



drishti

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(Part-I)**

**Current
Affairs
MCQ**
(Consolidation)

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Practice Question

1. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas.
2. It is one of the world's highest brackish water lakes.
3. It formed as a tectonic lake during the collision of the Indian plate with the Eurasian plate.

Which of the following lakes best matches the above description?

- A. Pangong Lake
- B. Sambhar Lake
- C. Loktak Lake
- D. Pulicat Lake

2. Consider the following statements regarding the All-India Muslim League:

1. The All-India Muslim League was formed as a result of the Aligarh Movement and the Simla Deputation of 1906, advocating for Muslim education, political awareness, and special representation.
2. The Lucknow Pact of 1916 marked the League's shift from communal demands to advocating for a united Indian independence.

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding Rapid World Championship 2024:

1. Koneru Humpy became the first Indian to win the FIDE World Rapid Championship in 2024, marking her debut title victory.
2. India won both the open and women's sections of the Chess Olympiad 2024 held in Budapest.

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. Consider the following statements related to Polio Virus:

1. It causes paralysis by invading the nervous system.
2. Bivalent oral polio vaccine protects against wild poliovirus Type 1 and 3
3. Wild Poliovirus Type-3 was eradicated globally in 1999.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following features:

1. It is the longest lake in India.
2. In 2002, it was designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.
3. Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the lake's east coast.

Which of the following lakes is best described from above features:

- A. Vembanad Lake
- B. Chilika Lake
- C. Pulicat Lake
- D. Loktak Lake

6. Regarding the Index of Eight Core Industries, consider the following statements:

1. It measures the combined and individual performance of the production of eight core industries.
2. The eight core industries comprise more than half of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

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:

Statement-I: Data centres are specialized facilities used to store, manage, and process large volumes of electronic data.

Statement-II: The increasing adoption of digital technologies, especially in AI, cloud computing, and data storage, has led to rising demand for data processing and storage solutions.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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8. **World Malaria Report 2024** was recently released by which of the following?
- World Health Organization (WHO)
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
9. **Consider the following initiatives:**
- Cancer Moonshot
 - Open Radio Access Networks
 - BioExplore Initiative
- How many of the above initiatives are spearheaded by the QUAD grouping?**
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
10. **Consider the following statements related to Central Ground Water Board:**
- It was constituted under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
 - It implements schemes for artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting.
 - It releases State and District Hydrogeological Reports.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?**
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
11. **Consider the following statements:**
- Statement-I:** Senior Advocates are key legal figures in the Supreme Court, handling high-stakes cases like death penalties, company liquidations, child custody, and bail applications.
- Statement-II:** The designation of Senior Advocates is awarded by the Supreme Court or High Courts under Article 165 of the Constitution of India.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
12. **Mount Kanlaon**, often seen in the news, is located in which of the following countries?
- Indonesia
 - Philippines
 - Japan
 - Malaysia
13. **Consider the following statements regarding Private Members' Bill:**
- Private Members' Bills are introduced by MPs who are not part of the government.
 - A Constitution amendment bill can be introduced by a private member.
 - It is drafted by the concerned department in consultation with the law department.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
14. **MERCOSUR**, sometimes seen in news is:
- A free trade agreement among ASEAN countries.
 - A regional trade bloc in South America.
 - An economic organization in Africa.
 - A military alliance in Africa.
15. **Consider the following statements regarding SRIJAN portal:**
- The main objective of the portal is to partner the private sector in indigenisation efforts of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and the Armed Forces.
 - The portal is a non-transactional platform i.e. direct purchases or payments cannot be made on the platform.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
16. **Consider the following statements regarding National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):**
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the highest authority for disaster management in the country, chaired by the Union Home Minister.
 - The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was established as a specialized force for disaster management under the Disaster Management Act of 2005.

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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

17. Consider the following statements regarding poverty estimation:

1. In India, poverty line estimation is primarily based on consumption expenditure rather than income levels.
2. The Alkire Foster (AF) Methodology is a comprehensive approach for measuring multidimensional poverty globally

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 Tigers:

1. Tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
2. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers in India.
3. Tx2 campaign was launched by the World Wildlife Fund to double the tiger population.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements related to Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life:

1. It is a nuclear fuel that is a blend of Thorium and High Assay Low Enriched Uranium.
2. It is currently produced at scale only in South Africa.
3. It has a high burn-up efficiency compared to conventional natural uranium.

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

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

20. Consider the following pairs:

Inscription	Related Personality
1. Junagarh	Rudradaman I
2. Bhitari	Skandagupta
3. Mandsaur	Vijay Sena

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

21. Consider the following statements regarding All-India Muslim League:

1. The Muslim League was founded by Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1906 as an alternative political group to the Indian National Congress.
2. The Lucknow Pact (1916) marked a rare instance of cooperation between the Congress and the Muslim League.

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 regarding H-1B Visa:

1. It is a non-immigrant visa that permits US companies to hire foreign workers for specialized roles.
2. Indians account for more than 70% of all H-1B petitions approved each year since 2015.

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

23. Consider the following statements regarding Pegasus Spyware:

1. Pegasus is a spyware developed by an Israeli surveillance firm that helps spies hack into phones.
2. Pegasus uses a keylogger to steal login credentials and extracts personal data like location, messages, and app usage, sending it to NSO Group's servers.

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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24. Consider the following statements regarding Siang Upper Multipurpose Project:

1. The Upper Siang project is a proposed 11,000 MW hydropower project on the Siang River in Assam.
2. It aims to mitigate the potential impact of China's hydroelectric projects on the Yarlung Tsangpo which could adversely affect India's water security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements regarding Conjugal visits for prisoners:

1. It is one where offenders are allowed to spend time with their spouses.
2. India lacks a specific law on conjugal rights for prisoners, and the issue is primarily governed by judicial interpretations of Article 21 of the Constitution.

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding Asian Development Bank (ADB):

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a multilateral development bank that works to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific.
2. India is a founding member of ADB and the bank's third-largest shareholder after the US and China.

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

27. Consider the following relations:

1. Nepal shares its border with five Indian states, namely Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
2. Koshi Agreement, Mahakali Treaty and Gandak Agreement are the major water-sharing agreements between India and Nepal.

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

28. Consider the following statements:

1. Moldova is a small eastern European landlocked country bordered by Ukraine to the east and Romania to the west.
2. Transnistria is a Russian-supported breakaway region in Moldova, separated from the country following the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

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. With reference to the evolution of the Internet, consider the following statements:

1. The transition from ARPANET to TCP/IP on 1st January 1983 marked the formal beginning of the modern Internet.
2. TCP/IP was developed to address the limitations of the Network Control Protocol (NCP), which could not support scalable interconnectivity across networks.

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

30. Consider the following statements regarding Dr. Vikram Sarabhai:

1. He founded the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to harness space technology for societal development.
2. He conceptualized the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) to promote rural education using satellite technology.

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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31. Consider the following:

1. He advocated for equality, education, and social upliftment, transcending caste distinctions.
2. His core belief was expressed in the slogan "One Caste, One Religion, One God for All".
3. He authored several important works, including Advaita Deepika, Atmavilasam, Daiva Dasakam, and Brahnavidya Panchakam.

Which of the following personality best matches the above description?

- A. Ayyankali
- B. Sree Narayana Guru
- C. Swami Vivekananda
- D. Jyotirao Phule

32. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The hydrogel ensures localized drug delivery to the tumour site, improving treatment precision.

Statement-II: The hydrogel acts as a stable reservoir for anti-cancer drugs, releasing them in a controlled manner to target cancer cells while sparing healthy ones and reducing side effects.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

33. Consider the following statements regarding Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):

1. The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 21 years.
2. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues only for the remainder period.

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:

1. Lowering costs for customer acquisition and transaction processing.
2. Providing diverse product and service options to buyers.
3. Mandating all sellers to register exclusively with a single platform to ensure uniformity.

How many of the above are the objectives of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)?

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

35. Consider the following statements related to Advaita Vedanta.

1. Gautama Buddha is recognized as the foremost proponent of it.
2. It asserts the ultimate reality is singular and formless.

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 Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024 report was released by which of the following?

- A. Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- D. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

37. Consider the following statements:

1. She established the first school for girls in 1848 in Pune.
2. In 1863 she along with his husband founded Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha, India's first home to combat female infanticide.
3. She authored two famous works namely Kavya Phule (1854) and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892).

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Pandita Ramabai
- B. Savitribai Phule
- C. Tarabai Shinde
- D. Sarojini Naidu

38. Consider the following statements related to Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV):

1. It causes acute respiratory infections, similar to flu and Covid-19.
2. It commonly circulates during winter and spring.

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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

39. **Ornithischia, Sauropodomorpha and Theropoda, sometimes in news, are related to which of the following?**

- A. Fossilized prehistoric plants
- B. Extinct species of birds
- C. Prehistoric amphibians
- D. Major groups of dinosaurs

40. **Consider the following statements regarding the Braille system:**

1. Louis Braille developed the Braille system at the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris, inspired by a "night writing" system designed for military communication.
2. The Braille system utilizes 12 raised dots in a 3 × 4 matrix to represent characters and symbols.

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

41. **Consider the following statements:**

1. He succeeded his father, Guru Teg Bahadur, the 9th Sikh Guru.
2. He established the Khalsa in 1699, a warrior community dedicated to protecting faith and justice.
3. He established the institution of Panj Pyare where he asked for five heads for sacrifice and five men willingly responded to his call.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Guru Nanak Dev
- B. Guru Gobind Singh
- C. Guru Arjan Dev
- D. Guru Har Krishan

42. **BHARATPOL Portal is often seen in the news in the context of:**

- A. Coordination Among State Agencies and INTERPOL
- B. Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Transactions
- C. National Database for Missing Persons
- D. Monitoring Environmental Compliance

43. **Consider the following statements related to Bureau of Indian Standards:**

1. It is the quasi judicial body established for the development of standardization, marking, and quality certification of goods.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

44. **Consider the following statements related to lighting technologies:**

1. Incandescent Lamps have higher energy efficiency compared to Light Emitting Diodes.
2. Compact Fluorescent Lamps are more durable than Incandescent Lamps.
3. Incandescent Lamps emit light omnidirectionally.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

45. **Consider the following statements related to Oil Palm:**

1. It originated in the tropical rain forest region of West Africa.
2. Oil yield from oil palm is 5 times higher than that of traditional oilseeds.
3. India is the world's largest palm oil importer.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

46. **Which of the following countries is/are members of the BRICS?**

1. India
2. Indonesia
3. Iran
4. Egypt
5. Ethiopia

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3, 4 and 5
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

47. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an international institution formed to regulate the rules for global trade among nations.
2. It was formed under the Marrakesh Agreement signed in 1994.
3. 1st January 2025 marked the 30th anniversary of this organization.

Which of the following organisation best matches the above description?

- A. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. World Bank Group (WBG)

48. Consider the following statements related to Sahel Region:

1. It stretches from Senegal in the west to Sudan in the east.
2. It features savanna terrain, with low-growing grass
3. The Nile River is a major water source for the region.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

49. Consider the following statements related to India's Space Program:

1. The Indian National Committee for Space Research was initiated under the leadership of Dr. Sarabhai and Dr. Ramanathan.
2. The first Indian spacecraft Aryabhata was developed and launched using a Soviet Launcher.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. Electricity is a concurrent subject and is included in the seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. India is the the third-largest electricity producer and consumer of electricity worldwide.
3. Kirit Parikh Committee (2022) recommended pricing reforms for petroleum and natural gas linked to power generation.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Marine fungi are crucial for nutrient cycling, and ecosystem stability.

Statement-II: Marine fungi are microscopic organisms that live in ocean environments, playing key roles in decomposition, symbiosis, and producing bioactive compounds.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

52. Regarding the National Song of India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Song of India is "Vande Mataram", written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
2. The song was first written in 1870 and later included in the novel "Ananda" in 1882.
3. It was first sung at the 1896 Indian National Congress (INC) session.

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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53. Regarding the Polar Vortex, consider the following statements:

1. It is a large area of low-pressure and cold air that rotates around the Earth's polar regions.
2. It exists year-round, but it weakens in summer and strengthens in winter.

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. Consider the following statements regarding India-Maldives Defence Cooperation:

1. India carried out Operation Cactus in 1988 to prevent a coup attempt in the Maldives.
2. India's Operation Neer provided around 2000 tonnes of water to the Maldives during the 2014 Male Water Crisis via INS Kiltan and INS Nirdeshak.
3. The "Dosti" exercise involves India, Russia, and the Maldives, focusing on enhancing operational synergy and interoperability.

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

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

55. Consider the following countries:

1. Armenia
2. Kazakhstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

Which of the above shares borders with Afghanistan?

- A. 1, 2 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

56. The 'Future of Jobs Report 2025,' recently seen in the news, is released by which of the following organisations?

- A. World Economic Forum (WEF)
- B. International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- C. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- D. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

57. Which of the following statements about sonobuoys is/are correct?

1. Sonobuoys are designed for one-time use and remain active for approximately 24 hours.
2. Sonobuoys are capable of detecting only surface-level naval threats.
3. The inflatable system deployed by sonobuoys serves to maintain communication with tracking ships or aircraft.
4. Sonobuoys operate via underwater cables to maintain communication with tracking units.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

58. Consider the following statements regarding the Toda Tribe:

1. The Toda Tribe is classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) and primarily resides in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu.
2. Toda lands are part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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

59. Consider the following statements regarding Trinidad and Tobago:

1. Trinidad and Tobago became a republic in 1962 after gaining independence from the United Kingdom.
2. The country is home to Pitch Lake, the world's largest natural asphalt reservoir.

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

60. Consider the following statements regarding El Niño and La Niña:

1. El Niño represents a cooling of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean surface temperatures, while La Niña signifies a warming in the same region.
2. El Niño and La Niña cannot occur simultaneously.

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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

61. Consider the following statements regarding Indus valley civilization:

1. Indus valley civilization is the earliest known rural culture of the Indian subcontinent.
2. There has been evidence found of large temples of Lord Shiva in the Harappan civilization as depicted in the Pashupati Seal.

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 regarding fisheries sector in India:

1. Organic Fisheries Cluster aims to produce antibiotic, chemical, and pesticide-free organic fish for eco-conscious markets globally.
2. Biofloc Technology (BFT) and Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) are the advanced innovations in modern aquaculture practices.

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

63. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR):

1. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) regulatory body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).
2. It is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.

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 statements regarding Arunachal Pradesh:

1. Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Mouling National park are situated in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh.

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

65. Consider the following statements regarding Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in India:

1. The National Security Guard (NSG) is a premier counter-terrorism unit of the Indian government functioning under the Ministry of Defence.
2. BSF was established in 1965 after the Indo-Pakistani War to enhance border security.

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

66. Consider the following statements regarding the Saraswati River:

1. The Saraswati River is mentioned in the Vedic texts and is believed to have originated in the Himalayas, flowing through Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.
2. The river disappeared around 5000 years ago due to tectonic and climatic changes but is believed to still flow underground beneath the Thar Desert.

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 regarding Indian Railways:

1. It was established in 1853, and the first train ran over a distance of 21 miles between Bombay and Thane.
2. India has the third-largest metro-rail network globally, and by 2050, it is projected to account for 40% of global rail activity.

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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68. Consider the following statements regarding Similipal Biosphere Reserve:

1. Similipal derives its name from the 'Simul' (silk cotton) tree and was designated as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1983.
2. It was declared a biosphere reserve in 1994 and became part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009.

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding manual scavenging in India:

1. It violates the fundamental rights enshrined in Article 17 and Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 criminalizes the employment of Scheduled Castes in manual scavenging.

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

70. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Information Commission (CIC):

1. It is a constitutional body tasked with ensuring the implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
2. It consists of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and up to ten Information Commissioners as deemed necessary.

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

71. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Soft corals are species that do not produce the massive calcium carbonate skeletons needed to form coral reefs.

Statement-II: Corals are vertebrates from the class *Anthozoa*, phylum *Cnidaria*.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

72. Regarding the Henley Passport Index, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Henley Passport Index ranks 199 global passports based on the number of destinations their holders can travel to without a visa.
2. India's passport for the first time ranked in second position just behind the United States.

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

73. The Kaka Kalelkar Commission and Idate Commission, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Water resource management and inter-state disputes
- B. Forest conservation and afforestation programs
- C. Minimum Support Price reforms
- D. Identification and welfare of backward classes and tribes

74. Consider the following statements related to Pink Fire Retardant:

1. It is made from potassium phosphate-based slurry.
2. It is applied ahead of a fire to coat vegetation, preventing oxygen from fueling combustion.
3. It releases harmful metals such as chromium and cadmium.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

75. With reference to Swami Vivekananda, consider the following statements:

1. He was a monk and the chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
2. He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga.

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3. He outlined four pathways to attain moksha from worldly pleasures and attachments, namely Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga, and Bhakti-yoga.

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

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

76. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Hindi is recognized as the national language of India under Article 343 of the Constitution.
- 2. World Hindi Day is celebrated annually on 10th January to expand Hindi's presence on the international stage.
- 3. World Hindi Day commemorates the historic moment in 1949 when Hindi was first spoken at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

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

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

77. Plasticisers often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A group of additives used to enhance the flexibility, durability, and workability of materials like plastics.
- B. Synthetic materials used exclusively in the production of heat-resistant and fireproof polymers.
- C. Compounds that act as catalysts in industrial chemical reactions to speed up the process of polymerization.
- D. Natural organic substances used to make biodegradable plastics more environmentally friendly.

78. Consider the following pairs:

Naval Ship	Project
1. Nilgiri	Project 15B
2. Surat	Project 17A
3. Vaghsheer	Project 75

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

79. Consider the following characteristics:

- 1. He displayed decisive leadership during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.
- 2. His legacy includes the famous slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan".
- 3. He played a key role in the Tashkent Declaration.

Which of the following personalities is best described from above characteristics?

- A. Morarji Desai
- B. Gulzarilal Nanda
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Indira Gandhi

80. With reference to the Mayotte island, consider the following statements:

- 1. It consists of two islands of the Comoros archipelago, with the main island called Pamandzi and the smaller island, Mayotte.
- 2. It is the poorest territory in both France and the European Union.

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

81. Consider the following statements related to *Caenorhabditis elegans*:

- 1. It is an invertebrate nematode with a transparent body.
- 2. It can either be parasitic in animals or plants or free-living in soil or water.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

82. It is known for its highly structured social groups, typically consisting of 20 to 150 members, and displays sophisticated communication and social behaviors. It is also renowned for using tools for activities such as termite fishing, honey harvesting, and nut cracking, with variations in techniques and tools across different populations.

Which animal is best described by above characteristics?

- A. Dolphins
- B. Chimpanzees
- C. Elephants
- D. Crows

83. Consider the following statements related to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

- 1. It was constituted under enabling provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- 2. The Prime Minister is the chairman of NTCA.

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Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

84. Regarding the Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines, consider the following statements:

1. They provide a framework for sharing knowledge, ensuring better integration, decision-making, and equitable access.
2. The guidelines are implemented through the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Haryana.

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

85. Regarding the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), consider the following statements:

1. AEC was first established in August 1948 to oversee atomic energy research under the Department of Scientific Research.
2. The Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Commission.
3. The other members of the commission are appointed annually upon Parliament's approval.

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

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

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1. (A) | 2. (A) | 3. (B) | 4. (B) | 5. (A) | 6. (A) | 7. (A) | 8. (A) | 9. (C) | 10. (B) |
| 11. (C) | 12. (B) | 13. (B) | 14. (B) | 15. (C) | 16. (B) | 17. (C) | 18. (C) | 19. (B) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (B) | 22. (C) | 23. (C) | 24. (B) | 25. (C) | 26. (A) | 27. (B) | 28. (C) | 29. ((D)) | 30. (C) |
| 31. (B) | 32. (A) | 33. (C) | 34. (B) | 35. (B) | 36. (A) | 37. (B) | 38. (C) | 39. (D) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (B) | 42. (A) | 43. (D) | 44. (B) | 45. (C) | 46. (D) | 47. (A) | 48. (B) | 49. (C) | 50. (C) |
| 51. (A) | 52. (C) | 53. (C) | 54. (A) | 55. (C) | 56. (A) | 57. (A) | 58. (B) | 59. (B) | 60. (B) |
| 61. (D) | 62. (C) | 63. (B) | 64. (C) | 65. (B) | 66. (C) | 67. (C) | 68. (B) | 69. (A) | 70. (B) |
| 71. (C) | 72. (A) | 73. (D) | 74. (B) | 75. (C) | 76. (B) | 77. (A) | 78. (A) | 79. (C) | 80. (B) |
| 81. (C) | 82. (B) | 83. (D) | 84. (C) | 85. (B) | | | | | |

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Explanations

1. (A)

Exp:

Pangong Lake:

- It is an **endorheic lake** in the Himalayas situated at a height of about 4,350 m (14,270 ft).
 - An endorheic lake is a body of water that **does not flow into an ocean or sea** and is usually located in the **interior of a landmass**.
- It is one of the **world's highest brackish water lakes**.
- It formed as a **tectonic lake** during the collision of the Indian plate with the Eurasian plate.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.



2. (A)

Exp:

- The formation of the **All-India Muslim League** was preceded by the **Aligarh Movement**, which advocated for Muslim education and political awareness, and the **Simla Deputation (1906)**, where Muslim leaders met **Lord Minto II (1905-1910)** to demand special representation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Under the **Lucknow Pact (1916)**, the **All-India Muslim League** did not abandon the demand for separate electorates. As a result, Congress accepted **separate electorates** for Muslims, a significant demand of the League. However, this also led to the **rise of communal politics in India**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

3. (B)

Exp:

- Koneru Humpy won her **first World Rapid title in 2019 in Georgia**. The **2024 victory** marked her second title. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- India won both the **open and women's sections of the Chess Olympiad 2024** held in Budapest. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

4. (B)

Exp:

- Polio (poliomyelitis)** is a highly contagious viral disease primarily affecting children under five years, transmitted through the **fecal-oral route or contaminated food and water**, and capable of causing **paralysis by invading the nervous system**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- There are three immunologically distinct strains of wild poliovirus (WPV): **WPV1, WPV2, and WPV3**.
- Vaccines to combat polio include the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), which protects against all three types, and oral polio vaccines (OPVs), such as the now-discontinued trivalent OPV (tOPV), **the bivalent OPV (bOPV) targeting WPV1 and WPV3**, and monovalent OPVs (mOPV1, mOPV2, mOPV3) for individual strains. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Wild poliovirus type 2 was eradicated in 1999** and the subsequent **eradication of wild poliovirus type 3 happened in 2020**, marking significant progress toward the goal of worldwide polio eradication. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

5. (A)

Exp:

- Vembanad is the largest lake in Kerala and the longest lake in India.
 - Vembanad-Kol is the largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem on the southwest coast of India. It is fed by 10 rivers and is typical of large estuarine systems on the western coast.
 - In 2002, Vembanad was **designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance**.
 - It is also included in the National Wetlands Conservation Programme by the Government of India.
 - Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary**, also known as the Vembanad Bird Sanctuary, is located on the lake's east coast.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

6. (A)

Exp:

- The **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** measures the **combined and individual performance** of production of eight core industries viz. **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The eight core industries comprise **40.27%** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

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Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- ◆ IIP is an index that measures **short-term changes** in the **volume of production** across key economic sectors like **mining, electricity, and manufacturing** in India.
- ◆ It is published **monthly** by the **Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)**. Data is released **six weeks** after the reference month.
- ◆ Reflects production changes compared to a **base year (2011-2012)**.

7. (A)

Exp:

Data Centres:

- Data centres are **specialized facilities** used to store, manage, and process large volumes of electronic data. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- These centres house critical Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, including servers, storage devices, and networking equipment, along with systems for cooling, power supply, and security.
- They are **designed to provide reliable and scalable solutions** for data storage, processing, and management.
- The increasing adoption of digital technologies, especially in AI, cloud computing, and data storage, has led to **rising demand for data processing** and storage solutions. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

8. (A)

Exp:

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** highlighted India's remarkable progress in its **World Malaria Report 2024**.
 - ◆ India significantly reduced malaria cases and related deaths between 2017 and 2023, marking a major milestone.
- India aims to achieve **malaria-free status by 2030**, with zero indigenous cases by 2027.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

9. (C)

Exp:

- The **Quad, or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**, is a strategic forum comprising the US, Japan, India, and Australia, focused on regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- It **operates without a formal alliance structure**, secretariat, or decision-making body, but is sustained through regular meetings, including ministerial and leader-level summits, as well as information exchanges and joint military exercises.

- Key initiatives of the Quad include the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), which enhances real-time monitoring of illegal fishing and maritime activities in collaboration with regional bodies.
- Other significant projects include the **Quad Cancer Moonshot**, aimed at preventing and treating cervical cancer; the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership, which develops sustainable port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific; and **Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN)** to facilitate secure 5G ecosystems.
- The Quad also drives innovations like Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE), and the **BioExplore Initiative**, a \$2 million project to leverage AI in biological research.
- The Semiconductor Supply Chain Contingency Network seeks to improve collaboration to address risks in semiconductor supply chains.
- Hence, **Cancer Moonshot, Open Radio Access Networks, and BioExplore Initiative** are all key components of the **Quad's collaborative efforts**.

Hence, option C is correct.

10. (B)

Exp:

- **Central Ground Water Board**, under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, is the apex body for **managing, exploring, monitoring, assessing, and regulating groundwater resources** in India.
- Established in 1970, CGWB was initially formed by renaming the Exploratory Tube Wells Organization and was later merged with the GroundWater Wing of the Geological Survey of India in 1972.
- The **Central Ground Water Board is constituted under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986**, regulates groundwater development to ensure its sustainability. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- CGWB provides scientific expertise for groundwater management, including exploration, monitoring, and water quality assessments.
- It also implements schemes for **artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting to augment groundwater levels**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CGWB releases **State and District hydrogeological reports, ground water year books and Atlases**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

11. (C)

Exp:

Senior Advocates:

- Senior Advocates are **key legal figures in the Supreme Court**, handling high-stakes cases like death penalties, company liquidations, child custody, and bail applications.

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Hence, statement I is correct.

- ◆ They argue legal propositions but cannot take direct instructions from clients and are briefed by an Advocate-on-Record (AoR).
- The designation is awarded by the **Supreme Court or High Courts** based on legal acumen, standing at the Bar, and special knowledge after at least 10 years of experience. Hence, statement II is not correct.
- ◆ **Article 165** of the Constitution of India establishes the role and authority of the **Advocate General of a state**.
- Hence, option C is correct because Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

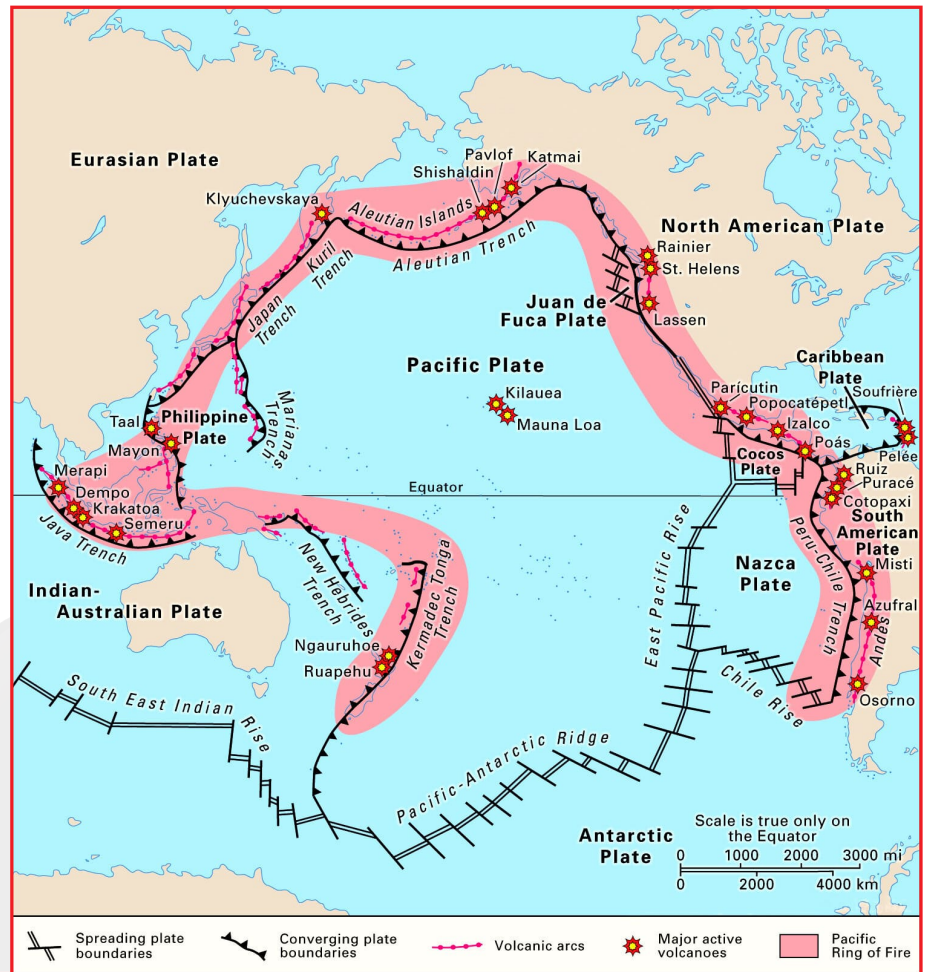
12. (B)

Exp:

Mount Kanlaon:

- Mount Kanlaon, a 2,435-meter **active volcano in the Philippines**, recently erupted, releasing ash and gases.
- Mount Kanlaon is a **stratovolcano** in the north-central part of the island of Negros.
 - ◆ A **volcano (an endogenic process)** is a **weak spot** in the earth's crust where gases, lava, ash, and steam are expelled during an eruption.
- The Philippines is located in the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, a region known for its high seismic activity, making it one of the most disaster-prone areas globally.
 - ◆ The **Ring of Fire**, or **Circum-Pacific Belt**, is a **seismic zone** around the **Pacific Ocean** known for **active volcanoes** and **frequent earthquakes**, caused by interactions between the **Pacific Plate** and surrounding less-dense plates.
 - ◆ The **Ring of Fire** spans about **40,000 kilometers**, marking the boundaries of tectonic plates such as **Pacific, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Indian-Australian, Nazca, North American, and Philippine Plates**.

Hence, option B is correct.



13. (B)

Exp:

- **Private Members' Bills** are introduced by MPs who are not part of the government (i.e., not serving as Ministers). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ These bills allow them to propose new laws or amendments on issues that are important to their constituencies.
- A **Constitution amendment bill** can be introduced exclusively in either house of Parliament and not in the State Legislatures. It may be introduced **by either a minister or a private member**, without the need for prior approval from the President. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Its drafting is the **responsibility of the member concerned**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

14. (B)

Exp:

- **MERCOSUR** (Southern Common Market) is a regional **trade bloc in South America**, established in 1991.
 - ◆ It includes **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela** as full members, aiming to promote free trade, economic integration, and political cooperation among member states, with Bolivia's membership pending.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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15. (C)

Exp:

- Pursuant to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' announcement, the Department of Defence Production/Ministry of Defence/Government of India has developed SRIJAN portal, as "Opportunities for Make in India in Defence".
- The main objective of the portal is to partner the private sector in indigenisation efforts of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), and the Armed Forces. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The portal is a **non-transactional** online marketplace platform. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ A **non-transactional online marketplace** allows users to connect and advertise but doesn't facilitate direct purchases or payments on the platform.
 - ◆ An **online transactional marketplace platform** is a digital platform where buyers and sellers can engage in transactions directly, facilitating the exchange of goods or services.

16. (B)

Exp:

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the highest authority for disaster management in the country, chaired by the Prime Minister of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialized force of the Indian government that responds to natural and man-made disasters. It was established in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act of 2005. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

17. (C)

Exp:

- Poverty line estimation in India is based on the consumption expenditure and not on the income levels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's poverty line estimation is based on consumption expenditure rather than income levels due to several reasons such as- Income, especially for self-employed individuals and daily wage laborers, is highly variable both temporally and spatially, whereas consumption patterns are more stable.
 - ◆ Additionally, accounting for side incomes, particularly among regular wage earners, is challenging.
 - ◆ Consumption-based surveys, using a reference period (e.g., 30 days), provide a more reliable and representative measure of household expenditure, making them more practical for poverty assessment.
- The Alkire Foster (AF) Methodology, developed by economists Sabina Alkire and James Foster, is a comprehensive approach for measuring multidimensional

poverty. It captures the multiple deprivations that individuals or households experience in different aspects of their lives. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

18. (C)

Exp:

- Tigers are found in only 13 tiger-range countries, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. However, according to the latest IUCN report, **tigers are now extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Madhya Pradesh has the highest tiger population in India.** Out of approximately 3,800 wild tigers in the country, 785 are found in Madhya Pradesh alone. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Globally, the tiger is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, included in Appendix I of CITES, and protected under Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Conservation efforts include the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) launched by India for seven big cats, the **Tx2 campaign by World Wildlife Fund to double the global tiger population by 2022**, Project Tiger initiated in 1973, and a tiger census conducted every four years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Major threats to tigers include habitat loss, poaching, illegal trade, and human-wildlife conflict. India, home to the largest tiger population globally, recorded 3,167 tigers as of 2022, with the highest concentration in the Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats landscape.

19. (B)

Exp:

- **Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life (ANEEL)** is a patented nuclear fuel innovatively designed as a **blend of thorium and High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU)**, named in honor of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, a prominent Indian nuclear scientist. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- HALEU, which is uranium enriched between 5% and 20%, is essential for advanced nuclear reactor designs.
 - ◆ However, **its large-scale production is currently limited to Russia and China**, with smaller facilities in the US. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ANEEL fuel is compatible with India's Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), which form the backbone of the nation's nuclear power capacity.
- It also **significantly enhances efficiency, achieving a burn-up rate of 60,000 MW-days per tonne compared to the 7,000 MW-days per tonne of conventional natural uranium. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Moreover, thorium and spent ANEEL fuel are non-weaponizable, addressing proliferation concerns and ensuring greater trust among international uranium suppliers and reactor operators.

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20. (B)

Exp:

- **Junagarh (Girnar) Inscription:** This inscription, written in Sanskrit, dates back to the 2nd century CE and highlights the achievements of **Rudradaman I**, a ruler of the Western Satraps.
 - ◆ It also mentions the construction and repair of the Sudarshana Lake dam, initially built under Chandragupta Maurya's governor, Pushyagupta. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Bhitari Pillar Inscription:** This inscription provides a detailed account of **Skandagupta's** military achievements, particularly his victory over the Hunas, and his efforts to stabilize the Gupta Empire through administrative reforms. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Mandsaur Inscription:** The Mandsaur inscription, however, is related to **Yashodharman**, not **Vijay Sena**.
 - ◆ It celebrates Yashodharman's victory over the Huns and his contributions to regional stability.
 - ◆ Vijay Sena is associated with the Deopara Prashasti, which highlights his achievements in Bengal. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Hence, option B is correct.

21. (B)

Exp:

- The All-India Muslim League was founded by prominent Muslim leaders, including **Nawab Salimullah of Dhaka, Nawab Viqar-ul-Mulk, Nawab Mohsin Ul-Mulk, and Aga Khan**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who was also a member of Congress, was elected as president of Muslim League in 1916.
- Under Muhammad Ali Jinnah's leadership, especially after the 1929 Fourteen Points, the League evolved into a mass political movement, advocating for federalism, minority safeguards, and autonomy.
- The Lucknow Pact (1916) was a rare moment of Congress-Muslim League cooperation. Leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Muhammad Ali Jinnah signed the pact, agreeing to work together for India's independence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

22. (C)

Exp:

- The H-1B is a non-immigrant visa enabling US companies to hire foreign workers for specialized roles in fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and IT, requiring high skills and at least a bachelor's degree. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Introduced in 1990, it aims to address skill shortages in the U.S. when qualified domestic workers are unavailable.
- Non-immigrant visas allow temporary entry to the U.S. for purposes like tourism, business, work, study, or medical treatment.
- An H-1B visa can be issued for a maximum of six years.
- Indians are the largest beneficiaries of H-1B visas, receiving over 70% of approved petitions annually since 2015, while Chinese nationals rank second, accounting for 12-13% of petitions since 2018. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

23. (C)

Exp:

- Pegasus is a spyware developed by the Israeli cyber-arms company NSO Group that is designed to be covertly and remotely installed on mobile phones running iOS and Android devices to collect sensitive data. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

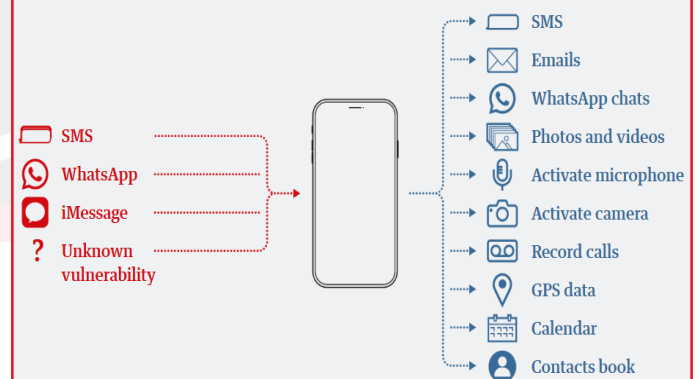
How Pegasus infiltrates a phone and what it can do

Attack vectors

Pegasus can be installed on a phone through vulnerabilities in common apps, or by tricking a target into clicking a malicious link

Capabilities

Once installed, Pegasus can theoretically harvest any data from the device and transmit it back to the attacker



- Pegasus spyware initially spread through phishing links but now uses zero-click exploits to infect devices without user interaction.
- Once infected, it records login credentials using a keylogger (a type of malware or hardware that records the keys you type on a keyboard or mobile device) and transmits personal data, such as location, messages, and app usage, to NSO Group's servers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Pegasus spyware poses significant risks to both Android and iOS devices, with each platform exhibiting distinct vulnerabilities.
- For instance, in 2019, Pegasus exploited a vulnerability in WhatsApp to infect devices through missed calls, affecting both operating systems.

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24. (B)

Exp:

- The Upper Siang project is a proposed 11,000 MW hydropower project located in the Upper Siang District of **Arunachal Pradesh** (not Assam) near the Siang River, a major tributary of the **Brahmaputra**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Originating near Mount Kailash in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo, the river flows eastward for over 1,000 km, forms a horseshoe bend around Namcha Barwa peak, and enters Arunachal Pradesh. In Assam, it merges with the Dibang and Lohit rivers to form the Brahmaputra.
- The Siang Upper Multipurpose Project aims to mitigate the potential impact of China's hydroelectric projects on the Yarlung Tsangpo (known as the Brahmaputra in India), which could adversely affect India's water security. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

25. (C)

Exp:

- Conjugal visits for prisoners refer to the provision that allows prisoners to have private, unsupervised visits with their spouses or partners. The purpose is to maintain family relationships and support the emotional and mental well-being of prisoners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, while there is **no dedicated law on conjugal visits**, courts have occasionally addressed the issue under the fundamental right to life and personal liberty, as guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

26. (A)

Exp:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a multilateral development bank established in 1966, and is the principal development finance institution for the Asia-Pacific region. Its vision is a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia, focusing on eradicating extreme poverty. ADB

provides assistance through grants, loans, technical support, and equity investments and works to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The ADB's headquarters is in Manila, Philippines.
- India is a founding member of ADB and the bank's **fourth-largest shareholder**. Japan holds the largest share in ADB with 15.677%, followed by the US (15.567%), China (6.473%), and India (5.812%). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

27. (B)

Exp:

- **India-Nepal Relation:**

- ◆ Nepal shares a **1,850 km** border with 5 Indian states: **Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The **India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship**, signed in **1950**, forms the foundation of their special bilateral relations.
- ◆ **Koshi Agreement** (1954, revised in 1966), **Mahakali Treaty** (1996) and **Gandak Agreement** (1959, revised in 1964) are the major water-sharing agreements between India and Nepal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

28. (C)

Exp:

- **Moldova:**

- ◆ Moldova is a small **eastern european landlocked country** bordered by **Ukraine to the east** and **Romania to the west**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Recently, Moldova has inaugurated its **embassy in New Delhi**.
- ◆ India and Moldova established diplomatic relations in 1992 following Moldova's independence after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.



- **Transnistria:**

- ◆ It is a **Russian-backed breakaway region in Moldova** described as a **"remnant of the Soviet Union"** that split from the rest of Moldova after the **Soviet Union** collapsed in 1991. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ When Moldovan troops attempted to take over the territory in 1990-1992, Transnistria was able to resist them because of **Russian soldiers based in Transnistria**. Since then, it has remained free of Moldovan control.

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- However, most countries continue to see Transnistria as part of Moldova. It is not recognized as independent even by Russia.

- ◆ Most Transnistrians have **dual citizenship of Russia and Transnistria** or **triple citizenship of Moldova, Transnistria, and Russia**.

29. (D)

Exp:

- On **1st January 1983**, the transition from **Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET)** to **Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)** marked the birth of the modern Internet, revolutionizing communication globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ The protocol governing ARPANET, known as the **Network Control Protocol (NCP)**, became outdated by the late 1970s, unable to support the **increasing complexity and diversity of interconnected networks**. TCP/IP, developed by **Vinton Cerf and Robert Kahn**, American Internet pioneers, standardized communication across diverse networks, enabling **scalable and efficient data transmission**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It enabled a **"network of networks,"** breaking geographical, organizational, and technological barriers, allowing for global connectivity.
- ◆ This transition laid the foundation for future advancements, including the **World Wide Web, social media, and e-commerce**.

30. (C)

Exp:

- Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was an **Indian physicist and industrialist** who initiated space research and helped develop nuclear power in India.
- Contributions to Indian Space and Nuclear Programs:
 - ◆ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):** He founded the **ISRO**, emphasizing the importance of space technology for societal development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Advocated for **satellite applications** to address India's developmental challenges.
 - ◆ **Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE):** **SITE** has been conceptualized by Dr. Vikram Sarabhai and **NASA** to broadcast educational programs to rural areas, laying the foundation for programs like **Doordarshan's Krishi Darshan**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Aryabhata Satellite:** Initiated the fabrication of **India's first satellite, Aryabhata**, launched in 1975 from a Russian cosmodrome.
 - ◆ **Atomic Energy Commission:** Took over as chairman after Homi Bhabha's death, advancing **nuclear science**.

31. (B)

Exp:

Sree Narayana Guru:

- He was born on **22nd August 1856** in Chempazhanthy in Kerala. He belonged to the **Ezhava caste**, considered 'avarna' by the social norms of the time.
- He advocated for **equality, education, and social upliftment**, transcending caste distinctions.
- His core belief was expressed in the slogan **"One Caste, One Religion, One God for All"**.
- He authored several important works, including **Advaita Deepika**, **Atmavilasam**, **Daiva Dasakam**, and **Brahmavidya Panchakam**.
- He founded the **Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP)**, a philanthropic society for uplifting marginalized
- **Aruvippuram Movement (1888):** He installed a Shiva idol at Aravipuram, symbolizing resistance against social injustice, particularly the caste-based restrictions that barred lower castes from temple entry.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

32. (A)

Exp:

Hydrogel for Cancer Therapy:

- Recently, researchers have developed an **injectable hydrogel for localised cancer treatment**.
- The hydrogel ensures **localized drug delivery** to the **tumour site**, improving treatment precision. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ **Conventional chemotherapy** and surgery harm **healthy cells** while treating cancerous cells.
- The hydrogel acts as a **stable reservoir for anti-cancer drugs**, releasing them in a **controlled manner** to target cancer cells while **sparing healthy ones** and reducing side effects. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- The **hydrogel**, made of **biocompatible and biodegradable ultra-short peptides**, responds to elevated **glutathione (GSH)** levels, a molecule abundant in tumour cells.
- Hydrogels are **water-based, three-dimensional polymer networks** capable of **absorbing and retaining fluids**.
 - ◆ Their unique structure **mimics living tissues**, making them suitable for biomedical applications.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

33. (C)

Exp:

- Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) refer to the system of 'Rural Local Self-Governance' in India i.e. a system of governance of Rural Areas through the representatives elected by the people. They have been established in all States as the third tier of government, aiming to build democracy at the grassroots level.

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- The minimum age to contest elections and become a member of a Panchayat is **21 years**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- If a Panchayat is prematurely dissolved, the reconstituted Panchayat serves only for the **remainder of the term** of the original Panchayat, not the full five-year term, as per the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

34. (B)

Exp:

- The **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, launched in April 2022 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, aims to **democratize digital commerce by creating an open, inclusive, and interoperable platform**.
- Incorporated as a non-profit company in December 2021, ONDC has the Quality Council of India and Protean eGov Technologies Limited as its founding members.
- Its primary objectives include promoting interoperability to reduce the dominance of monopolistic e-commerce platforms, **lowering costs for customer acquisition and transaction processing**, and bridging regional and linguistic gaps to expand market participation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Additionally, ONDC seeks to **empower consumers by offering diverse product and service options**, competitive pricing through discounts, and enhanced choices. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Notably, **ONDC fosters openness and interoperability**, enabling sellers to operate **across multiple platforms rather than mandating exclusivity**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

35. (B)

Exp:

- **Advaita Vedanta** is a prominent school of Indian philosophy that emphasizes the concept of non-dualism.
 - ◆ It was systematized by **Adi Shankaracharya** and is rooted in the teachings of the Upanishads. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It posits that the **ultimate reality (Brahma) is singular, formless, and non-dual, transcending all distinctions**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The individual self (Atman) is identical to Brahman, and liberation (moksha) is achieved through the realization of this oneness.

36. (A)

Exp:

Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024 Report:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** released the 6th Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024 report.

- It is an **annual assessment** that promotes **inter-state competitiveness** and helps policymakers improve logistics performance.

- ◆ LEADS was conceived on the lines of the **Logistics Performance Index (LPI)** of the **World Bank** in 2018.

- It aims to evaluate logistics performance across **States and Union Territories (UTs)** to identify **reforms, attract investments**, and improve **logistics efficiency**.
- The report assesses logistics performance based on **four key pillars**:

- ◆ Logistics Infrastructure
- ◆ Logistics Services
- ◆ Operating and Regulatory Environment
- ◆ **Sustainable Logistics** (introduced in 2024).

- Hence, **option A is correct**.

37. (B)

Exp:

Savitribai Phule:

- Recently, the **Prime Minister of India paid tributes** to Savitribai Phule on her **193rd birth anniversary** on 3rd January 2025.
- She was born on 3rd January 1831, in Satara, Maharashtra, to a marginalized Mali community. She was **married to Jyotiba Phule** who took charge of her education.
- She was enrolled in two teacher's training programs: one with American missionary Cynthia Farrar in Ahmednagar and the other at a Normal School, Pune.
- She established the **first school for girls in 1848 in Pune**. The couple started and ran 18 schools in total.
- She **started educational trusts** like the Native Male School, Pune, and Society for Promoting the Education of Mahar, Mangs to uplift the Dalit community.
- In 1863, **Jyotirao and Savitribai founded** Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha, India's first home to combat female infanticide and support pregnant Brahmin widows and rape victims.
- She authored **two famous works** namely Kavya Phule (1854) and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892), along with the poem Go, Get Education.
- Jyotirao Phule, a 19th-century social reformer, critiqued social oppression in his book Gulamgiri and founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 to promote **education, and equality, and abolish untouchability**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

38. (C)

Exp:

- **Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)** was discovered in 2001 by Dutch researchers, It is a global respiratory pathogen causing acute respiratory infections, **similar to the flu and Covid-19**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- It belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, which also includes viruses like RSV, measles, and mumps.
- HMPV primarily spreads through close contact or contaminated surfaces and commonly **circulates during winter and spring**, alongside other infections such as RSV and influenza. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Symptoms typically include cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, and wheezing, which generally resolve within 2–5 days.
 - ◆ However, children, the elderly, and individuals with weakened immune systems face a higher risk of complications like pneumonia. Notably, there is currently no vaccine available for HMPV.

39. (D)

Exp:

- **Ornithischia, Sauropodomorpha, and Theropoda** are the **three major groups of dinosaurs** classified based on their physical and dietary traits.
- **Ornithischia includes beaked plant-eaters** like Stegosaurus and Triceratops, **Sauropodomorpha comprises long-necked herbivores** like Diplodocus, and **Theropoda features carnivorous species** like T. rex and Velociraptor, the latter being ancestors of modern birds.
- Dinosaurs, **prehistoric reptiles that thrived during the Mesozoic Era (245 to 66 million years ago)**, exhibited immense diversity, with sizes ranging from the massive Argentinosaurus (up to 110 tons) to smaller creatures like the bee hummingbird.
- **Hence, option D is correct**

40. (A)

Exp:

- **Louis Braille (1809–1852)** was **born in France**, and lost his sight at the age of three.
- At the age of 10, he received a scholarship to the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris, where he developed the **Braille system** after being inspired by an army captain's "**night writing**" system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Braille System** uses 6 raised dots in a **3 × 2 matrix** to form characters, distinguishable by their arrangement. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Despite the rise of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and voice technologies, Braille remains crucial for independence, especially for those congenitally blind.

41. (B)

Exp:

Guru Gobind Singh Ji:

- Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, the 10th Sikh Guru, on his 358th birth anniversary, celebrated as **Prakash Utsav** (Prakash Parv is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji).

- His birth anniversary is based on the **Nanakshahi calendar** (follows the solar year) according to which it will fall on 6th January in 2025.

◆ **Early Life:** He was born on 22nd December 1666, in Patna Sahib, Bihar. He succeeded his father, **Guru Teg Bahadur**, the 9th Sikh Guru.

◆ **Contributions:** He established the **Khalsa** in 1699, a warrior community dedicated to protecting faith and justice.

- Introduced the Five K's as symbols of Sikh identity i.e., Kangha (comb), Kesh (uncut hair), Kara (steel bracelet), Kirpan (sword), and Kachhera (shorts).
- His sons Zorwar Singh (age 7) and Fateh Singh (age 9) were executed by Sarhind's governor Wazir Khan after they refused to convert to Islam.

- His two elder sons Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh sacrificed their lives in the **Battle of Chamkaur (1705)** where a small Sikh force fought the Mughals and hill kings.

- 26th December is observed as '**Veer Bal Diwas**' to mark their martyrdom.

- **Panj Pyare:** Guru Gobind Singh established the institution of Panj Pyare where he asked for five heads for sacrifice and five men willingly responded to his call.

- **Hence, option B is correct.**

42. (A)

Exp:

BHARATPOL Portal:

- The Union Home Minister of India launched the '**BHARATPOL**' portal to enhance the **efficiency of Indian investigation agencies** in tracking fugitives and facilitating faster international assistance.

◆ **BHARATPOL Portal:** Developed by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, the portal allows central and state agencies to **connect with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for real-time information sharing**, replacing the previous system where **only the CBI had this access**.

- BHARATPOL streamlines international assistance to tackle rising transnational crimes like **cybercrime, drug trafficking, and human trafficking**.
- The portal will enhance the processing of Red Notices and other INTERPOL notices, making it easier for **field-level police officers** to address crimes.

◆ **Capacity Building:** The CBI is tasked with training states on using BHARATPOL and implementing the three new criminal laws for effective trials.

- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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43. (D)

Exp:

- Bureau of Indian Standards is the statutory national standard body of India established under the Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) Act, 2016 for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It was initially set up as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) that came into being on 6th January 1947.
- It functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It operates various schemes like Product Certification (ISI mark), Hallmarking of Gold and Silver Jeweller, ECO Mark Scheme (for labeling of environment friendly products).

44. B

Exp:

- Incandescent lamps(ICLs) operate by heating a tungsten filament to produce light, which results in substantial energy loss as heat. Their efficiency is significantly lower compared to LEDs, which use semiconductor technology to convert nearly all the electricity into light. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ LEDs consume much less power for the same light output, making them a far more energy-efficient alternative.
- ICLs are fragile because they rely on a delicate tungsten filament that can break easily with minor physical shocks or vibrations.
 - ◆ In contrast, Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) are sturdier and last longer because they use a gas discharge mechanism and phosphor coating to produce light, reducing wear and tear compared to the filament-based mechanism in ICLs. Thus, CFLs are indeed more durable than ICLs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The light produced by ICLs radiates uniformly in all directions due to the design of the filament and the clear or frosted bulb housing.
 - ◆ This omnidirectional emission is one of the key features of ICLs, making them suitable for applications where broad, uniform lighting is needed. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

45. C

Exp:

- Oil palm, which originated in the tropical rainforests of West Africa, is a relatively new crop in India but boasts the highest vegetable oil yield per hectare. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The oil yield from oil palm is five times greater than that of traditional oilseeds. Oil palm produces two types of oil: Palm Oil, which is derived from the mesocarp of the fruit and contains 45-55% oil, and Palm Kernel Oil, obtained from the kernel and a source of lauric oils. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In India, major oil palm cultivation takes place in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala, which together account for 98% of the total production.
- Other states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland also contribute to its cultivation.
- India is the world's largest importer of palm oil, with imports reaching 9.2 million tonnes in 2023-24, accounting for 60% of the country's total edible oil imports. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ◆ The palm oil is primarily sourced from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

46. (D)

Exp:

BRICS:

- Recently, Indonesia has officially joined the BRICS group as the 10th member, effective from January 2025.
 - ◆ BRICS is an intergovernmental informal grouping of 10 emerging economies of the world.
 - BRICS stands for the original founding members, Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2010.
 - In 2024, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia also became its members.
- Argentina was initially expected to join the group in 2024 but later decided against it.
- The first BRIC Summit was held in Russia in 2009.
- Hence, option D is correct.

47. (A)

Exp:

World Trade Organization (WTO):

- Recently, 1st January 2025 marked the 30th anniversary of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
 - ◆ WTO is an international institution formed to regulate the rules for global trade among nations.
 - It was formed under the Marrakesh Agreement signed on 15th April 1994 by 123 countries after the Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), leading to the birth of WTO in 1995.
 - WTO succeeded the GATT which had regulated world trade since 1948.

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- **GATT** focused on trade in goods, while **WTO** covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property, including creations, designs, and inventions.

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Members:** 166 countries, representing 98% of global trade.
- **Key Bodies:**
 - ◆ **Ministerial Conference (MC):** Highest decision-making authority.
 - ◆ **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB):** DSB resolves trade disputes.
- Hence, option A is correct.

48. (B)

Exp:

- The Sahel is a semiarid region of western and north-central Africa, stretching from **Senegal in the west to Sudan in the east**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It acts as a transition between the Sahara Desert to the north and the humid savannas to the south.
- It features **savanna terrain, with low-growing grass, thorny shrubs, and sparse vegetation**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The United Nations (UN) limits the Sahel to ten (10) countries they are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad.
- The **Niger River**, the longest and largest in western Africa, is a major water source for the region. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

49. (C)

Exp:

- India's space research activities began under Dr. Vikram Sarabhai in the 1960s, with three key elements: satellites for communication and remote sensing, space transportation, and application programs.
- The **Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR)** was founded under Dr. Sarabhai's leadership. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- In 1975-76, the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was launched, followed by the Kheda Communications Project (KCP) in Gujarat.
- India's first spacecraft, **Aryabhata**, was launched with a **Soviet launcher**, and the SLV-3, capable of placing 40 kg in Low Earth Orbit, was successfully tested in 1980.. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In the 1990s, India developed significant space infrastructure, including the INSAT system for

communication and meteorology, and the IRS system for remote sensing. The development of PSLV and GSLV marked major milestones during this period.

50. (C)

Exp:

- **Constitutional Provisions Related to Power Sector:**
 - ◆ **Entry 14 of the Union List:** It deals with entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries and implementing treaties, agreements and conventions with foreign countries.
 - ◆ **Entry 38 of the Concurrent List:** Electricity is a **concurrent subject** at Entry 38 in List III of the seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - The **Ministry of Power** is primarily responsible for the development of **electrical energy** in the country.
- **Status of India's Power Sector:**
 - ◆ India, the **world's third-largest electricity producer and consumer** (442.85 GW as of April 2024), saw power consumption grow by 9.5% in FY23. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Committee Related to Reform in Power Sector:**
 - ◆ **Kirit Parikh Committee (2022):** Recommended pricing reforms for **petroleum and natural gas** linked to power generation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ◆ **Ashok Chawla Committee (2011):** Studied resource allocation, including coal and natural gas for power generation.
 - ◆ **Deepak Parekh Committee (2008):** Recommended measures for financing power sector projects.

51. (A)

Exp:

Marine Fungi:

- Marine **fungi**, comprising **5% of ocean biomass**, play a crucial role in ecosystems, thriving in environments ranging from rocky seashores to deep waters.
- Marine fungi are crucial for **nutrient cycling, and ecosystem stability**.
 - ◆ **Lichens**, which represent a symbiotic relationship (fungi and algae living together), also contribute to marine ecosystems. Hence, statement I is correct.
- Marine fungi are **microscopic organisms** that live in ocean environments, playing key roles in decomposition, symbiosis, and producing bioactive compounds. Hence, statement II is correct.
- **Types:** **Obligate Marine Fungi** (exclusively marine), **Facultative Marine Fungi** (evolved from terrestrial environments, and can survive in marine habitats).

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- **Survival Strategies:** Marine fungi adapt to **feast-famine** conditions by changing cell forms for better resource handling.
 - ◆ For example, *Paradendryphiella salina*, found on seaweeds, produces enzymes from bacteria to digest its host.
- **Fungi:** These **eukaryotic organisms** are **heterotrophs** (consume other plants or animals), functioning as **saprophytes** (feeding on dead and decaying organisms) or **parasites**.
 - ◆ Fungi reproduce sexually or asexually via **spores**. **R.H. Whittaker** classified Fungi as a distinct multicellular eukaryotic kingdom.
 - ◆ Fungi while beneficial in **medicine (e.g., antibiotics)**, food, and industry, can also cause diseases, and produce **toxic mycotoxins**.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

52. (C)

Exp:

National Song of India:

- The National Song of India is "Vande Mataram", written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The song was first written in 1870 and later included in his novel "Ananda" in 1882. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was first sung at the 1896 Indian National Congress (INC) session. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

53. (C)

Exp:

Polar Vortex:

- The polar vortex is a large **area of low pressure and cold air** that rotates around the **Earth's polar regions**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The term "**vortex**" describes the **counter-clockwise flow of air** that confines colder air near the poles.
 - ◆ Polar Vortex exists year-round, but it weakens in summer and strengthens in winter. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Types:**
 - ◆ **Tropospheric Polar Vortex:** Located at the lowest layer of the atmosphere, from the **surface up to 10-15 km**, where most weather phenomena occur.
 - ◆ **Stratospheric Polar Vortex:** Occurs higher up, between **15 km to 50 km**, and is **strongest during autumn**, disappearing in the summer.

- Its changes are influenced by **air movement and heat transfer in the polar region**. During autumn, circumpolar winds accelerate, strengthening the vortex and forming a unified, rotating mass of polar air in the **stratosphere**.

- **Mechanism of Extreme Cold:** When the **polar vortex is strong**, it keeps the jet **stream stable**, preventing cold air from moving south.
 - ◆ However, when the **vortex weakens**, a disrupted jet stream (a narrow band of strong winds), which usually moves in a straight line, becomes wavy, allowing Arctic air to flow farther south.
 - This disruption leads to **extremely low temperatures, severe storms, and extreme weather**, including snowfall and freezing rain.
- **Global Warming and Polar Vortex:** Researchers state that the Arctic is warming faster than the rest of the planet, a phenomenon known as **Arctic amplification**.
 - ◆ This reduces the **temperature gradient** (rate of change of temperature) **between the poles and the mid-latitudes**, weakening the **polar vortex**.

54. (A)

Exp:

- India has been a key defense partner of the Maldives, intervening as the first responder in times of crisis, as demonstrated by **Operation Cactus in 1988**, when India prevented a coup attempt in the Maldives. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's Operation Neer delivered around 2000 tonnes of water via INS Deepak and INS Shukanya, during the 2014 Male Water Crisis. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The "Dosti" exercise is a trilateral coast guard exercise involving **India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

55. (C)

Exp:

Afghanistan:

- Afghanistan is a **landlocked country** situated at the hub of **South Asia and Central Asia**.
- It has a population of approximately **28.6 million people (2016)**.
- To the south and east, Afghanistan shares a border with **Pakistan**; to the west, it shares a border with **Iran**, and its northern border touches the Central Asian countries of **Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan**. In the far northeast, it shares a border with **China**.

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- Hence, option C is correct.



56. (A)

Exp:

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released its 'Future of Jobs Report 2025,' highlighting key findings and changes expected to **shape the global job market by 2030**.
 - ◆ The report, based on inputs from **55 economies**, projected a net increase of **78 million jobs by 2030** and highlighted how technology, economic shifts, and the green transition impact jobs and skills.
- WEF is an international organisation for **public-private cooperation**, headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
 - ◆ It engages global leaders to shape agendas across **industries, regions, and globally**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

57. (A)

Exp:

Sonobuoys:

- **Sonobuoys** are expendable and operate for a **short period**, typically around **24 hours**, and are designed to be **used only once**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Sonobuoys are designed to **detect underwater sounds**, specifically from **submarines and ships**, which makes them primarily useful in anti-submarine warfare (ASW). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Once a sonobuoy is activated, it deploys an **inflatable system** that stays afloat on the surface of the water. This system includes a **radio transmitter** that

maintains communication with the ship or aircraft tracking the sonobuoy, facilitating real-time data exchange. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- Sonobuoys **do not rely on underwater cables**. Instead, they **communicate wirelessly** with the tracking units using the inflatable system's **radio transmitter** on the water's surface. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

58. (B)

Exp:

About Toda Tribe:

- The Todas are classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** and reside in the **Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Toda language is **Dravidian** but is the **most unusual and different** among the languages belonging to the Dravidian family.
- **Significance:**
 - ◆ Toda lands are part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, designated as an **International Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO**. It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Religion and Beliefs:**
 - ◆ Their religious practices revolve around a **pantheon of gods**, with **Tökisy (goddess)** and **Ön (god of the underworld)** as the central deities.

59. (B)

Exp:

About Trinidad and Tobago:

- It is an Island nation located in the **southeastern West Indies**, near **Venezuela and Guyana**. Its **capital is Port of Spain**.
- It gained independence from the **United Kingdom on 31st August 1962**, and became a **republic in 1976**, the nation is a member of the **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

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● Geographical Features:

- ◆ **Highest Point:** Mount Aripo.
- ◆ **Major Rivers:** Ortoire and Caroni.
- ◆ **Natural Resource:** Pitch Lake, the world's largest asphalt reservoir. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **Mountain Range:** Northern Range, part of the Andes extension.

60. (B)

Exp:

- El Nino and La Nina are complex weather patterns resulting from variations in ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.
- They are opposite phases of what is known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.
- **El Niño** is a climate phenomenon marked by the **warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific**, forming the **"warm phase"** of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). El Niño occurs more frequently than **La Niña**, the **"cool phase,"** which involves cooling in the same region. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- El Niño and La Niña cannot occur simultaneously because they represent opposite phases of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

61. (D)

Exp:

- Indus valley civilization is the earliest known **urban culture** of the Indian subcontinent. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Indus valley civilization is renowned for its well-planned cities with grid layouts, including sophisticated drainage systems and water management systems, showcasing a high level of urban development.
- Mohenjo-daro and Harappa are considered the most prominent cities of the Indus Valley Civilization, with evidence of advanced architecture like brick houses, public baths, and granaries.
- The **Pashupati or Proto-Siva seal** excavated at **Mohenjo Daro** depicts a seated figure that is thought to be the **Hindu god Shiva**.
- There is **no conclusive evidence of large temples or palaces** in the Harappan civilization. Harappans did not build large, monumental structures like those found in Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

62. (C)

Exp:

- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched India's first organic fisheries cluster in Soreng District, Sikkim, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

- The initiative aims to produce antibiotic, chemical, and pesticide-free organic fish for eco-conscious markets globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Biofloc Technology (BFT)** and **Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)** are innovative aquaculture techniques aimed at improving sustainability and efficiency. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- BFT utilizes microbial processes to **convert organic waste into usable biomass**, reducing water usage and promoting eco-friendly fish farming.
- RAS involves the **reuse and filtration of water**, minimizing water consumption and improving environmental sustainability in fish farming.
- Both technologies contribute to resource-efficient, eco-friendly, and economically viable aquaculture practice.

63. (B)

Exp:

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is not a statutory or regulatory body. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The ICMR is a government-funded organization that conducts, coordinates, and promotes biomedical research in India. It also translates medical innovations into products and processes for the public health system.
- It is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The ICMR's headquarters are in New Delhi.

64. (C)

Exp:

- Arunachal Pradesh is home to rich biodiversity with prominent protected areas including **Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Mouling National Park, Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pakke (Pakhui) Tiger Reserve**. The state also houses notable wildlife sanctuaries like **Eagle Nest, Dibang, and Sessa Orchid Wildlife Sanctuaries**, which preserve unique flora and fauna, contributing to the region's ecological significance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh in north-eastern India. In Nishi, their traditional language, Nyi refers to "a man" and the word shi denotes "a being", which combined together refers to a civilized human being. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Other tribes of Arunachal Pradesh include: **Abor, Aka, Apatani, Dafia, Galong, Khampati, Khowa, Mishmi, Monpa, Momba, Any Naga tribes, Sherdukpen, Singpho**.

65. (B)

Exp:

- The **National Security Guard (NSG)** is an elite counter-terrorism force established in **1984** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- It is modeled on the UK's SAS and Germany's GSG-9. Known as **Black Cats**, the NSG acts as a second line of defense for high-risk operations.
- The Border Security Force (BSF) is a central armed police force in India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It is responsible for guarding India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. It was formed in the wake of the Indo-Pak War of 1965 to ensure the security of India's borders and for related matters. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

66. (C)

Exp:

Saraswati River:

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is a river mentioned in ancient Indian texts, primarily the **Vedas** in which the Saraswati river is considered the **holiest and mightiest** river of the **Vedic Period** [(8000-5000 years before present)].
- **Origin and Course:**
 - ◆ It originated in the **Himalayas** and flowed through the regions of **Punjab, Haryana, Western Rajasthan**, and **Gujarat** between the **Indus river** in the west and the **Ganges river** in the east. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The river eventually drains into the **Gulf of Kachchh** in the **Arabian Sea**.
- **Disappearance:**
 - ◆ The Saraswati river **disappeared around 5000 years ago** due to **climatic and tectonic changes**. It is believed that the river still flows underground beneath the **Thar Desert** and retains its **Himalayan connectivity**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

67. (C)

Exp:

- **Indian Railways** was established in **1853** and is **one of the largest railway networks globally**. The **first train in India** ran over a distance of 21 miles, connecting **Bombay and Thane**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India has the **3rd largest metro-rail network** in the world after **China and the US**. By 2050, India is projected to account for **40% of the global rail activity**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

68. (B)

Exp:

- **Simlipal** derives its name from '**Simul**' (silk cotton) tree. It was **formally designated a tiger reserve in 1956** and brought under **Project Tiger in the year 1973**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was **declared a biosphere reserve** by the Government of India in **June, 1994**. It has been part of the **UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve since 2009**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

69. (A)

Exp:

Manual Scavenging:

- **About:** Manual scavenging refers to the practice of **physically handling or cleaning human excreta** by individuals.
 - ◆ It involves manual cleaning of human excreta from **insanitary toilets, open drains, pits, or railway tracks**.
- **Current Status:** In 2021, India recorded **58,098 manual scavengers**, with **women comprising 75%** of them.
 - ◆ As on **31st July, 2024**, out of **766 districts** in the country, **732 districts** have reported themselves as **manual scavenging-free**.
- **Manual scavenging violates fundamental rights, especially article 17** (abolition of untouchability) and **article 21** (Right to life with dignity). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** prohibits manual scavenging, including the construction of insanitary latrines, and mandates the demolition or conversion of such latrines into sanitary ones. **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** criminalises the employment of scheduled castes in manual scavenging. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It also provides for the identification and rehabilitation of manual scavengers through **skill development, financial assistance, and alternative employment**.

70. (B)

Exp:

Central Information Commission:

- **Establishment:** It was established under the **RTI Act, 2005**, as a **statutory body** (not a constitutional body). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Composition:** The **Central Information Commission** shall consist of the **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)** and such number of **Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10** as may be deemed necessary. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Appointment:** Members are appointed by the **President of India** based on the recommendations of a committee comprising:
 - ◆ The **Prime Minister** (Chairperson).
 - ◆ The **Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha**.
 - ◆ A **Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Eligibility and Exemption:** Eminent individuals with experience in **law, science, technology, social service, management, journalism, or governance**.

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- ◆ Must **not** be MPs, MLAs, or hold any **office of profit**.
- ◆ No political affiliations, business, or professional engagements.
- ◆ They are **not eligible for reappointment**.
- **Powers of the CIC:** Summoning witnesses, inspecting documents, requisitioning public records, and issuing summons for examination.
- **Functions:** Its primary role is to ensure the effective **implementation of the RTI Act, 2005** and uphold citizens' right to information.
 - ◆ It deals with cases involving **offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings**, and other entities under the **Central Government and Union Territories**.

71. (C)

Exp:

Corals:

- **Soft corals** are species that **do not produce** the massive **calcium carbonate skeletons** needed to form coral reefs. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
 - ◆ Only **hard corals** make reefs.
- Corals are **invertebrates** from the class **Anthozoa, phylum Cnidaria**. Hence, **statement II is not correct**.
 - ◆ Reefs are formed by **colonies of polyps** that secrete **limestone skeletons** and rely on **symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae)** for nutrition.
- The world's first **cryo-born baby corals** have been successfully introduced into the **Great Barrier Reef**, marking a groundbreaking achievement in **coral restoration and conservation**.
 - ◆ Australian scientists used cutting-edge **cryopreservation** to fertilize **coral eggs** with **cryopreserved sperm** collected from the **Great Barrier Reef**.
 - Scientists grew the corals in the **National Sea Simulator** before transferring them to specially designed '**coral cradles**' on the Reef.
 - ◆ It aims to introduce **heat-tolerant corals** to protect reefs from climate change and rising **ocean temperatures**.
 - ◆ The **CryoDiversity Bank** in **Australia** holds the world's **largest collection of frozen coral sperm** from 32 species, collected annually since 2011.
- Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

72. (A)

Exp:

Henley Passport Index 2025:

- The Henley Passport Index **ranks 199 global passports** (covers 227 travel destinations) based on the **number of**

destinations their holders can travel to without a visa, with data sourced from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ◆ It is compiled and published by **Henley & Partners**, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm.
- In the latest **Henley Passport Index 2025**, India's rank has dropped to **85th**, down from **80th in 2024** giving its holders visa-free access to **57 countries**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ◆ India's ranking showed fluctuations over the years, with its **highest being 71st in 2006 and lowest 90th in 2021** due to **Covid-19** restrictions.
 - ◆ **Top Rankings:** **Singapore** (195 destinations) leads, followed by **Japan** (193). Several **EU countries and South Korea** share 3rd place (192 destinations).
 - ◆ **Falling Rankings:** The US (2nd to 9th), the UK (1st to 5th).
 - ◆ **Bottom Countries:** **Pakistan and Yemen** (shared the 103rd position) followed by **Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan**.

73. (D)

Exp:

- The **First Backward Class Commission**, chaired by **Shri Kaka Kalelkar**, was established by a Presidential Order under **Article 340 of the Indian Constitution** on January 29, 1953.
 - ◆ The commission, commonly referred to as the **Kaka Kalelkar Commission**, submitted its report on March 30, 1955.
- The **Idate Commission, set up in 2014** under the leadership of Bhiku Ramji Idate, was tasked with compiling a comprehensive list of **Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)**.
 - ◆ Its mandate was to identify individuals who were excluded from the categories of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC), and to recommend welfare measures for their upliftment.

Hence, option D is correct.

74. (B)

Exp:

- **Pink Fire Retardant** is a chemical mix used to slow or extinguish wildfires. It primarily **contains ammonium phosphate-based slurry**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- A commonly used fire retardant in the US is **Phos-Chek**.
- It is sprayed ahead of fire that **coats vegetation to prevent oxygen from aiding combustion**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ Pink is chosen because it is highly visible, helping firefighters target fire lines more effectively.

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- It also includes thickening agents to enhance its stickiness and prevent drift during aerial application.
- Additionally, Pink Fire Retardant releases harmful metals, including **chromium and cadmium** which can have environmental and health implications. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

75. (C)

Exp:

Swami Vivekananda:

- **About:** Swami Vivekananda, born on 12th January 1863, was a monk and the chief disciple of **Ramakrishna Paramhansa**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In **1893**, upon the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State, he took the name 'Vivekananda', changing from '**Sachidananda**' that he used before.
- **Enlightenment:** In **1892**, Swami Vivekananda was said to have swum to a **rock** (later named **Vivekananda Rock Memorial**) in the Indian Ocean from the shores of Kanyakumari for meditation.
 - ◆ He spent **three days and nights there**, resulting in his enlightenment.
- **Contributions:**
 - ◆ **Philosophical:** He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of **Vedanta and Yoga**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - He preached '**neo-Vedanta**', an interpretation of **Hinduism through a Western lens**, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
 - ◆ **Spiritual:** Vivekananda's message on human values draws from the **Upanishads, the Gita**, and the examples of **Buddha and Jesus**, emphasizing self-realization, compassion, and selfless service.
 - He advocated the doctrine of **service**. Serving **jiva** (living beings) is considered **worship of Shiva**.
 - He gave the **four pathways** of attaining **moksha (liberation)** from the worldly pleasure and attachment in his books- Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga and Bhakti-yoga. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Revivalism:** He laid emphasis on education for the regeneration of our motherland. He advocated a **man-making character-building education**.

76. (B)

Exp:

World Hindi Day 2025:

- Hindi is recognized as the **official language of India** under Article 343 of the Constitution, alongside English for official purposes. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- World Hindi Day is **celebrated annually on 10th January** to expand Hindi's presence on the international stage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- World Hindi Day commemorates the **historic moment in 1949** when Hindi was first spoken at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

◆ The theme for World Hindi Day 2025 is "**A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride**," focusing on promoting linguistic exchange and fostering cultural pride through Hindi.

- In 1975, the first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, marking an important step toward global recognition of Hindi.
- World Hindi Day, designated on 10th January 2006, is different from **Hindi Diwas celebrated on 14th September**, as Hindi Diwas marks the adoption of Hindi as one of India's official languages in 1949.

77. (A)

Exp:

Plasticisers:

- **IIT Roorkee** has successfully used the **esterase enzyme**, produced by the **soil bacterium *Sulfobacillus acidophilus***, to break down the **plasticizer Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate (DEHP)**.
 - ◆ This advancement addresses the growing environmental and health concerns posed by plasticisers.
- **Plasticisers are additives** used to make **rigid plastics like PVC (polyvinyl chloride) more flexible and softer** by reducing intermolecular forces within the polymer chains.
- This is particularly relevant to plastic products **requiring durability and flexibility, such as cables, hoses, and films**.
- They are **carcinogens**, posing health risks through **skin absorption or ingestion**. As **persistent organic pollutants**, they contaminate water and soil, harming ecosystems and aquatic life.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

78. (A)

Exp:

- The **Indian Navy** marked a significant milestone on 15th January 2025, with the commissioning of **Nilgiri, Surat, and Vaghsheer**, all constructed at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
 - ◆ Each vessel represents a critical advancement in India's naval capabilities and showcases indigenous engineering excellence.
- **Nilgiri**, the lead ship of **Project 17A**, is a cutting-edge frigate that incorporates advanced stealth technology and sophisticated weapon systems, making it a formidable asset in naval defense. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
 - ◆ This class of ships builds on the legacy of the Shivalik-class frigates with substantial technological upgrades.

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- **Surat**, part of **Project 15B**, is the fourth and final destroyer in this series. It serves as an enhanced version of the Kolkata-class destroyers, equipped with long-range missiles and indigenous weapons systems. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - ◆ The **Project 15B** initiative focuses on designing and constructing four state-of-the-art guided-missile destroyers to bolster maritime security.
- **Vaghsheer**, the sixth submarine of the Scorpene-class under **Project 75**, is one of the quietest diesel-electric submarines globally. Its versatility allows it to engage in anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, as well as surveillance and special operations. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ **Project 75** envisions the construction of 18 conventional and six nuclear-powered submarines to strengthen India's underwater combat capabilities.

79. (C)

Exp:

- **Lal Bahadur Shastri**, born on 2nd October 1904 in Mughalsarai, near Varanasi, was a pivotal figure in India's freedom struggle, profoundly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's principles.
- Known for his integrity, humility, and dedication, Shastri held various significant ministerial roles, including Home Minister, Railways Minister, and Commerce and Industry Minister.
 - ◆ Notably, he demonstrated moral accountability by resigning twice as Railways Minister following major train accidents.
- As Prime Minister (1964–1966), Shastri showcased **exemplary leadership during the 1965 Indo-Pak war**, authorizing decisive military action to defend Kashmir.
- He is remembered for his iconic slogan, "**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**," highlighting the vital role of soldiers and farmers in India's development.
- **He played a key role in the Tashkent Declaration.** Tragically, Shastri passed away on 11th January 1966 in Tashkent, shortly after **signing the Tashkent Declaration.**

80. (B)

Exp:

- Mayotte:
 - ◆ It consists of **two islands** of the **Comoros archipelago**, with the main island called **Mayotte** (or Grande Terre) and the **smaller island Pamandzi** (Petite Terre). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is the **poorest territory** in both **France** and the **European Union**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **France colonised Mayotte in 1843** and **annexed** the whole archipelago, including Comoros, in **1904**.

- In a **1974** referendum, **95%** backed **separation** but **63%** of Mayotte voted to **stay French**.
- Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli declared independence in **1975**. **Mayotte** is still ruled from **Paris**.



81. (C)

Exp:

- *Caenorhabditis elegans* is a tiny, **transparent invertebrate nematode**, measuring just 1 mm in length. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Nematodes, also known as roundworms, are unsegmented, cylindrical organisms that are often microscopic.
 - ◆ They play a significant role in soil and sediment ecosystems.
- These nematodes can be either **parasitic in animals or plants** or **free-living in environments like soil or water**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

82. (B)

Exp:

- **Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*)** are our closest living relatives, sharing a common ancestor with humans from about 7-8 million years ago.
- They are social animals, living in complex, **structured groups that typically range from 20 to 150 individuals**.
- Within these groups, chimpanzees exhibit advanced communication and social behaviors, including cooperation and conflict resolution.
- Known for **their remarkable tool use**, they engage in activities such as **termite fishing, honey harvesting, and nut cracking**, with different populations displaying unique tools and techniques.

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- ◆ Their behavior is culturally diverse, with variations in feeding habits, vocalizations, and tool-making across subspecies.
- However, chimpanzees are endangered, with threats like habitat destruction and hunting jeopardizing their survival and genetic diversity.

Hence, option B is correct.

83. (D)

Exp:

- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- As per the **section 38L, subsection (2)** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, the **NTCA** consists of the **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) as Chairperson**, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests as **Vice-Chairperson**, three members of Parliament, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other members. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

84. (C)

Exp:

Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines:

- The “Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines,” released in 2021 by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** enable the exchange of **biological data across research groups in India**.
 - ◆ They provide a **framework for sharing knowledge**, ensuring better integration, decision-making, and equitable access. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ They **promote timely sharing**, avoid duplication, and maximize the benefits of public investment in research.

- The guidelines are implemented through the **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** at the **Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB)**, Haryana. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ Under the Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines, existing datasets will be connected to the IBDC, forming the **Bio-Grid**.
 - This Bio-Grid will serve as a **National Repository for biological data**, enabling its exchange while ensuring safety, standards, and quality, and establishing clear data access protocols.
- ◆ The RCB, established by the DBT, focuses on biotechnology education, research, and training.
 - It was recognized as an **Institution of National Importance in 2016**, RCB fosters innovation and develops skilled human resources to address challenges in health, agriculture, and the environment.

85. (B)

Exp:

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC):

- The government has recently reconstituted the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
- About Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was first established in August 1948 to **oversee atomic energy research** under the Department of Scientific Research. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ In 1958, the AEC was restructured within the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and set up in 1954, under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.
- The Secretary of the DAE serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Commission. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The other members are appointed annually upon Prime Ministerial approval. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- The AEC **formulates policies to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy**, empowering India through advancements in nuclear technology, healthcare, food security, and energy independence.



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