



drishti

**January 2025
(Part-II)**

**Current
Affairs
MCQ
(Consolidation)**

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Practice Question

1. Regarding the National Turmeric Board, consider the following statements:

1. It is the sixth product-dedicated board of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry after tea, coffee, rubber, spices, and tobacco.
2. It is the only board to be headed by the Minister of Commerce & Industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a third-generation, all-weather, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile with lock-on after-launch capability, allowing it to autonomously track and engage targets.
2. It features a top-attack capability, targeting the vulnerable upper surface of armoured vehicles.
3. It has a range of 7 to 10 kilometres.

Which of the following missiles best matches the above description?

- A. Nag Mark 2 B. Spike
C. Javelin D. Helina

3. Consider the following statements related to Movement of the Indian Plate:

1. India separated from Africa in the Early Cretaceous period.
2. Reunion mantle plume separated the Indian plate from Seychelles
3. The India-Asia collision is a hard continent-continent collision that resulted in the formation of Himalayas

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements related to Consumer Price Index:

1. It measures the overall change in consumer prices based on a representative basket of goods and services with 2011 as the base year.
2. It is published once every year by the National Statistical Office.
3. It is used for adjusting dearness allowance

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 an annual religious festival held in West Bengal.
2. It coincides with the festival Makar Sankranti
3. It is historically mentioned in the Mahabharata's Vana Parva and Raghuvamsa.

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

- A. Kumbh Mela B. Pushkar Fair
C. Rath Yatra D. Ganga Sagar Mela

6. Consider the following statements:

1. It is nicknamed as the 'Indian Panther Hound' or 'Indian leopard Hound' for its ability to fend off carnivores like the Snow Leopard.
2. It is known for its massive, arched neck and robust muscular body, with a black coat and occasional white markings.
3. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBAGR) has officially recognized it as an indigenous breed from the Himalayan region.

Which of the following animals best matches the above description?

- A. Gaddi Dog B. Tibetan Mastiff
C. Bakharwal Dog D. Himalayan Sheepdog

7. Regarding the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and aims to provide free electricity to one crore households by installing rooftop solar panels.
2. It will be implemented by the National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA) at the national level and State Implementation Agencies (SIA) at the state level.
3. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provides financial support to residential consumers for installing rooftop solar panels through the National Portal.

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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8. Consider the following statements:

1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a main organ of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
2. Codex Alimentarius Commission, established by the FAO and WHO, works to set international food standards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Global Risks Report sometimes seen in news is released by which of the following organisations?

- A. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
B. The World Economic Forum (WEF)
C. World Trade Organization (WTO)
D. World Health Organization (WHO)

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Replacement level fertility is the total fertility rate at which a population maintains its size, with no migration.
2. Bihar and Meghalaya have the highest fertility rates in the country.

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

11. With reference to the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH), consider the following statements:

1. HKH is a mountain range across eight countries i.e., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan.
2. It has one of the largest volumes of ice and snow due to which it is often referred to as the Third Pole.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. With reference to the Martial Law in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 34 provides for restrictions on fundamental rights while martial law is in force in any area within the territory of India.
2. There is a specific provision in the Constitution that authorises the executive to declare martial law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following income sources:

1. Excise duty on alcohol for human consumption
2. Lease or sale of natural resources
3. Sale of lotteries

How many of the above is/are direct sources of revenue for states?

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

14. Consider the following statements related to United Nations Children's Fund:

1. It was established in 1990 in the wake of the rise of polio cases worldwide.
2. Its programs are funded through mandatory contributions from member states of the United Nations.
3. It has been honored with prestigious awards such as the Princess of Asturias Award and Nobel Peace Prize.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding Kokborok language:

1. It is recognized as the official language of Tripura and is written primarily in Bengali script.
2. Rajratnakar, a chronicle of Tripuri kings, was initially written in Kokborok and Koloma script.

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding Lokpal and Lokayukts:

1. Lokpal is an independent statutory body to combat corruption in public offices and ensure accountability among public functionaries.
2. In India, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission suggested the creation of the Lokpal at the national level and Lokayuktas in the various 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

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17. Consider the following statements regarding human brain:

1. The hypothalamus is a brain region that regulates body temperature, emotions, blood pressure, appetite and heart rate.
2. Neurons are the primary functional unit of the human brain.

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 regarding Big Data:

1. Big data refers to large, complex datasets that traditional data management systems cannot efficiently store, process, or analyze.
2. Big data analysis of sensor data can be used to predict natural disasters like earthquakes.

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

19. Consider the following statements regarding electric current:

1. Electric current is the flow of electrons; however, the direction of current is conventionally opposite to the flow of electrons.
2. Electric current transmission is more efficient at lower voltage and higher current.

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

20. Consider the following statements regarding Cuba:

1. Cuba is the second largest island country located in the Northern Caribbean Sea at the confluence of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.
2. It was a source of dispute during the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, particularly during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. Consider the following statements regarding Gulf of Oman:

1. The Gulf of Oman links the Arabian Sea to the Strait of Hormuz, which subsequently flows into the Persian Gulf.
2. The Gulf of Oman has one of the largest marine dead zones in the world.

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 Sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI):

1. Sovereign AI refers to AI systems controlled by private corporations without government oversight.
2. India's Sovereign AI initiative leverages platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker to develop Government AI for efficient delivery of public services.

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 state of agriculture in India:

1. India's agricultural land is increasingly fragmented, with a significant decrease in the average farm size over the years.
2. According to NITI Aayog data, as of 2022-23, over 80% of cultivated land in India has access to irrigation,

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements related to the types of Landslides:

1. Slides involve movement along a rupture surface, including rotational or translational slides.
2. Spreads occur when soil or rock mixes with water, moving like a fluid.
3. Flows involve the lateral extension and cracking of a mass, often caused by liquefaction.

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

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

25. Consider the following statements related to the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY):

1. Under the scheme the Ministry of Labour and Employment issues Smart Card-based Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.
2. It allows beneficiaries to avail inpatient medical treatment up to Rs 100000 per family annually at any of the empanelled hospitals.

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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26. Consider the following statements:

1. It is bounded by the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh to the northeast, Manipur to the south, Assam to the west and northwest, and Myanmar (Burma) to the east.
2. The region is deeply dissected by rivers; the Doyang and Dikhu in the north, the Barak in the southwest, and the tributaries of the Chindwin River (in Myanmar) in the southeast.
3. It has a monsoonal (wet-dry) climate.

Which of the following states best matches the above description?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh B. Nagaland
C. Mizoram D. Manipur

27. The military exercises SIMBEX (Navy), SINDEK (Air Force), and Bold Kurukshetra (Army) are conducted between which pair of countries?

- A. India and Singapore
B. India and Australia
C. India and the United States
D. India and Japan

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The vision of the Indian Space Programme includes a Crewed Lunar Landing by 2035 and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by 2040.
2. In 2024, ISRO laid the foundation for its second rocket launchport in Tamil Nadu for commercial and small satellite (SSLVs) launches.

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. Consider the following statements related to Electoral Trusts:

1. They operate under the regulation of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. Donations made through the trust are not eligible for tax deductions.
3. The identities of donors remain confidential in this arrangement.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements related to Fonio Millet:

1. It is traditionally cultivated by Fulani tribes
2. It can be cultivated in arid and semi-arid regions and require low water intake.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2 D. None

31. Maipayattu, Kolthari and Angathari, sometimes in news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. Yoga B. Martial art
C. Boxing D. Archery

32. Consider the following transactions:

1. Transfer or issuance of foreign securities
2. Remittances
3. Dividend and interests

How many of the above is/are part of Capital Account Transaction under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999?

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding Mahayana Buddhism:

1. It originated during the 4th Buddhist Council in 72 AD in Kashmir under the patronage of Kanishka.
2. Buddhist schools embedded in China, Korea, Tibet and Japan belong to the Mahayana tradition.

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. Regarding the BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. In BRICS, a "partner country" is a non-member invited to participate in summits, ministerial meetings, or joint initiatives without decision-making authority.
2. Brazil, holding the BRICS presidency in 2025, announced Nigeria as the first partner country of the BRICS bloc.

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

35. World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025 Report, was recently released by which of the following?

- A. International Labour Organisation (ILO)
B. World Economic Forum (WEF)
C. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
D. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

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36. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an extension of the Indian Ocean, situated between the Arabian Peninsula to the north and the African continent to the south.
2. It is bounded by Somalia and the Socotra Islands to the south, Yemen to the north, the Arabian Sea to the east, and Djibouti to the west.
3. It connects to the Somali Sea via the Guardafui Channel and to the Red Sea through the Strait of Bab el Mandeb.

Which of the following best matches the above description?

- A. Gulf of Aden B. Persian Gulf
C. Gulf of Oman D. Strait of Hormuz

37. Consider the following statements:

1. It is called the "gateway to South America" due to its location connecting South America with Central and North America.
2. Its vast grasslands are called Los Llanos and open in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.
3. It is the world's largest producer of cocaine.

Which of the following best matches the above description?

- A. Venezuela B. Colombia
C. Panama D. Ecuador

38. Consider the following statements regarding Saint Narahari Tirtha:

1. He served as a key advisor to the kings of the Eastern Ganga dynasty and played a significant role in establishing a structured system for temple management.
2. He is credited with composing some of the earliest Devaranamas in Kannada, reflecting his literary contributions.

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

39. Considering the following characteristics:

1. He drew inspiration from the teachings of Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda.
2. He was elected as the president of the Congress at the Haripura session.
3. He founded the newspaper Swaraj.

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

- A. Subhas Chandra Bose
B. Jawaharlal Nehru
C. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
D. Lala Lajpat Rai

40. Consider the following statements related to Citizenship in India:

1. India's citizenship laws incorporate both *jus soli* and *jus sanguinis* principles.
2. Naturalisation is one of the means to acquire Indian Citizenship.
3. Article 12 empowers Parliament to regulate the right of citizenship by law.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

41. The term 'Entity Locker' which was recently seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A secure, cloud-based solution for real-time document access and verification.
- B. A mobile application for tracking public transportation schedules.
- C. An online platform for job recruitment and career counseling.
- D. A tool for managing supply chain logistics.

42. Regarding the Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), consider the following statements:

1. It is a financial institution that purchases bad loans from banks and tries to recover the debts or related assets.
2. The concept of ARCs was introduced by the Narasimham Committee-II (1998).
3. It operates under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, and follows guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Mission Shakti is being implemented during the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-2026).
2. The Sambal sub-scheme focuses on women's empowerment through safe accommodation for working women.
3. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) now extends benefits for a second child if it is a girl.
4. The SANKALP: HEW (Hub for Empowerment of Women) operates at the district level to provide access to Central and State schemes for women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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44. Consider the following features:

1. They are known as Koonj in India.
2. They are native to Russia's Siberian region.
3. Khichan in Rajasthan is home to their first reserve in India.

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

- A. Greater Flamingos B. Indian Peafowl
C. Whooper Swans D. Demoiselle Cranes

45. Consider the following statements related to Oysters:

1. They are classified as invertebrates and have antimicrobial properties.
2. They are found in shallow ocean waters worldwide
3. They can change gender multiple times during their lifespan.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

46. Consider the following statements about the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971:

1. It granted full statehood to Manipur, Tripura, and Assam.
2. It made Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh Union Territories.
3. It allocated seats for the newly formed North-Eastern states in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

47. Which of the following statements about the Indian grey wolf is/are correct?

1. The Indian grey wolf is found across Southwest Asia and the Indian subcontinent.
2. It is primarily diurnal, hunting during the day.
3. The Indian grey wolf is listed as Endangered by the IUCN and is found in regions with colder temperatures.
4. Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary in Karnataka is India's second protected area dedicated solely to wolves, after Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

48. Consider the following statements features:

1. Located in the Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone.
2. Predominantly features moist mixed deciduous forests with patches of tropical semi-evergreen vegetation.
3. Recognized as a part of the Global Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.
4. Known for the revival of mugger crocodile populations along the Khairi and Deo rivers.

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

- A. Kanha Tiger Reserve
B. Similipal Tiger Reserve
C. Bandipur Tiger Reserve
D. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

49. What does Nitrogen Use Efficiency refer to in the context of agriculture?

- A. It is the ratio of total nitrogen applied to the crop yield.
B. It is the percentage of nitrogen absorbed by plants that is converted into chlorophyll molecules.
C. It is the total amount of nitrogen fixed by bacteria in the soil over a cropping cycle.
D. It is the ratio of crop yield to the nitrogen absorbed from the soil or fixed by bacteria.

50. Consider the following statements related to Indus Water Treaty:

1. It is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960 under the aegis of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water.
2. It grants India unrestricted use of the Beas, Ravi and Chenab

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements about the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971:

1. It granted full statehood to Manipur, Tripura, and Assam.
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C. All three D. None

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2. It grants India unrestricted use of the Beas, Ravi and Chenab

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

56. Regarding the Scramjet Engine, consider the following statements:

1. It uses liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen for thrust, offering better fuel efficiency.
2. Unlike a turbojet engine scramjets have no moving parts, consisting only of an inlet, combustor, and a nozzle.
3. They are key to hypersonic vehicles to handle airflows at speeds above the speed of sound and offer maneuverability and strategic advantage.

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

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

57. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: National Girl Child Day is observed annually on 24th January aimed at promoting the rights, empowerment, and potential of girls across India.

Statement-II: Launched in 2015, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme focuses on improving the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) while promoting the survival, protection, and education of girl children.

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

58. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: In the *Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab* case, 1980 the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty, stipulating it should be awarded only in the "rarest of rare" cases after weighing aggravating and mitigating factors.

Statement-II: The death penalty in India is governed by provisions in Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and other special laws.

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

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- 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

59. Consider the following statements regarding Food Corporation of India (FCI):

1. The FCI is a statutory body established under the Food Corporations Act, 1964.
2. The Shanta Kumar Committee formed in 2014 recommended reforms to improve FCI's operations and financial management.

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 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

1. MGNREGA was enacted by the Indian government in 2005 to guarantee rural citizens the "right to work."
2. It legally guarantees any rural adult work within 15 days of requesting it, with an 'unemployment allowance' provided if work is not assigned.

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 rubber:

1. Natural rubber mainly consists of cis-1,4-polyisoprene and non-isoprene components.
2. Vulcanization is a chemical process that strengthens rubber by heating it with sulphur.

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 Marburg Virus Disease (MVD):

1. MVD is a severe hemorrhagic fever caused by the Marburg virus, closely related to Ebola.
2. It is transmitted to humans through fruit bats and monkeys but does not spread between humans.

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:

1. It lies between Africa and Asia and is a semi-enclosed extension of the Indian Ocean.
2. It connects to the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea via the Bab el Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden in the south.
3. In the north, it bifurcates into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez at the Sinai Peninsula, connecting to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal.

Which of the following best matches the above description?

- A. Caspian Sea B. Red Sea
- C. Persian Gulf D. Mediterranean Sea

64. Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 report was recently released by which of the following?

- A. World Economic Forum (WEF)
- B. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- C. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- D. Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

65. Consider the following statements regarding Gulf of Mexico:

1. It is the world's largest gulf, bordered by Canada, Mexico, and the US.
2. The Mississippi and Rio Grande are two prominent rivers that flow into the Gulf.

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 Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULE):

1. MULE is primarily designed for underwater navigation and is equipped with sonar systems for detecting aquatic threats.
2. They can also endure harsh conditions, climb stairs, navigate steep slopes, and traverse debris-filled areas and can be controlled remotely.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. Consider the following statements:

1. The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 classifies offenses related to foreign exchange as civil offenses.
2. The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) enforces FEMA, 1999, and provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

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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

68. Consider the following statements regarding cyber security threats:

1. Phishing is a cyber attack that deceives individuals into revealing sensitive information like passwords and bank details.
2. DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) is a cyber attack that floods a website or network with traffic, rendering it inaccessible.

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 Oysters:

1. Oysters' antimicrobial proteins and peptides can kill bacteria which causes pneumonia, tonsillitis, and rheumatic fever in humans.
2. They inhabit salty or brackish coastal waters, gathering on older shells, rocks, piers, or any hard, submerged surfaces.
3. They are helpful in removing pollutants like nitrates, ammonia, phosphates, bacteria, and organic matter from water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

1. It is a non-banking financial company that supports projects and schemes focused on generating electricity and energy from renewable sources.
2. IREDA generates revenue from interest and principal repayments on financed projects, along with funds raised through market borrowings.

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:

1. Fiscal consolidation refers to the prudent management of government finances to ensure long-term economic stability.
2. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 aims to establish financial consolidation in the government to reduce fiscal deficits and promote fiscal responsibility.

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

72. The term Oligarchy, often seen in news, is best described as:

- A. A system of government where power is held by a single individual or a monarch.
- B. A system of government in which a small group of people hold all the power and influence.
- C. A political system where the masses directly participate in decision-making through referendums.
- D. A form of government where citizens elect their leaders through periodic elections and the rule of law is supreme.

73. Regarding the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (BOCW) Act, 1996, consider the following statements:

1. It is a legislative framework aimed at safeguarding the rights, welfare, and working conditions of building and construction workers in India.
2. It was framed in accordance with the principles of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), particularly aligning with ILO Convention No. 167 on construction safety and health.

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

74. The Cape Town Convention, sometimes in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. A framework aimed at combating climate change and protecting biodiversity.
- B. A global agreement for regulating trade in endangered species.
- C. A convention addressing maritime law and territorial disputes.
- D. An international treaty to facilitate asset-based financing and leasing of aviation equipment.

75. Consider the following features:

1. It is India's first 100% landlord major port.
2. It has evolved from a bulk cargo terminal to the country's leading container port.
3. It is developing a satellite port at Vadhvan to boost industrialization in the hinterland.

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Which of the following port facilities is best described by above features?

- A. Mundra Port
- B. Visakhapatnam Port
- C. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority
- D. Cochin Port

76. Consider the following statements:

1. India and this country signed a Treaty of Friendship in 1951, establishing cooperation in trade, culture, and military matters.
2. India and this country shared principles of non-alignment, anti-colonialism, and peaceful coexistence, contributing to the Bandung Conference (1955) and NAM's formation (1961).
3. This country is now India's 2nd largest trading partner in the ASEAN region after Singapore.

Which of the following countries best matches the above description?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Malaysia
- C. Thailand
- D. Vietnam

77. Regarding the PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, it provides financial aid for quality education to marginalized students.
2. It is open to marginalised students from OBC, Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and DNT students with family incomes up to Rs 2.5 lakh per annum.

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

78. Consider the following statements:

1. Wetland Accredited Cities is an international recognition for cities committed to conserving and sustainably managing their wetlands.
2. Jaipur and Varanasi have become the first Indian cities to gain international recognition as accredited wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention.

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

79. Consider the following statements related to Supreme Court:

1. The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
2. A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his office by an order of the President.
3. The Constitution has prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

80. Consider the following pairs related to the traces of iron usage in India:

Place	Region
Naikund	Vidarbha
Mahurjhari	Nagpur
Paiyampalli	Tamil Nadu

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

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

81. Regarding the National Health Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the National Rural Health Mission and the National Urban Health Mission.
2. It aims to strengthen healthcare systems in rural and urban areas, focusing on reproductive-maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) only.

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

82. Consider the following statements:

1. They are found in the tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans.
2. They are famous for arribada, a unique mass nesting behavior where thousands of females nest simultaneously.
3. Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is recognised as their largest known mass nesting site in the world.

Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Olive Ridley Turtle
- B. Horseshoe Crab
- C. Emperor Penguin
- D. Blue Whale

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83. It is named after a river originating from Daphabum and merging with the Noa-Dehing River. It features diverse vegetation, including Northern Tropical Evergreen Forests, Moist Deciduous Forests, and Alpine Scrub Forests.

Which of the following protected areas best aligns with the above characteristics?

- A. Manas National Park
- B. Pilbit Tiger Reserve
- C. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- D. Namdapha Tiger Reserve

84. Consider the following statements related to Aroma Mission:

1. It was started in Karnataka in 2016 to boost India's aroma industry.
2. It is also known as the Lavender Revolution.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

85. Consider the following features:

1. It is native to water-rich regions of the Eastern Himalayas.
2. It takes 30-50 years to mature and up to 150 years to reach full size.
3. Protected under the Tree Aadhaar Mission to prevent unauthorized cutting.

Which of the following trees is best described by the characteristics mentioned above?

- A. Chinar
- B. Agarwood
- C. Sal
- D. Deodar

86. The Fiscal Health Index 2025 is released by which of the following?

- A. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- D. State Bank of India (SBI) Research

87. Consider the following statements:

1. Known as Punjab Kesari, he was an inspiring leader and social reformer.
2. He founded the Home Rule League of America (1917) to support India's Home Rule Movement started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant in 1916.
3. He led the opposition movement of the Simon Commission (1928) where he died from injuries sustained in a lathi charge.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Lala Lajpat Rai
- B. Bhagat Singh
- C. Bipin Chandra Pal
- D. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

88. Consider the following statements:

1. The Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system consists of 7 operational satellites, with 3 in Geostationary Orbit and 4 in Geosynchronous Orbit.
2. NavIC provides accurate position, velocity, and timing to users in the Indian sub-continent and regions up to 1,500 km beyond.
3. NVS-02 is the 2nd satellite in the series of 2nd generation satellites of the NavIC.

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

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

89. Consider the following statements regarding Article 20(3) of the Indian Constitution:

1. The protection against self-incrimination extends to both oral and documentary evidence provided by an accused.
2. It does not cover the compulsory production of material objects such as blood samples or specimen signatures.
3. The protection of the accused is applicable only in criminal proceedings and not in civil proceedings or other non-criminal proceedings.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

90. Which of the following organizations is responsible for Maintaining Indian Standard Time (IST)?

- A. DRDO - Electronics and Communication Systems
- B. ISRO - Physical Research Laboratory
- C. CSIR- National Physical Laboratory
- D. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

91. Consider the following statements regarding Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF):

1. It can only be owned by the central government.
2. It includes investments in foreign financial assets but not public pension funds owned by policyholders.

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3. The International Finance Corporation laid down the characteristics of SWF and guidelines for their promotion in Palermo Principles 2008.

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

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

92. Consider the following statements regarding Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to the Indian freedom struggle:

1. The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched by Gandhi Ji in response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the Rowlatt Act.
2. During the Civil Disobedience Movement, Gandhi Ji coined the slogan "Do or Die."

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

93. Consider the following statements regarding Quantum Computing:

1. Unlike classical computers, which follow binary logic (0 and 1), quantum computers operate solely using ternary logic (0, 1, and 2).

2. Quantum computers use qubits, which can exist in multiple states simultaneously due to the principle of superposition.

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

94. Tarasa, Bompoka and Katchall are islands associated with which of the following?

- A. Lakshadweep Islands
B. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
C. Sundarbans Delta
D. Maldives Archipelago

95. Consider the following statements related to Registrar General of India:

1. It oversees the demographic surveys of India.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (A) | 2. (A) | 3. (B) | 4. (A) | 5. (D) | 6. (A) | 7. (C) | 8. (B) | 9. (B) | 10. (C) |
| 11. (C) | 12. (A) | 13. (C) | 14. (A) | 15. (C) | 16. (A) | 17. (C) | 18. (C) | 19. (A) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (C) | 22. (B) | 23. (A) | 24. (A) | 25. (A) | 26. (B) | 27. (A) | 28. (B) | 29. (D) | 30. (C) |
| 31. (B) | 32. (A) | 33. (C) | 34. (C) | 35. (A) | 36. (A) | 37. (B) | 38. (C) | 39. (A) | 40. (B) |
| 41. (A) | 42. (C) | 43. (B) | 44. (D) | 45. (C) | 46. (B) | 47. (A) | 48. (B) | 49. (D) | 50. (D) |
| 51. (B) | 52. (A) | 53. (B) | 54. (D) | 55. (D) | 56. (C) | 57. (B) | 58. (B) | 59. (C) | 60. (C) |
| 61. (C) | 62. (A) | 63. (B) | 64. (A) | 65. (B) | 66. (B) | 67. (C) | 68. (C) | 69. (D) | 70. (C) |
| 71. (C) | 72. (B) | 73. (D) | 74. (D) | 75. (C) | 76. (A) | 77. (C) | 78. (A) | 79. (B) | 80. (C) |
| 81. (A) | 82. (A) | 83. (D) | 84. (B) | 85. (A) | 86. (B) | 87. (A) | 88. (C) | 89. (C) | 90. (C) |
| 91. (A) | 92. (A) | 93. (B) | 94. (B) | 95. (A) | | | | | |

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Explanations

1. (A)

Exp:

National Turmeric Board:

- The **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** launched the **National Turmeric Board (NTB)** with its headquarters at Nizamabad, Telangana.
- It has been established to promote the **cultivation, production, processing, and marketing** of turmeric in India and enhance the income of turmeric farmers.
 - ◆ The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has increased its **product-dedicated boards to six**, after **tea, coffee, rubber, spices, and tobacco**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Board will consist of a **Chairperson** appointed by the Central Government with representatives of the **Ministry of AYUSH, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, and Department of Commerce**, along with **rotating** senior representatives from **three states**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ Farmer welfare across **20 states**, including **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu**, and others.
 - Promoting research, new products, and **value addition** for domestic and international markets.
 - Raising awareness about turmeric's **medical benefits**.

2. (A)

Exp:

Nag Mk 2 Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM):

- It is a **third-generation, all-weather**, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile with lock-on after-launch capability, allowing it to autonomously track and engage targets.
- It is designed to **neutralize modern armoured vehicles**, including those with **Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA)**, using a tandem high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) warhead for enhanced destructive power.
- It has a **range of 7 to 10 kilometres**. Its predecessor was the Nag Mark 1 (4 km range).
- It features a **top-attack capability**, targeting the vulnerable upper surface of armoured vehicles.
- The Nag Mk-2 is launched from the **NAMICA (Nag Missile Carrier) Version 2**.
 - ◆ NAMICA is an **anti-tank armored vehicle or tank destroyer vehicle** used by the Indian Army to launch anti-tank missiles.

TANK KILLERS

► Anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) are meant to **destroy advancing enemy armoured units**

► Range from shoulder-launched to larger tripod-mounted systems for infantry soldiers

► Army has a shocking **60% shortage** in its 'authorised holding' of ATGMs

► **Big operational gap**, especially on the western front with Pakistan

► Army demanding **3rd-generation ATGMs** with night-fighting capabilities & higher range for a decade

► Defence Acquisitions Council in June 2009 gave nod for **8,356 ATGMs, 321 launchers & 15 simulators** for ₹3,200 crore

► This included transfer of technology to Bharat Dynamics for mass production

► Israeli company Rafael's **Spike ATGM** underwent trials in a single-vendor situation. Tender scrapped in late-2017

► Separate process to acquire **Javelin ATGMs** from US also didn't materialise

Infantry battalions making do with **2nd-Generation Milan (2 km) & Konkurs (4 km) ATGMs**

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

3. (B)

Exp:

- The Indian Plate, once part of Gondwanaland along with South America, Africa, Arabia, Madagascar, Australia, and Antarctica, began breaking apart in the Late Triassic (~215 Ma).
- **India drifted away from Africa in the Middle Jurassic (~165-150 Ma)** and later separated from Antarctica-Australia and the Indo-Madagascar block in the Early Cretaceous (~130-120 Ma). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Around the Cretaceous-Paleocene boundary (~66 Ma), the **Seychelles split from India, influenced by mantle plumes like the Reunion plume**, which also caused volcanic activity, forming the Deccan Traps. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Indian Plate collided with the Asian Plate during the Eocene (~50-35 Ma)**, closing the Tethys Sea and **forming the Himalayan mountain range** and the Tibetan Plateau. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- This hard continent-continent collision created the world's youngest and largest fold mountains, significantly influencing global climate and establishing the Indian monsoon system.

4. (A)

Exp:

- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures changes in consumer prices over time **using a representative basket of goods and services**, with **2012 as the base year**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- This basket includes items such as food, clothing, transportation, medical care, electricity, and education.

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- It is published **monthly** by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- CPI serves to monitor price stability, **adjust dearness allowance**, and assess living costs, purchasing power, and inflation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is calculated by comparing the cost of a fixed basket of goods in the current year to the base year and multiplying by 100.

5. (D)

Exp:

- **Gangasagar Mela** is an annual religious festival held on **Sagar Island, West Bengal**, at the confluence of the Ganga and Bay of Bengal.
- The Ganga river, originating from Gangotri, completes its journey and merges with the Bay of Bengal.
- The festival, which coincides with **Makar Sankranti**, involves rituals like taking a holy dip in the Ganga, offering "Arghya" to the Sun God, and performing "Deepdan" (lighting lamps) to seek liberation and spiritual upliftment.
- It is considered the second-largest religious gathering in India after the Kumbh Mela.
- The fair is **historically mentioned** in the **Mahabharata's Vana Parva and Raghuvamsa (by Kalidasa)**, with evidence of the pilgrimage dating back to 1500–2000 BC, and is associated with the sage Kapilmuni and the Pala dynasty's King Devapala.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

6. (A)

Exp:

Gaddi Dog:

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBAGR)** has officially recognized the Gaddi dog, an indigenous breed from the Himalayan region.
- The Gaddi dog is the fourth indigenous **canine breed** to be registered, following the **Rajapalayam and Chippiparai** breeds of Tamil Nadu and the **Mudhol Hound** of Karnataka.
- The breed, named after the **Gaddi tribe** of Himachal Pradesh, is used to guard sheep and goats from predators and is nicknamed the '**Indian Panther Hound**' or '**Indian leopard Hound**' for its ability to fend off carnivores like the **Snow Leopard**.
 - ◆ The Gaddi tribe of Himachal Pradesh is a **semi-nomadic community** traditionally involved in shepherding and wool processing.
- The Gaddi dog is known for its massive, arched neck and robust muscular body, with a black coat and occasional white markings.

- The Gaddi dog, with a population under **1000**, is **facing extinction** due to **gene pool dilution** and lack of breeding programs.
- The recognition aims to help conserve the Gaddi breed, which is not yet acknowledged by major kennel clubs.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

7. (C)

Exp:

PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued operational guidelines for the **PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**, detailing **RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) and Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) models**.
 - ◆ These guidelines will supplement the existing consumer-driven implementation of **rooftop solar installations** through the **National Portal of the scheme**.
- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in February 2024 by the Ministry of **New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, aims to provide **free electricity to one crore households** by **installing rooftop solar panels**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It offers up to **300 units of free electricity per month** and provides a **subsidy covering up to 40% of the installation cost**, promoting widespread solar energy adoption across the country.
- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will be implemented by the **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)** at the national level and **State Implementation Agencies (SIA)** at the state level. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** provides financial support to residential consumers for installing rooftop solar panels through the National Portal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Villages with populations over 5,000 (or 2,000 in special states) are eligible for selection and are evaluated on **renewable energy capacity** six months after being identified by the **District Level Committee (DLC)**.
 - ◆ The village with the highest **RE capacity in each district receives Rs 1 crore** in financial assistance.

8. (B)

Exp:

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** is a **specialised agency** of the **United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the **World Food Programme** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.

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- **Codex Alimentarius Commission**, established by the **FAO** and **WHO**, works to set international food standards. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ It plays a crucial role in coordinating the development of food standards, ensuring consumer health protection and promoting fair practices in global food trade.

9. (B)

Exp:

- **Global Risks Report** is released by **The World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **20th Global Risks Report 2025** highlighted the top five risks for India include water supply shortages, misinformation and disinformation, erosion of human rights and civic freedoms, pollution (air, water, and soil), and labour and talent shortages.
- Hence, option B is correct.

10. (C)

Exp:

- Replacement level fertility is the total fertility rate, the average number of children born per woman, at which a population maintains its size from one generation to the next, without considering migration. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019-21, Bihar and Meghalaya have the highest fertility rates in the country, while Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have the lowest. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

11. (C)

Exp:

Hindu Kush Himalayas

- **About:** Hindu Kush Himalayas is a mountain range stretching over **3500 kilometres** and across eight countries i.e., **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ It is home to all of the world's peaks above **7,000 metres**.
- **Glaciers:** HKH has one of the largest volumes of **ice and snow outside of the Arctic and Antarctica** due to which it is often referred to as the **Third Pole**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Water Tower of Asia:** It is called the '**Water Tower of Asia**' as it is an important source of water for 12 river basins, including 10 major (transboundary) rivers:

- ◆ the **Amu Darya, Brahmaputra, Ganges, Indus, Irrawaddy, Mekong, Salween, Tarim, Yangtze, and Yellow (Huang He)**.

- ◆ They flow through **16 countries in Asia** and provide freshwater services to **240 million people** living in the HKH region and **1.65 billion downstream**.

- **Ecology:** It is home to **330 bird and biodiversity areas**, including four global biodiversity hotspots i.e., Himalayas, Indo-Burma, mountains of Southwest China, and mountains of Central Asia.



12. (A)

Exp:

- **Martial Law in India:**

- ◆ **About:** **Article 34** provides for restrictions on fundamental rights while martial law is in force in any area within the territory of India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common law. However, the expression '**martial law**' has not been defined anywhere in the Constitution.
 - The declaration of martial law under Article 34 is different from the declaration of a **national emergency** under Article 352.
- ◆ **Indemnity for Actions Taken During Martial Law:**
 - Article 34 empowers the Parliament to **indemnify any government servant or any other person** for any act done by him in connection with the maintenance or restoration of order in any area where martial law was in force.
 - The Parliament **can also validate any sentence passed**, punishment inflicted, forfeiture ordered or other act done under martial law in such an area.

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- The Act of Indemnity made by the Parliament **cannot be challenged in any court** on the ground of contravention of any of the fundamental rights.

◆ **Conditions for the Imposition:**

- There is **no specific provision in the Constitution** that authorises the executive to declare martial law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The martial law is **imposed under extraordinary circumstances** like war, invasion, insurrection, rebellion, riot or any violent resistance to the law.

◆ **Scope of Powers:**

- During the operation of martial law, the military authorities are vested with abnormal powers to take all necessary steps.
- The **Supreme Court** held that the declaration of martial law does not *ipso facto* (by that very fact) **result in the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.**

13. (C)

Exp:

- States generate revenue through various sources. Their **own tax revenue (OTR)** includes **taxes levied by state governments**, such as State GST (SGST), a portion of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collected by the Union Government, **State Excise Duty on alcohol (for human consumption)**, Sales Tax or VAT on items outside the GST purview, Stamps and Registration Duty on property transactions, Vehicle Registration Tax, and Entertainment Tax on movie tickets.
- Additionally, states earn non-tax revenue from activities like the **lease or sale of natural resources**, economic services such as irrigation, health, and education, the **sale of lotteries**, and interest receipts from loans to public sector undertakings or local bodies.
 - ◆ States also receive financial support in the form of grants from the central government, which assist in welfare, infrastructure, and disaster relief.
- Therefore, **excise duty on alcohol for human consumption (1), lease or sale of natural resources(2), and the sale of lotteries(3)** are all direct sources of revenue for states.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

14. (A)

Exp:

- UNICEF, established in 1946 to assist children affected by **World War II**, operates in over 190 countries, including India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Its mandate is to protect children's rights, provide aid, and advocate for their welfare globally.
- It is funded by **voluntary contributions from governments, organizations, and individuals**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- UNICEF has earned prestigious awards like the **Princess of Asturias Award, Indira Gandhi Prize, and Nobel Peace Prize**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- In India, UNICEF has been active since 1949, working in 17 states to improve child welfare.
 - ◆ Notable initiatives include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the successful polio eradication campaign, maternal and child nutrition programs, and the India Newborn Action Plan to reduce neonatal mortality.

15. (C)

Exp:

- Kokborok was recognised as the **official language of Tripura in 1979** (spoken by 23.97% of Tripura's population (2011 Census)) and is written in **Bengali script**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has existed since at least the 1st century AD. **Rajratnakar**, a chronicle of Tripuri kings, was initially written in Kokborok and Koloma script by **Durlobendra Chontai**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

16. (A)

Exp:

- The Lokpal, an independent statutory body established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, aims to combat corruption in public offices and ensure accountability among public officials. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It functions as an "ombudsman," investigating allegations of corruption against specified public functionaries and addressing related issues.
- In India, the **First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966-70)** suggested the creation of the Lokpal at the national level and Lokayuktas in the various states. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

17. (C)

Exp:

- The **hypothalamus**, located below the thalamus, is a key brain region that regulates **body temperature, emotions, mood, senses, blood pressure, appetite, heart rate, and peristalsis** while processing body impulses. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- The brain's main divisions are the **cerebrum** (largest, with two hemispheres), **brainstem** (connects spinal cord to cerebrum), and **cerebellum** (behind the brainstem, known as the "little brain"). It also includes frontal, temporal, parietal, and occipital lobes.
- Neurons are the primary functional unit of the human brain. They are nerve cells that receive and send signals throughout the brain and nervous system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

18. (C)

Exp:

- Big data refers to extremely large and diverse collections of structured, unstructured, and semi-structured data that continues to grow exponentially over time. These datasets are so huge and complex in volume, velocity, and variety, that traditional data management systems cannot store, process, and analyze them. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Big data analysis of sensor data from various sources like seismic activity monitors, ground deformation sensors, and satellite imagery can be used to potentially predict natural disasters like earthquakes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

19. (A)

Exp:

- Electric current refers to the **movement of electrons** and the conventional direction of electric current is considered **opposite to the actual electron flow**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Electric current transmission is **more efficient at higher voltage and lower current**. This is because energy loss during transmission is proportional to the square of the current, while voltage and current have a 1:1 relationship. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

20. (B)

Exp:

- Cuba is the **largest island country** situated in the **north-western Caribbean** at the meeting point of the **Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The capital of Cuba is **Havana**. Havana is the largest city of Cuba, a major port and an important economic, commercial and industrial hub of Cuba.



- Cuba was a point of contention during the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the US during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

21. (C)

Exp:

- The **Gulf of Oman**, also known as the Gulf of Makran or Sea of Makran, forms the only entrance to the Persian Gulf from the Indian Ocean. It connects the Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz, which then empties into the Persian Gulf. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



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- The Gulf of Oman is bordered by Pakistan and Iran in the north, by the United Arab Emirates in the west and by Oman in the south.
- The **Strait of Hormuz**, spanning 55 to 95 km in width, links the **Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea**, separating Iran from the Arabian Peninsula.
- It hosts key islands like **Qeshm, Hormuz, and Hengām**. As the world's most critical oil chokepoint, it facilitates the passage of about **20-25% of global oil consumption**, underscoring its strategic importance.
- In 2018 scientists revealed that the Gulf of Oman has one of the **largest marine dead zones in the world**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- A "dead zone" occurs when low oxygen levels in water cause marine life to die or migrate, turning vibrant habitats into biological deserts.

22. (B)

Exp:

- Sovereign AI refers to a country's capacity to develop, control, and utilize artificial intelligence using its own resources, including infrastructure, talent, and AI models. It ensures alignment with national laws, regulations, and ethical standards. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- India's "Sovereign AI" initiative aims to utilize existing digital infrastructure like Aadhaar (biometric identification), UPI (unified payments interface), and DigiLocker (digital document storage) to build government-driven AI systems, allowing for more efficient and streamlined delivery of public services across various sectors. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

23. (A)

Exp:

- The agricultural land in India is significantly fragmented, with the average size of farms declining from 2.3 hectares in 1970-71 to **1.08 hectares in 2015-16**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- According to the Agriculture Census of India 2015-16, 86.1% of Indian farmers are classified as small and marginal (SMF), meaning they possess landholdings smaller than 2 hectares.
- According to recent data from NITI Aayog, as of 2022-23, around **52%** of cultivated land in India has access to irrigation, marking a significant increase from 41% in 2016. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

24. (A)

Exp:

A **landslide** refers to the downward movement of **rock, soil**, and **debris** on a slope, which can be triggered by factors such as **heavy**

rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic activity, human activities, and groundwater changes.

Types of Landslides:

- **Slides** involve movement along a **rupture surface**, which can include **rotational** or **translational slides**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Flows** occur when **soil** or **rock** mixes with **water**, moving like a fluid. This includes **earth flows, debris flows, mudflows**, and **creep**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Spreads** involve the **lateral extension** and **cracking** of a mass, often caused by **liquefaction**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- **Topples** are characterized by **forward rotation** and **free-fall** from a vertical or near-vertical slope.
- **Falls** occur when material detaches from a **steep slope** or **cliff**, descending by **free-fall, bouncing**, or **rolling**.

25. (A)

Exp:

- The **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)** was introduced by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India, to offer health insurance coverage to eligible beneficiaries in designated sectors.
- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, Government of India, issues **Smart Card-based Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana**, enabling beneficiaries to access healthcare services. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- This initiative allows beneficiaries to avail **inpatient medical treatment** up to **Rs 30,000** per family annually at any of the **empanelled hospitals**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

26. (B)

Exp:

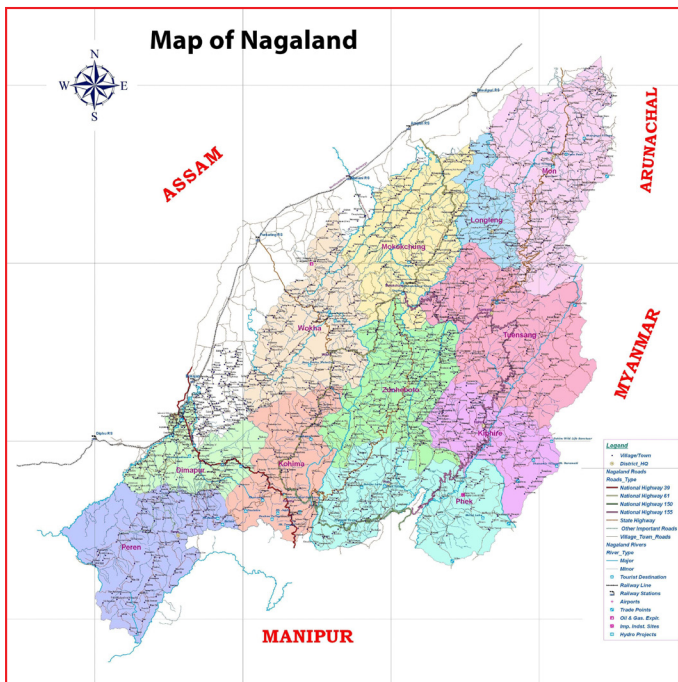
Nagaland:

- Nagaland, a state of India, lies in the **hills and mountains** of the northeastern part of the country. It is one of the smaller states of India.
- Nagaland is **bounded by the Indian states** of Arunachal Pradesh to the northeast, Manipur to the south, Assam to the west and northwest, and the country of Myanmar (Burma) to the east.
- The state capital is Kohima, located in the southern part of Nagaland.
- Nearly all of Nagaland is mountainous. In the north, the Naga Hills rise abruptly from the Brahmaputra valley to about 2000 feet (610 meters) and then increase in elevation toward the southeast to more than 6,000 feet (1,830 meters).

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- ◆ The **mountains merge with the Patkai Range**, part of the Arakan system, along the Myanmar border, reaching a maximum height of 12,552 feet (3,826 meters) at Mount Saramati.
- The region is deeply dissected by rivers; the **Doyang and Dikhu in the north**, the Barak in the southwest, and the tributaries of the Chindwin River (in Myanmar) in the southeast.
- Nagaland has a monsoonal (wet-dry) climate.
 - ◆ Annual rainfall averages between 70 and 100 inches (1,800 and 2,500 mm) and is concentrated in the months of the southwest monsoon (May to September).



- Hence, option B is correct.

27. (A)

Exp:

India-Singapore Relations:

- India was one of the **first countries to recognise** Singapore's independence in 1965.
 - ◆ Relations date back to Stamford Raffles establishing a trading post in Singapore in 1819, which became a British colony governed from Kolkata until 1867.
- The **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** between India and Singapore was signed in 2005.
 - ◆ Singapore is **India's 6th largest trade partner (FY24)**, accounting for 3.2% of India's overall trade.
 - ◆ India is Singapore's 12th largest trade partner with a 2.3% share in Singapore's overall trade.

- Singapore is India's largest trade partner in the ASEAN region.
- Military exercises between India and **Singapore include SIMBEX (Navy), SINDEX (Air Force), and Bold Kurukshetra (Army).**
- Singapore's four official languages are Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and English.
- Ethnic Indians constitute about 9.1% or around 3.5 lakhs of the resident population of 3.9 million in Singapore.
- Hence, option A is correct.

28. (B)

Exp:

- **Future Vision of the Indian Space Programme:** India's vision includes a **Crewed Lunar Landing by 2040** and the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by 2035**, necessitating heavier launch vehicles that cannot be accommodated by existing pads. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **Rocket Launchport:**
 - ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **Third Launch Pad (TLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)**, India's 1st launchport (2nd launchport - Kulasekarapattinam), in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
 - The third launch pad will have the capacity to handle spacecraft weighing up to **30,000 tonnes** in **low Earth orbit**.
- Designed to support NGLV, LVM3 vehicles with semi cryogenic stages, and scaled-up NGLV configurations.
 - ◆ In 2024, the foundation stone for **ISRO's 2nd rocket launchport** was laid in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for **commercial, on-demand, and small satellite (SSLVs) launches** and to avoid dogleg maneuver over Srilanka. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

29. (D)

Exp:

- **Electoral Trusts**, introduced in 2013, are non-profit entities designed to collect donations from individuals or organizations and distribute them to political parties.
- These trusts operate under the legal framework of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 under the Companies Act, 2013).
- They are **regulated by the Companies Act** and monitored by both the **Election Commission and the Income Tax Department** to ensure transparency in political funding. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Donors contributing through these trusts **benefit from tax deductions**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

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- **Identities of both donors and recipients are fully disclosed to the public.** By aggregating donations and providing detailed disclosure, Electoral Trusts aim to promote transparency in political financing. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

30.(C)

Exp:

- **Fonio**, an ancient **West African millet** (e.g., **Ghana**), is known for its resilience to climate shocks, ease of cultivation, and ability to grow in poor soils with minimal water requirements.
 - ◆ It is often referred to as a miracle grain due to its adaptability and nutritional value.
- Fonio is traditionally cultivated by **Fulani tribes**, the largest nomadic tribe in Africa. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It can be cultivated in **arid and semi-arid regions** and require low water intake. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The year 2023 was declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Millets.

31.(B)

Exp:

- **Maipayattu, Kolthari, and Angathari** are stages of training in **Kalaripayattu**, one of the oldest and most scientific martial arts in the world.
- **Maipayattu focuses on body conditioning** for combat, **Kolthari involves training with wooden weapons** such as short and long sticks, and **Angathari introduces the use of sharp metal weapons.**
 - ◆ These stages are part of the systematic training that **emphasizes mind-body coordination** and are integral to Kalaripayattu's comprehensive martial arts framework.
- **Kalaripayattu consists of two types:** the Northern style, which emphasizes weapons and linear movements, and the Southern style, which focuses on multi-directional movements with fewer weapons.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

32.(A)

Exp:

- Under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, transactions are divided into Current Account Transactions and Capital Account Transactions.
- Capital Account Transactions involve those that **alter the assets or liabilities of residents in India or non-residents outside India.**
 - ◆ This includes the **transfer or issuance of foreign securities**, which falls under this category.

- On the other hand, **remittances and income from investments-such as dividends and interests** are part of **Current Account Transactions**, which deal with trade, services, and income flows rather than capital movements.
 - ◆ Therefore, **only the transfer or issuance of foreign securities is a Capital Account Transaction.**

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

33.(C)

Exp:

- **Mahayana Buddhism:**

- ◆ **Mahayana** meaning **"Great Vehicle"** in Sanskrit, is one of the schools of Buddhism.
- ◆ It believes in the **heavenliness of Buddha and Idol worship** of Buddha and **Bodhisattvas** embodying Buddha Nature.
- ◆ It originated in the **4th Buddhist Council in 72 AD in Kashmir** during the rule of **Kanishka** and then spread east into **Central Asia, East Asia** and some areas of **Southeast Asia.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Buddhist schools embedded in **China, Korea, Tibet and Japan** belong to the Mahayana tradition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

34.(C)

Exp:

- **BRICS:**

- ◆ BRICS was formed by **Brazil, Russia, India, and China** in **2009**, with **South Africa** added in **2010** as a counterweight to **G7 countries.**
 - In **2023**, the BRICS added **Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE**, while **Saudi Arabia** has been invited to join.
 - **Indonesia** has officially joined the **BRICS group** as the **10th member**, effective from **January 2025.**
 - **Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia** have **formally applied** to become BRICS members.
- ◆ In BRICS, a "partner country" refers to nations or organisations **invited to attend summits ministerial meetings**, or participate in other **joint ventures**, but **without membership status** or formal decision-making power. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Brazil**, holding the **BRICS presidency in 2025**, announced **Nigeria's** admission as a "**partner country**" of the BRICS bloc.

- **Nigeria** becomes the **9th BRICS partner country**, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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35. (A)

Exp:

World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025 Report:

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released its **"World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO): Trends 2025"** report, highlighting that the global unemployment rate remained at a **historic low of 5% in 2024**.
- ◆ The report points to ongoing challenges such as **slow economic recovery, geopolitical tensions, climate change, and social uncertainties** affecting the labor market.
- Hence, option A is correct.

36. (A)

Exp:

- **Gulf of Aden:**
 - ◆ It is an **extension of the Indian Ocean**, situated between the **Arabian Peninsula** to the north and the **African continent** to the south.
 - ◆ It is bounded by **Somalia** and the **Socotra Islands** to the south, **Yemen** to the north, the **Arabian Sea** to the east, and **Djibouti** to the west.
 - It connects to the **Somali Sea** via the **Guardafui Channel** and to the **Red Sea** through the **Strait of Bab el Mandeb**.
 - ◆ Around **10% of global seaborne petroleum** and over **USD 110 billion in India's trade** pass through the Gulf of Aden.



- Hence, option A is correct.

37. (B)

Exp:

• About Colombia:

- ◆ It is called the **"gateway to South America"** due to its location connecting **South America with Central and North America**.
 - Its vast **grasslands** are called **Los Llanos** and open in both the **Pacific and Atlantic Oceans**.
 - About **10% of the world's animal species** live in Colombia, despite it covering **less than 1% of Earth's land area**.
 - It is the **world's largest producer of cocaine**.
- ◆ **Colombia** faces a **surge in violence** as rival militias clash, threatening its **fragile peace process** and prompting a state of **emergency** with **military deployments**.
 - Violence involves guerilla groups that rejected the **earlier peace accords**.
 - The deal **terminated** the conflict between the **Colombian government** and the **Marxist-Leninist guerillas (1964-2016)**.
 - Groups are fighting for control of a strategic border region with **coca leaf plantations**, the **raw material for cocaine production**.
 - Hundreds of refugees sought safety in **Tibu**, a city in Colombia, where several **shelters** were established to house them.



- Hence, option B is correct.

38. (c)

Exp:

• Saint Narahari Tirtha (1243-1333 AD):

- ◆ He was a **Dvaita philosopher, intellectual, scholar, statesman** and saint in the **Madhva tradition**.
 - He hailed from **Chikakolu (modern-day Srikakulam)** in **Andhra Pradesh**, born into an aristocratic family in the **Gajapati empire of Odisha**.

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- ◆ **Role in the Eastern Ganga Dynasty:** For over 30 years, Narahari Tirtha assisted the kings of the **Eastern Ganga dynasty**. He helped the rulers follow **Sanātana Dharma** and established a **structured executive system** for managing **temple affairs**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

○ His efforts are documented in inscriptions found at **Simhachalam** and **Srikurmam temples**.

- ◆ **Intellectual Legacy:** He was a prolific writer, composing several texts, though only 2 works, **Gita Bhasya** and **Bhavaprakasika** have survived.

○ He is also credited with composing the first **Devaranamas** in Kannada. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

39. (A)

Exp:

- **Subhas Chandra Bose**, born in 1897 in Cuttack, was raised in a family that valued both English education and Hindu traditions.
- He attended Ravenshaw Collegiate School and Presidency College, Calcutta, where he became involved in anti-British activism.
- Inspired by the **teachings of Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda**, as well as Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's Ananda Math, Bose developed a unique blend of Western and Indian cultural ideals focused on India's freedom.
- After passing the Indian Civil Service exam in 1920, he resigned in 1921 to join the freedom struggle, disagreeing with Gandhi's non-violent approach.
- **He was elected as the president of the Congress at the Haripura session** and re-elected in 1939 in the Tripuri session, but faced conflicts with Gandhi and other Congress leaders, ultimately resigning and forming the Forward Bloc to promote anti-imperialism and socialism.
 - ◆ He also founded the **newspaper Swaraj**.

● Hence, **option A is correct**.

40. (B)

Exp:

- India's citizenship laws are based on a combination of the principles of **jus soli** and **jus sanguinis**, balancing birthright and descent. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Citizenship Act, 1955 outlines various ways in which Indian citizenship can be acquired, including by birth, descent, registration, and **naturalization**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Naturalization requires a 12-year residency in India, along with other qualifications set out in the Citizenship Act.

- Additionally, **Article 11 of the Indian Constitution** grants Parliament the power to regulate citizenship matters by law. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

41. (A)

Exp:

Entity Locker:

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has introduced **Entity Locker**, developed by the **National eGovernance Division (NeGD)** of MeitY, which is part of India's **Digital Public Infrastructure initiative**, aimed at enhancing business efficiency.
- Entity Locker is a **secure, cloud-based solution** for businesses and organizations of all sizes, including MSMEs, corporations, and startups.
 - ◆ The platform enables real-time document access and verification through integration with government agencies like the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)**, **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, and other regulatory bodies.
 - ◆ It features encrypted cloud storage, digital signature authentication, and Aadhaar-authenticated role-based access for secure, accountable document sharing.
 - ◆ **It reduces administrative friction and boosts business efficiency**, minimizing document processing times and operational bottlenecks.
- Entity Locker supports India's goal of a **digitally empowered economy** and aligns with the Union Budget 2024-25 vision for **enhanced digital governance and ease of doing business**.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

42. (C)

Exp:

Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC):

- An ARC is a **special type of financial institution** that buys **non-performing assets (NPAs)** from banks and financial institutions and **attempts to recover the debts or associated securities** by itself. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** is a loan classified as an NPA when the loan payments have not been made for a minimum period of 90 days.
 - ◆ **For agriculture**, a loan is classified as an NPA if the principal or interest is not paid for two cropping seasons.
- The concept of ARCs was introduced by the **Narasimham Committee – II (1998)**, leading to the establishment of **ARCs** under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of**

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Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ARC is registered under the **Companies Act, 2013** and must also be registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under **section 3** of the **SARFAESI Act, 2002**.
 - ◆ It operates under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, and follows **guidelines issued by the RBI**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

43. (B)

Exp:

- **Mission Shakti** is a program for **women's safety and empowerment** and is being implemented during the **15th Finance Commission (2021-2026)** period. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Mission Shakti consists of **two sub-schemes**:
 - ◆ **Sambal (Safety and Security)**: Focuses on women's safety through initiatives like **One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women Helpline (181)**, nationwide expansion of BBBP, and **Nari Adalat** for grievance redressal.
 - ◆ **Samarthya (Empowerment)**: Empowers women through **Shakti Sadans** (relief and rehabilitation homes), **Sakhi Niwas** (safe accommodation for working women), and **Palna** (Creche facilities). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - The **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** now extends support for a **2nd child** if it is a girl, promoting maternal health. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - The **SANKALP: HEW (Hub for Empowerment of Women)** serves as a **district-level single-window mechanism** for women to access Central and State schemes. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

44. (D)

Exp:

- The Demoiselle crane, also known as **Koonj or Kurjan in India**, is native to **Russia's Siberian region**.
- To escape the harsh winter conditions, these cranes migrate to India, particularly to Rajasthan. **Khichan, located in Rajasthan**, is home to India's first reserve dedicated to **Demoiselle cranes**, where 20,000–30,000 of these cranes gather each winter.
- The species is classified as **"Least Concern"** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Hence, option D is correct.

45. (C)

Exp:

- **Oysters**, belonging to the family **Ostreidae**, are **invertebrates** that live in colonies, beds, or reefs. **Antimicrobial proteins and peptides** found in oyster

hemolymph have the ability to kill harmful bacteria, which is responsible for illnesses like pneumonia, tonsillitis, and rheumatic fever. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- These omnivorous creatures are characterized by their rough, rock-hard shells, typically oval or pear-shaped.
- Found in **shallow ocean waters globally**, oyster colonies serve as important habitats for various marine organisms, such as sea anemones, barnacles, and mussels. Hence, statement 2 is correct
- Oysters are considered keystone species, as they play a critical role in their ecosystems, with their beds and reefs providing protection to numerous marine life forms.
- All oysters begin life as males but typically change permanently to females after about a year. Also, **oysters can change gender multiple times during their lifespan**. Hence, statement 3 is correct

46. (B)

Exp:

North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971

- Upgraded Union Territories **Manipur and Tripura** to full-fledged states and formed **Meghalaya** as a state from autonomous regions of Assam. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971** established **Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh** as Union Territories. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971** allocated seats for the new North-Eastern states in the **Council of States (Rajya Sabha)** and the **House of the People (Lok Sabha)**. Ensured proper representation of **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** in the legislative assemblies. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option B is correct

47. (A)

Exp:

Indian Grey Wolf:

- The Indian grey wolf is found across **Southwest Asia and the Indian subcontinent**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Indian grey wolf is primarily **nocturnal**, hunting from **dusk to dawn**, not during the day. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The Indian grey wolf is listed as **Endangered** by the IUCN, but it thrives in **warmer temperatures**, not colder. Hence, statement 3 is not correct
- **Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary (Karnataka)** is India's **second protected area** dedicated solely to wolves, after Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary (Jharkhand). Hence, statement 4 is correct.
- Hence, option A is the correct answer.

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48. (B)

Exp:

- **Similipal Tiger Reserve** is located in the **Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone**. The reserve is characterized by a predominantly **moist mixed deciduous forest** interspersed with tropical semi-evergreen patches, **occasional dry deciduous forests, and grasslands**.
- It is home to 7% of India's flowering plants and 8% of its orchid species, showcasing remarkable floral richness.
- In addition to tigers, the reserve supports diverse wildlife, including sambar, chital, barking deer, gaur, mouse deer, leopards, and fishing cats.
- Notably, management efforts have **successfully revived the mugger crocodile populations along the Khairi and Deo rivers**.
- Recognized for its **ecological significance**, Similipal was designated as a site in the **Global Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

49. (D)

Exp:

- **Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)** is used to describe the efficiency of a plant in using applied or fixed nitrogen for biomass production.
 - ◆ It is the ratio of crop yield to the nitrogen absorbed from the soil or fixed by bacteria, making it a critical parameter for sustainable agriculture.
- Poor NUE refers to the inefficient use of nitrogen, where significant amounts are lost to the environment through processes like leaching and volatilization, leading to pollution and reduced productivity.
 - ◆ Enhancing NUE is essential for improving crop yields while minimizing environmental harm.
- Hence, option D is correct.

50. (D)

Exp:

- Indus Water Treaty is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960 under the **aegis of the World Bank (and not Global Commission on the Economics of Water)** to divide the waters of the Indus River and its 5 tributaries (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab) between the countries. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Treaty grants India unrestricted use of the **3 eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej)** and allocates the **3 western rivers (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum) to Pakistan**, with certain allowances for India to use these waters for domestic, non-consumptive, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes under specific conditions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The treaty mandated the establishment of a Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) with representatives from both countries, which is required to meet annually to ensure the implementation of the treaty.

51. (B)

Exp:

North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971

- Upgraded Union Territories **Manipur and Tripura** to full-fledged states and formed **Meghalaya** as a state from autonomous regions of Assam. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971 established **Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh** as Union Territories. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971** allocated seats for the new North-Eastern states in the **Council of States (Rajya Sabha)** and the **House of the People (Lok Sabha)**. Ensured proper representation of **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** in the legislative assemblies. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct

52. (A)

Exp:

Indian Grey Wolf:

- The Indian grey wolf is found across **Southwest Asia and the Indian subcontinent**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian grey wolf is primarily **nocturnal, hunting from dusk to dawn**, not during the day. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Indian grey wolf is listed as **Endangered** by the IUCN, but it thrives in **warmer temperatures, not colder**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**
- **Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary (Karnataka)** is India's **second protected area** dedicated solely to wolves, after Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary (Jharkhand). **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- Hence, option A is the correct answer.

53. (B)

Exp:

- **Similipal Tiger Reserve** is located in the **Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone**. The reserve is characterized by a predominantly **moist mixed deciduous forest** interspersed with tropical semi-evergreen patches, **occasional dry deciduous forests, and grasslands**.
- It is home to 7% of India's flowering plants and 8% of its orchid species, showcasing remarkable floral richness.
- In addition to tigers, the reserve supports diverse wildlife, including sambar, chital, barking deer, gaur, mouse deer, leopards, and fishing cats.

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- Notably, management efforts have **successfully revived the mugger crocodile populations along the Khairi and Deo rivers**.
- Recognized for its **ecological significance**, Similipal was designated as a site in the **Global Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

54. (D)

Exp:

- **Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)** is used to describe the efficiency of a plant in using applied or fixed nitrogen for biomass production.
 - ◆ It is the ratio of crop yield to the nitrogen absorbed from the soil or fixed by bacteria, making it a critical parameter for sustainable agriculture.
- Poor NUE refers to the inefficient use of nitrogen, where significant amounts are lost to the environment through processes like leaching and volatilization, leading to pollution and reduced productivity.
 - ◆ Enhancing NUE is essential for improving crop yields while minimizing environmental harm.
- Hence, option D is correct.

55. (D)

Exp:

- Indus Water Treaty is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960 under the **aegis of the World Bank (and not Global Commission on the Economics of Water)** to divide the waters of the Indus River and its 5 tributaries (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab) between the countries. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Treaty grants India unrestricted use of the **3 eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej)** and allocates the **3 western rivers (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum) to Pakistan**, with certain allowances for India to use these waters for domestic, non-consumptive, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes under specific conditions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The treaty mandated the establishment of a Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) with representatives from both countries, which is required to meet annually to ensure the implementation of the treaty.

56. (C)

Exp:

Scramjet Engine:

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted a **Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet) engine ground test**, advancing **India's hypersonic missile tech**.

- A **scramjet engine (Air-breathing engine)** is an advanced **ramjet** that uses **supersonic airflow** for **combustion**, enabling faster speeds.

- ◆ It uses **liquid hydrogen** and **liquid oxygen** for thrust, offering better **fuel efficiency**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Unlike a turbojet engine, **ramjets** and **scramjets** have **no moving parts**, consisting only of an **inlet**, **combustor** (with fuel injector and flame holder), and a **nozzle**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Scramjets are key to hypersonic vehicles to handle **airflows at speeds above the speed of sound** and offer maneuverability and strategic advantage. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ **Hypersonic Missiles** traveling at speeds greater than **Mach 5 (over 5,400 km/h)**, bypass air defences with high-speed, high-impact strikes.

- The US, Russia, and China are advancing hypersonic tech.

- ◆ In 2021, China tested a **nuclear-capable hypersonic glide vehicle** that circled the globe before speeding towards its target.

57. (B)

Exp:

- **National Girl Child Day** is observed annually on **24th January** aimed at promoting the **rights, empowerment, and potential** of girls across India. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- ◆ **Theme: "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future"** emphasizes **equal opportunities** for girls in **education, healthcare, and personal growth**.

- The 2025 celebrations, marking the **10th anniversary** of the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme**, will run from **22nd January to 8th March 2025**, concluding on **International Women's Day**.

- **Launched in 2015**, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme **focuses on improving the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** while promoting the survival, protection, and education of girl children. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

- Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

58. (B)

Exp:

Death Penalty:

- The death penalty, also referred to as **capital punishment**, is the **most severe** form of punishment in the Indian judicial system as it **cannot be reversed** after execution like other kinds of punishment.

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- ◆ It involves the **state's execution of an individual** as a penalty for serious offenses.
- In **Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab Case**, 1980, the Supreme Court (SC) upheld the death penalty as constitutional but should be awarded in the "**rarest of rare**" cases after considering both aggravating and mitigating circumstances. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The death penalty in India is governed by provisions in **Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023**, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and other special laws. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ The BNS prescribes the death penalty for crimes such as **rape causing death (Section 66)**, **gang rape of minors (Section 70(2))**, **serial rape (Section 71)**, and others.
 - ◆ Offenses punishable by death include **murder (Section 302)**, **terrorism (UAPA, 1967)**, and certain drug trafficking offenses under the **NDPS Act, 1985**.
- Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

59. (C)

Exp:

- Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a statutory body established by the Food Corporation Act of 1964. The FCI is a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Shanta Kumar Committee was formed in 2014 to recommend reforms to improve the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) operations and financial management. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

60. (C)

Exp:

- MGNREGA is among the largest employment guarantee programs globally, initiated in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural Development. The main aim of this scheme is to ensure 100 days of employment each financial year for adult members of any rural household who are willing to engage in unskilled manual labor related to public works. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MGNREGA provides legal guarantee of work to rural adults within 15 days of demand, with an 'unemployment allowance' if work is not provided. This approach allows for the self-selection of workers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

61. (C)

Exp:

- Natural rubber is primarily composed of **cis-1,4-polyisoprene (94%)**, a thermoplastic and elastomer

derived from isopentenyl pyrophosphate, and **non-isoprene compounds (6%)** like proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and minerals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ While cis-1,4-polyisoprene forms the main structure, non-isoprene compounds influence its mechanical properties and overall quality.
- Vulcanization is a chemical process that strengthens rubber by heating it with **sulphur** and other chemicals. The process creates cross-links between rubber molecules, which improves the rubber's physical properties. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

62. (A)

Exp:

- Marburg virus disease (MVD) is a rare, **severe hemorrhagic fever caused by the Marburg virus (MARV)**, a Filoviridae family member like Ebola. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MVD is transmitted to humans from fruit bats and monkeys, and **can spread among humans** through body fluids, including unprotected sexual activity and broken skin. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Symptoms include fever, hemorrhage, skin peeling, muscle pain, hair loss, fatigue, and cognitive issues.

63. (B)

Exp:

- **Red Sea:**
 - ◆ It is the world's **northernmost tropical sea** and is underlain by the **Red Sea Rift**, making it part of the **Great Rift Valley**.
 - The name **Red Sea** may originate from the seasonal blooms of a **red-colored cyanobacteria (Trichodesmium erythraeum)**.
 - The **Red Sea Rift**, a **divergent boundary** between the **African and Arabian Plates**, is part of the **Great Rift Valley system** stretching from East Africa to the Middle East.
 - ◆ The Red Sea lies between **Africa and Asia** and is a **semi-enclosed** extension of the Indian Ocean.
 - It connects to the **Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea** via the **Bab el Mandeb Strait** and the **Gulf of Aden** in the south.
 - In the north, it **bifurcates** into the **Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez** at the **Sinai Peninsula**, connecting to the **Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal**.
 - ◆ The Red Sea borders **six countries** i.e., **Yemen and Saudi Arabia** to the east, and **Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti** to the west.

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- The Gulf of Aqaba is bordered by **Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia**.
- ◆ Prominent islands include **Tiran** near the Gulf of Aqaba, **Shadwan** at the Gulf of Suez, and Yemen-controlled **Kamaran, Perim, Hanish, and Socotra**.
- The largest group of islands are the **Farasan Islands** in the east and the **Dahlak Archipelago** in the west.

● Hence, option B is correct.



64. (A)

Exp:

Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 Report:

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has recently released the Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 report.
 - ◆ The WEF is an **international organization for public-private cooperation**, engaging global leaders from politics, business, culture, and other sectors to shape agendas at global, regional, and industry levels.
- The report highlights **rising cyber threats to critical infrastructure**, driven by geopolitical tensions, outdated systems, and a cybersecurity skills gap, stressing the need for enhanced security and resilience.
- Hence, option A is correct.

65. (B)

Exp:

- The **Gulf of Mexico** is a large body of water located in the southeastern part of North America.
 - ◆ It is bordered by the **United States** to the north, **Mexico** to the west and southwest, and the **island nations of Cuba** to the southeast. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Major rivers like the Mississippi, Rio Grande, and Florida's Apalachicola flow into the Gulf. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.



66. (B)

Exp:

- Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULE) is an autonomous load-bearing robot developed for the Indian Army. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It features an onboard computer, a battery, advanced front and rear sensors, and legged mobility for enhanced adaptability.
- They are equipped with 360-degree cameras and radars for threat detection and neutralization, the machine has four legs, a 12 kg payload capacity, and operates via Wi-Fi or LTE, enabling a range of up to 10 km.
- They can also endure harsh conditions, climb stairs, navigate steep slopes, and traverse debris-filled areas and can be controlled remotely. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

67. (C)

Exp:

- Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 aim is to **facilitate external trade, payments, and the orderly development of India's foreign exchange market**, regulating procedures and dealings in foreign exchange transactions.
 - ◆ This act makes the offence related to foreign exchange civil offence. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Directorate of Enforcement (ED) enforces the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) of 1999 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) of 2002. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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- ◆ The ED is a law enforcement agency of the Government of India that investigates and prosecutes financial crimes.

68. (C)

Exp:

- **Phishing** is a cyberattack where attackers use deceptive methods, such as fake emails or text messages, to trick victims into disclosing sensitive information like passwords or credit card details by impersonating legitimate entities like banks or companies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) is a cyber attack that overwhelms a website or network with traffic, making it inaccessible to users. DDoS attacks can cause websites to crash, become unresponsive, or experience downtime. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

69. (D)

Exp:

- Oysters are **marine invertebrates** belonging to the family Ostreidae. They are characterized by rough, rock-hard, oval or pear-shaped shells.
- **Antimicrobial proteins and peptides** from oyster hemolymph have the ability to kill bacteria such as *Streptococcus* spp., which cause pneumonia, tonsillitis, and rheumatic fever. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ They can also inhibit and penetrate bacterial biofilms, which typically protect bacteria from antibiotics and immune responses. Additionally, **these proteins enhance the efficacy of conventional antibiotics by 2 to 32 times.**
- Oysters primarily live in coastal waters that are either salty or brackish, and they tend to attach themselves to hard surfaces like older shells, rocks, and piers, where they cluster together to form oyster reefs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Oysters are helpful in removing pollutants like nitrates, ammonia, phosphates, bacteria, and organic matter from water. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

70. (C)

Exp:

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

- It is a Mini Ratna (Category-I) non-banking financial institution under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides financial support for projects and schemes focused on generating electricity and/or energy from renewable sources and promoting energy conservation through efficiency.

- REDA generates its revenue through the interest and principal repayments from the projects it finances, as well as by raising funds from the market and through borrowings. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

71. (C)

Exp:

- **Fiscal consolidation** refers to the prudent management of government finances to ensure long-term economic stability. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It focuses on **balancing government revenue** (taxes and non-tax receipts) with expenditure, aiming to minimize fiscal deficits, control public debt, and support sustainable economic growth.
- By curbing excessive borrowing and government spending, fiscal consolidation helps **keep prices stable and inflation in control.**
- The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003** aims to establish **financial consolidation** in the government to reduce fiscal deficits and promote fiscal responsibility. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

72. (B)

Exp:

- In his farewell address, the **US President** cautioned about the rising influence of an **oligarchy** in the US, where a **small group of billionaires** are increasingly shaping public policy.
- **Oligarchy** refers to the government dominated by a **small, influential group**. Power may or may not be distributed equitably.
 - ◆ It differs from democracy as **only a few individuals make decisions.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

73. (D)

Exp:

- The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (BOCW) Act, 1996 is a **legislative framework aimed at safeguarding the rights, welfare, and working conditions** of building and construction workers in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It provides for their **safety, health, and welfare measures** and addresses employment regulations, ensuring better working conditions for one of the most vulnerable labor sectors.
- The Act was framed in accordance with the **principles of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, particularly aligning with ILO Convention No. 167 on construction safety and health. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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74. (D)

Exp:

- The **Cape Town Convention (CTC)**, adopted in 2001 in South Africa, is an international treaty aimed at **facilitating asset-based financing and leasing of aviation high-value mobile equipment like aircraft, engines, and helicopters**.
- It provides creditors such as lessors, lenders, and financiers with clear remedies, including repossession and export of assets in case of default, without lengthy legal procedures.
- Key features include an international registry for recording interests in mobile equipment and the **Cape Town Protocol**, which outlines specific rules for aircraft financing and leasing.
- **Although India signed the CTC in 2008**, it has yet to ratify the treaty, making its provisions non-binding despite India being the third-largest domestic aviation market globally.
- Hence, option D is correct.

75. (C)

Exp:

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** in **Navi Mumbai** has become India's first **100% landlord port**, with all berths operated under the PPP model.
- As a premier container-handling port, JNPA accounts for nearly 50% of the total containerized cargo volume across India's major ports.
- Since its commissioning on May 26, 1989, the **port has transformed from a bulk cargo terminal to the country's leading container port** and is ranked 26th among the world's top 100 container ports, connecting to over 200 global ports.
- **JNPA currently operates five container terminals:** Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminals (NSFT), Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT), Gateway Terminals India Pvt. Ltd. (GTIPL), Nhava Sheva International Gateway Terminal (NSIGT), and Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals Private Limited (BMCT).
- Additionally, **it is developing a satellite port at Vadhvan** and dry ports at Jalna and Wardha to boost industrialization in the hinterland.
- Hence, option C is correct.

76. (A)

Exp:

- India, under **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru**, strongly supported **Indonesia's fight for independence from Dutch colonial rule**.
 - ◆ The India and Indonesia signed a **Treaty of Friendship in 1951**, and cooperation in **trade, culture, and military matters** flourished.

- ◆ Both nations aligned on **non-alignment, anti-colonialism, and peaceful coexistence**, leading to their active participation in the **1955 Bandung Conference and NAM's formation in 1961**.

- Indonesia is now India's **2nd largest trading partner** in the ASEAN region (1st-Singapore), and trade has grown significantly from **USD 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to USD 38.84 billion in 2022-23**. Indian investments in Indonesia amount to **USD 1.56 billion**.

- ◆ Indonesia is negotiating with India to acquire the **BrahMos missile system**, with a broad agreement on pricing, estimated at **USD 450 million**.

- Hence, option A is correct.

77. (C)

Exp:

PM-YASASVI Scheme:

- Launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, it provides **financial aid** for quality education to marginalized students. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is open to **OBC, Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and DNTs (Denotified)** students with family income up to **Rs 2.5 lakh per annum**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is an **umbrella** scheme consisting of sub-schemes like:
 - ◆ **Pre-Matric Scholarship:** Rs. 4,000 annual academic allowance to families with income below Rs. 2.5 lakh.
 - ◆ **Post-Matric Scholarship:** Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,000 depending on the course category.
 - ◆ **College Education:** Top college students get **full financial support**, including tuition, living expenses, and education materials.
 - ◆ **Hostels:** **Accommodation facility** near government schools and institutions.

78. (A)

Exp:

Wetland Accredited Cities:

- It is an **international recognition** for cities committed to **conserving and sustainably** managing their wetlands. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It recognises **urban areas** that protect wetlands, ensuring they provide **essential services** to the environment and communities.
- It is granted to cities that meet **six international criteria**, primarily focusing on the **conservation of wetland ecosystems** and their services.
 - ◆ Accredited cities are recognised for their efforts to **balance urban development** with ecological preservation.

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- **Indore and Udaipur** have become the **first Indian cities** to gain international recognition as **accredited wetland cities** under the **Ramsar Convention**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Currently, **85 Indian wetlands** are protected under the **Ramsar Convention**, which includes **172 member countries** globally.

79. (B)

Exp:

- The **Constitution designates Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court** but allows the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to designate other locations as the seat with the President's approval, although this is not compulsory. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his office by an order of the President** only after Parliament presents an address, supported by a special majority in both Houses, citing proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- To be appointed as a Supreme Court judge, a person must be an Indian citizen, have served as a judge of a High Court for at least five years, or have been an advocate in a High Court for at least ten years, or be recognized as a distinguished jurist by the President.
 - ◆ The Constitution does not specify a minimum age for the appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

80. (C)

Exp:

- Around **33 types of iron tools** have been found in Megalithic burials, serving various purposes across different aspects of life.
 - ◆ In agriculture, tools like hoes, sickles, and axes were used, while domestic needs were met with items such as dishes and tripod stands.
- For artisanal activities, chisels and nails were crafted, and in warfare and hunting, swords, daggers, spears, and arrowheads were produced.
- Significant traces of iron use have been discovered in several sites:
 - ◆ **Naikund in Vidarbha** revealed an **iron smelting furnace**. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.
 - ◆ **Mahurjhari in Nagpur** yielded horse head ornaments made of copper sheets with iron knobs. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.
 - ◆ **Paiyampalli in Tamil Nadu** uncovered large quantities of iron slag, pointing to local iron smelting. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

- These findings indicate advancements in iron technology, showcasing the early ability to control fire and extract iron from ore.

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

81. (A)

Exp:

National Health Mission:

- NHM was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the **National Rural Health Mission** (Launched in 2005) and the **National Urban Health Mission** (Launched in 2013). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The main programmatic components include **Health System Strengthening** in rural and urban areas for - Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The NHM envisages achieving **universal access to equitable, affordable & quality healthcare services** that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.
- **Initiatives:**
 - ◆ **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)**, including **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)**.
 - ◆ **Communicable Diseases Control:** Focusing on **Tuberculosis (TB)**, malaria, leprosy, and HIV/AIDS under initiatives such as the **National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme** and **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme**.
 - ◆ **Non-Communicable Diseases:** For **diabetes, hypertension, and cancer** under the **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke**.

82. (A)

Exp:

Olive Ridley Turtles:

- Olive ridley turtles are **olive or grayish-green** with a **heart-shaped carapace (top shell)**.
 - ◆ They closely resemble **Kemp's ridleys** (primarily found in the Gulf of Mexico) and are the **smallest sea turtles**. Their size and shape vary by region, with the largest found in West Africa.
- They are found in the **tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans**.
 - ◆ Inhabits both **pelagic (open ocean)** and **coastal waters**.
- Their major nesting sites in India are **Rushikulya, Gahirmatha, Devi River mouth** in Odisha, and the **Andaman Islands**.

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- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is recognised as the **largest known mass nesting rookery** for Olive Ridley sea turtles in the world.

- Olive ridley turtles are famous for **arribada** (Spanish for “arrival”), a unique **mass nesting behavior** where **thousands of females nest simultaneously**.

- ◆ From September, they travel 9,000 km from the Pacific to the Indian seas. After mating, males retreat, and females nest from December to March.

- Females nest 1-3 times per season, laying around 100 eggs per clutch.
- The **sex of hatchlings is determined by nest temperature**.

- Like **all sea turtle species**, except the **herbivorous Green Turtle**, the **Olive Ridley is an omnivore**, eating jellyfish, snails, crabs, prawns, algae, and small fish.

- ◆ Migrate long distances between feeding and nesting sites.

- **Protection Status:**

- ◆ **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- ◆ **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
- ◆ **CITES:** Appendix I

- Hence, option A is correct.

83. (D)

Exp:

- **Namdapha Tiger Reserve**, located in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district, was declared the 15th Tiger Project of India in 1983.
- Originally designated a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1972, it later gained National Park and Tiger Reserve status.
- The reserve derives its **name from the Namdapha River**, which originates from **Daphabum** (where “Dapha” refers to the hill and “Bum” means its peak) and flows north to south before merging with the Noa-Dehing River.
- The landscape features diverse vegetation, including **Northern Tropical Evergreen Forests, Moist Deciduous Forests, and Alpine Scrub Forests**.
- Hence, option D is correct.

84. (B)

Exp:

- The **Aroma Mission** was started in Jammu and Kashmir in 2016 and aims to boost India's aroma industry by enhancing the cultivation of aromatic crops and production of essential oils. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is popularly known as the **Lavender Revolution**. Aromatic crops (like rose, peppermint) are plants grown for their fragrant oils, used in industries like cosmetics, aromatherapy, and food flavoring. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The nodal agency for this mission is CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow.

85. (A)

Exp:

- The **Chinar tree**, a deciduous species from the Platanaceae family, thrives in the cool, **water-rich regions of the Eastern Himalayas**. It grows up to 30 meters tall, taking 30–50 years to mature and 150 years to reach full size.
- Named during Jahangir's era, it is the state tree of J&K and holds cultural significance in local art and crafts.
- The **Tree Aadhaar Mission**, launched in 2021, **geo-tags Chinar trees to prevent unauthorized cutting**. So far, over 28,560 trees have been assigned unique Aadhaar numbers.
- Hence, option A is correct.

86. (B)

Exp:

Fiscal Health Index 2025:

- The **Fiscal Health Index (FHI)** is an **assessment tool** to evaluate the fiscal health of Indian states and **highlights specific areas for improvement**.
- In a bid to enhance fiscal governance, the **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** launched its **inaugural Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025**.
- The Index provides a comprehensive evaluation of the **fiscal health of 18 major Indian states for 2022-23**, offering data-driven insights that will guide policy interventions at the state level.
- **Parameter:** FHI ranks states based on five key sub-indices.
 - ◆ **Quality of Expenditure:** Measures the proportion of spending on long-term growth (developmental) vs. routine operations (non-developmental).
 - Assesses capital investments as a share of economic output.
 - ◆ **Revenue Mobilization:** Reflects a state's ability to **generate its own revenue** and cover its expenditures independently.
 - ◆ **Fiscal Prudence:** Tracks **deficits (fiscal and revenue)** and borrowing relative to economic output, signaling fiscal health.
 - ◆ **Debt Index:** Assesses the **state's debt burden**, focusing on interest payments and liabilities relative to economic size.
 - ◆ **Debt Sustainability:** Compares **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** growth to **interest payments**, with a positive difference indicating **fiscal sustainability**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

87. (A)

Exp:

Lala Lajpat Rai:

- The **Prime Minister (PM)** paid tribute to freedom fighter **Lala Lajpat Rai** on his **160th birth anniversary**.

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- ◆ He was born on **28th January 1865** in the **Ferozepur** district of Punjab.
 - Known as **Punjab Kesari**, he was an inspiring **leader and social reformer**.
- ◆ He was a prominent **Indian National Congress (INC)** leader and a key member of the **Lal-Bal-Pal trio**, opposed the **Partition of Bengal (1905)**, and supported the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)**.
 - He founded the **Home Rule League of America (1917)** to support India's Home Rule Movement started by **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Annie Besant** in 1916 and protested against the **Rowlatt Act** and the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**.
 - He led the opposition movement of the **Simon Commission (1928)** where he **died from injuries sustained in a lathi charge**.

● Hence, option A is correct.

88. (C)

Exp:

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) System:

- The NavIC system is made up of **7 operational satellites** in orbit (**3 in Geostationary Orbit** and **4 in Geosynchronous Orbit**). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- NavIC provides accurate **position, velocity, and timing** to users in the **Indian sub-continent** and regions **up to 1,500 km beyond**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- NVS-02 is the **2nd satellite** in the series of **2nd generation satellites** of the **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ◆ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** achieved its historic **100th launch** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota**, using the **GSLV-F15** to deploy the **NVS-02 satellite**.
- The **GSLV-F15** is the **17th GSLV flight** and the **11th with an Indigenous Cryogenic stage**.
- The first launch from SDSC took place in **August 1979** carrying the **Rohini Technology Payload** (partially successful).
- Key Launches of ISRO include **Chandrayaan-1 (2008)**, **Mars Orbiter Mission (2013)**, **PSLV-C37 (2017, World record: 104 satellites launched)**, **Chandrayaan-2 (2019)**, and **Chandrayaan-3 (2023)**, **Aditya-L1 (2023)**.

89. (C)

Exp:

Article 20(3):

- Under **Article 20(3)**, **no person** accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a **witness against himself**.
 - ◆ The **protection against self-incrimination** extends to both **oral evidence** and **documentary evidence**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ However, it **does not extend** to compulsory **production of material objects, thumb impressions, specimen signatures, blood specimens, or compulsory exhibition of the body**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - Further, the protection of the accused extends only to **criminal proceedings** and **not to civil proceedings** or proceedings which are not of criminal nature. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

● Hence, option C is correct.

90. (C)

Exp:

- Indian Standard Time (IST), based on Universal Coordinated Time with a +5:30-hour offset, is maintained by the **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)**.
- CSIR- National Physical Laboratory
 - ◆ **About:** The **NPL** is one of India's earliest national laboratories. Its foundation stone was laid by **Jawaharlal Nehru** in **1947**, and it was formally inaugurated by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** in **1950**.
 - ◆ **Functions:** Responsible for realizing and maintaining physical measurement units based on the **International System (SI units)**, including **metre, kilogram, second, kelvin, ampere, and candela**.
 - NPL aids industries with precision measurements and certifies emission-monitoring instruments.
 - ◆ **Key Contributions:** Develops advanced **atomic clocks** and maintains **Indian Standard Time (IST)** using **Cesium atomic clocks (work using Cesium atoms)** and **Hydrogen maser** (uses hydrogen atoms to serve precision frequency).

● Hence, option C is correct.

91. (A)

Exp:

- A Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) is a government-owned fund created from state surpluses, often from a variety of sources like natural resources, trade surpluses, or budget excesses.
- **Characteristics:** Santiago Principles 2008 defines SWFs as having 3 key characteristics:
 - ◆ It is owned by the general government, which **includes both central government and sub-national governments**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ It **includes investments in foreign financial assets**.
 - ◆ They invest for financial objectives.
 - ◆ These key elements **exclude public pension funds, owned by policyholders**, and central bank reserve assets, which are not invested. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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- **Santiago Principles 2008 (and not Palermo Principles 2008)** refers to a set of **24 voluntary guidelines** that promote transparency, good governance, accountability, and prudent investment practices for **Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs)**.
- These principles were established in 2008 by the **International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSFW) (and not International Finance Corporation)**, a voluntary organisation of global SWFs. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

92. (A)

Exp:

- **Role of Mahatma Gandhi in India's Freedom Struggle:**
 - ◆ **Leadership of the Indian National Congress (INC):** Mahatma Gandhi became a prominent leader of the INC in the early 20th century, **advocating for non-violent resistance and mass mobilization** to challenge British rule.
 - The **Belgaum session in 1924** was the only Congress session which was presided over by Gandhi Ji.
 - ◆ **Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM) (1920-1922):** Gandhi launched the NCM in response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the repressive Rowlatt Act. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - He **urged Indians to boycott** British institutions, goods, and honours, leading to widespread participation across the country.
 - Gandhi Ji was awarded the **Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal in 1915** for his service in the **Boer War** but **returned it in 1920** to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
 - ◆ **Salt March (1930):** Gandhi led the **Salt March** to the Gujarati coastal town of **Dandi**, protesting the British salt tax. This marked the beginning of the **Civil Disobedience Movement**.
 - ◆ **Quit India Movement (QIM) (1942):** Gandhi called for the QIM, demanding an end to British rule in India.
 - His slogan, **"Do or Die,"** inspired millions to participate in protests, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience, marking a significant escalation in the freedom struggle. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Philosophy of Non-Violence:** Throughout his activism, Gandhi emphasized the principles of **Satyagraha (truth force) and Ahimsa (non-violence)**, advocating for peaceful protests and moral integrity.

- His approach not only influenced the Indian independence movement but also inspired civil rights movements worldwide such as **Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr.**
- 2nd October is also observed as the **International Day of Non-Violence**, established by the **United Nations General Assembly** on 15th June 2007.

93. (B)

Exp:

- Quantum computers do **not** use ternary logic (0, 1, and 2); they operate on quantum principles like **superposition and entanglement** but still use **binary states (0 and 1)**, though in a quantum-mechanical way. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Quantum computers use **qubits**, which leverage **superposition** to exist in both 0 and 1 states simultaneously. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

94. (B)

Exp:

- Tarasa, Bompoka, and Katchall are islands located in the **Nicobar Islands region of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated about 1,300 km southeast of the Indian mainland, providing India with a crucial forward presence in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.
- This location allows India to monitor and potentially **control key maritime chokepoints, particularly the Malacca Strait.**
- Their location enables India to monitor naval activities, shipping traffic, and potential security threats in the region, enhancing its maritime domain awareness.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

95. (A)

Exp:

- The Registrar General of India (RGI) is a government authority responsible for **collecting and maintaining demographic data in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was established in **1961** mainly to conduct **Census operations** across the country. The RGI oversees vital statistics, including **births, deaths, and population data**, and also manages the **National Population Register (NPR)**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



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