microfinance models** and work alongside credit scores like **CIBIL** and **CRIF Highmark** for assessing loans.
- This score will be integrated with the **SVAMITVA Scheme**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

22. (c)

Exp:

- The **Urban Challenge Fund** of **₹1 lakh crore** has been announced in the union Budget 2025-26. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to support initiatives under '**Cities as Growth Hubs**,' '**Creative Redevelopment of Cities**,' and '**Water and Sanitation**'. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Additionally, the fund will cover **up to 25%** of the cost for **bankable projects**, provided that **at least 50%** of the funding will be sourced through **bonds, bank loans, or public-private partnerships (PPPs)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ For the **financial year 2025-26**, an allocation of **₹10,000 crore** has been proposed.

23. (B)

Exp:

Coal Reserves in India & Climate Financing:

- India holds **10% of the world's coal reserves** but only **0.7%** of its natural gas reserves, making coal the most reliable and affordable energy source in the country.
- At **UNFCCC COP 29** held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**, developed countries promised only **USD 300 billion** in annual climate finance, falling short of the required **USD 1 trillion**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ This **may force India to continue its dependence on coal** and may require it to adjust its climate targets.

Union Budget Announcements (2025-26) in the Renewable Energy Sector:

- **Customs Duty Exemption:** Cobalt powder, lithium-ion battery scraps, lead, zinc, and 12 other critical minerals have been **exempted from basic customs duty**.
 - ◆ In July 2024, 25 critical minerals not available domestically were exempted from customs duties.
- **National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM):** Rs 410 crore allocated for **2025-26** to the **NCMM** for **technology development**, skilled workforce creation, and **financing mechanisms** for clean energy.

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- ◆ NCMM under the **Ministry of Mines** aims to **enhance domestic production, recycle critical minerals, and acquire global mineral assets.**
- **Nuclear Energy Mission:** A budget of **Rs 20,000 crore** has been allocated for the Nuclear Energy Mission, aimed at developing **indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).**
 - ◆ The goal is to operationalize **at least five SMRs reactors by 2033. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **private sector** will be involved in the development of **Bharat Small Reactors (BSR)** and Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMR).

24. (C)

Exp:

- India's 3-Stage Nuclear Power Programme is formulated by **Dr. Homi Bhabha. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to maximize the country's energy security by efficiently **utilizing its limited uranium resources and tapping into abundant thorium reserves. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The first stage generates electricity and produces plutonium-239 (Pu-239) as a byproduct, using uranium (U-238) as fuel in Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).
- **In the second stage, Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs)** use Pu-239 to generate more fissile material, converting uranium-238 into Pu-239 and enhancing the nuclear fuel cycle. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The third stage focuses on Thorium-Based Reactors, utilizing thorium-232 to produce uranium-233, offering a sustainable long-term solution for India's nuclear energy needs.

25. (D)

Exp:

- The **Budapest Treaty**, adopted in 1977, focuses on the **international patent process for microorganisms**, requiring all member states to recognize microorganisms deposited as part of patent applications, regardless of the depository authority's location. This eliminates the need for submitting microorganisms to multiple national authorities for patent protection.
- Meanwhile, the **Marrakesh VIP Treaty**, which came into force on September 30, 2016, facilitates the production and international transfer of specially adapted books for individuals with blindness or visual impairments, by establishing **exceptions to traditional copyright law.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

26. (D)

Exp:

- Haiti, located between the **Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean**, occupies the western third of Hispaniola

Island, bordered by the **Dominican Republic to the east**, Jamaica to the west, and Cuba to the northwest.

- Its **official languages are French and Haitian Creole.** Haiti is historically significant as the world's first independent Black-led republic, gaining independence after centuries of Spanish and French rule.
- In 2024, **Haiti is facing a surge in gang violence**, driven by political instability, weak governance, economic hardship, and the flow of illegal arms.
- India and Haiti have shared diplomatic ties since 1996, with India providing aid through the ITEC programme and contributing peacekeeping forces in 1995.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

27. (A)

Exp:

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** was launched by the Indian Prime Minister in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of **Project Tiger**, and was formally approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.
- IBCA was established through the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It functions as a global platform to share conservation expertise, fund conservation initiatives, and create a repository of technical knowledge.
- The initiative's main objective is the conservation of seven major big cat species: the **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.**
 - ◆ India is home to five of the seven big cat species: **the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Cheetah.** The **Jaguar and Puma**, however, are not found in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

28. (A)

Exp:

Key Constitutional Provisions Related to Official Language:

- **Article 345:** Article 345 of the Constitution states that a **state legislature can choose one or more languages** to be used for official purposes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This includes the **language or languages already spoken in the state, or Hindi.**
- **Article 347:** Article 347 of the Constitution deals with the **recognition of languages spoken by a section of a state's population. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It allows the **President to officially recognize such languages** if a substantial portion of the state's population requests it.
 - ◆ This provision allows the **inclusion of regional languages into the official framework of the state**, ensuring linguistic inclusivity.

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- **Article 350A:** Article 350A of the Constitution requires states to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue for children from linguistic minority groups. This applies to **primary education**.
- **Article 351:** Article 351 of the Constitution provides for the promotion of the spread of Hindi as a link language without overriding the linguistic rights of states to promote their official languages.

29. (D)

Exp:

- **The State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) Report 2024**, has been prepared by **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)** based on the study of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, provides a comprehensive analysis of India's digital economy.
- This report provides insights into the growth, performance, and impact of India's digital economy, covering aspects such as digital infrastructure, e-commerce, digital payments, and technology adoption across various sectors.
- Hence, option D is correct.

30. (B)

Exp:

- UMANG is a comprehensive mobile application launched by the Government of India, offering a **unified, secure, and multi-channel platform** that provides access to essential services from various **Central and State government organizations**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ It is designed to support multiple languages and platforms, ensuring seamless service delivery through a robust backend system.
- **Digital India Bhashini** is India's **AI-driven language translation platform**, aimed at bridging linguistic barriers under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ The **Bhashini Platform** facilitates access to **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources**, making them available to **MSMEs, startups, and individual innovators** in the public domain.
 - ◆ Additionally, **Bhashini is an integral part of the National Language Translation Mission**, enhancing accessibility and inclusivity in digital communication across languages.
- The Government of India has allocated **₹2,000 crore for the IndiaAI Mission** for the financial year **2025-26**, in Union Budget 2025-26, aiming to strengthen the country's artificial intelligence ecosystem through research, innovation, and the development of AI-driven solutions across various sectors. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

31. (D)

Exp:

- The Auckland Islands are an archipelago of New Zealand, lying 465 km (289 mi) south of the South Island. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- The Farasan Islands are a small group of coral islands approximately 40 km off the coast of Jizan in the Red Sea, belonging to Saudi Arabia. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- Macquarie Island belongs to Australia. It's part of the Subantarctic Group of Islands and is managed by the Australian Antarctic Division. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

32. (A)

Exp:

- The event horizon is the boundary surrounding a black hole where the gravitational pull is so intense that nothing, not even light, can escape. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- Black holes **cannot be directly observed using telescopes** because they do not emit light. However, scientists can detect black holes by observing how they affect nearby objects. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.

33. (A)

Exp:

- Japan is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region with high tectonic activity, which results in frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions throughout the country. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- Kuroshio Current is actually a **warm ocean current, not a cold one**, and therefore significantly influences Japan's climate by **raising temperatures in the regions** it flows near, particularly along the southern coast of Japan. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.

34. (A)

Exp:

- Tamil and Telugu, along with other major South Indian languages like Kannada and Malayalam, belong to the Dravidian language family, not the Indo-European family. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- Sanskrit is considered one of the oldest documented languages within the Indo-European language family, with its earliest form, Vedic Sanskrit, dating back to around 1500-500 BCE. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- The Indo-European language family encompasses languages spoken in both South Asia and Europe, including branches like Indo-Iranian (South Asia) and Germanic, Romance, and Slavic (Europe). Hence, Statement 3 is correct.

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35.(C)

Exp:

- Jarawa are an indigenous tribe that live in the Andaman Islands of India. They are hunter-gatherers who have lived on the islands for thousands of years. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Bhil tribe is the largest tribal group in India by population. The census 2011 of India reported that the Bhil tribe had a population of 4,618,068, which was 37.7% of the total scheduled tribe population. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

36.(A)

Exp:

Beggar-thy-Neighbour Policy:

- It is a **protectionist strategy** that involves measures like **trade barriers, currency devaluation, and subsidies**, to **improve its own economic situation at the expense of other nations.**
 - ◆ **Adam Smith** coined the term in **The Wealth of Nations (1776)**, criticizing **mercantilism** that **impoverishes others** and advocating **free trade** for all nations' benefit.
- The **US** imposed **tariffs** on imports from **China, Canada, and Mexico** as part of the **Beggar-thy-neighbour policy.**
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

37.(C)

Exp:

- Asteroids are **rocky, airless remnants** from the **solar system's formation (4.6 billion years ago)**. They primarily orbit the Sun in the **Asteroid Belt**, though some follow **Earth-crossing paths.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **main Asteroid Belt** is located **between Mars and Jupiter** and it contains the **majority of known asteroids.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Torino Scale**, adopted by the **IAU (International Astronomical Union)** in **1999**, categorizes asteroid impact risks on a **0 to 10** scale based on likelihood and severity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

38.(C)

Exp:

The Sahitya Akademi Awards:

- It honors exceptional **literary contributions** in categories like **novels, poetry, essays, and plays.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is the **2nd-highest literary honor** in India, after the **Jnanpith Award.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was established in **1954** as an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Culture.**

- **Eligibility: Award categories** include works in **22 languages** of the **Eighth Schedule**, along with **English and Rajasthani (total: 24 languages)**, and **translations** of Indian literary works.

- ◆ The author must be an **Indian citizen.**

39.(C)

Exp:

- The **Repo Rate** is the **interest rate at which commercial banks borrow funds from the central bank** to meet short-term liquidity needs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In this process, banks provide securities as collateral and agree to repurchase them later at a higher price, which includes interest.
- It plays a crucial role in determining borrowing costs, **when the repo rate is high**, loans become costlier for banks, **leading to higher interest rates for consumers and businesses**, which slows down borrowing and spending. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Conversely, a lower repo rate makes borrowing cheaper, encouraging increased lending and economic activity.
- As a key monetary policy tool, the **repo rate helps the central bank regulate money supply, control inflation, and influence overall economic growth.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

40.(A)

Exp:

- **Climate adaptation and mitigation** are two key strategies for addressing climate change.
 - ◆ While mitigation focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation involves adjusting to climate impacts, and resilience enhances the ability to recover from climate-related challenges.
- **Mitigation** efforts aim to limit climate change by **cutting emissions** and promoting sustainable practices, such as **transitioning to low-carbon energy(1)**, utilizing carbon capture technologies, conserving forests and oceans as carbon sinks, and encouraging eco-friendly behaviors like reducing travel emissions.
- **Adaptation** strategies focus on minimizing harm by preparing for climate effects, including **building defenses against rising sea levels (2)**, **diversifying crops to withstand climate shifts (3)** and strengthening infrastructure against extreme weather, and reducing food waste.
- Therefore, **transitioning to low-carbon energy (1)** are mitigation measures, while **building defenses against rising sea levels (2)** and **diversifying crops to withstand climate shifts (3)** are adaptation measures.
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

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41. (B)

Exp:

- Sanskrit held significant importance as a literary language during the Medieval period, it **was not widely spoken by the masses across India during Medieval India**, but rather primarily **used by the educated elite** and considered the **language of court and scholarship**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- The decline of **Pali** as the dominant language of Buddhist literature occurred after the 12th century due to the rise of **Sanskrit** and regional languages. As Hinduism flourished with Sanskrit texts and royal patronage, Pali gradually lost prominence in India. Buddhist texts began being composed in **Sanskrit**, marking the shift in literary language. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- Tamil literature, particularly during the Chola period, continued to thrive, with Kamban's 'Ramavatharam' being a notable work. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.

42. (A)

Exp:

- The National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCN), aims to create a cultural map of India by documenting tangible and intangible cultural assets. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- NMCN includes initiatives like the development of **Kala Grams** (cultural hubs) and the introduction of **Unique Cultural-ID (UCID)** for artists to support cultural preservation and awareness. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- NMCN is launched by the **Ministry of Culture**, not the Ministry of Education. The mission is implemented under the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**. Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct**.

43. (D)

Exp:

- The "Right to Die with Dignity" in India is linked to **passive euthanasia and living wills**, allowing individuals to refuse life-sustaining treatment in terminal conditions or document end-of-life decisions.
- Passive euthanasia is legal under judicial oversight, ensuring the patient's wishes are respected.
- **Active euthanasia, however, remains illegal in India**, as it involves active intervention to end life, which is not recognized by the law.
- Hence, option D is Correct.

44. (C)

Exp:

- Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is a rare neurological disorder in which the body's immune system mistakenly

attacks the peripheral nervous system (PNS), which controls muscle movement and sensory functions. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

- This can lead to symptoms ranging from mild weakness to severe paralysis, and in some cases, it can affect breathing, requiring emergency treatment.
- Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) is one of the primary treatments used for Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).
- It involves administering immunoglobulin, a blood product derived from healthy donors, to help modulate the immune system and reduce the damage caused by the immune response attacking the peripheral nervous system. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**

45. (A)

Exp:

Gyan Bharatam Mission:

- It aimed at **surveying, documenting, and conserving India's vast manuscript heritage**. The initiative seeks to conserve over **one crore manuscripts** housed in academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collections. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Budget Allocation:** To accommodate this new initiative, the budget allocation for the **National Manuscripts Mission (NMM)**, has been increased from **Rs 3.5 crore to Rs 60 crore**.
- **Gyan Bharatam Mission** was launched under **NMM**, by the **Ministry of Culture in 2003** under the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

46. (B)

Exp:

- **CO₂ Conversion:** Traditionally, **H₂ is needed for CO₂ conversion** into products like methane, ethanol, or acetic acid.
 - ◆ The study used **high-pressure gas fermentation (HPGF) reactor**, eliminating the need for **H₂**, making the process more sustainable, energy-efficient, and cost-effective, yielding **higher ethanol and acetic acid**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **BioH₂ Production:** Food waste undergoes microbial fermentation in an **upflow reactor** with a **self-regulating buffering system**, optimizing **bioH₂ yield** and **minimizing methane and Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions** compared to traditional **biogas methods**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

47. (C)

Exp:

- Parliamentary Privileges are defined under the Constitution of India. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

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- Article 105 (for Parliament) and Article 194 (for State Legislatures) of the Indian Constitution explicitly provide for Parliamentary Privileges. These privileges include freedom of speech in the House and immunity from legal proceedings for anything said or done in the course of legislative functions.
- Breach of Parliamentary Privileges can lead to imprisonment of the offender by the House concerned. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, as well as State Legislatures, have the power to punish individuals (including non-members) for contempt or breach of privilege.

48. (C)

Exp:

- The Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013 defines **sexual harassment** in line with the **Vishaka Guidelines** issued by the Supreme Court in 1997. It includes unwelcome acts such as physical contact, advances, demand for sexual favors, and sexually colored remarks. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act mandates the **Local Complaints Committee (LCC)** at the **district level** to handle complaints from **workplaces with fewer than 10 employees** or cases where the employer is the accused. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act protects **not only women employees but also interns, clients, visitors, and any woman present at the workplace** who may face sexual harassment. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

49. (B)

Exp:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID):

- USAID is the **primary US agency for global humanitarian and development aid.**
- In 2024, USAID was allocated USD 44.2 billion, just 0.4% of the total US federal budget, but accounted for 42% of all humanitarian aid tracked by the United Nations.
- USAID **funds healthcare, food aid**, disaster relief, and policy advocacy worldwide.
- Top aid recipients Include Ukraine, Ethiopia, Jordan, Somalia, and Afghanistan.
- India's association with USAID **began in 1951** with the India Emergency Food Aid Act, evolving over decades from food aid to infrastructure, capacity building, and economic reforms.
 - The agency has been supporting education, immunization, polio eradication, and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) /Tuberculosis (TB) prevention.

- In the last decade, India is said to have received around USD 1.5 billion from USAID (about 0.2 % to 0.4 % of USAID's total global funding).

- Hence, option B is correct.**

50. (C)

Exp:

- Mount Taranaki**, a striking **stratovolcano** known for its near-perfect **symmetrical shape**, is one of New Zealand's most iconic natural landmarks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was formed as a **result of the Pacific Plate subducting beneath the Australian Plate**, a geological process that has shaped much of the region's landscape. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Despite being dormant, the snow-capped peak of Mount Taranaki remains a prominent feature, attracting climbers, researchers, and tourists alike.
- Its cultural and environmental significance is immense, with **recent legal recognition granting it the status of a legal personhood**, reinforcing its protection under indigenous and environmental laws. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- While Mount Taranaki is a significant peak in New Zealand, the highest mountain in the country is Aoraki/Mount Cook, towering at 3,724 meters in the Southern Alps.

51. (A)

Exp:

- The **Eurasian Otter** has recently been spotted in **Gurez Valley, Kashmir**, marking the first live documentation of the species in 25 years.
 - One was observed feasting on fish in the **Kishanganga River**, which originates from Krishansar Lake in Ganderbal district (J&K) and flows northward through the Tulail and Gurez Valleys before entering Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- Belonging to the **Mustelidae family**, otters inhabit both **marine and freshwater ecosystems** and are **locally known as Vodur in Jammu and Kashmir**, where they play a vital role in maintaining aquatic ecosystem health.
 - Primarily crepuscular, they are most active during dawn and dusk.
 - Eurasian Otters are found in the **Himalayas, Northeast India, and the Western Ghats**, feeding on a carnivorous diet that includes fish, crustaceans, amphibians, and occasionally reptiles, birds, eggs, insects, and worms.
- Hence, option A is correct.**

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52. (C)

Exp:

- **Article 282** allows both the Union and the States to make grants for any public purpose, even if the purpose falls outside their legislative jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unlike tax devolution (under **Articles 270 and 275**), grants made under Article 282 are discretionary and not governed by the recommendations of the Finance Commission. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Articles 270 and 275** mandate that the Finance Commission (FC) determines the share of States in Union tax revenues. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ While Article 270 specifies the percentage share of the States, Article 275 refers to specific "sums" and stipulates that these grants should be provided to States in need of assistance.

53. (B)

Exp:

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with **NITI Aayog**, launched the "**Swavalambini**" program in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In partnership with the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, and NITI Aayog, MSDE introduced a stage-wise entrepreneurial process.
 - ◆ This includes an **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)**, a **Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)**, a **Faculty Development Programme (FDP)**, and funding opportunities.
- Swavalambini is a women entrepreneurship program designed to empower women in **Northeast Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** with an entrepreneurial mindset, resources, and mentorship to help them succeed in business. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

54. (B)

Exp:

- **New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1**, is an enzyme that renders bacteria resistant to a wide range of **beta-lactam antibiotics**, including **carbapenems**, which are crucial for treating antibiotic-resistant infections.
- The gene encoding NDM-1 belongs to a broader family of genes responsible for producing beta-lactamase enzymes known as carbapenemases.
- Bacteria that produce these enzymes are often termed "**superbugs**" in the media due to the challenges they pose in treatment.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

55. (B)

Exp:

- A private member refers to any Member of Parliament (MP) who is not a minister. The **responsibility for drafting a private member's bill lies with the concerned member and not the Ministry concerned.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Unlike government bills, which can be introduced and discussed on any day, private member's bills are introduced and debated only on Fridays.
- A **one-month notice is required before its introduction in the House**, and if multiple bills are proposed, a ballot system determines their order of presentation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Parliamentary Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions reviews these bills, classifying them based on urgency and importance.
- Notably, the **rejection of a private member's bill has no bearing on the government's parliamentary confidence or its continuation in office.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ After discussion, the member introducing the bill can either withdraw it upon the minister's request or proceed with its passage.

56. (A)

Exp:

TROPEX-25:

- The **Indian Navy's Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX) 2025** is being conducted in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** over a duration of **3 months (Jan - Mar 2025).**
- It is the Indian Navy's **biennial and largest maritime exercise** that strengthens joint operations against **maritime threats** with participation from the **Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.**
 - ◆ **Objective:** Validate the Indian Navy's **warfighting skills** and ensure an **integrated response** to conventional, asymmetric, and hybrid maritime threats posed by countries like **China.**
 - ◆ **Phases:** It includes **Harbour and Sea Phases**, featuring **combat operations**, cyber & electronic warfare, live weapon firings, and **Amphibious Exercise (AMPHEX).**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

57. (B)

Exp:

- The **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** was established on **12th August 1994** as a statutory body under the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993**, initially for three years.
 - ◆ Though extended until **February 2004**, the Act lapsed, and since **29th February 2004**, NCSK has functioned as

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a **non-statutory body** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- NCSK conducts field visits, grievance redressal, policy reviews, suo-motu cognizance of problems of Safai Karamcharis, and submits reports to the ministry. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ It recommends welfare policies, monitors laws like the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013**, investigates grievances, and ensures compensation for sewer deaths (**₹30 lakh**) and disabilities (**₹10-20 lakh**) as per **SC ruling (2023)**.

58. (B)

Exp:

- **Lymphatic Filariasis** is caused by **roundworm parasites (nematodes)** that live in the lymphatic vessels. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ The main types of worms are:
 - **Wuchereria bancrofti** (responsible for **90% of cases**)
 - **Brugia malayi**
 - **Brugia timori**
- The disease spreads through **mosquito bites**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ When a mosquito bites an **infected person**, it **ingests tiny larvae (microfilariae)**. Later, when the same mosquito bites a **healthy person**, it **transmits the parasites into their bloodstream**, leading to infection.
- It damages the **lymphatic system**, leading to **swelling of body parts (mainly legs, arms, and genitals)**, causing **pain, disability, and social stigma**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

59. (C)

Exp:

Asian Elephants:

- Asian elephants communicate using **trumpets, roars, rumbles, and chirps** to seek attention and express emotions. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ Earlier beliefs suggested **trumpeting was mainly a response to human disturbances**, but new findings show it is used in social interactions and play.
- **Key Facts:**
 - ◆ **Subspecies:** Three subspecies of Asian elephants include **Indian, Sumatran, and Sri Lankan**.
 - ◆ **Population:** Fewer than 50,000 remain in fragmented populations across 13 countries.
 - ◆ **Habitat:** Found in grasslands, scrublands, evergreen and deciduous forests.

- ◆ **Size and Appearance:** Smaller than **African elephants** with proportionally smaller ears. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ **Importance:** Elephants, **India's Natural Heritage Animal**, are a **Keystone Species** vital for forest health. They create clearings for forest regeneration and dig for water, aiding other wildlife.

- ◆ **Protection Status:**

- They are categorised as endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** Appendix I

60. (A)

Exp:

Bombay Blood Group:

- It was identified in Mumbai in **1952** and is also called the **hh blood group** due to the **absence of the H antigen**.
 - ◆ Antigens are **proteins or carbohydrates** on blood cells (**RBCs, WBCs, and platelets**) that determine blood type. E.g., **AB blood group** has both **A and B antigens**, A has A antigens, B has B antigens, and O has none.
 - ◆ In the Bombay blood group, a **mutated or absent H antigen gene** prevents **A, B, or O antigen formation**.
- It is **exceptionally rare** and found in approximately **1 in 10,000 Indians** and **1 in a million people globally**.
- Individuals with **hh blood groups can't receive any A, B, AB, or O blood**, including **O-negative**, as they contain the **H antigen**.
 - ◆ The recipient's immune system recognizes **donor antigens as foreign (antibodies)** and triggers a severe immune reaction.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

61. (C)

Exp:

Earth's Inner Core:

- **Structure:** The inner core is a hot, **dense ball primarily made of iron and nickel**. Unlike the liquid outer core, the inner core remains solid due to immense pressure from Earth's upper layers. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Depth and Size:** Located **5,150 km** beneath the surface, at Earth's center. It has a radius of about **1,220 km**.
 - ◆ The boundary between the inner and outer core is called the **Lehmann Discontinuity**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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- **Magnetism:** The inner core influences **Earth's magnetic field**, while the outer core's swirling liquid iron generates it through the **geodynamo effect** (magnetic field generation).
 - ◆ The inner core has **high thermal and electrical conductivity**.
- **Rotation:** The inner core rotates eastward slightly **faster than the Earth's surface**, completing an extra rotation every 1,000 years.
- **Growth:** The inner core grows by about **1 mm per year** as the liquid outer core solidifies.
 - ◆ Growth is uneven, occurring more around subduction zones and less near superplumes.
 - ◆ The core will never fully solidify due to slow crystallization and continuous radioactive decay.

62. (B)

Exp:

- The **Harmonized System (HS)**, facilitates **identification, tariff determination, and trade statistics**, ensuring uniformity in international trade. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is managed by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)**, a global standard for classifying traded goods. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is updated every five years and uses a **six-digit code**, with countries adding extensions for further classification. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

63. (B)

Exp:

- **Epilepsy** is recognized by WHO as a **chronic neurological disorder** caused by abnormal electrical activity in the **brain**, leading to seizures. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- National Epilepsy Day (India) is observed on 17th November. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

64. (B)

Exp:

- The **Vishwamitri River** originates from the **Pavagadh hills in Gujarat**, part of the Western Ghats, and flows through Vadodara before joining the Gulf of Khambhat.
- It is fed by tributaries **Dhadhar and Khanpur**. Its banks were home to ancient settlements, including **Ankotakka (now Akota)**, which thrived during the Gupta and Vallabhi periods.
- Ecologically unique among urban rivers, it supports diverse wildlife, including mugger crocodiles, freshwater turtles, and monitor lizards.
- **Hence, option B is correct**

65. (D)

Exp:

- The **Einstein Cross** is a striking example of **gravitational lensing**, first predicted by **Albert Einstein** and discovered by astronomer **John Huchra**.
- It appears as a **galaxy with four nuclei**, but these are **actually multiple images of the quasar Q2237+0305**, located 8 billion light-years away.
- The quasar's light is bent and magnified by the gravitational field of the foreground galaxy **PGC 69457**, 400 million light-years away, creating a cross-like pattern.
- Occasionally, variations in brightness occur due to microlensing, as stars in the foreground galaxy pass in front of the quasar images, temporarily intensifying them.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

66. (C)

Exp:

- The **Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**, introduced by the **First Amendment Act, 1951**, lists laws that cannot be challenged in courts, protecting them from **judicial review**, especially land reform laws. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Initially, **13 laws** were added to the schedule.
 - ◆ Articles **31A and 31B** were inserted into the Constitution, which **shielded land reform laws from judicial review**, particularly laws aimed at the **acquisition of estates**.
 - **Article 31A:** Stated that any law related to land reforms **could not be struck down for violating fundamental rights**, particularly **right to property (Article 31)**.
 - **Article 31B:** Ensures that the laws specified in the **Ninth Schedule**, even if they conflict with fundamental rights, will remain valid and enforceable.
- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 removed the **Right to Property from the list of Fundamental Rights** by repealing **Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Right to Property was then made a legal right under **Article 300A** (no one can be deprived of their property without the authority of law) of the Constitution.

67. (A)

Exp:

Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya:

- Born on the **25th of September 1916**, he was an Indian **politician, philosopher, and ideologue** of the **RSS and Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS)** (the predecessor of the Bharatiya Janata Party).

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- He focused on **Antyodaya** i.e., uplifting the last person and addressing the needs of the **most disadvantaged**.
- His philosophy of **"Integral Humanism"** emphasized welfare, social justice, economic equality, and self-reliance.
- Since **25th September 2014**, his birth anniversary has been observed as **Antyodaya Diwas** to honor his contributions to the nation.
 - ◆ In **2015**, the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** was renamed **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM**.
- The **Prime Minister** has paid tributes to **Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya** on his **death anniversary (punya tithi)**. He passed away on **11th February 1968**.

● Hence, option A is correct.

68. (D)

Exp:

European Free Trade Association (EFTA):

- EFTA is an **intergovernmental organisation** of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, established under the Stockholm Convention (1960). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India is EFTA's **5th-largest trading partner** (after the EU, US, UK, and China). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Two-way trade: USD 24 billion (2023-24)**, up from **USD 18.65 billion (2022-23)**, with a trade gap favoring EFTA.
- **Key partners: Switzerland (largest)**, followed by **Norway**.

69. (B)

Exp:

- Founded in **1971**, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** was officially recognized by the Swiss Federal Council as an **international organization** in **2015**. It is dedicated to **public-private cooperation** and brings together **key political, business, cultural, and other societal leaders** to shape **global, regional, and industry agendas**.
- WEF regularly publishes globally recognized reports, including the **Global Cybersecurity Outlook Report**, **Global Competitiveness Report** and the **Global Gender Gap Report**, **Energy Transition Index**, **Global Risk Report**, **Global Travel and Tourism Report**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

70. (C)

Exp:

Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951):

- **Section 8(1):** Lists specific offenses (such as promoting enmity between groups, bribery, undue influence, corruption, etc.) that lead to immediate disqualification for **six years** from the conviction date. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- **Section 8(3):** A person convicted of an offense and sentenced to imprisonment for **two years or more** shall be disqualified from contesting elections **from the date of conviction and for an additional six years** after release. However, this does not apply to preventive detention cases. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Section 11:** Allows the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to remove or reduce the disqualification period imposed under **Sections 8, 9, or 10**, granting discretionary relief in certain cases. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

71. (D)

Exp:

- **Kuno National Park**, located in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh, was **originally established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1981** and later **upgraded to a national park in 2018**.
 - ◆ Geographically, it lies in the Vindhyan Hills and is characterized by **dry deciduous forests**.
 - The dominant vegetation in Kuno comprises tree species such as **Kardhai, Khair, and Salai**, which thrive in its arid ecosystem.
 - ◆ **Kuno River—a major tributary of the Chambal—** flowing through its landscape. The park is home to diverse fauna, including leopards, striped hyenas, Indian wolves, blackbucks, sambar deer, and ghazals.
 - It was also selected under the **Action Plan for the Introduction of Cheetah in India**.
- Hence, option D is correct.

72. (A)

Exp:

- **Fort William** is located in **Kolkata** on the eastern banks of the **Hooghly River** and was originally named after King William III of England. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The original fort was built by the **British in 1696 under Sir John Goldsborough** and **completed in 1706**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It was damaged during the **Siege of Calcutta (1756)** when Siraj-ud-Daulah defeated the British.
 - ◆ After the Battle of Plassey (1757), Robert Clive rebuilt it at a new location between 1758 and 1781.
- It houses a war memorial with artifacts from the 1971 Indo-Pak War and Bangladesh Liberation War.
- It has been renamed **Vijay Durg** to shed colonial legacy, inspired by **Maharashtra's historic Sindhudurg fort**, a former Maratha naval base under Chhatrapati Shivaji. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

73. (B)

Exp:

- **Austrahind (and not Shakti)** is a joint military exercise between **India and Australia** that focuses on enhancing

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interoperability between the two countries' armed forces. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

- **Sampriti** is a joint military exercise between the armies of India and **Bangladesh**. It is held annually to strengthen defense cooperation between the two countries. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- The "**Hand in Hand**" exercise is a joint military training exercise between India and **China**, focused on counter-terrorism operations under a United Nations mandate. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

74. (B)

Exp:

- Zoonotic diseases are **infectious diseases that spread from animals to humans**. Not all zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses. Apart from viruses, they can also be caused by **bacteria, parasites, and fungi**. Eg: Rabies, Salmonellosis, Ebola, Anthrax. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Climate change, deforestation, and human-wildlife interactions contribute to the increased risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks by altering ecosystems and increasing human exposure to animal pathogens. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

75. (D)

Exp:

- The Young Bengal Movement was a **social reform movement in Bengal in the early 19th century**. It was led by **Henry Louis Vivian Derozio**, a teacher at Hindu College in Kolkata. The movement was also known as the Derozians. It promoted rationalism, free thinking, and a critical approach to religious traditions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Brahmo Samaj was a prominent socio-religious reform movement founded by Raja Rammohan Roy in **1828**. It **opposed idol worship, caste discrimination, and emphasized monotheism**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Wahhabi Movement, founded by **Sayyid Ahmad of Rae Bareilly**, was a **revivalist movement** aimed at purifying Islam by eliminating un-Islamic practices. It also has an anti-British stance. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

76. (B)

Exp:

Marital Rape:

- **About:** Marital rape is a type of **intimate partner violence** that involves **forced sex** or sexual assault between spouses. It is not a crime in India.
 - ◆ However, if a couple is **married, but living separately**, then the husband is **guilty of rape** if his wife **does not consent** to sexual intercourse.

● **Legal Stance:**

- ◆ **IPC: Section 375 (2)** states that sexual intercourse or sexual acts between a man and his wife who is **not under 15 years of age is not rape**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - **BNS** retains **immunity** for husbands in cases of marital rape but the **age of consent has been increased from 15 to 18 years** complying with the SC judgement in the **Independent Thought vs UOI Case, 2017**.
- ◆ **Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** While marital rape is not a crime, a woman can **seek relief** under the **Domestic Violence Act, 2005** for **sexual abuse, humiliation, or violation of dignity**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Judicial Rulings on Marital Rape:**
 - ◆ **Independent Thought vs UOI Case, 2017:** The SC struck down **Exception 2** to Section 375 IPC (Section 63 of BNS) for **wives aged 15-18**, making intercourse with **minor wives (under 18) rape**.
 - It ruled the exception arbitrary and unconstitutional, violating **Articles 14 (equality), 15 (non-discrimination), and 21 (right to life and dignity)**.
 - The court ruled that **POCSO Act, 2012 prevails over IPC**, making sex with a minor (under 18) rape, even if she is married.
 - ◆ **KS Puttaswamy Case, 2017:** It stressed the importance of **sexual autonomy for individuals** as an intrinsic part of privacy.

77. (D)

Exp:

India-Myanmar:

- India's **1,643-km border with Myanmar** runs through Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km). 1,472 km of the border has been demarcated.
- The revised **Free Movement Regime (FMR)** has led to the activation of 22 border gates out of the 43 planned crossing points along the **India-Myanmar border**, aimed at regulating movement while maintaining border security.
 - ◆ **FMR:** Introduced in 1968 to facilitate **movement due to ethnic and familial ties** across the largely unfenced northeastern border.
 - ◆ The **free movement limit** was **reduced from 40 km to 16 km in 2004** and is now **10 km**.
 - ◆ **Border residents can travel without a visa or passport** but require a **QR code-enabled border pass**. Biometric

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data is recorded and uploaded to a centralized portal to check against a **negative list**.

- ◆ **Assam Rifles** is responsible for issuing border passes and conducting initial security verification. Border pass validity is up to 7 days.



- Hence, option D is correct.

78. (B)

Exp:

Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF)

- **About:**

- ◆ It is a **global fisheries and aquaculture conference** held every 3 years by the **Asian Fisheries Society (AFS)**. Its **headquarters** is in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- **AFS**, a **non-profit scientific body**, was founded in **1984** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.

- ◆ It brings together **scientists, researchers, and industry experts** to discuss challenges, trends, and innovations in the sector.

- ◆ The forum encourages **international cooperation** to develop better practices for the **future of fisheries and aquaculture**.

- **India as Host:** India hosted AFAF for the **2nd time** (1st : 8th AFAF in Kochi in 2007).

- **Organisers:**

- ◆ **AFS** in collaboration with **ICAR**, the **Department of Fisheries, GoI**, and **Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB)**, **Mangalore**.

- **Theme for 14th AFAF:** "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific". Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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