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MAY
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Practice Question

Art & Culture

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Ajanta Caves:

1. They were inscribed by the Buddhist monks, under the patronage of the Vakataka rulers.
2. References to the Ajanta Caves can be found in the travel accounts of both Fa Hien and Hiuen Tsang.

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. Which of the following pairs of Neolithic sites and their correct locations is/are matched correctly?

1. Burzahom: Jammu & Kashmir
2. Napachik: Manipur
3. Paiyampalli: Tamil Nadu
4. Daojali Hading: Assam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

3. Consider the following Temples:

1. Meenakshi Temple (Madurai)
2. Aranganathar Temple (Srirangam)
3. Vijayanarayana Temple (Nanguneri)
4. Brihadisvara temple (Thanjavur)

How many of the above were patronized by the Pandyas?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

History

4. With reference to the Birsa Munda, consider the following statements:

1. He led the Ulgulan Movement with the aim of establishing a self-governed tribal state known as "Birsa Raj".
2. Birsa Munda's movement resulted in the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908), which recognized tribal land rights and abolished forced labor.

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding Sant Kabir Das:

1. He was a contemporary of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire.
2. He received spiritual guidance from Ramananda and Sheikh Taqi.
3. His use of "Ulatbansi" (inverted verses) was intended to promote unquestioning devotion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to the Chola dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. The Chola Empire was divided into Mandalams, Valanadus, Nadus, and Urs, with autonomous local governance through Nadu and village assemblies.
2. The Chola Empire experienced growth in internal trade through powerful mercantile guilds known as "Nanadesis".

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3. The Chola dynasty focused solely on inland trade and had no significant maritime trade relations with foreign regions.

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

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

Geography

7. Regarding Glaciers, consider the following statements:

1. They are slow-moving ice masses formed over centuries from compacted snow and contain approximately 70% of the world's freshwater supply.
2. The Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) are referred to as the "Water Tower of Asia" and contribute approximately 40% of the Indus River system's water flow.
3. With the loss of Yala Glacier, Venezuela became only the second country, after Slovenia, to lose all of its glaciers.

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

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding New Caledonia:

1. New Caledonia is a French overseas territory located in the Indian Ocean.
2. Originally inhabited by the Kanaks—indigenous Melanesians—New Caledonia was annexed by France in 1853.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding Sikkim:

1. Sikkim functioned as a protectorate before being granted full-fledged statehood.
2. The Kanchenjunga National Park in Sikkim is both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a designated Biosphere Reserve.

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

10. Consider the following statements about the Brahmaputra River:

1. It originates from the Chemayungdung Glacier as the Yarlung Tsangpo and is called Siang in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. After joining the Teesta River, it is known as Jamuna and flows into the Ganges (Padma) near Goalundo Ghat in Bangladesh.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements:

1. It is Europe's largest and one of the world's most active volcanoes.
2. It is located on Sicily's east coast in the Mediterranean Sea.
3. It is a continuously active stratovolcano with five summit craters.

Which of the following volcanoes best matches the above description?

- A. Mount Etna
B. Mount Vesuvius
C. Mount Stromboli
D. Mount Teide

12. The Chenab River originates near which of the following mountain passes?

- A. Rohtang Pass
B. Bara Lacha Pass
C. Zoji La
D. Nathu La

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13. Consider the following statements regarding Nickel:

1. Nickel is a silvery-white metallic element, found widely in the Earth's crust and forming a major part of the Earth's core as a nickel-iron alloy.
2. In India, nickel is produced from primary sources, especially from the lateritic deposits of Sukinda Valley in Odisha.
3. It is primarily used in stainless steel production, rechargeable batteries, and as a catalyst in chemical industries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements regarding the Etalin Hydropower Project:

1. It is a Run-of-the-River hydropower project located in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It involves the construction of dams on tributaries of the Dibang River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. Regarding the Deep Ocean Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for harnessing renewable energy from oceanic resources.
2. Matsya 6000 is a manned submersible developed under the Deep Ocean Mission for deep-sea exploration.

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. Which of the following best describes the term "marine snow"?

- A. Calcium carbonate shells of phytoplankton forming oceanic sediments

- B. A type of deep-sea coral that emits bioluminescent light.
- C. Organic matter and detritus sinking from the ocean's surface to the deep sea
- D. Ice particles formed in polar ocean regions

17. Consider the following statements regarding glaciers:

1. Glaciers are responsible for storing more freshwater than all rivers and lakes combined.
2. The majority of Earth's glaciers are located in the Northern Hemisphere.
3. The process of firnification involves the compaction of snow into dense, grainy ice and plays a crucial role in the formation of glaciers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

18. Consider the following pairs:

Discontinuity	Description
Moho Discontinuity	Between the Earth's lower crust & upper mantle
Conrad Discontinuity	Between the Earth's upper and lower crust
Lehmann Discontinuity	Between the Earth's lower Mantle & outer Core
Gutenberg Discontinuity	Between the Earth's inner and outer core

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Polity & Governance

19. Consider the following statements about the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023:

1. The Act applies to the processing of digital personal data both within India and outside India if the data processing is done for offering goods or services in India.

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2. It provides an exemption from its provisions for data processing by startups for research purposes.
3. The Act provides for the establishment of the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI), with members appointed for a term of two years and eligible for reappointment.

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

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

20. Consider the following statements regarding NITI Aayog:

1. It is a statutory body established under an Act of Parliament.
2. It developed the E-Amrit portal with the UK government to provide electric vehicle information.
3. The CEO of NITI Aayog is appointed by the Home Minister and holds the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. Regarding Article 240, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the President to make regulations for the peace and good governance of certain Union Territories.
2. The rules under it have the same force as Acts of Parliament and the power to amend or repeal existing laws.

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India:

1. The scheme is launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) to promote domestic manufacturing of electric 4-wheelers (e-4W).
2. Applicants must achieve a minimum Domestic Value Addition (DVA) of 50% within 3 years and 75% within 5 years under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Regarding the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), consider the following statements:

1. The FSSAI is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006.
2. It introduced a risk-based framework aligned with Codex Alimentarius, which includes Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides.
3. It releases the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to evaluate the performance of states/UTs across various food safety parameters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements regarding ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented between 2022 and 2027, targeting adults aged 15 years and above who missed formal schooling.
2. The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) is conducted annually to assess learners' progress.
3. The scheme supports inclusive education in 22 Indian languages through platforms such as DIKSHA and the ULLAS mobile/web portal.

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

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

25. Consider the following statements regarding India's Public Distribution System (PDS):

1. PDS is solely managed by the Central Government, which handles procurement, storage, transportation, allocation, and distribution of food grains.
2. Anna Chakra is a supply chain optimization tool in PDS to reduce transport distances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Regarding the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) platform, consider the following statements:

1. It is a digital workflow platform launched under the "One Nation, One Application" initiative to streamline legislative operations in a paperless and transparent way.
2. Under the initiative, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs provides full central assistance, and the platform is hosted on the NIC Cloud – MeghRaj.

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

27. Regarding National Emergency under Article 352, consider the following statements:

1. During a National Emergency, the President can modify the distribution of financial resources between the Centre and states, but such modifications cease to operate immediately after the Emergency ends.

2. Article 358 automatically suspends Article 19 for the entire duration of an Emergency, but only if it is declared on grounds of war or external aggression.
3. The tenure of the Lok Sabha can be extended for 6 months at a time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The regulation of online gaming, betting, and gambling falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of State legislatures as per the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. Under existing Indian laws, foreign investment is allowed in the sectors of online lottery and betting.

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:

1. Article 18 (1) of the Indian Constitution abolishes and prohibits the state from conferring titles on individuals, except for military and academic distinctions.
2. Padma Awards are not a title and cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.

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

30. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India:

1. It operates under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, covering about two-thirds of the population based on Census 2011.

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2. PDS is jointly managed by the Centre and States; the Centre handles procurement, storage, and allocation through the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
3. Anna Chakra optimizes PDS logistics, while SCAN automates subsidy claims through a unified digital platform.

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

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

31. Consider the following pairs:

Scheme	Objective
e-NAM	Create a unified national market for agricultural commodities by linking APMC mandis electronically.
SVAMITVA Scheme	Provide property rights to village households through drone mapping and rural spatial planning.
UDYAM Registration Portal	Simplify the registration process for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Social Issues

32. Consider the following pairs:

Column A	Column B
1. Article 342	A. Establishment of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes
2. Article 46	B. Empower the President to specify Scheduled Tribes in states

3. Article 338 C. Directs the state to promote the educational and economic interests of SCs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

33. Which of the following are the key dimensions of the Global Gender Gap Index?

1. Economic Participation and Opportunity
2. Education Attainment
3. Income Inequality
4. Political Empowerment

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

34. Consider the following statements:

1. A Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 is considered the replacement level fertility in most countries to ensure population stability.
2. Countries with below-replacement fertility are likely to face challenges such as ageing populations and labour shortages.
3. India has fully realised its demographic dividend, marked by a uniformly falling dependency ratio and high workforce participation across all states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Agriculture & Allied Sector

35. Consider the following statements:

1. Gross Irrigated Area (GIA) is the total area irrigated under all crops across various seasons in an agricultural year, where land irrigated more than once in the same year is counted only once.

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2. Irrigation in India is a State subject, and its planning, execution, and funding lie with the respective State Governments.
3. Per Drop More Crop, a component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), is implemented under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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

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

36. Consider the following statements regarding Heeng cultivation:

1. Heeng is a perennial herb of the Apiaceae family, and its resin is extracted only after the plant matures for around five years.
2. It thrives in cold, arid climates, making regions like Iran, Afghanistan, and India's Lahaul-Spiti and Uttarkashi ideal for its cultivation.

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

37. With reference to pulses, consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses.
2. Pulses are grown throughout the agricultural year (Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid seasons).
3. Being leguminous, all pulses help restore soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen.

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

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

Environment & Ecology

38. Consider the following pairs:

Species	IUCN Status
A. Tapanuli Orangutan	Critically Endangered
B. Cross River Gorillas	Vulnerable
C. Gibbons	Endangered

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

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

39. Consider the following statements with reference to the Lady's Slipper Orchid:

1. Species are found in boreal, temperate, and tropical regions.
2. In India they are found mainly in western ghats.
3. The species is listed under Schedule III of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following statements regarding the Ramsar Convention:

1. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, established in 1971, is an international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands and promoting their sustainable use globally.
2. India ratified the Convention in 1982.

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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41. With reference to India's electricity installed capacity in the year 2025, arrange the following energy sources in descending order of their contribution:

1. Oil & Gas
2. Solar
3. Wind
4. Hydro
5. Nuclear

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 2 - 3 - 4 - 1 - 5
- B. 1 - 5 - 3 - 2 - 4
- C. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
- D. 3 - 2 - 1 - 4 - 5

42. Consider the following statements regarding the World Energy Investment Report 2025:

1. It is published annually by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to track global fossil fuel subsidies.
2. India's investments in renewable power and fossil fuels have significantly increased from 2015 to 2025, while investments in grid and storage have declined during the same period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. Regarding the Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:

1. It is among the heaviest flying birds in the world and is recognized as the state bird of Rajasthan.
2. Being omnivorous, it serves as an indicator species, reflecting the health of grassland ecosystems.
3. While it is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, it is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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

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

44. Regarding the Indian Grey Wolf, consider the following statements:

1. It is nocturnal and an apex predator that hunts in small packs and is less vocal compared to other wolf subspecies.
2. It is of intermediate size between the Tibetan and Arabian wolves, and lacks a thick winter coat, adapting instead to warmer climates.
3. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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

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

45. Regarding the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, consider the following statements:

1. It includes six schedules, with Schedules I and II providing absolute protection to endangered species.
2. The Chief Wildlife Warden may permit killing if the animal threatens human life or is incurably diseased and cannot be captured or relocated.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. Consider the following statements regarding the Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*):

1. The alkaline and saline wetlands of Gujarat and Rajasthan serve as major breeding grounds for the Lesser Flamingo in India.
2. It relies primarily on carotenoid-rich cyanobacteria, which give its plumage a distinctive pink coloration

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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47. Which of the following are native bee species of India?

1. Giant rock bee
2. Stingless bee
3. Asian dwarf bee

Choose the correct option using the code given below:

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

48. Consider the following statements:

1. Wetlands are ecotones, having land transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
2. The Montreux Record lists wetlands with deteriorating ecological character due to human activity or pollution.
3. Chilika Lake is the first site from Asia and the only one from India to be included in the Montreux Record.

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

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

49. Consider the following pairs:

Ramsar Sites	Location
A. Khichan (Phalodi)	Rajasthan
B. Kanwar Lake	Jharkhand
C. Chilika Lake	Odisha
D. Loktak Lake	Manipur

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Economy

50. Consider the following statements regarding the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):

1. It was introduced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2004.
2. Under the scheme, any Indian including corporates and Hindu Undivided Family (HUFs) can remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year.
3. Residents cannot open foreign currency accounts within India under LRS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shifted its monetary policy stance from “withdrawal of accommodation” to “neutral” in October 2024.
Statement II: A withdrawal of accommodation refers to a more restrictive monetary policy stance where the RBI aims to reduce the money supply in the economy.

Statement III: A neutral stance indicates that the RBI maintains flexibility in adjusting policy rates based on prevailing economic conditions.

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

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.
- B. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I.
- C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.
- D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

52. With reference to the Treasury Bills (T-Bills) in India, consider the following statements:

1. They are long-term debt instruments issued by the Government of India through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. These are zero-coupon securities, which means they do not pay regular interest.

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3. Gains from T-Bills are taxable as long-term capital gains.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

53. With reference to Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), consider the following statements:

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits and cannot issue cheques.
2. Depositors under NBFCs are protected by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA):

1. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) that provides financial assistance exclusively for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.
2. It can raise funds through green bonds and other market instruments to finance clean energy initiatives.
3. It is mandated to implement schemes such as the PM-KUSUM and PLI for Solar PV modules.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

55. Consider the following statements regarding fiscal deficit:

1. Fiscal deficit occurs when a government's total expenditure exceeds its total revenue, excluding borrowings.
2. A high fiscal deficit always leads to higher inflation in the economy.

3. The fiscal deficit is mainly financed through the government's borrowing from the market and other sources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

56. Consider the following statements regarding the Quality Council of India (QCI):

1. Quality Council of India (QCI) is an autonomous body under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and its chairperson is appointed by the Prime Minister.
2. QCI includes industry bodies like ASSOCHAM, CII (Confederation of Indian Industry), and FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) ensuring industry-government collaboration.

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

57. Consider the following pairs:

Report	Publishing Body
1. Global Risks Report	World Economic Forum
2. World Economic Outlook	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
3. World Investment Report	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
4. Global Economic Prospects	International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

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58. With reference to Special Economic Zones (SEZ), consider the following statements:

1. It is a duty-free zone treated as foreign territory for the purpose of trade, tariffs, and operations.
2. SEZs were first introduced in India under the Foreign Trade Policy, replacing the Export Processing Zones (EPZs).
3. It can be established by any private/public/joint sector or State Government or its agencies.

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

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

Defence & Security

59. Consider the following statements:

1. India currently operates three research stations for polar and ocean research missions, namely Bharati and Maitri in Antarctica, and Himadri in the Arctic.
2. India has reached an agreement with the United States to develop the country's first indigenously built Polar Research Vessel (PRV).

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 First Person View (FPV) drones:

1. They provide operators with real-time situational awareness by transmitting a live video feed from an onboard front-facing camera.
2. Due to their autonomous flight capabilities, FPV drones do not require continuous human intervention or remote control once launched.

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 pairs

Military Exercise with India	Partner Country
1. GARUDA SHAKTI	Indonesia
2. YUDH ABHAYAS	Maldives
3. SURYA KIRAN	Nepal
4. KHAAN QUEST	Mongolia

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Science & Tech

62. Consider the following statements:

1. The Kuiper Belt is a vast region of icy objects and dwarf planets beyond Neptune.
2. Ceres is the only dwarf planet present in the asteroid belt.
3. Pluto is the largest and brightest dwarf planet.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

63. Consider the following statements with reference to the Radio waves:

1. Radio waves have the longest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum.
2. Astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields emit radio waves.
3. Due to long wavelengths radio waves are not used in medical imaging.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

64. Consider the following statements regarding Pulsars:

1. These are rapidly rotating neutron stars that emit beams of electromagnetic radiation.

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2. The periodicity of a pulsar arises from fluctuations in its magnetic field strength, causing irregular radiation bursts detectable from Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

65. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: BharatGen is India's first fully privately-funded, indigenously developed multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) supporting 22 Indian languages.

Statement-II: Multimodal LLMs are trained on different data types to understand both human language and multimedia.

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.

66. Consider the following statements regarding Phytoplankton:

1. These are microscopic, plant-like organisms that contribute significantly to oxygen production and carbon dioxide absorption through photosynthesis.
2. Their growth and productivity primarily depend on the availability of macronutrients such as phosphate, nitrate, and calcium.

Which of the above statements 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. Thermophilic bacteria, which thrive in hot springs, produce potent antibiotics that may help combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

2. Metagenomics involves the study of genetic material recovered directly from environmental samples without the need for culturing individual organisms in a lab.

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 Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI):

1. It is a solar geoengineering technique aimed at reducing global warming by reflecting a fraction of incoming solar radiation back into space.
2. It works by injecting reflective particles like sulfate aerosols into the stratosphere, typically at altitudes between 10 and 50 km.

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 Red Dwarfs:

1. They are the smallest and coolest stars in the universe.
2. They have a much longer lifespan, shining for trillions of years.
3. Proxima Centauri, the farthest star to the Sun, is a Red Dwarf.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

70. Consider the following statements regarding neutrinos:

1. Neutrinos are electrically neutral subatomic particles.
2. They interact frequently with matter, making them easy to detect.
3. Neutrinos have potential applications in communication systems as an alternative to electromagnetic waves.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

71. Consider the following statements regarding photovoltaic technology:

1. Photovoltaic cells convert sunlight into electricity by exciting electrons and separating charges via an internal electric field.
2. High temperatures reduce the efficiency of photovoltaic cells by increasing the resistance in semiconductor materials.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. Neurodegenerative diseases involve gradual and irreversible loss of neurons.
2. All neurological disorders are incurable and cannot be reversed even with timely intervention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. Consider the following statements regarding emerging biomedical technologies:

1. Biologics are manufactured using living cells and are structurally more complex than traditional chemical drugs.
2. Biosimilars are biologic medical products that are highly similar to an already approved reference biologic.
3. 3D bioprinting involves layering living cells to create tissue-like structures for potential medical use.

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

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

74. Consider the following pairs:

Disorder	Primary Effect
A. Alzheimer's Disease	Gradual nerve cell decay in the brain over time
B. Parkinson's Disease	Impairs movement and balance
C. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	Affects motor neurons responsible for muscle movement
D. Huntington's Disease	Affects memory and thinking

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

75. Consider the following statements:

1. Tardigrades are microscopic, eight-legged organisms known for surviving extreme heat, cold, radiation, high pressure, and even the vacuum of space.
2. Tardigrades feed on animal tissues and are mostly found in arid desert environments.
3. Under the Axiom-4 mission, ISRO is sending tardigrades to the International Space Station (ISS) to study their ability to survive in extreme space conditions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

76. Consider the following statements:

1. Platelet activation during clotting is triggered by physiological agents like collagen and thrombin.
2. Excess Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) contribute to abnormal blood clotting in conditions like Covid-19.
3. Nanozymes are synthetic nanomaterials that function like antioxidant enzymes and help prevent ROS-induced platelet overactivation.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

International Relations & Current Affairs

77. Consider the following statements regarding the Padma Awards:

1. The government restricts the number of Bharat Ratna Awards to a maximum of ten in a given year.
2. The Padma Awards can be used as prefixes and suffix under Article 18.

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. Regarding the National Florence Nightingale Awards, consider the following statements:

1. It was instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The national award is given to outstanding nursing personnel in central, state/Union Territories and voluntary organisations.

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. Regarding the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), consider the following statements:

1. Established in 1930 and headquartered in Brussels, it is an international organization and the academic branch of the United Nations.
2. India has been elected President of the IIAS for the 2025–2028 term, marking the first ballot-based election in its history.

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

80. Regarding the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. The UNSC has 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for a 2-year term by the UNGA, with Bahrain, Colombia, DRC, Latvia, and Liberia elected for the 2026-2028 term.
2. It is the only UN body whose decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter.

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

Answers

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

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Explanations

Art & Culture

1. (C)

Exp:

The Ajanta Caves:

- 💡 **Location:** Ajanta is a series of rock-cut caves in the **Sahyadri ranges (Western Ghats)** on Waghora river near Aurangabad in Maharashtra.
- 💡 **Number of Caves:** There are a total of **29 caves** (all Buddhist) of which 25 were used as Viharas or residential caves while 4 were used as Chaitya or prayer halls.
- 💡 **Time of Development:**
 - ✦ The caves were developed in the **period between 200 B.C. to 650 A.D.**
 - ✦ The Ajanta caves were inscribed by the Buddhist monks, under the patronage of the **Vakataka kings** – Harishena being a prominent one. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ Reference of the Ajanta caves can be found in the travel accounts of **Chinese Buddhist travellers Fa Hien** (during the reign of Chandragupta II; 380- 415 CE) and **Hieun Tsang** (during the reign of emperor Harshavardhana; 606 - 647 CE). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

2. (D)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Neolithic Age**, or **New Stone Age**, was the final stage of the **Stone Age**, beginning around **9000 BCE** (varying by region) and lasting until the advent of **metal tools** around **3000 BCE**.
- 💡 **Prominent Neolithic Sites:**
 - ✦ **Northwest India: Mehrgarh** (now in Pakistan), **Burzahom & Gufkral** (Kashmir).
 - ✦ **Northern & Central India: Senuwar (Bihar), Koldihwa & Mahagara (Uttar Pradesh), Bagor (Rajasthan), Adamgarh (Madhya Pradesh).**
 - ✦ **Northeastern India: Daojali Hading & Sarutaru (Assam), Napachik and Laimanai (Manipur).**
 - ✦ **Southern India: Brahmagiri & Maski (Karnataka), Paiyampalli (Tamil Nadu).** **Hence, option D is correct.**

3. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 **Temples patronized by Pandyas:** Meenakshi Temple (Madurai), Aranganathar Temple (Srirangam), Vijayanarayana Temple (Nanguneri), Lakshmi Narayana Temple (Athur).
- 💡 The Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur was built by Chola king **Rajaraja Chola I** around 1010 AD. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, it showcases Chola dynasty's architectural brilliance. **Hence, option C is correct.**

History

4. (C)

Exp:

Birsa Munda:

- 💡 **About:** Birsa Munda was a tribal leader, religious reformer, and freedom fighter who led a strong resistance against British colonial policies in the Chotanagpur region.
 - ✦ **Also known as Dharti Abba** (Father of the Earth), he is remembered for mobilising Adivasi communities around land rights, social reform, and spiritual unity.
- 💡 **Early Life:** Born on **15th November 1875** in **Ulihatu** (Khunti district, Jharkhand) to a poor Munda tribal sharecropper family, Birsa was initially named Daud Munda due to his father's temporary conversion to Christianity.
- 💡 **Resistance Against British Rule:** British land revenue policies dismantled the traditional **Khunt Katti land system** (collective land ownership within a clan), empowering zamindars and thikadars who exploited tribal peasants.
 - ✦ Birsa mobilised tribal masses against these injustices and campaigned to reclaim their rights.
- 💡 **The Ulgulan Movement (1895–1900):** In 1895, Birsa Munda was arrested for rioting and jailed for 2 years; after his release in 1897, he resumed mobilising support across villages for a tribal-led self-rule movement.

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- ✦ In 1899, he launched the **Ulgulan (The Great Tumult) movement**, which included guerrilla warfare tactics to resist British authority and promote the establishment of a **self-governed tribal state known as "Birsa Raj"**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Aftermath and Legacy:** He was captured in **February 1900** and died in **British custody on 9th June 1900** at the young age of **25**, under mysterious circumstances, officially attributed to **cholera**.

- ✦ His movement led to the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908)**, which recognised tribal land rights (Khuntkatti), banned land transfer to non-tribals, and abolished **beth begari** (forced labour). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

5. (B)

Exp:

Sant Kabirdas:

💡 **About:** Sant Kabir Das (1440–1518) was a revered mystic poet, saint, and social reformer, born in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- ✦ Kabir often referred to himself as a **"julaha" (weaver)** and **"kori" (lower-caste identity)**, reflecting **his humility** and solidarity with the marginalized.

✍ Kabir Das was not contemporary to any Mughal ruler. He lived during the **Lodi Dynasty** of the **Delhi Sultanate**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 **Teachings & Philosophy:** Sant Kabir Das is a prominent proponent of the **Nirguna Bhakti** tradition, which emphasizes devotion to a **formless, attribute-less God (Nirguna Brahman)**.

- ✦ He received spiritual guidance from **Ramananda**, a Bhakti saint, and **Sheikh Taqi**, a Sufi teacher. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✦ His teachings **challenged religious orthodoxy**, blind rituals, and social divisions, advocating a universal, inclusive path to God.
- ✦ He emphasized **truth, compassion, equality**, and **direct spiritual experience** over formal religion.

💡 **Literature:** Kabir composed **dohas' (couplets)** and **bhajans (devotional songs)** in **Brajbhasha, Awadhi**, and **Sant Bhasha**, playing a pivotal role in the evolution of **Hindi literature**.

- ✦ His works are marked by **simplicity, depth, and universal appeal**, often featuring **"ulatbansi"**, paradoxical verses with reversed meanings to provoke reflection.

- ✦ **Ulatbansi** (inverted or paradoxical sayings) were meant to provoke **critical introspection**, not unquestioning devotion. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

6. (B)

Exp:

💡 The Chola Empire was organized into a well-structured administrative hierarchy—**Mandalams** (provinces), **Valanadus, Nadus**, and **Urs** (villages). A Key feature of Chola governance was its **decentralized local administration**, with significant autonomy given to **Nadu councils** and **village assemblies**, which managed local affairs, revenue, and public works. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The Chola period witnessed robust internal trade. Trade was facilitated by **powerful merchant guilds** such as the **"Nanadesis"**, which operated across regions and even engaged in long-distance commerce. These guilds had considerable influence and were often involved in temple donations and civic activities. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The Cholas had a **thriving maritime trade network**, maintaining commercial relations with **West Asia, China, and Southeast Asia**. Ports like **Nagapattinam** played a crucial role, and the **Chola navy** supported overseas expeditions and secured sea routes. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Geography

7. (B)

Exp:

Glaciers:

💡 Glaciers are **slow-moving ice masses** formed over centuries from compacted snow and contain approximately **70% of the world's freshwater** supply. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ✦ They mainly exist in **polar regions** (Greenland, Canadian Arctic, Antarctica) due to **low solar insolation**, while **tropical glaciers** occur at **high altitudes** near the **Equator**, like in the **Andes**.

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✦ Glaciers **preserve climate records** dating back up to **800,000 years**, which help scientists study historical warming and cooling patterns.

💡 The **Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)** are referred to as the “**Water Tower of Asia**” and contribute approximately 40% of the **Indus River system’s water flow**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 Nepal has lost Langtang’s **Yala Glacier**, while **Venezuela** became the 2nd country after **Slovenia** to lose all its glaciers. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

8. (B)

Exp:

New Caledonia

💡 **Geography:** It is a **French overseas territory** in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, about **1,500 km east of Australia**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

✦ It includes **Grande Terre** (with capital **Nouméa**), the **Loyalty Islands** (Ouvéa, Lifou, Tiga, Maré), **Belep archipelago**, **Isle of Pines**, and **remote islands**.

💡 **Historical Background:** Inhabited **originally by Kanaks** (indigenous Melanesian inhabitants of New Caledonia), it was **seized by France in 1853**. Kanaks gained **French citizenship** post-World War II, but 1960s migration reduced their majority, sparking independence movements. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ The **Matignon Agreements (1988)** and **Nouméa Accord (1998)** promised 3 independence referendums. All votes **favoured France**, though the 2021 referendum was boycotted by pro-independence groups.

💡 **Rivers & Climate:** The longest river is the **Diahot (100 km)**. It has a **subtropical climate**, the east coast receives significantly more rainfall than the west coast.

💡 **Biodiversity:** Home to *Amborella trichopoda*, a **rare plant species** and **endemic birds** like the **kagu**.

✦ Its **lagoons** have been a **UNESCO World Heritage site** since 2008.

9. (c)

Exp:

Sikkim:

💡 **About:** **Sikkim** is the smallest state after Goa and is situated in the **northeastern** part of India in the **eastern Himalayas**.

✦ It shares borders with the **Tibet Autonomous Region of China** to the north and northeast, **Bhutan** to the southeast, the Indian state of **West Bengal** to the south, and **Nepal** to the west.

✦ After India gained independence in 1947, **Sikkim became a protectorate**, with the Indian government responsible for its defense, foreign affairs, and communications. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

📎 This status continued until 1975 when **Sikkim was formally integrated into the Indian Union as its 22nd state through the 36th Amendment of the Constitution**.

💡 **New Developments:** **Soreng district** in Sikkim will be developed as **India’s first organic fishery cluster**. To boost **tourism**, the **Pelling Ropeway** was inaugurated as part of efforts to make Sikkim a **global tourism hub**.

✦ Notably, Sikkim became the **world’s first fully organic state in 2016**.

💡 **Protected Areas:** **Kanchenjunga National Park** (**World Heritage Site** (2016), **Biosphere Reserve** (2018)), **Fambong Lho Sanctuary**, **Varsey Rhododendron Sanctuary**, **Maenam Sanctuary**, **Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary** etc. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

10. (c)

Exp:

💡 The **Brahmaputra River** originates from the **Chemayungdung Glacier in the Kailash range near Mansarovar Lake**, where it is known as the **Yarlung Tsangpo** in Tibet. Upon entering India through **Arunachal Pradesh**, it is called the **Siang or Dihang**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Drainage:** The **Brahmaputra basin** spans **Tibet (China)**, **Bhutan**, **India**, and **Bangladesh**.

✦ It enters India west of **Sadiya town** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, with its catchment area across **Arunachal Pradesh**, **Assam**, **West Bengal**, **Meghalaya**, **Nagaland**, and **Sikkim**.

✦ In India **Brahmaputra** is bounded by the **Himalayas (north and west)**, **Patkari hills (east)**, and **Assam hills (south)**.

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- ✦ Brahmaputra River is known as the **Jamuna River** after it is joined by the **Teesta River**. From there, it flows south and eventually joins the **Ganges** (which is known as the Padma in Bangladesh) near **Goalundo Ghat (Bangladesh)**, creating a combined stream called the **Padma**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

✍ The Padma eventually joins the Meghna River, and together they flow into the Bay of Bengal.

11. (A)

Exp:

Mount Etna:

- 💡 Mount Etna, Europe's largest and one of the world's most active volcanoes, has begun erupting.
- 💡 It is located on Sicily's east coast in the Mediterranean Sea, it is part of Italy.
- 💡 It is a continuously active stratovolcano with five summit craters, known for explosive, effusive, and mixed eruptions.
 - ✦ Etna has been a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 2013.
- 💡 Mount Etna's eruption was initially classified as a **Strombolian eruption**, involving moderate gas-driven explosions due to bursting gas bubbles.
 - ✦ However, due to its high ash plume reaching several kilometres, some experts suggest it may have been a more explosive Plinian eruption. Hence, option A is correct.

12. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Chenab** River originates near the **Bara Lacha Pass** in the **Lahaul-Spiti** part of the **Zaskar Range** in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- 💡 The river Chenab (or Chandra Bhaga) is formed after the two streams the **Chandra** and the **Bhaga** merge with each other at **Tandi**, in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- 💡 **Chenab** is the **largest tributary of the Indus River**.
- 💡 In India, the watershed of the Chenab basin covers part of **Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir**. Hence, option B is correct.

13. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 Nickel is a **silvery-white metallic element**, the **5th-most common on Earth**, found widely in the **crust (80 ppm)** and forming a major part of the **Earth's core** as a **nickel-iron alloy**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ✦ It also occurs in **meteorites, soil, and water**, and is an **essential nutrient for plants**.

💡 **Reserves:** **Australia, United States, Brazil, Canada**, and **China** have the largest global nickel reserves.

- ✦ In India, **nickel occurs in lateritic deposits of Sukinda Valley, Odisha**, but is **not produced from primary sources**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

✍ Nickel is also found in **sulphide form** alongside **copper mineralization** in the **East Singhbhum** district of **Jharkhand**.

💡 **Applications:** **Stainless steel production, Rechargeable batteries** (e.g., **lithium-ion batteries** for **EVs**), **Alloys** (e.g., **aerospace**), **Electroplating, coinage**, and **catalysts** in chemical industries. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

14. (C)

Exp:

💡 The **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted **in-principle forest clearance** for the **3,097 MW Etalin run-of-the-river hydropower project**.

💡 The **Etalin Hydropower Project** is a **Run-of-the-River (ROR)** hydroelectric project situated in the **Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh**, within the **Eastern Himalaya Global Biodiversity Hotspot**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The project involves two gravity dams, one on the **Dri River** and another on the **Talo (Tangon) River**, both tributaries of the **Dibang River (tributary of Brahmaputra)**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

15. (B)

Exp:

💡 **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)** is an ambitious initiative of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** which aims to develop technologies and capabilities for deep sea exploration. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ✦ It is also one of nine missions under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC).

💡 Under the **Deep Ocean Mission**, a manned **submersible Matsya 6000** is being developed to house a **2.1-metre internal diameter Titanium alloy personnel sphere** for safely carrying humans to a 6000 m depth. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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16. (C)

Exp:

- 🔦 **Marine snow** refers to a **continuous fall of organic particles** from the **ocean's surface** to its deeper layers. It is composed of **dead plankton, fecal pellets, mucus, and other biological debris**. These particles **aggregate and slowly sink**, resembling falling snow.
- 🔦 It serves as a **vital food source for deep-sea organisms** in regions where **sunlight does not penetrate** and photosynthesis is absent. Marine snow plays a **key role in the oceanic carbon cycle** by transferring carbon from the surface to the deep ocean, aiding **long-term carbon sequestration** and helping **regulate the Earth's climate**. Hence, option C is correct.

17. (A)

Exp:

- 🔦 Glaciers store about **three-quarters of the Earth's freshwater**, making them the **largest reservoir of freshwater** on Earth, more than all rivers and lakes combined. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 🔦 The **majority of Earth's glaciers (about 91%) are located in Antarctica**, which lies in the **Southern Hemisphere**.
 - ✖ Only about 8% are in Greenland (Northern Hemisphere), so the bulk is not in the Northern Hemisphere. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 🔦 **Firnification** is the process by which **snow compacts and transforms into firn**, a dense, grainy intermediate stage between snow and glacial ice. This process is crucial in the formation of glaciers. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

18. (B)

Exp:

- 🔦 **Moho Discontinuity**: The Moho Discontinuity is the boundary between the Earth's **lower crust** and the **upper mantle**. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.
- 🔦 **Conrad Discontinuity**: The Conrad Discontinuity marks the boundary between the **upper crust** and the **lower crust**. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.
- 🔦 **Lehmann Discontinuity**: The Lehmann Discontinuity separates the **inner core** and the **outer core**. Hence, **pair 3 is not correctly matched**.
- 🔦 **Gutenberg Discontinuity**: The Gutenberg Discontinuity marks the boundary between the **lower mantle** and the **outer core**. Hence, **pair 4 is not correctly matched**. Hence, option B is correct.

Polity & Governance

19. (C)

Exp:

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

- 🔦 **About**: It is **India's first comprehensive data protection law**, offering a **legal framework** for handling digital personal data, to safeguard individual privacy while permitting lawful data processing.
- 🔦 **Applicability**: The Act applies to **digital personal data processed within India**, whether **collected digitally or digitized later** and to **data processing outside India** if done for **offering goods or services in India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✖ It **does not apply** to **personal data** used for **personal purposes** or data **made public** by the **Data Principal** or under a **legal obligation**.
- 🔦 **Consent**: Personal data can be processed only for a lawful purpose with the consent of the Data Principal, who may withdraw consent anytime. For children or persons with disabilities, it must be given by a **parent or legal guardian**.
 - ✖ Under **Section 9 of the DPDP Act, 2023**, **verifiable parental consent** is mandatory before processing **children's data**, and it **prohibits harmful processing and advertising targeting minors under 18 years**.
- 🔦 **Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDF)**: The Central Government may designate certain Data Fiduciaries as **SDF** based on factors like **data volume, sensitivity, risk to individual rights**, and threats to **national security, sovereignty, democracy, and public order**.
 - ✖ SDFs have extra duties, including appointing a **Data Protection Officer**, an **independent auditor**, and conducting **impact assessments**.
- 🔦 **Exemptions**: Rights of the data principal and obligations of data fiduciaries (**except data security**) will not apply in specified cases, including:
 - ✖ For **notified agencies**, in the interest of **security, sovereignty, public order**, etc.
 - ✖ For **research**, archiving or statistical purposes.
 - ✖ For **start-ups** or other notified categories of Data Fiduciaries for research purposes. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ✖ To **enforce legal rights and claims**, or **Prevention and investigation of offences**

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- ✦ To perform **judicial or regulatory functions**;
- ✦ To process in India **personal data of non-residents** under a foreign contract.

💡 **Data Protection Board of India (DPBI):** The Act provides for the establishment of the **DPBI** by the **Central Government**, with members appointed for **two years** and eligible for **reappointment**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ✦ Its functions include monitoring compliance, imposing penalties, handling data breach responses, hearing grievances, and appeals can be made to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.

20. (A)

Explanation:

NITI Aayog:

💡 It is an **advisory body (think-tank)** to the government, **established in 2015 through an executive resolution** of the Union Cabinet, replacing the erstwhile Planning Commission.

- ✦ Since it was created by an executive resolution and not by a statutory provision, **it is not a statutory body**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**:

💡 NITI Aayog plays a pivotal role in advancing **cooperative federalism** by engaging States and UTs in the planning process and enabling **good governance** through evidence-based policy and inclusive development.

💡 It has developed the **E-Amrit portal as a one-stop platform** for electric vehicle-related information, in collaboration with the UK government under the UK–India Joint Roadmap 2030. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**:

💡 The **CEO of NITI Aayog** is appointed by the **Prime Minister**, not the **Home Minister**. The CEO holds the rank of **Secretary to the Government of India**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

21. (D)

Exp:

Article 240:

💡 **Article 240** empowers the **President** to make **regulations** for the **peace and good governance** of certain **Union Territories**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The rules under the article have the same force as **Acts of Parliament** and the power to **amend or repeal existing laws**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ✦ To address the **long-standing demands** for **job reservations, language recognition, and political representation** of Ladakh's people, the Centre has issued **few regulations for Ladakh under Article 240**, rather than granting the **Sixth Schedule status** as was widely requested.

- ✦ **Sixth Schedule status** is being demanded because, unlike regulations issued under **Article 240**—which can be **revoked or amended unilaterally by the Centre**— the **Sixth Schedule is constitutionally protected**, ensuring greater **autonomy and security for local governance**.

22. (A)

Exp:

💡 **Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI)** is an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** with the objective to **boost domestic manufacturing of electric passenger cars (e-4W)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Key Features of SPMEPCI:**

- ✦ **Customs Duty Concession:** Approved applicants can import **Completely Built-in Units (CBUs)** of electric passenger cars with a **minimum cost of USD 35,000** at a reduced **customs duty of 15%**.

📎 This benefit will be available for **five years** from the approval date, with a cap on imports **set at 8,000 units per year**.

- ✦ **Investment Commitment:** Applicants must invest a minimum of **Rs 4,150 crore within 3 years**, establish manufacturing units, and commence production in that timeframe.

💡 **Domestic Value Addition (DVA):** Applicants must achieve at least **25% DVA within 3 years and 50% within 5 years** under the scheme, aligned with the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

23. (D)

Exp:

💡 **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** was **established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**. It is an autonomous statutory body under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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💡 FSSAI's **functions include** framing food regulations, granting licenses to food businesses, enforcing food safety laws, monitoring food quality, conducting risk assessments, promoting food fortification and organic foods, and providing training and awareness programs.

💡 FSSAI introduced a risk-based framework aligned with international best practices (**Codex Alimentarius**), incorporating **Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)** for pesticides, **Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI)** for food additives, and setting **standards for veterinary drug residues** and naturally occurring toxins. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ It also organizes campaigns such as **World Food Safety Day, Eat Right India, Eat Right Station, Food Safety Mitra, and 100 Food Streets.**

💡 FSSAI releases the **State Food Safety Index (SFSI)** to evaluate the performance of states/UTs on food safety across five key parameters: Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building, and Consumer Empowerment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

24. (A)

Exp:

ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram:

💡 **About:** ULLAS is a **centrally sponsored scheme** being implemented from **2022 to 2027**, designed to **empower adults aged 15 years and above** who missed out on formal schooling. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ It aimed at promoting **Education for All**, earlier known as Adult Education and it is in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

💡 **Objective:** Its target is to achieve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for 5 crore learners during FY 2022–27 (1 crore learners per year).

💡 **5 Key Components of Scheme:** Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills & Continuing Education.

💡 **Implementation Mechanism:** Scheme is implemented through **volunteerism in hybrid** (both in online and offline) mode to instill social responsibility and a strong sense of duty ('Kartavya Bodh') among citizens.

💡 **Key Features:**

✦ Incorporates the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**, held **twice a year** or as needed in **local schools** for evaluation and certification. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

✦ Offers access to learning resources through the **DIKSHA platform** and **ULLAS mobile/web portal**, with support for **22 Indian languages**, promoting inclusive and multilingual education across regions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

25. (B)

Exp:

💡 **Public Distribution System (PDS):** The PDS is a **food security mechanism** that provides **essential food grains at subsidized rates** to vulnerable populations. It is governed by the **NFSA, 2013** covering about **two-thirds of the population** based on **Census 2011**.

💡 **Implementation:** PDS is jointly managed by the **Centre and States/UTs**, the **Central Government** (through Food Corporation of India) oversees procurement, storage, transportation, and bulk allocation of food grains. While **State Governments** handle local distribution, beneficiary identification, ration card issuance, and Fair Price Shop (FPS) operations. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Anna Chakra** is a **supply chain optimization tool** for the PDS to reduce transport distances by 15–50% and save Rs 250 crore annually. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

26. (D)

Exp:

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):

💡 NeVA is a workflow-based digital platform launched under the "One Nation, One Application" initiative to digitise legislative functioning in a paperless, efficient, and transparent manner. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Funded entirely through central assistance by the **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs** and hosted on NIC Cloud – MeghRaj. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ **Nagaland became the first state** to implement NeVA in 2022.

💡 Recently, the Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting & Parliamentary Affairs inaugurated the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) platform** for the **Puducherry Legislative Assembly**.

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27. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The President can modify the constitutional distribution of revenues between the Centre and states, including reducing or cancelling transfers.
 - ✦ Such modifications remain valid till the end of the financial year in which the Emergency ends, and every order must be laid before both Houses of Parliament. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 Article 358 automatically suspends Article 19 for the entire duration of a National Emergency declared on grounds of war or external aggression (External Emergency). It applies only to Article 19 and extends to the entire country. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Lok Sabha may be extended beyond its normal term (5 years) by a law of Parliament for one year at a time (for any length of time). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

28. (A)

Exp:

- 💡 Entry 34 of List II (State List) in the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution assigns the regulation of gaming, betting, and gambling exclusively to the State legislatures. Therefore, each State in India has the authority to make laws governing online gaming and betting within its territory. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Foreign investment and technology collaboration in the lottery, gambling, and betting sectors are completely banned under current Indian laws. This prohibition aims to curb external influence and control over these sectors, given their sensitive and often controversial nature. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

29. (C)

- 💡 Article 18(1) of the Indian Constitution abolishes and prohibits the state from conferring titles on individuals, except for military and academic distinctions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ✦ Awards like Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, and Padma Shri are exempt as they recognize exceptional work.
- 💡 In *Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India (1996)*, the court ruled that national awards are not titles under Article 18(1).

- 💡 Padma Awards are generally not given posthumously, and a higher category award is only granted after five years unless the Awards Committee makes an exception.

✦ The award is not a title and cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

✦ It is limited to a maximum of 120 awards per year (excluding posthumous, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), foreigners, and Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) recipients).

30. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 The Public Distribution System (PDS) is governed by the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, which legally entitled about 67% (two-thirds) of the population to receive subsidized food grains. The population coverage is based on Census 2011 data. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 PDS is a joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Centre, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), handles procurement, storage, transportation, and bulk allocation of food grains. The States/UTs manage the identification of beneficiaries, distribution of foodgrains, and operation of Fair Price Shops (FPS). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Anna Chakra is a logistics optimization tool designed to reduce transport distances by 15–50% and cut costs by Rs 250 crore annually, enhancing PDS efficiency. SCAN (System for Computerized Allocation and Notification) is an automated, rule-based portal that digitizes and simplifies the process of food subsidy claim settlements, improving transparency and accountability. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

31. (D)

Exp:

- 💡 e-NAM (Electronic National Agriculture Market) is a pan-India electronic trading portal that networks existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. It falls under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- 💡 SVAMITVA Scheme, under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, provides property rights to village households using drone mapping and is aimed at rural spatial planning. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

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- UDYAM Registration Portal, operated by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), is a simplified registration platform for MSMEs to access government schemes and benefits. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched. Hence, option D is correct.

Social Issues

32. (A)

Exp:

Legal Frameworks for SCs and STs:

- Under Article 342, the President of India, in consultation with the Governor of the concerned state, is empowered to specify the STs for each state or union territory.
- Article 46 directs the state to promote the educational and economic interests of SCs.
- Article 338 establishes the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to safeguard the rights of SCs. Hence, option A is correct.

33. (C)

Exp:

Global Gender Gap Index:

- Recently, India ranked 131st out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum, down from 129th in 2024, with a gender parity score of 64.1%.
- Published annually since 2006, it is the longest-standing global index for assessing gender equality, measuring countries' progress in closing gender gaps across 4 key dimensions:
 - Economic Participation and Opportunity
 - Educational Attainment
 - Health & Survival
 - Political Empowerment
- Each dimension is scored on a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 represents full gender parity and 0 denotes complete inequality. Hence, option C is correct.

34. (A)

Exp:

- A Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 is considered the replacement level fertility in most countries. It ensures that a population replaces itself from one generation to the next without growth or decline, accounting for child mortality and sex ratio at birth. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Countries with below-replacement fertility (TFR < 2.1), such as Japan, South Korea, and Italy, are already facing issues like a shrinking workforce, ageing population, and rising pension and healthcare costs. These trends lead to economic stagnation and increased fiscal burden. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- While India has entered the demographic dividend phase, it has not fully realised it. There are significant inter-state variations in fertility and dependency ratios. Moreover, labour force participation, especially among women and youth, remains low, and skilling levels are inadequate in many regions. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Agriculture & Allied Sector

35. (B)

Exp:

- Gross Irrigated Area (GIA) is the sum total of the areas irrigated under all crops over the various seasons in the agricultural year. Under GIA, area irrigated twice/thrice in the same year is counted as two/three times. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding as well as priority of execution and completion of irrigation projects is within the purview of respective State Governments. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - However, the Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for expeditious completion of selected projects as per guidelines of the Programme.
- PMKSY is amalgamation of various schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), PMKSY –Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP), PMKSY - Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) (Implemented by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare) and PMKSY - Watershed Development (WD) (Implemented by Department of Land Resources). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

36. (C)

Exp:

Heeng:

- This plant is a perennial herb belonging to the Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) family.

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✦ The **oleo-gum resin**, extracted from the **plant's thick root** after **5 years of maturity**, forms the edible **asafoetida** used in **culinary and medicinal applications**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 Heeng **thrives in cold, arid climates**, making regions like **Iran, Afghanistan**, and **India's Lahaul-Spiti and Uttarkashi** ideal for its cultivation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ The plant prefers **sandy, well-drained soils** with minimal moisture. It requires temperatures between **10-20°C** but can tolerate extremes of **40°C in the heat and -4°C in the cold**.

✦ It also needs **very little rainfall (under 300 mm annually)** for optimal growth.

💡 After about 5 years of continuous effort, the first flowering and seed setting of heeng (asafoetida) at IHBT Palampur were **successfully reported**. This achievement is a landmark milestone in heeng cultivation, demonstrating that the **plant can be acclimatized to Indian conditions**.

✦ In 2020, the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur launched a national mission to introduce heeng cultivation with plantation in Kwaring village, Lahaul Valley (HP), using seeds sourced from Iran and Afghanistan.

37. (A)

Exp:

💡 India is the **largest** producer (25% of global production), consumer (27% of world consumption) and importer (14%) of pulses in the world. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 Pulses are grown **throughout the agricultural year** (Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid seasons). Rabi pulses like gram, chana, masoor need a cold climate during growth and warmth at maturity. Kharif pulses such as moong, urad require a warm climate. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 Being leguminous crops, all Pulses except arhar help in restoring soil fertility by fixing nitrogen from the air. Therefore, these are mostly grown in rotation with other crops. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Environment & Ecology

38. (B)

Exp:

💡 **Most Endangered Primates:** The **Cross River Gorilla** and **Tapanuli Orangutan** are highlighted as **critically endangered** in the report. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.

💡 **Cross River gorillas** are scattered in at least **11 groups** in Cameroon and Nigeria, while the **Tapanuli orangutan**, the most endangered great ape, has fewer than **800 individuals**. Both are listed as **Critically Endangered** by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched**.

💡 **Behaviour:** Gibbons are **arboreal** and navigate the canopy by **leaping and swinging**, with an **omnivorous diet** of plants, invertebrates, and bird eggs. It is listed under **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and is listed as **Endangered** in **IUCN Red list**. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**. Hence, **option B is correct**.

39. (B)

Exp:

Lady's Slipper Orchid:

💡 **Taxonomy:** It belongs to the subfamily **Cypripedioideae** (Orchidaceae) and known for their distinctive **slipper-shaped labellum** that aids **pollination by trapping insects**.

💡 **Species & Distribution:** Species are found in boreal, temperate, and tropical regions of Europe, Asia, and North America. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

✦ **Cypripedium** and **Paphiopedilum** are found in India, mainly in Himalayan states (J&K, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh) and Northeast hills. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 **Habitat & Ecology:** Grow in moist, shady, cool temperate forests and alpine zones, requiring humus-rich, well-drained soils. Some species sprout under snow, like *C. guttatum* and *C. passerinum* in Alaska.

💡 **Conservation Efforts:** Led by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and other institutions, involving in-situ and ex-situ conservation, tissue culture propagation, and habitat restoration.

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💡 **Conservation Status:**

- ✦ **CITES:** Appendix I & II
 - ✦ **IUCN Red List:** Critically endangered/Endangered
 - ✦ **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule III
- Hence, statement 3 is correct.

40. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, **established in 1971**, is an international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands and promoting their sustainable use globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 India ratified the Convention in 1982. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The Ramsar Convention categorises various natural and human-made diverse water bodies, and habitats as wetlands:
 - ✦ **Natural**— Oases, estuaries, deltas, mangroves, coastal areas, coral reefs
 - ✦ **Human**— Fishponds, rice paddies, and reservoirs.
- 💡 Recently, the **Khichan (Phalodi) and Menar (Udaipur) wetlands in Rajasthan** have been declared **Ramsar Sites**, bringing India's total to **91**, the highest in Asia.

41. (A)

Exp:

The Current State of Renewable Energy Development in India:

- 💡 **Status:** India ranks **3rd in solar**, **4th in wind**, and **4th in total renewable energy capacity** globally. Solar capacity surged from 2.63 GW in 2014 to 108 GW in 2025 (a 41-fold increase), while wind capacity has crossed 51 GW.
 - ✦ It aims to achieve **500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030** and **1,800 GW by 2047**.
 - 💡 India's Source-wise Electricity Installed Capacity in 2025:
 - ✦ **Coal:** 46.42%
 - ✦ **Solar:** 22.85%
 - ✦ **Wind:** 10.81%
 - ✦ **Hydro:** 10.14%
 - ✦ **Oil & Gas:** 4.39 %
 - ✦ **Bio Power:** 2.45 %
 - ✦ **Nuclear:** 1.86%
 - ✦ **Small Hydro:** 1.08%
 - 💡 **Thus, the correct order in terms of descending share will be:** Solar > Wind > Hydro > Oil & Gas > Nuclear
- Hence, option A is correct.

42. (B)

Exp:

World Energy Investment Report 2025:

- 💡 The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** released the **10th edition of its World Energy Investment Report**, revealing critical insights into worldwide energy investment trends. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Energy Investment Trends:** Global energy investment is projected to reach a **record USD 3.3 trillion**. Of this, **clean energy technologies** will attract **USD 2.2 trillion**, **twice the investment** in fossil fuels (**USD 1.1 trillion**).
 - ✦ This surge reflects efforts to cut emissions, enhance energy security, and leverage the cost competitiveness of electricity-based solutions.
- 💡 **Clean Energy Investment:** Global spending on **low-emissions power generation** has nearly **doubled in five years**, led by solar PV, with solar investment expected to reach USD 450 billion in 2025. Battery storage is also rising sharply, surpassing USD 65 billion this year.
 - ✦ **Nuclear power investment** has grown by **50%**, projected to reach **USD 75 billion** in 2025.
- 💡 **India Stand in Global Energy Investment:** India's renewable power investment rose from **USD 13 billion (2015) to USD 37 billion (2025)**.
 - ✦ **Fossil fuel investments** also increased, from **USD 41 billion to USD 49 billion**, while **nuclear and other clean sources** grew from **USD 1 billion to USD 6 billion**.
 - ✦ However, **grid and storage investments** declined from **USD 31 billion to USD 25 billion** over the same period. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

43. (C)

Exp:

Great Indian Bustard (GIB):

- 💡 It is among the **heaviest flying birds** in the world and is recognized as the state bird of Rajasthan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ It is mainly found in Rajasthan's Thar Desert, with small populations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- 💡 **Being omnivorous**, it serves as an **indicator species**, reflecting the health of grassland ecosystems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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✦ Their decline signals degradation of native grasslands.

💡 While it is classified as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List, it is protected under **Schedule I** (highest level of protection) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Project GIB** (launched in 2018) is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment, the Wildlife Institute of India, and the Rajasthan Forest Department.

44. (c)

Exp:

Indian Grey Wolf:

💡 The **Indian Grey Wolf** is a subspecies of the **Grey Wolf** native to the **Indian subcontinent** and **Southwest Asia**.

✦ It is **nocturnal** and an **apex predator** that hunts in **small packs** and is **less vocal** compared to other wolf subspecies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 A **carnivore** of the **Canidae** family, the Indian Grey Wolf is **intermediate in size** between the **Tibetan** and **Arabian wolves** and **lacks a thick winter coat**, adapting to warmer climates. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

45. (c)

Exp:

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:

💡 It provides a **comprehensive legal framework** for the **protection of wild animals, birds, and plants**, the management of their habitats, and the regulation of trade in wildlife and related products.

💡 The Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972, comprises six schedules, with Schedule I & II providing absolute protection to endangered species. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ **Schedule III & IV:** These cover animals that are **not at risk of extinction**, with **penalties less severe than those in Schedules I and II**.

✦ **Schedule V:** This schedule lists animals, like ducks and deer, that **can be hunted with a license**.

✦ **Schedule VI:** It addresses the protection of **plants and supports the establishment of protected animal parks**.

💡 **Section 9:** No person shall hunt any wild animal listed in **Schedules I, II, III, and IV**, except as permitted under Sections 11 and 12.

💡 **As per Section 11**, the **Chief Wildlife Warden** may permit killing if the animal threatens human life or is incurably diseased, and cannot be captured or relocated. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

46. (c)

Exp:

Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*):

💡 It is the **smallest flamingo** species, found across **sub-Saharan Africa**, and in parts of **India, Pakistan, and the Arabian Gulf**.

💡 In India, it primarily inhabits **brackish and coastal water bodies**.

✦ The **alkaline and saline wetlands of Gujarat and Rajasthan**, particularly the **Rann of Kutch and Sambhar Lake**, are significant breeding grounds for Lesser Flamingos in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 It is classified as **Near Threatened** by the IUCN, listed under **CITES Appendix II** and under **Schedule IV** of **WPA, 1972**.

💡 They feed on **algae, molluscs, and crustaceans**. Their **plumage colour**, ranging from **white to pink to orange**, is determined by **carotenoid pigments** in their diet. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

47. (d)

Exp:

💡 A **bee** is an **insect** with a body divided into a **head (with two antennae)**, **thorax (with six legs)**, and **abdomen**. It has **branched hairs**, **two pairs of wings**, and **only females have stingers** (modified ovipositors). Bees feed exclusively on **nectar and pollen**, unlike their **carnivorous wasp ancestors**.

💡 All **female bees can sting**, but only **when threatened**; **honey bees** are more aggressive as they defend their **hives of honey and larvae**, unlike **solitary native bees**.

💡 Honeybees have a dance move called the '**waggle dance**'. It's not actually a dance move at all, rather a **clever way of communicating** between themselves to tell their nestmates where to go to find the best source of food.

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- Native bees of India include the **Indian Honey Bee**, **Giant Rock Bee**, **Asian Dwarf Bee**, and **Stingless Bee**. Hence, option D is correct.

48. (B)

Exp:

Wetlands:

- Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland, or water (natural or artificial) with water that is static or flowing, including marine areas with a depth not exceeding six meters.
 - Wetlands are ecotones, having land transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Montreux Record** (threatened list) lists wetlands with deteriorating ecological character due to human activity or pollution. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - India has two wetlands in the Montreux Records, namely, Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan (1990), and Loktak Lake, Manipur (1993). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - Chilika Lake was included in the Montreux Record in 1993 but was removed in 2002 (the first site from Asia).
- The **Khichan (Phalodi) and Menar (Udaipur) wetlands** in Rajasthan have been declared Ramsar Sites, bringing India's total to **91, the highest in Asia**.
 - The Ramsar Convention was adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, and provides a global framework for wetland conservation and wise use.
 - India joined it in 1982.

49. (C)

Exp:

- The **Khichan (Phalodi) and Menar (Udaipur) wetlands** in Rajasthan have been declared Ramsar Sites, bringing India's total to **91, the highest in Asia**. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
 - Rajasthan now has **4 Ramsar Sites**, including **Sambhar Lake** (Nagaur & Jaipur) and **Keoladeo Ghana National Park** (Bharatpur).
- Kabartal Wetland**, designated a Ramsar site in 2020 and is located in Bihar. It is also known as **Kanwar Lake**. It is a residual oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of Gandak river, a tributary of Ganga. It covers the majority of the Indo-Gangetic plains in northern Bihar. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

- In 1981, **Chilika Lake** was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is located on the eastern coast of India, in the state of Odisha. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

- Loktak Lake, Manipur (1993)**: The largest freshwater lake in Northeast India, known for its Phumdis (floating masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter). Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched. Hence, option C is correct.

Economy

50. (C)

Exp:

Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):

- About: The LRS, introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2004 with an initial limit of **USD 25,000 per financial year**, now permits resident individuals to remit up to **USD 250,000** annually for approved current or capital account transactions. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Eligibility: Only resident individuals are eligible. The scheme excludes corporates, Hindu Undivided Family (HUFs), partnership firms, and trusts. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Prohibited Transactions: Purchase of lottery tickets, banned magazines, transactions with FATF non-compliant countries, gifting in foreign currency to another Indian resident's foreign account etc.
- No foreign currency accounts in India: Residents cannot open foreign currency accounts within India under LRS. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

51. (A)

Exp:

Key Takeaways from RBI Annual Report 2024-25 :

- Monetary Policy and Liquidity: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the repo rate at 6.50% through much of 2024-25 but shifted the stance from "withdrawal of accommodation" to "neutral" in October 2024. Hence, statement I is correct.
 - A "withdrawal of accommodation" refers to a more restrictive monetary policy stance where the RBI aims to reduce the money supply in the economy. This involves increasing interest rates to curb inflationary pressures. Hence, statement II is correct.

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✦ A “neutral stance” indicates that the RBI maintains flexibility in adjusting policy rates based on prevailing economic conditions. This means that the central bank is open to either increasing or decreasing interest rates, depending on data related to inflation and economic growth. **Hence, statement III is correct.**

💡 Therefore, option A is correct because both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.

52. (B)

Exp:

💡 Treasury Bills (T-Bills) are **short-term debt instruments** issued by the **Government of India** through the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 They form part of **Government Securities (G-Secs)** and help raise short-term funds. are **zero-coupon securities**, meaning they **do not pay periodic interest**.

✦ Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at face value on maturity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Gains from T-Bills are **taxable as short-term capital gains**, and their fixed returns may be eroded by **inflation**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

53. (A)

Exp:

💡 Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or 2013, primarily engaged in lending, investments in securities, leasing, or hire-purchase. It excludes entities whose main business is agriculture, industry, trade in goods/services, or real estate.

💡 Unlike banks, **NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits**, and are not part of the payment and settlement system (so they **cannot issue cheques**). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** regulates and supervises the **NBFCs** and the depositors under NBFCs are not protected by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

✦ DICGC was established under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961. It **provides deposit insurance and credit guarantees** for Indian banks and is a wholly owned subsidiary governed by the RBI.

54. (A)

Exp:

💡 **IREDA**, established in **1987** under the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, is **India's largest green financing NBFC**, exclusively dedicated to promoting and **financing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects**.

✦ It is dedicated exclusively to providing financial support for renewable energy and energy efficiency/conservation projects. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **IREDA** raises capital to fund clean energy initiatives through various means, including **green bonds, tax-free bonds, and other market-based instruments**. This enables it to support a broad range of sustainable energy projects in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **IREDA** is **not directly mandated to implement schemes** like **PM-KUSUM** (which promotes solar pumps and grid-connected renewable power plants for farmers) or the **PLI scheme for Solar PV modules**.

✦ These are **implemented by MNRE** or its designated agencies. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

55. (A)

Exp:

💡 **Fiscal deficit** occurs when the **government's total expenditure exceeds its total revenue excluding borrowings**. This means the **government needs to borrow to meet the gap**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 While a high fiscal deficit can contribute to inflationary pressures, it **does not always lead to higher inflation**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

✦ Inflation **depends on multiple factors** including monetary policy, supply-side conditions, and demand in the economy.

💡 Fiscal deficit is mainly financed through government borrowings from the market, the Reserve Bank of India, and other sources. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

56. (C)

Exp:

💡 **Quality Council of India (QCI)** was established in **1997** as an **autonomous body under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. Its chairperson is

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appointed by the Prime Minister of India based on recommendations from the industry, highlighting high-level involvement and oversight. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- QCI was formed through a **unique public-private partnership**, and its governing body includes key industry associations such as **ASSOCHAM, CII, and FICCI**. This structure ensures a **strong collaboration between the government and industry** for promoting quality standards across sectors. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

57. (A)

Exp:

- Key Economic Reports and Publishing Bodies:
 - Global Risks Report is published by the World Economic Forum. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
 - World Economic Outlook is published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
 - The World Investment Report is published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
- The Global Economic Prospects Report is published by the World Bank, not the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched. Hence, option A is correct.

58. (D)

Exp

Special Economic Zones (SEZ):

- A SEZ is a duty-free enclave treated as **foreign territory** for the purpose of **trade, tariffs, and operations**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- SEZs were first introduced in **India in 2000** under the **Foreign Trade Policy**, replacing the earlier Export Processing Zones (EPZs). They are governed by the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Any **private/public/joint sector or State Government** or its **agencies** can set up SEZ. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The **Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) Bill, 2022** aims to replace the SEZ Act, 2005 and transform SEZs into more flexible and inclusive Development Hubs.

- These hubs will be **exempt from many existing regulatory restrictions** and will support **both export-oriented and domestic investments**, functioning as **integrated zones** for international and domestic trade.

- SEZ Types:** The area under SEZ includes a wide range of zone types, such as Export Processing Zones (EPZ), Free Zones (FZ), Industrial Estates (IE), Free Trade Zones (FTZ), Free Ports, Urban Enterprise Zones, and others.

- Currently, **276 SEZs** are operational in India. Total exports from SEZs in 2023-2024 stood at USD 163.69 billion.

- E.g., Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City, India).

Defence & Security

59. (A)

Exp:

- India currently operates **three research stations** for polar and ocean research missions, namely Bharati and Maitri in Antarctica, and Himadri in the Arctic. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE)**, a Government of India undertaking, has signed an MoU with Norway's Kongsberg firm to develop India's **first indigenously built Polar Research Vessel (PRV)**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- A PRV is a ship that supports research in the polar regions (around the North and South Poles) and ocean areas, tailored to the needs of the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research**.

- The vessel will be equipped with **advanced scientific instruments** to explore marine ecosystems and **deep-sea biodiversity** in polar and southern ocean realms.

60. (A)

Exp:

- FPV drones are **remotely operated unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** equipped with a front-facing camera that transmits **live video feed** to the operator, giving a "pilot's-eye view." Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- Unlike fully autonomous drones, FPV drones require **continuous manual control**, typically via a remote controller or FPV goggles. They are not designed for autonomous navigation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

61. (C)

Exp:

- Garuda Shakti** is a bilateral military exercise conducted between **India and Indonesia**. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Exercise **YUDH ABHYAS** has been held annually since 2004, alternating **between India and the USA**. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Surya Kiran** is a joint annual military exercise **between India and Nepal** aimed at enhancing military cooperation in mountainous terrains. The exercise focuses on strengthening humanitarian assistance in disaster scenarios, training in counter-terrorism operations. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- KHAAN QUEST** is a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise that began in 2003 as a bilateral drill between the US and Mongolian Armed Forces. India participated in its 22nd edition in 2025. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched. Hence, option C is correct.**

Science & Tech

62. D

Exp:

- The Kuiper Belt is a **vast, doughnut-shaped** region of **icy bodies and dwarf planets** orbiting the Sun beyond Neptune. It is often called the **"outer solar system's asteroid belt"**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Ceres is the only dwarf planet located in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Pluto is the largest and brightest known dwarf planet. It is present in the Kuiper Belt. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

63. (B)

Exp:

Radio Waves:

- Radio waves have the longest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum**, ranging from the size of a football to larger than the planet Earth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Eg. Emissions from Jupiter's ionosphere have wavelengths about 15 meters in length.

- Heinrich Hertz proved the existence of radio waves in the late 1880s using a spark gap and induction coil.

- Hertz demonstrated that radio waves possess all the properties of electromagnetic waves, confirming their nature.

- Radios tune to specific frequencies of radio waves, converting them into sound waves that can be heard through mechanical vibrations in the speaker.

- Astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields**, such as the Sun, Earth, and Jupiter, **emit radio waves**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Like x-rays, **radio waves are also used in medical imaging.**

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)** uses **radiofrequency (RF) waves** in conjunction with powerful magnetic fields to generate detailed images of the internal structures of the body. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

64. (A)

Exp:

- Pulsars are rapidly rotating neutron stars that emit beams of electromagnetic radiation**, which appear as **periodic pulses** when aligned with the Earth's line of sight. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- They have **strong magnetic fields** that funnel particles along their magnetic poles accelerating them to relativistic speeds, which produces two powerful beams of light, one from each pole.

- The **periodicity of pulsars is caused by these beams of light crossing the line of sight on Earth**, with the pulsar appearing to 'switch off' at points when the light is facing away from Earth.

- The time between these pulses is the **'period' of the pulsar**. The time between each pulse is directly related to the rotational speed of the neutron star.

- The periodicity is due to the **stable rotational motion of the neutron star, not fluctuations in magnetic field strength**. Pulsars are known for their remarkably regular timing. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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65. (D)

Exp:

BharatGen

💡 **About:** It is India's first indigenously developed, government-funded Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) in 22 Indian languages. Hence, statement I is not correct.

✖ **Multimodal LLMs** are large language models trained on **diverse data types** (text, images, audio, and video), enabling them to **understand and interpret complex human language and multimedia**. Hence, statement II is correct.

📌 They **overcome limitations of unimodal models** (such as earlier versions of ChatGPT) by **providing cohesive responses across multiple data forms**.

💡 **Developed Under:** **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**, implemented by the **TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay**.

✖ **NM-ICPS** was launched in **2018** by the **Ministry of Science and Technology** to promote innovation and R&D in **Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)** and **new-age technologies**.

💡 **Objectives:** **Promote ethical, inclusive, multilingual AI rooted in Indian values**, provide **region-specific solutions in healthcare, agriculture, education, and governance**, and **boost rural telemedicine** with AI doctors speaking native languages.

Thus, option D is correct because Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

66. (C)

Exp:

💡 **Phytoplankton** are **plant-like organisms** that perform **photosynthesis**, **converting sunlight into chemical energy**, and are vital for **producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✖ **E.g., Cyanobacteria, Blue-green algae, diatoms, dinoflagellates.**

💡 Phytoplankton depend on nutrients like **phosphate, nitrate, and calcium** from their environment to thrive. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

✖ But excess nutrients can **trigger toxic harmful algal blooms (HABs)** affecting marine life and humans.

67. (C)

Exp:

💡 **Thermophilic bacteria** thriving in extreme heat environments like **hot springs** in Rajgir (Bihar) hold great promise as sources of **potent antibiotics** against **resistant bacteria** and have significant **industrial and agricultural applications**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✖ Thermophilic bacteria (heat lovers) inhabit **hot springs, deep-sea vents, and compost piles**, exploiting mineral-rich, low-competition niches.

📌 Thermophiles from Saudi Arabia **produce antibiotics effective against gram-positive pathogenic bacteria**.

✖ In Rajgir, **Actinobacteria**, known producers of antimicrobials like streptomycin and tetracycline, comprised 40-43% of the bacterial population.

✖ **Rajgir hot springs** were studied using **16S rRNA metagenomics** to identify **microbial diversity**, especially focusing on **antibiotic producers**.

📌 Metagenomics is the study of **genetic material (DNA/RNA)** recovered directly from **environmental samples** (like air, soil, water, gut microbiomes) without the need for **culturing individual organisms** in a lab. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

68. (C)

Exp:

Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI):

💡 **About:** SAI is a proposed **solar geoengineering** (or **solar radiation modification**) technique designed to **cool the Earth's climate by reflecting a small fraction of sunlight back into space**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✖ It **mimics the natural cooling effects** observed after **large volcanic eruptions**, such as the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo (Philippines), which injected sulfate aerosols into the stratosphere and temporarily lowered global temperatures by 0.5°C that year.

💡 **Working of SAI:** SAI involves releasing **small reflective particles** (typically **sulfate aerosols** or alternatives like **calcium carbonate**) into the **stratosphere (10–50 km altitude)**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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- These particles **scatter and reflect** a portion of **incoming solar radiation**, thereby **reducing the amount of heat** that reaches the Earth's surface.
- By **increasing the planet's albedo** (reflectivity), SAI can potentially **offset some of the warming** caused by **greenhouse gases**.

69. (A)

Exp:

- Red dwarfs** are the **smallest** (7.5%-50% of the Sun's mass) and the **coolest** type of stars in the universe. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - They have **very low luminosity**, emitting just **0.01% to 10%** of the Sun's brightness, and low surface temperatures give them a red or orange glow.
- Their **slow hydrogen burning** allows them to shine for **trillions of years**, far longer than the Sun's **10-billion-year lifespan**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- They are the most **common type of star** in the Milky Way galaxy.
- The **closest star to the Sun, Proxima Centauri**, is a red dwarf. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

70. (B)

Exp:

- Neutrinos are **subatomic particles** that are **electrically neutral** (i.e., **no electric charge**), have a **small mass**, and are **left-handed** (the direction of its spin is opposite to the direction of its motion). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Neutrinos **interact** with matter **very rarely**, making them **difficult to detect and study**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Neutrinos can **carry information** across large distances due to their **low interaction rate** with matter. They could **potentially** be used to **transmit information**, as an alternative to **electromagnetic waves** in communication channels. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

71. (c)

Exp:

- Photovoltaic (PV)** cells, commonly known as solar cells, work on the principle of the **photovoltaic effect**. When sunlight (photons) strikes the semiconductor material, usually silicon, it **transfers energy to electrons in the material**.

- This energy **excites the electrons**, allowing them to **break free from their atoms and become mobile charge carriers**.
- Inside the PV cell, there is an **internal electric field** created by the junction of two different types of **semiconductor materials (p-type and n-type)**.
- This electric field **directs the freed electrons towards one side of the cell**, creating a flow of **electric current** when the circuit is closed. Thus, sunlight is directly converted into electricity without any moving parts. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- High temperatures negatively impact photovoltaic cell efficiency** because increased heat **raises the resistance within the semiconductor material**, reducing the voltage output and overall performance of the cell. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

72. (A)

Exp:

- Neurodegenerative diseases** are a type of neurological disorders characterized by the **gradual and irreversible loss of neurons**, leading to **progressive decline in brain and nerve functions**. Examples include **Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Not all neurological disorders are incurable. **Many neurological conditions, such as ischemic stroke, epilepsy, and meningitis, can be effectively treated or even reversed** if timely medical intervention is provided. Thus, neurological disorders include both reversible and irreversible conditions. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

73. (c)

Exp:

- Biologics** are **large, complex molecules derived from living cells** (e.g., proteins, monoclonal antibodies). Unlike chemical drugs that are synthesized through defined chemical processes, **biologics require advanced biotechnology** and are **sensitive to environmental conditions**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Biosimilars** are **not identical copies** but are **highly similar to already approved biologic drugs** (also called reference biologics). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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✦ They have **no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety, purity, and potency**, though they may have **minor differences in inactive components**.

💡 3D bioprinting uses **bioinks** made of living cells and biomaterials to build tissue-like structures **layer by layer**, mimicking human tissues. It holds potential for regenerative medicine, including organ repair and replacement in the future. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

74. (B)

Exp:

💡 **Alzheimer's disease** is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects the brain, leading to **memory loss, cognitive decline, behavioral changes**, problems with words in speaking or writing, poor judgment, changes in mood and personality, confusion with time or place, etc. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

💡 **Parkinson's disease** is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that **impairs movement and can lead to immobility and dementia** over time. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

💡 **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)** is a rare and fatal type of **motor neuron disease**. It is characterized by progressive degeneration of nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, which control voluntary muscle movement. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

💡 **Huntington's disease** is a severe neurodegenerative disorder that impacts the central nervous system. It is caused by a mutation in the HTT gene, leading to the production of a faulty huntingtin (Htt) protein. The mutant Htt protein is cleaved into toxic fragments, disrupting cellular processes and resulting in the **gradual decay of nerve cells in the brain over time**. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched. Hence, option B is correct.**

75. (C)

Exp:

💡 Tardigrades (**water bears**) are extremophiles capable of withstanding a **wide range of harsh conditions**, including temperatures from -272.95°C to 150°C , intense radiation, high pressures (up to 40,000 kPa), and the vacuum of space. This makes them ideal subjects for space resilience studies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Tardigrades feed **primarily on the fluids of plants, algae, and microorganisms**. They are most commonly found in **moist environments** such as soil, mosses, and leaf litter—**not arid deserts**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 As part of space biology research under the **Axiom-4 mission**, ISRO is sending **tardigrades** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** to understand how life can endure extreme conditions in space such as vacuum, radiation, and temperature variations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

76. (D)

Exp:

💡 **Collagen and thrombin** are key **physiological agonists** that **initiate platelet aggregation** at sites of blood vessel injury, playing a crucial role in **haemostasis (normal clotting)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Elevated **Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)** levels due to **oxidative stress** in diseases like **Covid-19** can lead to excessive platelet activation, resulting in abnormal or dangerous clot formation (thrombosis). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Nanozymes are synthetic nanomaterials that **mimic natural antioxidant enzymes** (e.g., glutathione peroxidase), **neutralize ROS**, and help regulate platelet activity, thereby preventing oxidative stress-induced clotting. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

International Relations & Current Affairs

77. (D)

Exp:

Padma Awards:

💡 **About:** Instituted in **1954**, the **Padma Awards** are among **India's highest civilian honours**, announced annually on **Republic Day (26th January)**.

✦ Their objective is to **honour excellence** in various fields involving **public service**.

💡 **Padma Awards** are generally **not given posthumously**, and a **higher category award** is only granted after **five years** unless the **Awards Committee** makes an **exception**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

✦ The award is **not a title** and cannot be used as a **prefix or suffix** to the recipient's name.

📎 It is limited to a maximum of **120 awards** per year (excluding **posthumous, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), foreigner, and Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)** recipients).

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- ⚡ The Padma Awards (including Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri) **cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes** to names under Article 18(1) of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

78. (C)

Exp:

National Florence Nightingale Awards:

- ⚡ It was instituted in **1973** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ The national award is given to outstanding nursing personnel in central, state/Union Territories and voluntary organisations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✦ These awards recognize meritorious contributions in **clinical care, public health, education, and nursing administration**.
- ⚡ The **President of India** recently presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025** to **15 nursing professionals**, recognizing their exemplary contributions to healthcare and public service.
 - ✦ Each award comprises a **Certificate of Merit**, a **cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000**, and a **medal**.

79. (B)

Exp:

International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS):

- ⚡ IIAS works closely with the **United Nations**, contributing to the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN CEPA) and the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN), though **not formally affiliated with the UN**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ⚡ It is an **international non-profit organization** with **scientific objectives** and was established in **1930**, and is headquartered in **Brussels**.
 - ✦ It is a global federation of 31 Member Countries, 20 National Sections, and 15 Academic Research Centres, collaboratively developing public governance solutions to contemporary policy challenges.

- ⚡ **India** has been a **Member State of IIAS** since **1998**, represented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

- ⚡ **India** has been elected **President** of the **International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)** for the term **2025–2028**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ✦ It marked the **first time** in the organization's **history** that elections were held through a **ballot**, with **India securing the top position** by winning **61.7% votes**.

80. (D)

Exp:

United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

- ⚡ It was established in **1945** under the **UN Charter** and constitutes one of the **UN's six principal organs**, entrusted with the **primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security**.
- ⚡ The UNSC has 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for a 2-year term by the UNGA, with Bahrain, Colombia, DRC, Latvia, and Liberia elected for the 2026-2028 term. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ The non-permanent seats are allocated on a **regional basis**: **5** for African and Asian States, **1** for Eastern European States, **2** for Latin American and Caribbean States, and **2** for Western European and Other States.
 - ✦ Elections are held **annually** through a **secret ballot**, requiring a **two-thirds majority** vote, even when candidates are unopposed.
- ⚡ The UNSC remains the only UN body whose **decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ **India's participation in the Security Council** has been as a non-permanent member during the periods of 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12, and 2021-22.

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