



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

MAY
2025
PART-II



C-171/2,
Block-A,
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Noida



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View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



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



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

E-mail : care@groupdrishti.in

Phone: +91-87501-87501

Practice Question

Art & Culture

1. Consider the following pairs:

	Inscription	Description
A	Maski Rock Edict	It first uses the title "Devanampriya" for Ashoka.
B	Aihole Inscription	Oldest known Kannada inscription and mentions Kadamba king Kakusthavarma
C	Halmidi Inscription	Records Pulakeshin II's victories over Harshavardhana

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

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding ancient inscriptions found in Karnataka:

1. The Maski Rock Edict provides the earliest epigraphical evidence that directly identifies Emperor Ashoka with the title "Devanampriya."
2. Ravikirti composed the Aihole Inscription in Prakrit to commemorate the military conquests of Pulakeshin II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Who among the following is considered the compiler of Astanga Hridaya, a key text in Ayurveda?

- A. Charaka
- B. Sushruta
- C. Dhanvantari
- D. Vagbhata

History

4. With reference to the Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, consider the following statements:

1. He founded Mitra Mela, which was later renamed as the Abhinav Bharat Society.
2. Port Blair Airport was renamed to "Veer Savarkar International Airport" in recognition of his significant contributions to the nation.
3. He authored "The History of the First War of Indian Independence," one of the first works to describe the 1857 revolts as India's first war of independence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements:

1. He attended his first Congress session in 1912 at Bankipore (Patna) as a delegate.
2. He joined Annie Besant's Home Rule League in 1916, becoming its Allahabad Secretary in 1919.
3. He was elected Congress President at the 1929 Lahore session, passing the historic Purna Swaraj resolution for complete independence.
4. He drafted the Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy (1929-31), adopted at the 1931 Karachi Session.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. Subhas Chandra Bose
- C. Motilal Nehru
- D. Lala Lajpat Rai

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Geography

6. Consider the following statements related to Jet Stream:

1. They bring about moisture to the stratosphere, leading to the formation of cumulonimbus clouds.
2. They play a significant role in the onset and withdrawal of monsoon winds.
3. They intensify alternative cyclonic and anticyclonic conditions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements:

1. It originates in the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka and flows through Goa, Maharashtra, and empties into the Arabian Sea.
2. It is connected to the Zuari River through the Cumbarjua Canal.
3. It is known for Dudhsagar Falls and Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary on Chorao Island.

Which of the following rivers best matches the above description?

- A. Mhadei River
- B. Malaprabha River
- C. Krishna River
- D. Cauvery River

8. Regarding Yala Glacier, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated within the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region.
2. It is the first glacier in India to be declared 'dead', as well as the first in Asia to have a climate memorial plaque.

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 the causes of global mean sea level rise:

1. Melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets increases ocean water volume, thereby contributing to sea level rise.
2. Thermal expansion of seawater due to ocean warming is a major driver of rising sea levels.

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. Regarding cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. Rising global temperatures cause the Hadley Cell to expand, shifting storm tracks poleward and altering wind patterns that redirect cyclone paths.
2. Lower wind shear in regions like the tropics strengthens cyclones, whereas higher shear in areas such as the Atlantic weakens them and causes shifts to new regions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements with reference to the Himalayan Mountain:

1. These are block mountains formed by faulting.
2. Himalayan Mountain Ranges are wider on the eastern side compared to the western side.
3. Duns are longitudinal valleys formed between the Lesser Himalayas and the Shiwalik range due to fluvial erosion and tectonic activity.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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12. Consider the following statements:

1. Bharat Forecast System (BFS), developed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), is India's first high-resolution weather model.
2. IMD currently employs the Coupled Forecasting System (CFS), originally developed under the Monsoon Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Regarding the Siliguri Corridor, consider the following statements:

1. It is a narrow land corridor in Sikkim connecting India's northeast to the rest of the country.
2. It shares borders with Nepal, Bangladesh, and the Kingdom of Bhutan.
3. It holds vital strategic importance as one of the two land links connecting India's eight northeastern states to the mainland.

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

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

14. Regarding the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), consider the following statements:

1. It is a transient eastward-moving system of winds, clouds, and pressure disturbances that travels around the equator.
2. It influences the weather in tropical regions, especially between 30°N and 30°S, but excludes India.
3. It cycles between an active phase with reduced convection and drier conditions, and a suppressed phase characterized by increased convection and rainfall.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two

- C. All Three
- D. None

15. Consider the following pairs:

	River Link Project	States
A.	Ken-Betwa Link Project	Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh
B.	Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project	Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan
C.	Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project	Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra

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

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding the West Asia region:

1. West Asia is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, and the Gulf of Oman.
2. The region includes key subregions such as the Arabian Peninsula, Fertile Crescent, Caucasus, and Anatolia.
3. Bab el-Mandeb Strait between Arabia and Africa connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an artificial sea-level waterway that lies in northeastern Egypt.
2. It is a vital international shipping route, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean.
3. It serves as a key passage for 10% of global energy flows.

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Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Suez Canal
- B. Panama Canal
- C. Strait of Malacca
- D. Bosphorus Strait

18. Consider the following statements regarding the characteristics of La Nina:

1. It is characterised by weaker-than-average trade winds blowing from eastwards across the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. There are colder-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
3. It results in a weaker monsoon in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

19. Which of the following canals connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean?

- A. Suez Canal
- B. Kiel Canal
- C. Panama Canal
- D. Corinth Canal

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Solar flares are sudden bursts of electromagnetic radiation that travel at the speed of light and can reach Earth in about 8 minutes.
2. Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are ejections of charged solar plasma that take 1–3 days to reach Earth and travel slower than solar flares.
3. Both solar flares and CMEs can cause geomagnetic storms impacting Earth's magnetic field, disrupting power grids and communication systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. Consider the following pairs:

	Phenomenon	Description
1.	Madden-Julian Oscillation	A transient eastward-moving disturbance around the equator that influences tropical rainfall.
2.	Mascarene High	A high-pressure system near the southern Indian Ocean that helps drive the Indian monsoon.
3.	Somali Jet	A low-level cross-equatorial wind current that strengthens southwest monsoon winds.

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

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

Polity & Governance

22. With reference to e-passports, consider the following statements:

1. The target for issuing e-passports is to completely replace traditional passports by 2026.
2. It contains an embedded Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip that stores biometric and personal data of the passport holder.
3. Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) technology is used to secure data and prevent forgery.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements related to Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana:

1. It is a central sector scheme administered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. Both organised and unorganised workers are eligible under the scheme.
3. The scheme accepts applicants aged from 45 to 60 years.

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How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements regarding the POSHAN Abhiyaan:

1. It aims at improving the nutritional status of adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children aged 0-14 years.
2. It is being implemented by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
3. The programme aims to reduce stunting, anemia, and low birth weight by 2%, 3%, and 2% annually, respectively.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements regarding sessions of the State Legislature:

1. The Governor summons the State Legislature, and the gap between two sessions cannot exceed six months.
2. Adjournment temporarily suspends House proceedings for a period, while prorogation formally ends a legislative session.
3. Dissolution affects only the Legislative Assembly, ending its full term and triggering fresh elections, while the Legislative Council remains unaffected.

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

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

26. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to provide one hot cooked meal to all school-going children up to Class 8 in government and government-aided schools.

2. It promotes community participation through initiatives like Tithi Bhojan and encourages the development of school nutritional gardens.
3. The Centre bears the entire cost of the scheme, including the procurement and cooking of meals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. With reference to the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme, consider the following:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme and is being implemented from 2022 to 2027.
2. It aims to empower adults aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020.
3. It includes key components such as Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. Consider the following statements:

1. Prior approval of the Chief Justice of India is mandatory before registering an FIR against a sitting judge of the Supreme Court or High Court.
2. Judges enjoy constitutional immunity from criminal prosecution under Article 361 of the Constitution.
3. The in-house inquiry mechanism for judges is a part of Article 124(4) and Article 218 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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29. Consider the following statements regarding the iGOT Karmayogi platform:

1. It is managed by Karmayogi Bharat, a government-owned not-for-profit Special Purpose Vehicle incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. It will provide 'anytime-anywhere-any device' learning to train around 2.0 crores users which was so far unachievable through traditional measures.

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. Regarding Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), consider the following statements:

1. They can acquire agricultural/plantation land in India and adopt Indian children internationally.
2. They are eligible for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955, after 5 years as an OCI cardholder, with at least 1 year of residence in India.
3. The OCI Scheme allows foreign citizens of Indian origin to live, work, and travel freely in India without dual citizenship.

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

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

31. With reference to the Press Council of India (PCI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory and quasi-judicial autonomous body established under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
2. The term of the Chairman and other members is 5 years.
3. Its decisions are final and cannot be appealed in a court of law.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

32. Consider the following statements regarding Election Commission of India:

1. The term of office of the Election Commissioners is 6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years.
2. In case of difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and/or other Election Commissioners, the matter is referred to the President of India.
3. Independence of the Election Commission and its insulation from executive interference is ensured by a special provision under Article 324 of the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding Consumer Rights:

1. Consumer protection in India is rooted in the Directive Principles of State Policy under Part IV of the Constitution.
2. Article 47 states that the State shall endeavour to prohibit the consumption of harmful intoxicants except for medicinal use.
3. The right to seek redressal is a legal right under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

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

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

Social Issues

34. Consider the following statements regarding Santal tribe:

1. They are the third largest scheduled tribe community in India after Gonds and Bhils.
2. They speak Santali, a Munda language of the Austro-Asiatic family, written in the Olchiki script invented by Pundit Raghunath Murmu.
3. The Santal Hul of 1855, led by Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu, was launched from the Marang Buru region.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements regarding the Kandha Tribe:

1. The Kandha tribe speaks Dravidian languages, primarily Kui and Kuvi.
2. Kutia Kandha and Dongria Kandha, sub-groups of the Kandha tribe, are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has recommended sugar boards in all schools.

Statement II: Sugar boards educate children about high sugar intake using teaspoon equivalents.

Statement III: Studies show sugar consumption in Indian children exceeds recommended limits.

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.

37. Consider the following statements:

1. India lacks a uniform central law on begging, with the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 serving as the main legislation that criminalizes begging.
2. The SMILE scheme includes two sub-schemes namely Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in

Begging and Empowerment of Transgender Persons.

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

Agriculture & Allied Sector

38. Consider the following statements regarding Jute in India:

1. Jute, known as the golden fibre, is the most important cash crop in India in terms of cultivation and usage.
2. India is the largest producer of jute globally, with West Bengal, Assam, and Bihar as the major producing states.
3. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) procures raw jute from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) with no quantity limit.

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

39. Consider the following statements:

1. Honey Mission was launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
2. World Bee Day is an initiative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and aims to highlight the vital role of bees and pollinators in sustaining ecosystems and human health.

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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Environment & Ecology

40. Regarding the Conservation of Migratory Birds, consider the following statements:

1. The Convention on Migratory Species Rome Strategic Plan aims to eradicate illegal killing, trapping, and trade of birds (IKB) in Europe and the Mediterranean region.
2. India's National Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds focuses on protecting migratory species along the Central Asian Flyway.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR):

1. It is located in the Western Ghats region of Tamil Nadu.
2. The Kariyan Shola, Grass Hills, and Manjampatti areas of ATR are recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
3. It is inhabited by indigenous communities, including the Kadars and Muduvars.

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

42. Consider the following statements:

1. It is India's largest conservation reserve, located in Spiti Valley.
2. It is bounded by Ladakh, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Malang Nala, Kabjima Nala, and Chandratat Wildlife Sanctuary.
3. It hosts a high density of snow leopards, and other key fauna include the Tibetan wolf, blue sheep, and Tibetan argali.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve
- B. Kishtwar High Altitude National Park

- C. Simbalbara National Park
- D. Chail Sanctuary

43. Consider the following statements regarding Olive Ridley Turtles:

1. They are known for their mass nesting events called arribadas at sites like Gahirmatha and Rushikulya.
2. Operation Olivia, launched in the early 1980s, aims to protect Olive Ridley turtles during their breeding and nesting season along the Odisha coast.

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

44. Consider the following statements regarding the conservation of Lions:

1. Lions are classified under the "Non-Depleted" category in the IUCN Green Status of Species.
2. The Project Lion, underway in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, focuses on habitat improvement, tech-based monitoring, and reducing human-wildlife conflict.

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

45. With reference to Himalayan Yaks, consider the following statements:

1. Himalayan yaks are primarily found in high-altitude regions like Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Himalayan Yaks are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. The FSSAI has declared Himalayan Yak a prohibited species for food production.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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46. Consider the following statements:

1. It was declared as India's National Aquatic Animal in 2009.
2. It is exclusively a freshwater species.
3. It is functionally blind and relies on ultrasonic echolocation to locate prey.
4. It acts as a reliable indicator of river ecosystem health, highlighting biodiversity and water quality.

Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Ganges River Dolphin
- B. Freshwater crocodile
- C. Indian Softshell Turtle
- D. Mahseer Fish

47. Consider the following pairs related to turtle species and their IUCN Red List status:

	Turtle Species	IUCN Status
1.	Olive Ridley	Vulnerable
2.	Green Turtle	Endangered
3.	Hawksbill Turtle	Critically Endangered

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

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

48. Consider the following pairs with reference to the 18th India State of Forest Report 2023:

Category	State/UT
States with Highest Increase (Forest and Tree Cover)	Madhya Pradesh
States with Largest Decrease (Forest Cover)	Chhattisgarh
States with Highest Forest Cover Percentage	Lakshadweep

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

49. Consider the following statements regarding *Schistura densiclavata*:

1. It is a cave-adapted fish discovered in Krem Mawjymbuin, a limestone cave in Meghalaya.
2. It is a troglophile species capable of surviving in both subterranean caves and surface habitats.

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. They are native to southern and eastern Asia, including India's Western Ghats.
2. It is classified as Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
3. They have auburn fur, amber eyes, and upright, rounded ears, and are highly social animals
4. They do not have the jaw strength to deliver a fatal bite to their prey, so the pack eats the prey alive.

Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Gray Wolf
- B. Dhole
- C. Golden Jackal
- D. Red Fox

51. Consider the following statements regarding the Khangchendzonga National Park:

1. It is India's first Mixed World Heritage Site and is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
2. It is home to the Blood Pheasant, which is the state bird of Sikkim.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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52. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, they are found above 7,000 feet in Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.
2. In 2022, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) approved it as a 'food animal'.
3. For the first time, Indian scientists have successfully assembled its genome at the chromosome level.

Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Himalayan Tahr
- B. Indian Yak
- C. Tibetan Antelope
- D. Bharal

53. Consider the following statements regarding the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA):

1. EIA is a mandatory process under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Public consultation is an integral part of the EIA process for all categories of projects.
3. The EIA Notification, 2006, classifies projects into Category A and Category B based on the scale and potential impact of the project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. Consider the following:

	Conventions/ Protocols	Objective
1.	Montreal Protocol (1987)	To phase out the ozone-depleting substances globally
2.	Basel Convention (1989)	Safe handling, transport, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)
3.	Cartagena Protocol (2000)	To regulate transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous waste
4.	Nagoya Protocol (2010)	Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Genetic Resources

Which of the international conventions/protocols given above are correctly matched with their objective?

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

55. Consider the following statements regarding Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

1. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics in humans and livestock is a major contributor to the rise of AMR in India.
2. Dumping of antibiotic waste into soil and water helps drug-resistant superbugs grow, accelerating up the spread of AMR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Economy**56. Consider the following statements regarding the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):**

1. The PLFS is conducted by the Labour Bureau.
2. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) indicates the percentage of employed persons in the total population.
3. The PLFS provides annual employment and unemployment data based on the Usual Status for both rural and urban areas.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

57. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) adopted by the Reserve Bank of India?

- A. To regulate capital adequacy norms for commercial banks in India.
- B. To determine the risk provisioning and surplus distribution strategy of the RBI.

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- C. To manage the flow of foreign capital into India's financial markets.
- D. To set fiscal deficit targets for the Government of India.

58. Consider an economy where private final consumption expenditure is ₹60,000 crore, government final consumption expenditure is ₹25,000 crore, gross fixed capital formation is ₹18,000 crore, change in inventories is ₹2,000 crore, exports of goods and services are ₹15,000 crore, imports are ₹10,000 crore, and net indirect taxes amount to ₹5,000 crore.

Based on this data, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. GDP at market prices is ₹1,10,000 crore,
- II. Gross capital formation is ₹16,000 crore,
- III. GDP at factor cost is ₹1,05,000 crore.

Select the correct answer from the following:

- A. I and II only
- B. II and III only
- C. I and III only
- D. I, II and III

59. Which of the following are part of the Capital Expenditure (Capex)?

- 1. Funds spent by the government on acquiring physical assets
- 2. Funds spent by the businesses on maintaining physical technology
- 3. Day-to-day operational costs
- 4. Loan repayments

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

60. Regarding the RoDTEP Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was launched in 2021 and aims to reimburse exporters for embedded duties, taxes, and levies not refunded by other schemes.
- 2. It is fully aligned with World Trade Organization norms.

- 3. The rebates under it are issued as transferable duty credits or electronic scrips (e-scrips) recorded in an electronic ledger maintained by the RBI.

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

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

61. Consider the following statements regarding Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India:

- 1. The 'Udyam Registration' is mandatory for an enterprise to be classified as an MSME and to avail of government benefits.
- 2. MSMEs are responsible for around 30% of India's GDP and around 40% of India's total exports as of 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Coal is classified by carbon content as Anthracite (highest), Bituminous, Lignite, and Peat (lowest).
- 2. As of FY 2024-25, India is among the top five countries in the world in terms of coal reserves and consumption.
- 3. The primary objective of the SHAKTI Policy by the Ministry of Coal is to promote coal imports for thermal power plants in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. Consider the following statements with reference to bond yield and bond price:

- 1. When the price of a bond rises, its yield falls.
- 2. When market interest rates rise, bonds with lower coupon rates become more attractive.
- 3. Inflation causes bond yields to fall.

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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 Government e-Marketplace (GeM):

1. GeM is a public procurement platform incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and launched by the Ministry of Finance in 2016.
2. The Ministry of Finance has made GeM purchases mandatory for all government departments under the General Financial Rules, 2017.
3. GeM SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) is a 100% government-owned, not-for-profit entity that manages the platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Defence & Security

65. Regarding the Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923, consider the following statements:

1. It originated from the colonial Indian Official Secrets Act of 1889 and was strengthened under Lord Linlithgow in 1904.
2. It applies to all Indian citizens, including government officials in India and abroad, but excludes non-citizens.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

66. Regarding Interpol, consider the following statements:

1. Interpol notices are colour-coded alerts issued by its General Secretariat upon request from a country's National Central Bureau, facilitating police cooperation.
2. In India, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) acts as India's nodal agency for Interpol-related matters.

3. The Interpol Silver Notice, currently in pilot phase, seeks to trace criminal assets and enhance global police cooperation.

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

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

67. Consider the following statements:

1. Inter-service organizations (ISO) are units or commands made up of Army and Navy personnel, excluding the Air Force.
2. As per the ISO Rules 2025, the Joint Services Command can be headed by a Commander-in-Chief holding the rank of Lieutenant General only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

68. With reference to the BrahMos missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a supersonic cruise missile with 'fire and forget' capability which requires no further input after being launched.
2. It is three times faster, 2.5 times longer in range, and has a higher seeker range than subsonic missiles, resulting in greater accuracy.

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

Science & Tech

69. Consider the following statements regarding Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX):

1. It is a joint mission of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

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2. It aims to explore the lunar South Pole's Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSRs) to study volatile materials, including lunar water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. Consider the following statements regarding Tuberculosis (TB):

1. It is a viral infection that primarily affects the lungs and spreads through contaminated water.
2. The Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine is administered to infants to prevent TB.
3. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) patients are at significantly lower risk of developing TB due to immune suppression treatment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. Which of the following fields involves applications of quantum dots?

1. Light-emitting diode (LED)
2. Medical diagnostics
3. Solar panels
4. Semiconductor fabrication

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

72. Consider the following statements:

1. It is also known as wood alcohol, or wood spirit.
2. It is colorless, volatile liquid with a faintly sweet pungent odor.
3. It is highly toxic to humans, especially if ingested.

Which of the following chemical best matches the above description?

- A. Butanol
- B. Acetic Acid

- C. Ethanol
- D. Methanol

73. Consider the following statements regarding the Nipah virus (NiV):

1. It is a zoonotic virus that can spread from animals to humans, as well as from human-to-human.
2. Fruit bats act as natural reservoirs of the virus and can transmit it through urine, saliva, and birthing fluids.
3. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified Nipah virus as a priority disease, and currently, there is no available vaccine for it.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

74. Consider the following statements regarding cyber crimes:

1. Catfishing involves sharing someone's private information online without consent, typically to harass or threaten the victim.
2. Phishing is sending deceptive messages, typically via email, disguised as trustworthy sources, to steal sensitive data such as passwords or financial information.
3. Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks overwhelm a site with traffic from multiple sources to make it unavailable.

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

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

75. Regarding the differences between RNA editing and DNA editing, consider the following statements:

1. RNA editing causes reversible, temporary changes in RNA, while DNA editing produces permanent, heritable DNA alterations.
2. RNA editing techniques utilize bacterial proteins such as Cas9, which may provoke unwanted immune reactions.

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3. RNA editing modifies RNA transcripts post-synthesis but pre-translation, whereas DNA editing permanently changes the original DNA sequence in the genome.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

76. Regarding India's Nuclear Power Programme, consider the following statements:

1. India's Nuclear Power Programme was primarily formulated by M. R. Srinivasan, a prominent Indian physicist often called the "father of the Indian nuclear program.
2. India's programme follows a closed fuel cycle, where each stage produces fuel for the next, optimizing resource use and minimizing waste.
3. All three stages are commercially mature and currently deployed at the 500 MWe reactor in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

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

77. Which of the following pairs of hydrogen types and their production methods are correctly matched?

	Type of Hydrogen	Production Method
1.	Green Hydrogen	Electrolysis using renewable energy
2.	Pink Hydrogen	Electrolysis using nuclear energy
3.	Turquoise Hydrogen	Methane pyrolysis

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

78. Regarding weather Balloons, consider the following statements:

1. They are large latex balloons filled with helium or hydrogen, used by meteorologists to study the upper atmosphere.
2. They help fill the gap between surface observations and satellite data, offering detailed vertical profiles of the atmosphere essential for accurate weather prediction.
3. Radiosondes are battery-powered instruments suspended from weather balloons that transmit real-time data on temperature, pressure, humidity, and wind to ground stations.

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

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

79. With reference to Xenon gas, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare, colorless, odorless, and chemically stable gas, found in trace amounts in Earth's atmosphere, and exists in gaseous forms only.
2. It protects against altitude sickness and hypoxia-related damage.
3. It is used to measure blood flow and image the brain, heart, and lungs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

80. Consider the following statements regarding Electric Vehicles (EVs):

1. EVs are generally lighter than internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles due to battery packs.
2. EVs cut tailpipe emissions but increase non-exhaust pollution.
3. India's EVs are powered mostly by renewable energy, making them carbon-neutral.

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How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

81. Consider the following statements regarding measures to Clean Oil Spills:

1. Bioremediation and dispersing agents both promote biodegradation of oil, but the latter may pose toxicity risks to marine organisms.
2. Skimmers and sorbents are mechanical devices that disperse oil into micro-droplets to accelerate natural decomposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

82. Regarding the difference between base editing and Gene Editing, consider the following statements:

1. The base editing tool combines Cas9 with a base-modifying enzyme to precisely convert specific DNA bases, to correct genetic diseases.
2. Unlike CRISPR-Cas9, base editing allows direct conversion of one DNA base into another without cutting both DNA strands.

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

83. Consider the following statements regarding the Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL) Mission:

1. It was launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) to study the Moon's internal structure.
2. It found that the Moon's near side is warmer than the far side.
3. It revealed the Moon's crust is more porous and thinner than previously thought.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

84. With reference to the international space laws, consider the following statements:

1. The Outer Space Treaty (1967) prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in outer space.
2. The Liability Convention (1972) makes launching states absolutely liable for damages caused in outer space.
3. India is a party to the Outer Space Treaty but has not ratified the Liability Convention.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

85. Which of the following theories proposes a cyclical cosmology where the universe doesn't begin with a singular Big Bang but with periodic phases of contraction (big crunch) followed by expansion (big bounce)

- A. Holographic Principle
- B. Ekpyrotic Universe Theory
- C. Big Splat
- D. None of the above

86. Consider the following statements regarding Dark Patterns:

1. Dark Patterns refer to deceptive design practices used in websites and apps to manipulate users into actions they might not have intended to take.
2. Basket Sneaking, Confirm Shaming and Disguised Ads are all recognised as types of dark patterns in India.
3. Dark Patterns are primarily regulated under the Information Technology Act, 2000, by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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87. Consider the following statements:

1. Genome editing involves targeted changes in an organism's DNA without necessarily introducing foreign genetic material.
2. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) always involve the introduction of foreign genetic material into the host genome.
3. CRISPR-Cas9 is a precise gene-editing technology that uses a guide RNA to target and modify specific DNA sequences.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

88. Consider the following pairs:

	Blood Disorder	Primary Cause
1.	Thalassemia	Defect in hemoglobin synthesis
2.	Hemophilia	Deficiency of clotting factors
3.	Leukemia	Viral infection of red blood cells

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

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

89. Consider the following statements regarding Down syndrome:

1. Down syndrome is caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21.
2. It is a hereditary disorder passed from parents to offspring through dominant inheritance.
3. Individuals with Down syndrome may have intellectual disability and distinct facial features.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. All of the above

90. With reference to Base Editing technology, consider the following statements:

1. It involves creating double-strand breaks in the DNA for genetic correction.
2. It reduces risks of unintended mutations and improves accuracy.
3. It uses a fusion of Cas9 protein and a base-modifying enzyme for precision editing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

International Relations and Current Affairs

91. With reference to the Jnanpith Award, consider the following statements:

1. The Jnanpith Award is India's oldest and highest literary honour, conferred annually to living Indian citizens.
2. The award is conferred for exceptional literary work in languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, as well as in English.

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

92. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK):

1. The first UN peacekeeping mission was tasked with monitoring the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.
2. India is the 4th largest troop-contributing nation to the UNPK after Nepal, Rwanda and Bangladesh.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

93. With reference to the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), consider the following statements:

1. India assumed the Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for 2025–26 terms.
2. It was established in 1961 with its headquarters in Tokyo.
3. India is a founding member of the APO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

94. With reference to the Global Pandemic Agreement, consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's first global pandemic agreement, adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly.
2. It gives the World Health Organization the authority to impose national laws and implement lockdowns during health crises.
3. The Global Supply Chain and Logistics Network ensures timely and equitable access to pandemic health products during international health emergencies.

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

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

95. Regarding the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental organization created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960 to regulate oil supply and price.
2. The non-OPEC countries that export crude oil are termed as OPEC-plus countries.

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

96. Consider the following:

1. Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) to promote sustainable biofuels.
2. Basel III banking norms to tighten global banking regulations.
3. Paris Agreement on climate change.

Which of the initiatives given above are launched at the G20 summit?

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

97. Consider the following statements regarding World Food Prize:

1. Founded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it is a top global award recognizing contributions in improving food quantity, quality and accessibility and agriculture.
2. M.S. Swaminathan was the first recipient of the World Food Prize.

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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Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (A) | 2. (A) | 3. (D) | 4. (D) | 5. (A) | 6. (B) | 7. (A) | 8. (A) | 9. (C) | 10. (C) |
| 11. (A) | 12. (B) | 13. (A) | 14. (A) | 15. (B) | 16. (A) | 17. (A) | 18. (A) | 19. (C) | 20. (D) |
| 21. (C) | 22. (B) | 23. (D) | 24. (A) | 25. (C) | 26. (A) | 27. (D) | 28. (A) | 29. (C) | 30. (B) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (C) | 33. (D) | 34. (D) | 35. (C) | 36. (A) | 37. (C) | 38. (B) | 39. (A) | 40. (C) |
| 41. (D) | 42. (A) | 43. (C) | 44. (D) | 45. (A) | 46. (A) | 47. (C) | 48. (A) | 49. (C) | 50. (B) |
| 51. (C) | 52. (B) | 53. (B) | 54. (A) | 55. (C) | 56. (A) | 57. (B) | 58. (C) | 59. (C) | 60. (B) |
| 61. (C) | 62. (C) | 63. (A) | 64. (B) | 65. (D) | 66. (C) | 67. (D) | 68. (D) | 69. (C) | 70. (A) |
| 71. (D) | 72. (D) | 73. (D) | 74. (B) | 75. (C) | 76. (B) | 77. (D) | 78. (C) | 79. (B) | 80. (A) |
| 91. (C) | 92. (C) | 93. (D) | 94. (A) | 95. (C) | 96. (A) | 97. (B) | | | |



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Explanations

Art & Culture

1. (A)

Exp:

Maski Rock Edict (3rd Century BCE): One of Ashoka's minor edicts, it first uses the title "Devanampriya" (Beloved of the Gods) for Ashoka. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

Aihole Inscription (634 CE): Composed by Ravikirti in Sanskrit, it records Pulakeshin II victories over Harshavardhana. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

Halmidi Inscription (450 CE): It is the oldest known Kannada inscription, and written in early Kannada script and poetic form.

It mentions Kadamba king Kakusthavarma and has 16 lines carved on a sandstone slab. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.

Hence, option A is correct.

2. (A)

Exp:

Notable Inscriptions in Karnataka:

Maski Rock Edict (3rd Century BCE) is one of Ashoka's minor edicts, it first uses the title "Devanampriya" (Beloved of the Gods) for Ashoka. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Aihole Inscription (634 CE), composed by Ravikirti in Sanskrit, records Pulakeshin II victories, including over Harshavardhana. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Halmidi Inscription (450 CE): It is the oldest known Kannada inscription, and written in early Kannada script and poetic form.

It mentions Kadamba king Kakusthavarma and has 16 lines carved on a sandstone slab.

3. (D)

Exp:

Vagbhata was a renowned Ayurvedic scholar believed to have lived around the 6th century CE. He compiled the classical text *Astanga Hridaya*, which synthesizes the teachings of Charaka (internal medicine) and Sushruta (surgery) into a single, concise and poetic format.

It focuses on the *Ashtanga Ayurveda*—the eight branches of Ayurveda.

Charaka, regarded as the *Father of Indian Medicine*, lived between the 2nd century BCE and 2nd century CE. He revised the earlier *Agnivesha Samhita* to compile the *Charaka Samhita*, a foundational text of Ayurveda focused on *Kayachikitsa* (internal medicine).

Sushruta (7th–6th century BCE), is revered as the *Father of Surgery* and *Father of Plastic Surgery*. He authored the *Sushruta Samhita*, a seminal text on *Shalya Tantra* (surgery), detailing over 300 surgical procedures, including rhinoplasty, fracture management, and caesarean section. He was a disciple of Dhanvantari, the divine figure associated with Ayurveda.

Dhanvantari is revered as the *deity and divine originator of Ayurveda*, believed to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Known as the *God of Ayurveda*, he is credited with imparting surgical knowledge to Sushruta and is regarded as a legendary teacher. He is also mentioned among the *Navratnas* in the court of King Vikramaditya (Chandragupta II).

Hence, option D is correct.

History

4. (D)

Exp:

Veer Savarkar Jayanti

He founded *Mitra Mela* in 1899, later it was renamed as the *Abhinav Bharat Society* in 1904. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

In recognition of his contributions, *Port Blair Airport* in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was renamed *Veer Savarkar International Airport* in 2002. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

He authored the influential book "*Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?*" (1923) and also wrote "*The History of the First War of Indian Independence*".

In his book "*The History of the First War of Indian Independence*", he was the first to describe the 1857 revolt as India's First War of Independence. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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5. (A)

Exp:

Jawaharlal Nehru:

- 💡 **Early Life:** Born on 14th November 1889, in Prayagraj, he attended his **first Congress session in 1912 at Bankipore (Patna)** as a delegate and joined **Annie Besant's Home Rule League in 1916**, becoming its **Allahabad Secretary in 1919**.
- 💡 **Contribution in Freedom Struggle:** He was elected **Congress President** at the **1929 Lahore session**, passing the historic **Purna Swaraj resolution** for complete independence, and later presided over the **1936 Lucknow** and **1937 Faizpur sessions**, promoting **socialism**.
 - ✦ He drafted the **Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy (1929-31)**, adopted at the 1931 Karachi Session under Sardar Patel, and advocated legal defence for Indian National Army (INA) soldiers.
 - ✦ He led the **Interim Government** in 1946.
- 💡 **Post-Independence:** In **1953**, he formed the **States Reorganisation Commission**, promoted **industrialisation through Five-Year Plans**, and led the **Non-Alignment Movement**.
- 💡 **Awards:** He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna (1955)** and **World Peace Council Prize (posthumously, 1970)**.
- 💡 **Literary Contributions:** The *Discovery of India*, *An Autobiography*, *Glimpses of World History*, and *Letters from a Father to His Daughter*.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Geography

6. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Jet Stream** is a **geostrophic wind** blowing horizontally through the upper layers of the troposphere, generally from west to east, at an altitude of 20,000 - 50,000 feet.
- 💡 At times, **Jet Streams bring about some moisture to the stratosphere**, leading to the formation of **Noctilucent clouds** (tenuous cloudlike phenomena in the upper atmosphere which are made of ice crystals visible in a deep twilight). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- ✦ They are known to have brought some ozone depleting substances to the stratosphere which result in ozone layer depletion.

💡 They play a significant role in the **onset and withdrawal of monsoon winds**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 They **intensify alternative cyclonic and anticyclonic conditions** with the crust and trough formation in its movement. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

7. (A)

Exp:

Mhadei River:

- 💡 It originates in the **Western Ghats (Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka)**, flows through **Goa (basin cover 78%), Karnataka (18%), and Maharashtra (4%)**, emptying into the **Arabian Sea**.
- 💡 **Tributaries:** **Kalasa, Banduri, Mapusa, Ragada, Nanuz, Valvoti, Nerul, St. Inez Creek, Dudhsagar, Kotrachi Nadi, and Rio de Ourém**.
- 💡 It is connected to the **Zuari River** through the **Cumbarjua Canal**.
- 💡 It is known for **Dudhsagar Falls (Mollem National Park and Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary)** and **Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary** on Chorao Island.
- 💡 A recent study recommending the diversion of water from **Mhadei's tributaries** to the **Malaprabha River** in Karnataka, without major impacts on Goa, has sparked protests in Goa, reigniting the decades-long **inter-state water dispute** with Karnataka over water sharing.
 - ✦ **Malaprabha River** is a **tributary of the Krishna River** and originates in **Kanakumbi village** in the **Western Ghats in Belgaum, Karnataka**.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

8. (A)

Exp:

Yala Glacier:

- 💡 It is situated in **Langtang Valley, Nepal**, within the **Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 It is **Nepal's first glacier declared "dead"** after shrinking by 66% since the 1970s, and the **first in Asia** to display a climate memorial plaque with messages in English, Nepali, and Tibetan. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ✦ Glaciers are declared "dead" when they **no longer show movement** or flow under their own weight.

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✦ A **climate memorial plaque** is a monument erected to **commemorate a natural feature**, like a glacier, that has been lost or is threatened by climate change.

💡 The **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** held a ceremony to commemorate the **rapid retreat** of Nepal's **Yala Glacier** in **Langtang Valley**, which is threatened to **vanish by 2040** due to **climate change**.

💡 This tribute is part of Nepal's role in the **UN International Year for Glaciers Preservation 2025** and part of the inaugural **Sagarmatha Sambad (mountain dialogue) summit 2025** by Nepal.

9. (c)

Exp:

💡 **Global mean sea level rise (GMSL rise)** refers to the increasing average height of the ocean surface over time. It has risen about **21cm since 1900**, at an accelerating rate having reached its **highest value ever in 2023**.

💡 The **melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets** (such as those in Greenland and Antarctica) adds large amounts of freshwater to the oceans. This process **directly increases ocean volume**, making it a significant contributor to global sea level rise. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Thermal expansion** refers to the increase in ocean volume as water warms and expands. Since oceans absorb over **90% of the excess heat** from global warming, this phenomenon is one of the **major drivers of sea level rise**, accounting for nearly **75% of the rise during the 20th century**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

10. (c)

Exp:

Cyclones:

💡 As **global temperatures rise**, the **Hadley Cell** (atmospheric circulation near the equator) expands, pushing storm tracks toward higher latitudes, while changes in wind patterns (e.g., jet streams) shift cyclone paths, exposing regions like **Madagascar, East Asia**, and parts of the Mediterranean to new risks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ Higher sea levels from melting ice and warming oceans worsen coastal flooding during storms, even without an increase in cyclone frequency.

💡 **Lower wind shear in some regions** (e.g., tropics) helps cyclones grow stronger, while higher shear in areas like the Atlantic can weaken storms, causing cyclones to shift to new regions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ Wind shear is the **change in wind speed or direction** over a short distance in the atmosphere, either horizontally or vertically.

💡 Warming in the polar regions, which is faster than in the tropics, **reduces the equator-to-pole temperature gradient**, shifting cyclone activity away from the equator.

11. (A)

Exp:

The Himalayan Mountain:

💡 The Himalayas are **young-fold mountains**, among the **loftiest and most rugged** in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

✦ Fold mountains are formed by the **compressional forces** that cause the Earth's crust to buckle and fold when two tectonic plates collide.

💡 They stretch along the **northern borders of India**, forming an arc.

💡 **Length:** Approximately **2,400 to 2,500 km** (from the **Indus** in the west to the **Brahmaputra** in the east).

💡 **Width:** Varies from **400 km** in **Kashmir** to **150 km** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

✦ That is, the **Himalayan Mountain Ranges** are **wider on the western side compared to the eastern side**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 Longitudinal Divisions of the Himalayas

✦ The Himalayas consist of **three parallel ranges**:

📌 **Great/Inner Himalayas (Himadri)** – Northernmost and highest.

📌 **Middle Himalayas (Himachal)** – Includes **Pir Panjal, Dhauladhar**, etc.

📌 **Outer Himalayas (Shivaliks)** – Southernmost and lowest.

✦ **Duns** are **longitudinal valleys** found between the **Lesser Himalayas (Himachal)** and the **Shivalik range**.

📌 They are formed due to **fluvial erosion and tectonic activity**, with examples including **Dehra Dun, Kotli Dun, and Patli Dun**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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12. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** is set to adopt the indigenously developed **Bharat Forecast System (BFS)**, India's first high-resolution weather model capable of forecasting at a 6 km x 6 km spatial resolution.
- 💡 **Bharat Forecast System (BFS)** has been developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, **Pune**, and will be **operationalised by IMD**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 BFS significantly **improves upon IMD's existing resolution of 12 km x 12 km**, allowing for **more accurate detection of localised extreme weather events**, such as **cloudbursts and flash floods**.
 - ✦ The **current limitation of a 144 sq km unit of analysis** will be reduced to 36 sq km, enabling better micro-level weather predictions.
- 💡 Currently, IMD uses the **Coupled Forecasting System (CFS)**, developed under the **Monsoon Mission** and adapted from a US-based model for Indian monsoon forecasting. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ✦ It also operates the **Global Forecasting System (GFS)**, a coupled ocean-atmosphere model, for forecasts ranging from hours to seasonal scales.

13. (A)

Exp:

Siliguri Corridor:

- 💡 The Siliguri Corridor, called the Chicken's Neck, is a **thin strip of land** in West Bengal that connects India's northeast to the rest of the country. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 At its narrowest, this corridor is only 17 kilometers wide.
 - ✦ This area shares borders with Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 Stretching from regions such as Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and the Terai in West Bengal, the corridor holds critical strategic significance as it **serves as the sole land connection** for India's eight northeastern states to mainland India. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

14. (A)

Exp:

Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):

- 💡 It is a transient **eastward-moving system of winds, clouds, and pressure disturbances** that travels around the equator. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ✦ It was identified in 1971 by Roland Madden and Paul Julian, scientists at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado.
- ✦ It typically travels eastward at 4–8 m/s, and completes one global cycle in 30–60 days, though sometimes it takes up to 90 days.

- 💡 It **influences the weather in tropical regions**, especially between 30°N and 30°S, which includes India. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 MJO has two distinct phases: an **active phase**, which brings enhanced convection and increased rainfall, and a **suppressed phase**, which leads to reduced convection and drier conditions. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- 💡 It can **trigger cyclones** and cause brief but intense rainfall spells, even during dry periods.

15. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The Ken-Betwa Link Project involves Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.
- 💡 The Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project involves Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched**.
- 💡 The Tapi Basin Mega Recharge Project involves Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

16. (A)

Exp:

- 💡 West Asia is a subregion of Asia, located West of Central and South Asia, South of Eastern Europe, and North of Africa.
 - ✦ It is bordered by major water bodies including the **Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Caspian Sea**, and the **Gulf of Oman**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The region comprises **18 countries**, with key subregions like the **Arabian Peninsula** (e.g., **Saudi Arabia, UAE**), the **Fertile Crescent** (e.g., **Iraq, Syria**), the **Caucasus** (e.g., **Armenia, Azerbaijan**), and **Anatolia** (Turkey). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 Home to around 283 million people, the region is geopolitically significant due to its vast oil reserves, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula.
 - ✦ Saudi Arabia, with 35 million people, has the region's largest economy, while Bahrain is the smallest by population.

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- ⚡ **Bab el-Mandeb Strait** between Arabia (northeast) and Africa (southwest) connects the Red Sea (northwest) with the **Gulf of Aden** and the **Indian Ocean** (southeast). Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

17. (A)

Exp:

Suez Canal:

- ⚡ The Suez Canal is an **artificial sea-level waterway** running north–south across Egypt’s Isthmus of Suez. It is a vital international shipping route, connecting the **Mediterranean Sea** to the **Indian Ocean** via the **city of Suez on the Red Sea.**
- ✖ Geographically, the canal lies in **northeastern Egypt**, spanning the **Isthmus of Suez.**
 - ✖ It stretches from **Port Said in the north** to the **Gulf of Suez in the south**, effectively separating the **African continent from the Sinai Peninsula**, and forms the shortest **maritime route between Europe and the Indian and Pacific Oceans.**
 - ✖ The canal accounted for approximately 12-15% of global trade and **nearly 30% of global container traffic before the crisis.**
 - ✖ It serves as a key passage for **8-9% of global energy flows.**
 - ✖ India relies heavily on the Red Sea route, with nearly 80% of export volumes to Europe transiting the canal.
 - ✖ The **Red Sea security crisis**, triggered by Houthi attacks on commercial vessels, drastically disrupted shipping traffic through the **Suez Canal**, leading Egypt’s Suez Canal Authority to offer a discount on transit fees to incentivize the return of cargo ships amid lingering regional risks.

⚡ Hence, **option A is correct.**

18. (A)

Exp:

- ⚡ In La Nina, the **trade winds strengthen**, pushing **warm water toward the western Pacific.** Cooler waters from below rise in the eastern Pacific, causing a temperature drop in that region. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- ✖ It is characterized by **colder-than-normal sea surface temperatures** in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- ✖ In India, La Nina is expected to lead to **above-average monsoon** rainfall from July to September, which may result in a decrease in the production of pulses in the Indo-Gangetic Plains, but rice production may see an increase. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ Hence, **option A is correct.**

19. (C)

Exp:

- ⚡ The **Panama Canal** connects the **Atlantic Ocean (via the Caribbean Sea)** to the **Pacific Ocean** through the Isthmus of Panama in Central America. It is one of the most important man-made waterways in global trade.
- ⚡ The **Suez Canal** connects the **Mediterranean Sea** to the **Red Sea**, facilitating travel between Europe and Asia.
- ⚡ The **Kiel Canal** connects the **North Sea** to the **Baltic Sea** in northern Germany.
- ⚡ The **Corinth Canal** cuts through the narrow Isthmus of Corinth in Greece, connecting the **Gulf of Corinth** with the **Saronic Gulf**, both part of the Aegean Sea.
- ⚡ Hence, **option C is correct.**

20. (D)

Exp:

- ⚡ **Solar flares** are **sudden, intense bursts of electromagnetic radiation** caused by **magnetic field line reconnections** on the Sun’s surface. This radiation travels at the **speed of light**, reaching Earth in about 8 minutes. They are classified from A to X based on X-ray brightness. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ **Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)** is an explosive **ejection of charged solar plasma into space**, travelling at speeds of 250 to 3000 km/s (slower than solar flares) and taking 1–3 days to reach Earth. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ Both solar flares and CMEs can disturb Earth’s magnetosphere, causing geomagnetic storms that may disrupt power grids, radio communications, GPS systems, and cause auroras. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- ⚡ Hence, **option D is correct.**

21. (C)

Exp:

Factors Caused the Early Monsoon Onset in 2025

- ⚡ **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):** The **MJO** is a transient **eastward-moving system of winds, clouds,**

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and pressure disturbances that travels around the equator. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

- ✦ It was identified in 1971 by Roland Madden and Paul Julian, scientists at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado.
- ✦ The MJO typically travels eastward at 4–8 m/s, and completes one global cycle in 30–60 days, though sometimes it takes up to 90 days.
- ✦ It influences weather in tropical regions, especially between 30°N and 30°S, which includes India.
- ✦ MJO has two distinct phases: an active phase, which brings enhanced convection and increased rainfall, and a suppressed phase, which leads to reduced convection and drier conditions.
- ✦ It can trigger cyclones and cause brief but intense rainfall spells, even during dry periods.

💡 **Mascarene High:** The IMD describes the Mascarene High as a high-pressure area found around the Mascarene Islands (in the south Indian Ocean) during the monsoon period. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

- ✦ The variation in the intensity of high pressure is responsible for heavy rains along India's west coast.

💡 **Somali Jet:** It is a low-level, inter-hemispheric cross-equatorial wind band originating near Mauritius and north Madagascar. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

- ✦ During May, after crossing the east coast of Africa, it reaches the Arabian Sea and the west coast of India. A strong Somali jet is associated with the strengthening of monsoon winds.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

Polity & Governance

22. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The Ministry of External Affairs has begun issuing e-passports in several cities under the Passport Seva Programme (PSP) 2.0, aimed at modernizing and securing travel documentation.
- ✦ Traditional passports remain valid, and conversion to e-passports is optional and gradual. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

💡 An ePassport is a combined paper and electronic passport with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip and an antenna embedded as an inlay of passport that contains the personal particulars and biometric information of the passport holder. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) in e-passport** forms the security foundation by protecting sensitive information and ensuring the authenticity and integrity of personal and biometric data on the chip.

- ✦ PKI helps verify the origin of the data and prevents unauthorized tampering or copying. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

23. (D)

Exp:

💡 **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana** is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and executed through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Community Service Centers (CSCs). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ✦ LIC serves as the Pension Fund Manager and handles pension disbursements.

💡 The scheme is designed for unorganised workers (and not for organised ones) with a monthly income of Rs 15,000 or less. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 Eligible participants must have a mobile phone, a savings bank account, and an Aadhaar number. They must be aged between 18 and 40 years. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

- ✦ They should not be covered under the New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), nor should they be income tax payers.

💡 Under this scheme, each subscriber is assured a minimum pension of Rs 3,000 per month upon reaching the age of 60.

24. (A)

Exp:

POSHAN Abhiyaan:

💡 POSHAN Abhiyaan, focusing on improving the nutritional status of adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children aged 0-6 years. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

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⚡ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is implementing this initiative. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ This programme uses technology, convergence, and community participation with a targeted approach to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia, and low birth weight in children, while also addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, thereby comprehensively tackling malnutrition.

⚡ **Objectives:**

- ✦ Prevent and reduce stunting and undernutrition (underweight prevalence) in children aged 0-6 years.
- ✦ Decrease anemia rates among young children (6-59 months), women, and adolescent girls (15-49 years).
- ✦ Lower the incidence of low birth weight (LBW) in newborns.

⚡ The programme aims to reduce **stunting, undernutrition, anemia, and low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3%, and 2% annually**, respectively. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ It also fosters behavioural change through Jan Andolan (People's Movement) and encourages the creation of Poshan Vatikas (Nutri-Gardens) to provide local, diverse access to nutritious food.

25. (C)

Exp:

Sessions of State Legislature:

⚡ The Governor summons the State Legislature to meet from time to time. The maximum gap between **two sessions cannot exceed six months**. A session consists of multiple sittings. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ **Article 174** mandates state legislatures to meet at least twice a year, with no more than six months between sessions.

⚡ **Adjournment** is the **temporary suspension of House proceedings** for hours, days, or weeks. In contrast, **prorogation is the formal termination** of a legislative session by the Governor; it can be issued even when the House is in session. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ Thus adjournment ends a sitting, while prorogation ends a session.

⚡ **Dissolution** applies only to the Legislative Assembly, not the Legislative Council (permanent house).

Dissolution ends the **full term of the Assembly**, leading to fresh elections. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

26. (A)

Exp:

⚡ **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN)** is a centrally sponsored scheme for providing **one hot cooked meal** to students up to **Class 8** in **Government and Government-aided schools**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ Launched for an initial **five-year period (2021-22 to 2025-26)**, it replaced the earlier **midday meal scheme (MDM)**.

⚡ It promotes **Tithi Bhojan program**, where **communities** provide **special food** to children on **special occasions like festivals** and school nutritional gardens to provide students with additional **micro-nutrients**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ Its **cost** is shared by the **Centre and States on a 60:40 basis**, with the Centre supplying foodgrains. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

27. (D)

Exp:

⚡ **ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society)** is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented from 2022 to 2027. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ It is designed to **empower adults aged 15 years and above** who **missed out on formal schooling**, in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The key components are **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ The scheme provides access to educational resources via the **DIKSHA platform** and **ULLAS mobile/web portal**, supporting content in regional languages.

✦ Includes the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**, conducted biannually or as required at local schools for assessment and certification.

28. (A)

Exp:

⚡ As per the **K. Veeraswami judgment (1991)**, a First Information Report (FIR) under the **Prevention of**

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Corruption Act against a sitting judge of the Supreme Court or High Court can be registered **only with the prior approval of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. This procedural safeguard ensures protection of judicial independence from executive overreach. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Article 361** of the Constitution grants **immunity from criminal proceedings only to the President and Governors**. Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts **do not enjoy such constitutional immunity**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 The **in-house inquiry mechanism** is an **internal administrative process** established by the Supreme Court through resolutions passed in **1997 and 1999**. It is **not part of Article 124(4) or Article 218** of the Constitution, which deal with the **formal process of impeachment** of judges.

✖ The in-house mechanism lacks statutory or constitutional status and is meant for preliminary fact-finding and disciplinary control within the judiciary. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

29. (C)

Exp:

💡 The **iGOT Karmayogi** digital learning platform, central to India's **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (Mission Karmayogi)**, has achieved a landmark milestone with **over 1 crore civil servants registered**, reflecting rapid digital adoption and a transformative shift in public administration.

💡 Top 5 states by registration are **Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh**. iGOT Karmayogi issued over **3.1 crore learning certificates**, totaling 3.8 crore learning hours completed.

💡 **iGOT Karmayogi**: Managed by **Karmayogi Bharathas**, a **100% government-owned not-for-profit Special Purpose Vehicle**, incorporated under the **Companies Act, 2013**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✖ **iGOT Karmayogi** offers over 2,400 courses in 16 languages, all courses align with the indigenous **Karmayogi Competency Model** based on Indic wisdom and **Mission Karmayogi principles**.

💡 It will provide 'anytime-anywhere-any device' learning to train around 2.0 crores users which was so far unachievable through traditional measures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

30. (B)

Exp:

Overseas Citizens of India (OCI):

💡 They enjoy **parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** in various **financial, economic, and educational** fields, but **cannot acquire agricultural/plantation land** in India or adopt Indian children internationally. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 They are eligible for **Indian citizenship** under **Section 5(1)(g)** of the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, after **5 years** as an **OCI cardholder**, with at least **1 year of residence in India during the last 5 years**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✖ They are eligible to join the **National Pension System (NPS)** on equal terms with NRIs for long-term retirement planning.

💡 The Overseas Citizenship of India **scheme** was introduced through an **amendment** to the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, in the year **2005**, which allows **foreign citizens of Indian origin** to **live, work, and travel freely in India without dual citizenship**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31. (A)

Exp:

Press Council of India (PCI):

💡 **About:** PCI is a **statutory, quasi-judicial autonomous body**, initially established on **16th November 1966** by Parliament under the **Indian Press Council Act, 1965**, based on the recommendations of the **First Press Commission**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Objective:** To **preserve the freedom of the press** and maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

💡 **Composition & Term:** It consists of **29 members** (1 Chairman + 28 Members). The **chairman** is conventionally a **retired Supreme Court judge** nominated by a committee comprising the **Vice President (Rajya Sabha Chairman), Lok Sabha Speaker**, and a **member elected by the PCI**.

✖ The **28 other members** include **13 working journalists**, **6 newspaper owners/managers**, **1 news agency representative**, **5 MPs**, and **3 experts** nominated by **UGC, Bar Council**, and **Sahitya Akademi**.

✖ The **term of the Chairman and other members** is **3 years**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- 💡 **Powers:** It can **censure, warn, or admonish newspapers, agencies, editors, or journalists for violations of journalistic ethics** after a fair inquiry.
- ✖ It may also **require the publication of inquiry details in the public interest.**
- ✖ Its **decisions are final and cannot be appealed before a court of law.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- ✖ It has the **power of civil courts**, summoning witnesses, examining documents, and conducting inquiries deemed judicial proceedings.
- ✖ However, it **cannot compel disclosure of journalistic sources.**

32. (C)

Exp:

Election Commission of India

- 💡 Both the **Election Commissioners** and the **Chairman of the UPSC** hold office for a term of **6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 In case of a difference of opinion among the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, the **matter is decided by the Commission by majority** and is **not referred to the President.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution vests the **Election Commission with the superintendence, direction, and control** of elections to **Parliament, State Legislatures**, and the offices of the **President and Vice-President.**
- ✖ It ensures the **Commission's independence** by **safeguarding the tenure and service conditions** of the Chief Election Commissioner, **protecting it from executive interference.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

33. (D)

Exp:

Consumer Rights:

- 💡 Consumer protection in India is rooted in the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) under Part IV of the Constitution**, which provides a moral and constitutional foundation for welfare-oriented legislation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Under **Article 47**, the State shall endeavour to improve nutrition, living standards, and public health, and

prohibit the consumption of harmful intoxicants except for medicinal purposes. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 The **Consumer Protection Act, 1986**, grants **six key rights** to consumers: the **Right to Safety, Right to be Informed, Right to Choose, Right to be Heard, Right to Seek Redressal**, and **Right to Consumer Education.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

- ✖ **Right to Seek Redressal** allows consumers to report issues and get help from consumer bodies.

Social Issues

34. (D)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Santal tribe**, one of India's largest indigenous communities, primarily resides in **Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Assam.**
- 💡 Santals are the **third largest scheduled tribe community** in India after Gonds and Bhils. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Santali**, spoken by this community, is a **Munda language of the Austro-Asiatic family** and is officially recognized in the **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**; it has its own script, **Olchiki**, invented by Pundit Raghunath Murmu. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Dance (enej) and music (sereng)** remain core to their cultural expression during festivals and social gatherings.
- 💡 **Marang Buru is the supreme animist deity** and seat of justice. The **Jug Jaher Than** (sacred grove) on the hill is the most sacred dhorom garh (religious site) of the Santals.
- ✖ **Lo Bir Baisi**, the traditional Santal tribal council, convenes at the base of the hill to resolve inter-village disputes.
- 💡 The **Santal Hul of 1855**, led by **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu**, was a major tribal uprising launched from Marang Buru. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

35. (C)

Exp:

Kandha Tribe:

- 💡 It is **numerically highest** among all the **62 tribes** of Odisha, making up **17.13%** of the state's tribal population according to the **2001 Census.**

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- They speak **Kui or Kuvi (Dravidian languages)** and call themselves 'Kui loku', 'Kui enju', or 'Kuinga' from the Dravidian Kui and Kuvi languages. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Nuclear families are common and joint families are rarely found.**
- Their population is concentrated mainly in **south and central Odisha**, especially in Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, and Kalahandi districts.
- Among Kandha communities, **Kutia Kandha and Dongria Kandha** are recognized as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - PVTG is a more vulnerable sub-group of Scheduled Tribes. India has 75 PVTGs, with **Odisha having the most (13)**, followed by **Andhra Pradesh (12)**.

36. (A)

Exp:

Sugar Boards:

- The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has urged all schools, including state boards, to implement sugar boards, highlighting a significant increase in **Type-2 diabetes**. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- 'Sugar boards' visually display the **sugar content in common beverages and snacks**, educating children about the health risks of high sugar intake using simple, relatable comparisons like **teaspoons** of sugar. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Studies show Indian children consume sugar amounts (**13-15% of daily calories**) far exceeding the **recommended 5% limit**, increasing their risk of lifestyle diseases. **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.

37. (c)

Exp:

Begging

- About:** Begging involves soliciting alms through various acts like singing, selling items, or displaying deformities.
- Status:** Census 2011 reports 4.13 lakh beggars in India, with the highest numbers in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. SECC 2011

estimates 6.62 lakh rural households depend on begging.

- Constitutional Basis:** Vagrancy (includes beggary) is in the **Concurrent List** (Entry 15, List III), where both Centre and states can legislate.
- No Central Law:** India lacks a uniform central law on begging, and Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, acts as a main law which criminalizes begging and defines beggars broadly. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

SMILE Scheme

- Launched in 2022, the SMILE scheme **includes 2 sub-schemes:** Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging and Empowerment of Transgender Persons.
- The beggary sub-scheme focuses on identifying, profiling, and rehabilitating individuals engaged in begging, with their consent, in urban areas like religious, historical, and tourist cities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The goal is to rehabilitate at least **8,000 individuals** from FY 2023–24 to FY 2025–26.

Agriculture & Allied Sector

38. (B)

Exp:

- Jute (golden fibre) is the **2nd most important cash crop in India after cotton** in terms of cultivation and usage. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- India is the **largest producer of jute in the world**, with **West Bengal, Assam, and Bihar** being the major jute-growing states. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is a **price support agency** under the **Ministry of Textiles** that **procures raw jute** from farmers at MSP **without any quantity limit**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

39. (A)

Exp:

- The **Honey Mission** was launched by the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** in **2017-18** under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)** and the **National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)** support traditional beekeepers by forming clusters and providing training and modern machinery for sustainable employment.

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✦ NBHM aims to achieve the goal of the 'Sweet Revolution' as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.

💡 **World Bee Day**, established by the **United Nations in 2018** and observed on 20th May, highlights the vital role of bees and pollinators in sustaining ecosystems and human health. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Environment & Ecology

40. (C)

Exp:

Conservation of Migratory Birds:

💡 The **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Rome Strategic Plan** aims to eradicate **illegal killing, trapping, and trade of birds (IKB)** in Europe and the Mediterranean region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ CMS Rome Strategic Plan targets a **50% reduction in illegal activities by 2030** compared to 2020 levels. It is a key part of the **Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds (MIKT)**.

💡 India's **National Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds (2018–2023)** focuses on protecting migratory species **along the Central Asian Flyway** (areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ The Central Asian Flyway is a major migratory route for birds, **covering 30 countries** from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.

41. (D)

Exp:

Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR):

💡 Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) was declared a **Tiger reserve** in the year **2007** and is located in the **Anamalai Hills** of the **Western Ghats** in Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **Kariyan Shola, Grass hills, and Manjampatti** of Anamalai Tiger Reserve have been identified as a world heritage site by **UNESCO**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ World Heritage Sites are places **recognized by UNESCO** for their outstanding **cultural, natural, or mixed significance**, protected under the **1972 World Heritage Convention**.

💡 It is home to several indigenous tribal communities such as the **Kadars, Muduvars, Malasars, Malai**

malasars, Eravalars, and Pulayars. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

💡 It is surrounded by **Parambikulam Tiger Reserve (PTR)** on the East, **Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary**, and **Eravikulam National Park** on the South Western side.

42. (A)

Exp:

Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve:

💡 It is India's **largest conservation reserve** (1585 sq km area), located in **Spiti Valley**, and **Himachal Pradesh's fifth**, joining **Darlaghat, Naina Devi, Potter Hill, and Shilli reserves**.

✦ It is bounded by **Ladakh (north)**, **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Malang Nala (east)**, **Kabjima Nala (south)**, and **Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary (west)**.

💡 The area is ecologically significant as it lies in the catchment of the **Charap Nala** and serves as a vital **wildlife corridor** between **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary & Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary (Himachal Pradesh)**.

💡 It hosts a high density of **Snow Leopard** ("Ghost of the Mountains"), and other key fauna include **Tibetan wolf, bharal (blue sheep), Himalayan ibex, kiang (wild ass)** and **Tibetan argali**.

✦ Rare birds like **Rose Finch, Tibetan Raven, and Yellow-billed Chough** are also found.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

43. (C)

Exp:

Olive Ridley Turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*):

💡 **About:** It is the **smallest sea turtle species** in the family **Cheloniidae**, identified by its **olive or grayish-green color** and **heart-shaped carapace**.

💡 They are **omnivorous** and known for the **mass nesting** event called **arribada**, where thousands of females nest together. Major nesting sites include **Gahirmatha, Rushikulya, and the Devi River mouth** in **Odisha** and the **Andaman Islands**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Threats include **bycatch, poaching, habitat loss, plastic pollution, and the impacts of climate change**.

💡 **Operation Olivia** was launched in the early **1980s** to protect **Olive Ridley turtles** during their **breeding and nesting season** along the **Odisha coast**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ It aims to ensure **safe nesting grounds** for these turtles by **preventing unlawful trawling**, particularly at **Gahirmatha Beach** and the nearby coastal area of Odisha.

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44. (D)

Exp:

It In 2025, the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** released the first Green Status assessment for lions (*Panthera leo*), offering a global standard to measure species recovery and conservation impact.

✖ The assessment classifies lions as Largely Depleted, while the species remains Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

✖ **Unlike the IUCN Red List**, which focuses on extinction risk, the **Green Status highlights recovery potential and necessary conservation actions.**

It Project Lion is aimed at the long-term conservation of Asiatic lions. It is primarily focused in **Gujarat**, especially in and around the **Gir Forest**, which is the last natural habitat of Asiatic lions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

It The Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project, which aims to establish a second independent population in **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, has been resisted by the Gujarat government.

45. (A)

Exp:

It Himalayan yaks are found at high altitudes, specifically **above 7,000 feet**, in the Himalayan regions of **Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

It The Himalayan Yaks are classified as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List** due to declining population. It is also listed under **Schedule I** of the **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, which grants it the highest level of legal protection. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✖ Additionally, it is included in **Appendix I** of **CITES**, restricting international trade.

It In **2022**, **Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)** approved the Himalayan Yak as a '**food animal**', allowing its use in **food production or consumption** to help arrest its declining population. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

46. (A)

Exp:

Gangetic Dolphins:

It The **Ganga River Dolphin**, also known as the "**Tiger of the Ganges**," was officially **discovered in 1801**.

It It is India's **National Aquatic Animal** (declared in 2009) and the **State Aquatic Animal of Assam**.

It It acts as a **reliable indicator of river ecosystem health**, highlighting biodiversity and water quality.

It It is historically found in the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems** across India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. But the species is extinct from most of its early distribution ranges.

It It is exclusively a **freshwater species** and is **functionally blind** and relies on **ultrasonic echolocation** to locate prey.

✖ **Generally solitary** or in **small groups**, often seen as **mother-calf pairs**.

✖ It is locally called '**Susu**' due to the sound it makes while exhaling.

It **Protection Status:**

✖ **IUCN:** Endangered

✖ **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972:** Schedule I

✖ **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES):** Appendix I

✖ **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):** Appendix 1

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

47. (C)

Exp:

It **Turtles (Order Testudines)** are **reptiles** distinguished by a **cartilaginous shell** developed from their ribs, forming a **protective shield**.

✖ Unlike other animals with shells, **turtles cannot shed or exit their shell**, as it is an **integral part of their skeleton**.

It Turtles can live in **both freshwater and marine (sea) environments**.

It **Tortoises** differ from other turtles primarily by being **strictly terrestrial**, while **many turtle species are partially aquatic**.

✖ Although **all tortoises are turtles**, not all turtles are tortoises.

✖ Both are generally shy, solitary animals that lay eggs on land by burying them in nests.

It **Key Species and the Protection Status** (as per the **IUCN Red List**):

✖ Olive Ridley is listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

✖ The Green Turtle is listed as Endangered. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

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- ✦ Hawksbill Turtle is listed as Critically Endangered. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

☛ Hence, option C is correct.

48. (A)

Exp:

18th India State of Forest Report 2023:

- ☛ **Increase in Forest and Tree Cover:** The total forest and tree cover in the country has grown by 1,445.81 km², including a 156.41 km² rise in forest cover compared to 2021.
- ☛ **States with Highest Increase (Forest and Tree Cover):** Chhattisgarh recorded the largest increase at 684 sq km, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Odisha with 559 sq km each, and Rajasthan with 394 sq km. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- ☛ **States with Highest Increase (Forest Cover):** Mizoram led with a 242 sq km rise in forest cover, followed by Gujarat at 180 sq km and Odisha at 152 sq km.
- ☛ **States with Largest Decrease:** Madhya Pradesh experienced the biggest reduction in forest cover, losing 612.41 km², followed by Karnataka (459.36 km²), Ladakh (159.26 km²), and Nagaland (125.22 km²). Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- ☛ **Top States by Total Forest Area:** The states with the largest forest areas are Madhya Pradesh (77,073 sq km), Arunachal Pradesh (65,882 sq km), and Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km).
- ☛ **States with Highest Forest Cover Percentage:** Lakshadweep leads with 91.33% of its geographical area under forest, followed by Mizoram (85.34%) and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62%). Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

49. (C)

Exp:

- ☛ A new species of cave-adapted fish, *Schistura densiclava*, has been discovered in Krem Mawjymbuin cave in Meghalaya (East Khasi Hills). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ☛ **About:** *Schistura densiclava* is a troglophile species, meaning it can live in both underground (subterranean) and aboveground (epigean) habitats. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ✦ It belongs to the Nemacheilidae family, and is the 6th cave fish species recorded from Meghalaya.
- ☛ **Habitat:** It is found 60 meters inside Krem Mawjymbuin cave, in a cool, fast-flowing stream (18°C, low oxygen).

- ✦ The species' presence is restricted to the cave, indicating it is endemic to this cave system.

- ☛ **Adaptation:** Unlike fully blind cavefish, it retains pigmentation and eyesight.

50. (B)

Exp:

Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog):

- ☛ **About Dholes:** Dholes (*Cuon alpinus*) are wild dogs native to southern and eastern Asia, including India's Western Ghats (e.g., Valparai plateau).
- ☛ **Characteristics:** Dholes have auburn fur, black tails, amber eyes, and upright rounded ears, living socially in packs of 2 to 25.
- ☛ **Habitat:** Adaptable to forests, shrublands, and high mountain steppes.
 - ✦ In India, dholes are found in three main areas i.e., the Western and Eastern Ghats, the central Indian landscape, and Northeast India.
- ☛ **Diet and Hunting:** Dholes are carnivores that hunt cooperatively in groups of 3-5, and communicate with yaps, growls, and distinctive whistles, earning them the nickname "whistling dogs."
 - ✦ Dholes do not have the jaw strength to deliver a fatal bite to their prey, so the pack eats the prey alive.
- ☛ **Reproduction:** A pack usually has one dominant monogamous breeding pair, while the non-breeding members support by bringing food and caring for the pups.
- ☛ **Conservation Status:**
 - ✦ **IUCN:** Endangered
 - ✦ **CITES:** Appendix II
 - ✦ **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule II
- ☛ **28th May** is celebrated as **World Dhole Day** to promote the conservation of dholes—endangered Asian wild dogs—who play a crucial role as apex predators in maintaining forest ecosystem balance.
- ☛ Hence, option B is correct.

51. (C)

Exp:

Khangchendzonga National Park:

- ☛ **Khangchendzonga National Park** is India's first Mixed World Heritage Site (2016) and a part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2018). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- It is part of the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot**, and the **Dzongu Valley** in North Sikkim is especially rich in **medicinal plants**.
- Important **fauna** species include the **Blood Pheasant (State Bird of Sikkim)**, Red Panda, **Snow Leopard**, Musk Deer, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

52. (B)

Exp:

Indian Yak:

- In India, yaks are found **above 7,000 feet** in **Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh**.
- In 2022, FSSAI **recognized the Himalayan Yak as a 'food animal'**, enabling farmers to rear it economically and unlocking new economic opportunities for farmers and food processors.
- For the first time, **Indian scientists** have successfully assembled a **chromosome-level genome** of the **Indian yak (Bos grunniens)**, an essential high-altitude bovine species.
- The project used **long-read sequencing technology** and advanced **bioinformatics**, enabling precise mapping of **genes to specific chromosomes**.
- Hence, option B is correct.**

53. (B)

Exp:

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is **mandated** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, and operationalised through the **EIA Notification of 1994**, subsequently updated in **2006** and beyond. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Public consultation is **not required for all categories of projects**. Certain projects such as those involving defense and national security, or located in notified industrial estates or SEZs, may be **exempted** from public hearings. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **EIA Notification, 2006** classifies projects into **Category A** (cleared at the central level by MoEFCC) and **Category B** (cleared at the state level by SEIAAs) based on factors like project size, capacity, and potential environmental impact. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

54. (A)

Exp:

- Montreal Protocol (1987)** is an international treaty aimed at **protecting the ozone layer** by **phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting**

substances (ODS), which indirectly helps reduce some greenhouse gases. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- The **Basel Convention (1989)** regulates **cross-border hazardous waste movement** to protect health and the environment. It came into **force in 1992**. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Cartagena Protocol (2000)** is an international agreement under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, it governs the **safe handling, transport, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)** to protect biodiversity and human health. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- Nagoya Protocol (2010)** is a supplementary agreement to the CBD which aims at the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising from the **utilization of genetic resources**, thereby promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

55. (C)

Exp:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** occurs when **microorganisms (like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites)** evolve to resist the effects of medications that once effectively treated infections. This makes **diseases harder to treat and increases the risk of spread, severe illness, and death.**
- Overuse and misuse of antibiotics** in both humans (e.g., taking antibiotics for viral infections) and livestock (e.g., using antibiotics as growth promoters) are major causes of rising AMR, especially in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Pharmaceutical waste containing antibiotics, when **dumped into rivers and soil without treatment**, creates environmental hotspots where **drug-resistant microbes thrive**. This accelerates the spread of AMR in the environment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct.**

Economy

56. (A)

Exp:

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

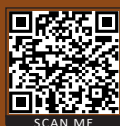
- The PLFS was launched in 2017 and is conducted by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the

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Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Key Indicators Used in PLFS:

- ✦ **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** is the percentage of employed persons in the total population.
- ✦ **The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** is the percentage of persons either working or actively seeking or available for work in the total population. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ✦ **Unemployment Rate (UR)** is the percentage of unemployed persons among those in the labour force.

Coverage of PLFS:

- ✦ In urban areas, the PLFS provides key employment and unemployment indicators every three months based on **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** (7 days preceding the date of enquiry), which records activities during the seven days preceding the survey.
- ✦ In both rural and urban areas, the PLFS provides annual data on employment and unemployment based on **Usual Status** (principal activity and subsidiary economic activities over the past 365 days), which covers principal and subsidiary economic activities over the past 365 days, as well as Current Weekly Status. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

57. (B)

Exp:

Economic Capital Framework (ECF)

- ✦ ECF is a mechanism adopted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to determine the appropriate level of **risk provisioning** (such as the Contingency Risk Buffer) and the **surplus or dividend** that can be transferred to the **Government of India** under **Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934**.
- ✦ It was recommended by the **Bimal Jalan Committee** in 2018 and **adopted in 2019**.
- ✦ The framework ensures that the **RBI maintains adequate financial buffers for monetary and financial stability** while also enabling prudent transfer of surplus to support fiscal needs.

Hence, option B is correct.

58. (C)

Exp:

Given Data (in ₹ crore):

- ✦ Private Final Consumption Expenditure (C) = ₹60,000

- ✦ Government Final Consumption Expenditure (G) = ₹25,000
- ✦ Gross Fixed Capital Formation = ₹18,000
- ✦ Change in Inventories = ₹2,000
- ✦ Exports (X) = ₹15,000
- ✦ Imports (M) = ₹10,000
- ✦ Net Indirect Taxes (NIT) = ₹5,000

Calculating Gross Capital Formation (GCF)

- ✦ $GCF = \text{Gross Fixed Capital Formation} + \text{Change in Inventories} = ₹18,000 + ₹2,000 = ₹20,000$ Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.

Calculate GDP at Market Prices (GDP_MP)

- ✦ $GDP_MP = C + G + I + (X - M)$,

where $I = GCF = ₹20,000$ crore

Calculating:

$$GDP_MP = ₹60,000 + ₹25,000 + ₹20,000 + (₹15,000 - ₹10,000)$$

$$= ₹60,000 + ₹25,000 + ₹20,000 + ₹5,000 = ₹1,10,000 \text{ crore. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.}$$

Calculate GDP at Factor Cost (GDP_FC)

$$GDP_FC = GDP_MP - \text{Net Indirect Taxes}$$

$$= ₹1,10,000 - ₹5,000 = ₹1,05,000 \text{ crore. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.}$$

59. (C)

Exp:

Capital Expenditure:

- ✦ Capital Expenditure (Capex) refers to **funds spent by the government or businesses on acquiring, upgrading, or maintaining physical assets** such as infrastructure, machinery, or technology.
- ✦ **Unlike Operating Expenses (Opex)**, which cover day-to-day operational costs, Capex involves substantial long-term investments recorded as assets and depreciated over time.
- ✦ The **Indian government allocates Capex through its annual Union Budget**, with Rs 11.21 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP) earmarked for FY 2025–26.
- ✦ Capex, as a countercyclical fiscal tool, stabilizes the economy during downturns and supports future revenue through asset creation.
- ✦ Capex also aids in reducing public liabilities via **loan repayments** and encourages private sector investment, making it essential for India's sustained development and infrastructure expansion.
- ✦ Hence, option C is correct.

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60. (B)

Exp:

RoDTEP Scheme:

- 💡 India has reinstated the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)** scheme benefits for exports by **Advance Authorization (AA)** holders, **Export-Oriented Units (EOUs)**, and **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** units.
- 💡 RoDTEP benefits for these categories, halted in February 2025, have now been reinstated to ensure a level playing field for all exporters.
- 💡 The restoration, effective from June 2025, aims to boost export competitiveness and enhance global market access.
- 💡 Launched in 2021 by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the RoDTEP scheme is designed to **reimburse exporters for embedded duties, taxes, and levies** that are not otherwise refunded under any other existing scheme. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ The RoDTEP scheme, which replaced the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS), is fully aligned with **World Trade Organization norms**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✦ Rebates under the RoDTEP Scheme will be issued as transferable duty credits or electronic scrips (e-scrips), maintained in an electronic ledger by the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ✦ As of March 2025, total disbursements under the RoDTEP scheme exceeded Rs 57,976 crore, highlighting its critical support for India's exports.

61. (C)

Exp:

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

- 💡 As per the revised guidelines issued by the **Ministry of MSME (2020)**, enterprises must register on the **Udyam portal** to be officially recognized as an MSME and to access various schemes and benefits (like collateral-free loans, subsidies, and preference in government procurement). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ As per the Ministry of MSME, as of 2025, **micro enterprises make up about 98%** of MSMEs in India, **small enterprises around 1.5%**, and **medium enterprises less than 1%**.
- 💡 The MSME sector contributes around **30% to India's GDP**. It also accounts for approximately **40-45%** of

India's total exports, as of 2025 (NITI Aayog data).
Hence, statement 2 is correct.

62. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 **Coal classification** based on carbon content includes Anthracite (80–95% carbon, highest quality), Bituminous (60–80% carbon), Lignite (40–55% carbon), and Peat (less than 40% carbon, lowest quality). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ **Bituminous** is the **most commonly used type of coal** for electricity generation in India.
- 💡 As of 2025, India holds the world's **5th largest coal reserves** and is the **2nd largest consumer of coal (after China)** globally. Coal accounts for around 55% of India's overall energy mix and over 70% of its electricity generation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The **SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) Policy** by the Ministry of Coal aims to ensure transparent allocation of domestic coal to thermal power plants through **competitive bidding and linkage rationalization**. It seeks to **reduce coal import dependence**, supporting domestic coal utilization and energy security. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

63. (A)

Exp:

Bond Yield vs. Bond Price:

- 💡 Bond yield is the return an investor earns on a bond. It is usually expressed as a percentage and represents the income (interest or coupon payments) relative to the bond's current market price.
- 💡 Bond price and bond yield move in opposite directions. **When the price of a bond rises, its yield falls;** when the yield rises, the price falls. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 When market interest rates (or yields) rise, existing bonds with lower coupon rates become less attractive, so their prices drop to offer a competitive yield. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Conversely, when yields fall, existing bonds with higher coupon rates become more valuable, pushing their prices up.
- 💡 **Inflation erodes the purchasing power of fixed bond payments, causing bond yields to rise** and existing bond prices to fall. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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64. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** is an online platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various government departments and public sector units.
 - ✦ It was incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, and launched by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in 2016, not the Ministry of Finance. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Ministry of Finance has authorized and made **purchases through GeM mandatory for government users** under the **General Financial Rules, 2017**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 GeM SPV is a **100% government-owned, not-for-profit entity** that manages the GeM platform. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Defence & Security

65. (D)

Exp:

Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923:

- 💡 It originated during the colonial-era **Indian Official Secrets Act, 1889**, aimed at **suppressing press dissent**, and was made more stringent in **1904** under **Lord Curzon** and finally revised in **1923**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 It aims to prevent **espionage** and **unauthorized disclosure** of classified sensitive information, protecting India's **sovereignty, integrity, and strategic interests**, especially from foreign threats.
- 💡 It applies to **all Indian citizens**, including government officials, **both in India and abroad**, and **non-citizens** if they are involved in acts of espionage. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Sections of OSA, 1923:**
 - ✦ **Section 3 of the Act** criminalises espionage and acts against **national security, including the possession of sensitive documents** or the sharing of secret codes, with a punishment of imprisonment for up to 14 years.
 - ✦ **Section 5** penalises **unauthorised disclosure, possession, retention, or failure to return official documents**, including those who knowingly receive such information.

- ✦ **Section 10** deals with the penalty for harboring spies.

66. (C)

Exp:

INTERPOL:

- 💡 Interpol's colour-coded notice system **includes nine types of alerts issued by its General Secretariat** upon request from a member country's National Central Bureau (NCB), facilitating international police cooperation across 196 member nations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ It can also be issued at the request of **International Criminal Tribunals and the International Criminal Court** to seek persons wanted for committing crimes within their jurisdiction, notably genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- ✦ They may also be issued on behalf of the **UN Security Council** to enforce its sanctions.
- 💡 In India, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** acts as India's nodal agency for Interpol-related matters. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ✦ It coordinates requests from all Indian law enforcement agencies seeking Interpol's international assistance.
- 💡 India has successfully leveraged **INTERPOL's newly introduced Silver Notice system** to trace assets and seek international cooperation in tracking down economic fugitives.
 - ✦ Launched in 2025, the **INTERPOL Silver Notice is a pilot initiative** involving 51 countries to trace criminal assets, fight transnational crime, and boost global police cooperation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - 📎 It will continue until November 2025, allowing each country to request up to nine Silver Notices during this time.

67. (D)

Exp:

- 💡 **Inter-service organizations (ISO)** are units or commands composed of personnel from two or more branches of the **Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ✦ They are designed to facilitate integrated planning, operations, and logistics.

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- ✦ Examples include tri-service commands like the Andaman and Nicobar Command or upcoming theatre commands under India's theaterisation plan.

💡 **ISO Rules 2025:** They are notified under **Section 11** of the **ISO Act, 2023**.

- ✦ These rules aim to ensure **efficient management of discipline and administration** across the Army, Navy, and Air Force **when operating under ISOs**, such as joint commands or theatre commands.
- ✦ As per the 2025 rules, both the **Joint Services Command and the Inter-Services Establishment** comprise personnel from any two or all three armed forces.
 - 📎 The Joint Services Command is headed by a **Commander-in-Chief** holding the rank of Lieutenant General, Air Marshal, or Vice Admiral. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - 📎 An Inter-Services Establishment is commanded by an **Officer-in-Command** with the rank of Major General, Air Vice Marshal, Rear Admiral, or higher.
- ✦ Under the ISO Rules 2025, if a **Commander-in-Chief, Officer-in-Command, or Commanding Officer** is on leave or absent, a replacement will be formally designated in the Inter-services unit's orders.
 - 📎 In emergencies without prior orders, the next higher formation will appoint a temporary substitute.
- ✦ Matters not covered by **existing rules or Acts** regarding command and control in Inter-services Organisations shall be referred to the **Central Government for a decision**.

68. (D)

Exp:

💡 **BrahMos:**

- ✦ **Developed By:** BrahMos Aerospace a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) (50.5%) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) (49.5%).
- ✦ **Type:** BrahMos is a **two-stage supersonic cruise missile** designed for high precision and speed. It features a solid-propellant booster in the first stage, followed by a liquid-fuelled ramjet in the

second stage that sustains a cruise speed of Mach 3 (three times the speed of sound), making it **one of the fastest cruise missiles in the world**.

- 📎 It is a supersonic cruise missile with '**fire and forget**' capability (requiring no further input after being launched). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 📎 BrahMos is a stand-off range weapon designed to be launched from a safe distance beyond enemy defense range. It can cruise at altitudes up to 15 km and strike targets as low as 10 meters for precision.
- ✦ **Range:** BrahMos' range has evolved from 290 km to 350 km, with future versions aiming for up to 800 km and hypersonic speeds (Mach 5+).
- 📎 BrahMos is **three times faster, 2.5 times longer in range**, and has a higher seeker range than subsonic missiles, resulting in greater accuracy and nine times more kinetic energy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Science & Tech

69. (C)

Exp:

LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration Mission):

- 💡 It is a collaborative mission between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ In India, it is also referred to as **Chandrayaan-5**.
- ✦ It will be launched by **JAXA's H3-24L rocket**, carrying an ISRO lander and a Japan-made MHI rover.
- 💡 It aims to **explore volatile materials, including water**, near **Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSRs)** at the lunar **South Pole**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

70. (A)

Exp:

Tuberculosis (TB)

- 💡 Tuberculosis (TB) is **not a viral infection**; it is caused by a **bacterium** called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It spreads **through the air** when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or spits, and **not through contaminated water**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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💡 The BCG vaccine is a **live attenuated vaccine** derived from *Mycobacterium bovis*, primarily used to prevent tuberculosis (TB) in **infants**, especially severe forms like **TB meningitis** and **miliary TB** in children. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) patients are at a **much higher risk** (not lower) of developing TB. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

✦ TB is a **leading cause of death** among people living with HIV because of their **weakened immune systems**.

71. (D)

Exp:

Applications of Quantum Dots:

💡 **Quantum dots** and **2D metals** have revolutionized nanomaterials, driving advances in electronics, diagnostics, and sustainable technologies.

💡 **Quantum dots** are **semiconductors** just a few **nanometres wide**, displaying unique properties due to quantum confinement, where electrons are restricted in all dimensions.

✦ Quantum confinement leads to **altered electron energy states**, crucial for the behavior of **zero-dimensional materials** like **quantum dots**.

✦ **Applications of quantum dots** include **LEDs**, **medical diagnostics**, **solar panels**, and **semiconductor fabrication**, earning the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

💡 Hence, **option D is correct**.

72. (D)

Exp:

Methanol

💡 It is also known as **methyl alcohol**, **wood alcohol**, or **wood spirit**, is the simplest alcohol, with the **chemical formula** CH_3OH .

💡 Methanol is a **colorless, volatile liquid** with a **faintly sweet** pungent odor and is completely miscible with water.

💡 It serves as a solvent in paints, varnishes, and plastics. It is a key raw material in the production of **formaldehyde**, **acetic acid**, and **various aromatic hydrocarbons**.

✦ Methanol also functions as an **antifreeze agent** and **fuel additive**, helping **remove water from automotive and aviation fuels**.

✦ Additionally, it is gaining prominence as a **biodegradable energy resource** in sustainable energy applications.

💡 Methanol is highly toxic to humans, especially if ingested. It breaks down into formic acid in the liver, causing **metabolic acidosis** and **lowering blood pH**.

💡 Hence, **option D is correct**.

73. (D)

Exp:

💡 The **Nipah virus (NiV)** is a **zoonotic virus** that can spread from **animals to humans**, as well as through contaminated food or direct **human-to-human transmission**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The virus is transmitted by **fruit bats** of the genus *Pteropus* and is present in their **urine, feces, saliva, and birthing fluids**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified Nipah virus as a priority disease, and currently, there is no available vaccine for it. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

💡 NiV causes **encephalitic syndrome** in humans, with symptoms like **fever, headache, drowsiness, confusion, and coma**, often leading to death. The fatality rate is **40% to 75%**.

74. (B)

Exp:

Cyber Crimes:

💡 **Catfishing** refers to **creating a fake online identity to deceive others**, often for emotional or financial gain. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

✦ The act of **sharing someone's private information** online without their consent, usually to harass or threaten them, is known as **doxxing**.

💡 **Phishing** involves **sending fraudulent messages, often emails**, that appear to come from legitimate sources to **steal sensitive information** like passwords or financial details. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS)** attacks involve **flooding a website or online service with traffic from multiple sources**, overwhelming it and making it **unavailable to legitimate users**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

75. (C)

Exp:

💡 **RNA (Ribonucleic acid) editing** is a biological process that **corrects errors in messenger RNA (mRNA)** after it is made by the cell but **before it is used to produce proteins**. This mechanism **helps prevent the formation of faulty proteins**, which could otherwise cause diseases or disorders.

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RNA editing causes temporary changes in RNA molecules, which can fade over time, making it a reversible process. In contrast, Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) editing leads to permanent and irreversible changes in the DNA sequence, which are passed onto daughter cells. This temporary nature of RNA editing makes it safer and more flexible compared to DNA editing. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

RNA editing techniques do not use bacterial proteins like Cas9. Instead, RNA editing relies on enzymes called ADARs (Adenosine Deaminases Acting on RNA), which naturally occur in the human body. This reduces the risk of unwanted immune reactions. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

In contrast, DNA editing techniques like CRISPR-Cas9 do use bacterial proteins (e.g., Cas9), which may provoke immune responses.

RNA editing occurs after transcription, i.e., once RNA is synthesized from DNA but before it is translated into proteins. DNA editing directly modifies the original DNA sequence itself, thereby altering the genome permanently. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

76. (B)

Exp:

India's Nuclear Power Programme:

India's Nuclear Power Programme was primarily formulated by Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, a prominent Indian physicist often called the "father of the Indian nuclear program. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

M. R. Srinivasan joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1955 and worked under Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, contributing to India's first nuclear reactor, Apsara.

It is a strategic, three-stage plan aimed at harnessing atomic energy primarily for peaceful purposes, such as electricity generation, while ensuring self-reliance in energy resources.

It is designed to make optimal use of India's limited uranium reserves and abundant thorium resources.

India's programme is based on a closed fuel cycle; each stage generates the fuel for the next, enhancing resource utilisation and reducing waste. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Stage 1 is commercially mature. The second stage with FBRs began with a 500 MWe reactor at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. Stage 3 thorium-based systems have been developed at the pilot scale;

however, commercial deployment is yet to begin.

Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

77. (D)

Exp:

Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water (splitting water) using renewable energy (solar, wind), generating hydrogen and oxygen without carbon emissions. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

Pink hydrogen is extracted through electrolysis powered by nuclear energy. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

Turquoise hydrogen is produced through methane pyrolysis, generating hydrogen and solid carbon as byproducts. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Hence, option D is correct.

78. (C)

Exp:

Weather Balloons:

Weather balloons are large latex balloons filled with helium or hydrogen, used by meteorologists to study the upper atmosphere (above 5,000 feet). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Modern weather balloons can rise up to 1,15,000 feet (35 km) in about 2 hours.

Léon Teisserenc de Bort, a French meteorologist, pioneered weather balloon use in 1896 and discovered the tropopause and stratosphere.

They help fill the gap between surface observations and satellite data, offering detailed vertical profiles of the atmosphere essential for accurate weather prediction. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

They carry a radiosonde, a small battery-powered radio transmitter suspended about 66 feet below, which collects and transmits real-time data on temperature, pressure, humidity, and wind to ground stations via radio signals. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

High-tech radiosondes are lighter, more energy-efficient, and use Global Positioning System (GPS) for accurate tracking and wind measurement, though they are still launched using weather balloons.

79. (B)

Exp:

Xenon Gas (stranger gas) is a rare, colourless, odourless, chemically stable, and non-reactive gas found in trace amounts in Earth's atmosphere.

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- ✖ It is available in **solid, liquid, and gaseous** states. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Applications of Xenon:**

- ✖ **Mountaineering:** It has **neuroprotective properties** that enhances **oxygen delivery**, supports **acclimatisation**, and guards against **altitude sickness** and **hypoxia-related damage**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ✖ **Medical:** It acts as a **natural anesthetic** and, when inhaled with oxygen, stimulates **hormone production** that increases **red blood cell count**.
 - 📎 It is also used to **measure blood flow** and **image the brain, heart, and lungs**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

80. (A)

Exp:

The Environmental Concerns Regarding Electric Vehicles (EVs):

- 💡 **Tyre Microplastic Pollution:** EVs are typically **15–20% heavier** than **internal combustion engine (ICE)** vehicles due to battery packs weighing **300–900 kg**, leading to **increased tyre stress and wear**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- ✖ Primary fragmentation, **caused by sudden braking or road impacts**, releases **micro-sized particles**, while sequential fragmentation from routine wear produces larger particles.
- ✖ **Smaller fragments (1–10 µm)** remain **airborne**, contributing to **air pollution**, while **larger ones (>100 µm)** **settle on roads**, affecting **soil and water**.
 - 📎 Rapid acceleration in EVs further increases friction and heat, intensifying microplastic emissions.
- ✖ While **EVs cut tailpipe emissions**, they increase **non-exhaust pollution**, presenting a **complex environmental trade-off**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Lithium-Ion Battery Hazards:** Manufacturing a single EV releases **16–19 tonnes of CO₂**, almost double that of an ICE vehicle (7–10 tonnes).
 - ✖ Producing **1 tonne of lithium** requires **approximately 1.89 million liters of freshwater**, affecting groundwater and ecosystems.
- 💡 **Grid Dependency & Fossil Fuels:** EVs are **only as green as the grid** that powers them. **India's grid is still**

coal-dominated. Coal-fired power plants emit **800–850g of CO₂/kWh**, which powers most EVs in India.

- ✖ Many public charging stations run on **diesel generators**, **ironically increasing emissions**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

81. (A)

Exp:

- 💡 **Oil Spills** refer to the release of **liquid petroleum hydrocarbons** into the environment, particularly into **oceans, rivers, or coastal waters** as a result of human activities.
- 💡 **Measures to Clean Oil Spills:**
 - ✖ **Bioremediation:** Uses oil-degrading bacteria (e.g., *Cyclocasticus*, *Oleispira*) to **break down hydrocarbons**; eco-friendly and accelerates natural detoxification.
 - ✖ **Dispersing Agents:** Surfactant-based chemicals that **break oil into droplets** for faster **biodegradation**. It is effective **but may harm marine life due to its potential toxicity**.
 - 📎 Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✖ **Skimmers:** Mechanical devices that **collect oil from the water surface** for safe disposal or recycling; effective when deployed quickly.
 - ✖ **Sorbents:** They **absorb or adsorb oil from water** and are **particularly useful for small spills or residual oil** after primary cleanup.
 - 📎 Natural sorbents (Straw, Volcanic ash), Synthetic (Polyester-derived plastic shavings).
- 💡 Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

82. (C)

Exp:

Base Editing:

- 💡 The base editing tool uses a **fusion of Cas9** with a **base-modifying enzyme** to convert specific bases (for example, changing a faulty cytosine to thymine) that cause genetic diseases. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ✖ Base editing can be likened to **using a pencil eraser to fix a typo** instead of scissors and glue, allowing safer and more targeted genetic correction.
- ✖ Scientists identified the exact **mispaired base** causing **CPS1 deficiency** and used a **base editor** to precisely **locate and correct** it in his DNA.

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✎ This **personalized treatment** eliminated **toxic ammonia buildup**, marking the **first known successful human case of base editing**.

💡 Unlike **CRISPR-Cas9**, which creates **double-strand breaks** in DNA, **Base editing** allows **direct, precise conversion** of one DNA base into another without cutting both DNA strands. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✖ This reduces the risks of **unintended mutations** and **improves accuracy**.

83. (C)

Exp:

NASA's GRAIL Mission:

NASA's Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL) mission has revealed **notable contrasts** between the **Moon's near side** and **far side** due to **temperature variations**, **crust thickness**, and **ancient volcanic activity**.

💡 **GRAIL** used twin spacecraft, **Ebb and Flow**, to study the Moon's **internal structure** in detail and to produce the **highest-resolution gravity map of the Moon** by mapping lunar gravitational variations. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Key Findings of the GRAIL Mission:**

✖ **Tidal Locking:** The **Moon's rotation period equals its orbit period**, so **one side** always faces **Earth** and the other **permanently hidden**.

✖ **Temperature Difference:** The Moon's **near side** (facing Earth) is **warmer, softer**, and was once **partly molten**, while the **far side** (hidden from Earth) is **colder** with a **thicker crust** that blocks **magma eruptions**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✖ **Volcanic History:** The Moon's **near side** features **dark lava plains (maria)**, while the **far side** has a **thicker crust** with **fewer lava flows**.

✖ **Thermal Asymmetry:** It estimated a **temperature difference of 100–200°C** between hemispheres. It found that the Moon's **crust** is more **porous** and **thinner** than previously believed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

84. (B)

Exp:

Outer Space Treaty and Liability Convention:

💡 **Outer Space Treaty (1967):** It is based on the **1963 UN Declaration**, and is the foundation of space law. It

bans **nuclear and weapons of mass destruction in space** and ensures space is used for peaceful purposes by all nations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✖ **India has ratified the Outer Space Treaty.**

💡 **Liability Convention (1972):** Building on Article 7 of the OST, the Liability Convention makes **launching states absolutely liable for damage their space objects** cause on Earth and liable for fault-based damage in space. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✖ **India has ratified the Liability Convention.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

85. (B)

Exp:

💡 The **Ekpyrotic Universe theory** proposes a **cyclical cosmology** where the universe doesn't begin with a singular Big Bang but with periodic phases of **contraction (big crunch)** followed by **expansion (big bounce)**.

💡 The **Holographic Principle** suggests that all the information contained in a volume of space can be represented as data on the boundary of that space—essentially, a 2D surface encoding the 3D universe, like a hologram.

💡 The **Big Splat scenario**, related to braneworld cosmology, suggests that our universe originated from a collision between higher-dimensional branes, releasing immense energy and initiating a universe—essentially a modified explanation of the Big Bang.

💡 The **Big Bang Theory** is a cosmological model explaining the universe's origin and evolution, stating it began from an extremely small, hot, and dense state and has been expanding and cooling since then.

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

86. (A)

Exp:

💡 **Dark Patterns** are **deceptive user interface designs** used in websites and apps to trick or **manipulate users into taking actions they did not originally intend**, such as signing up for recurring subscriptions, sharing personal data, or making unintended purchases. The term was coined by UX designer **Harry Brignull** in 2010. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**, through the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**, has officially recognised **multiple types of Dark Patterns** including **Basket Sneaking** (adding items to a cart

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without consent), **Confirm Shaming** (using guilt to influence user decisions), and **Disguised Ads** (ads appearing as genuine content).

- ✦ These practices are considered **unfair trade practices** under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **Dark Patterns** are regulated by the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

87. (C)

Exp:

💡 **Genome editing** refers to making precise, **targeted changes in the DNA sequence** of an organism. This process **does not always require introducing foreign genetic material**; often, it involves **modifying the organism's own genes**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)** are created by **inserting foreign genes from other species** into the host genome **to introduce new traits**, such as pest resistance or improved yield. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **CRISPR-Cas9** is a **gene-editing tool** that uses a **guide RNA** to **locate specific DNA sequences** and the **Cas9 enzyme** to **cut the DNA at those precise locations**, enabling **targeted modifications**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ✦ Similar gene-editing technologies include **Zinc Finger Nucleases (ZFNs)**, which use **engineered zinc finger proteins** to target DNA and the **FokI enzyme** to make cuts, enabling targeted genome edits.

💡 Hence, **option C is correct**.

88. (A)

Exp:

💡 **Thalassemia** is a **genetic blood disorder** characterized by **reduced or absent synthesis** of one of the **globin chains** that make up **hemoglobin**. This leads to **defective hemoglobin production** and **anemia**. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.

💡 **Hemophilia** is a **hereditary bleeding disorder** caused by **deficiency or malfunction of clotting factors**, primarily **Factor VIII (Hemophilia A)** or **Factor IX (Hemophilia B)**, leading to **impaired blood clotting**. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.

💡 Leukemia is a **blood cancer** marked by **excessive abnormal white blood cells, disrupting normal blood cell production**. It is **caused by genetic mutations in bone marrow blood-forming cells** leading to uncontrolled cell growth.

- ✦ It is **not caused by viral infection**. Hence, **pair 3 is not correctly matched**.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

89. (A)

Exp:

💡 Down syndrome is caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21, also known as trisomy 21. This chromosomal abnormality leads to the characteristic features of the syndrome. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 Down syndrome is generally **not** a hereditary disorder passed through dominant inheritance. Most cases occur due to a random error in cell division (nondisjunction) and are not inherited from parents. However, a rare form called translocation Down syndrome can be inherited but it is not through dominant inheritance. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 Individuals with Down syndrome typically exhibit intellectual disability and distinct facial features such as a flat facial profile, upward slanting eyes, and a single palmar crease. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

90 (B)

Exp:

💡 **Base Editing:** Unlike **CRISPR-Cas9**, which creates **double-strand breaks** in DNA, **Base editing** allows **direct, precise conversion** of one DNA base into another without cutting both DNA strands. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- ✦ This reduces risks of **unintended mutations** and **improves accuracy**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **Mechanism:** The base editing tool uses a **fusion of Cas9** with a **base-modifying enzyme** to convert specific bases (for example, changing a faulty cytosine to thymine) that cause genetic diseases. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

💡 **Precision:** Base editing can be likened to **using a pencil eraser to fix a typo** instead of scissors and glue, allowing safer and more targeted genetic correction.

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- ✦ Scientists identified the exact **mispaired base** causing **CPS1 deficiency** and used a **base editor** to precisely **locate and correct** it in his DNA.
- 💡 This **personalized treatment** eliminated **toxic ammonia buildup**, marking the **first known successful human case of base editing**.

International Relations and Current Affairs

91. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 **Jnanpith Award:** The Jnanpith Award, established in 1961 and first presented in 1965, is India's oldest and highest literary honour. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 It is conferred annually by **Bharatiya Jnanpith**, the award recognises outstanding **contributions to Indian literature across both English** and various Indian languages, exclusively to Indian citizens and not posthumously. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

92. (C)

Exp:

United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK)

- 💡 UN Peacekeeping refers to the activities carried out by the UN to help maintain or **restore international peace and security in conflict-affected areas**.
- ✦ UN Peacekeeping operates under the principles of **consent, impartiality, and non-use of force**, except in self-defense and defense of the mandate
- 💡 The **first UNPK mission, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)**, was established in **May 1948** to monitor the Armistice Agreement between **Israel and its Arab neighbors** with a small team of military observers. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 As per **UNPK data**, **India** is currently the **4th largest** troop-contributing nation with **5,375 personnel** after **Nepal, Rwanda and Bangladesh**. Nearly 180 Indian peacekeepers have died in action—the highest of any troop contributor. India deployed the first all-female unit to Liberia in 2007. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

93. (D)

Exp:

- 💡 **India** has officially assumed the **Chairmanship** of the **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** for the **2025–**

26 term during the **67th Governing Body Meeting (GBM)**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- 💡 The APO, is an **intergovernmental body** established in **1961** with **headquarters at Tokyo**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 **Members & Organisation Structure:** APO membership is open to **Asia-Pacific countries** that are also members of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)**.
 - ✦ It currently has **21 member economies**, including **India (a founding member)**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

94. (A)

Exp:

Global Pandemic Agreement:

- 💡 The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, at its **78th World Health Assembly**, has adopted the **world's first global Pandemic agreement**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The Agreement specifically affirms national sovereignty in public health matters and **does not give the WHO the authority to direct, order laws when it comes to tackling future pandemics**. The WHO could not impose lockdowns or travel bans or mandate vaccination or testing campaigns. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 The **Global Supply Chain and Logistics Network (GSCL)** launched under the Pandemic Agreement aims to remove barriers and ensure **equitable, timely, safe, and affordable access to pandemic-related health products** during **public health emergencies** of international concern. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

95. (C)

Exp:

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

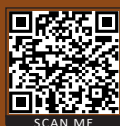
- 💡 It was established in **1960** at the **Baghdad Conference**. It is a **permanent intergovernmental organization headquartered in Vienna** that coordinates and regulates the supply and price of oil among its member countries to stabilize the global oil market. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The **non-OPEC countries** that export crude oil are termed as **OPEC-plus countries**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ✦ OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

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96. (A)

Exp:

- 💡 **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** was launched at the **G20 2023 Summit held in New Delhi, India**. The aim of the GBA is to promote the **adoption and development of sustainable biofuels globally**. This directly aligns with the G20's expanding agenda on climate change and sustainable development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Basel III Banking Norms** is a global regulatory framework designed to strengthen the financial system and it was endorsed by G20 leaders at the **2010 Seoul Summit**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✦ These norms set **higher regulatory standards for banks worldwide**, aiming to strengthen bank capital requirements, improve risk management, and enhance transparency in the banking sector. This was a key outcome from the G20's response to the 2007–08 global financial crisis.
- 💡 **The Paris Agreement on Climate Change** was adopted in **2015** under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Although the G20 has supported climate action and influenced global climate policies, it is **not the body that launched or formally adopted the Paris Agreement**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

97. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The **World Food Prize** was founded in **1986** by Nobel Laureate **Norman Borlaug**, is a top global award recognizing contributions in **improving food quantity, quality and accessibility** and **agriculture**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ✦ It awards **USD 500,000 annually** to innovators in **agriculture, nutrition, food technology, and hunger alleviation**.
- 💡 The first recipient of the World Food Prize was **India's M.S. Swaminathan (1987)**, father of **Indian green revolution**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Brazilian** microbiologist **Mariangela Hungria** has been awarded the **World Food Prize 2025** for her pioneering work in **Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF)** and development of **microbial technologies** that reduce chemical fertiliser use.

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