



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MCQ CONSOLIDATION

### February

### 2026

### PART-I



C-171/2,  
Block-A,  
Sector-15,  
Noida



641,  
Mukherjee Nagar,  
Opp. Signature  
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



Crystal Heights,  
Circular  
Road, Lalpur  
Chowk, Ranchi,  
Jharkhand



Shahi Lane,  
SP Verma Road,  
South Gandhi  
Maidan,  
Patna

## Practice Question

### Polity & Governance

1. With reference to Personality Rights in India, consider the following statements:

1. Personality rights protect an individual's name, image, voice, and other identifiable attributes from unauthorised commercial exploitation.
2. Courts have recognised personality rights as emanating from the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.
3. Any unauthorised use of a public figure's personality, including for artistic or expressive purposes, amounts to a violation of personality rights.

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

2. With reference to the Supreme Court judgment on Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) in 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court recognised menstrual health as part of the right to life and dignity under Article 21.
2. The Court treated menstrual health as a welfare measure dependent on executive discretion.
3. Lack of access to menstrual hygiene facilities was held to violate bodily autonomy and privacy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Jhodia community, concentrated mainly in southern Odisha, had earlier availed Scheduled Tribe status as part of the Paroja tribe but later lost this recognition.

2. The Sora language belongs to the Indo-Aryan language family and is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA), consider the following statements:

1. The FNTA was created through a tripartite agreement between the Union Government, the Nagaland State Government, and the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO).
2. The FNTA provides for a separate State for Eastern Nagaland by altering the territorial integrity of Nagaland.
3. The FNTA has been granted executive and legislative powers over selected subjects while operating within the framework of Article 371(A) of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Disconnect Bill, 2026:

1. The Bill was introduced in Parliament as a Constitutional Amendment Bill to grant employees the right to disconnect.
2. The Bill proposes that employees cannot be penalized in any form for not responding to work communications outside official working hours.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**6. Consider the following pairs regarding Parliamentary Questions**

Questions Type	Description
1. Starred Question	A question for which the member desires an oral answer in the House.
2. Unstarred Question	A question for which a written answer is desired.
3. Short Notice Question	Relates to a matter of urgent public importance.

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

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

**7. Which of the following statements correctly describes the position of the Speaker when a resolution for his/her removal is under consideration in the House?**

- A. He/She can preside over the House but cannot vote on the resolution.  
B. He/She cannot preside over the House but can vote only in the case of an equality of votes.  
C. He/She cannot preside over the House but can speak, participate in proceedings, and vote in the first instance.  
D. He/She can neither preside nor participate in the proceedings of the House.

**8. Consider the following pairs:**

Provision	Constitutional Article
1 Appointment of Ad-hoc Judges to the Supreme Court	Article 127
2 Attendance of Retired Judges at sittings of the Supreme Court	Article 128
3 Appointment of Retired Judges at sittings of High Courts	Article 224A

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

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

**9. With reference to the News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA), consider the following statements:**

- NBDSA is a statutory body established by the Government of India to regulate all forms of media content.
- It enforces ethical standards such as objectivity, impartiality, and communal harmony under the News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Regulations, 2008.
- NBDSA can act suo motu or on complaints and may issue warnings, censures, or direct modification or removal of content.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**10. Consider the following statements regarding the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026:**

- The rules mandate that social media platforms must remove content deemed illegal by a court or appropriate government within 24 hours of receiving the order.
- Under the rules, synthetic content is defined as audio-visual information created or altered algorithmically that appears indistinguishable from a natural person.
- Failure to comply with mandatory labeling norms puts the intermediary's "Safe Harbour" protection under Section 79 of the IT Act at risk.

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

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

### International Relations

**11. Consider the following statements regarding India-US trade relations:**

- The US is currently the largest source of cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India.
- The 'Mission 500' initiative aims to increase bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030.

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3. India is a beneficiary under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of the US.

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

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

**12. It is a constitutional monarchy in Southeast Asia which gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1957. It shares a land and maritime border with Thailand and maritime borders with Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia. The Strait of Malacca runs along its coast, and it has a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with India.**

**Which of the following countries best fits the above description?**

- A. Indonesia
- B. Malaysia
- C. Singapore
- D. Brunei

**13. Consider the following statements regarding Seychelles:**

1. Seychelles is an archipelagic island nation located in the western Indian Ocean, northeast of Madagascar.
2. The islands of Seychelles are situated on the Mascarene Plateau in the Indian Ocean.
3. Seychelles is the most populous country in Africa and lies on the continental shelf of mainland Africa.
4. Seychelles holds strategic importance for India due to its location along key maritime trade routes and its role in maritime security and the Blue Economy.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**14. Match List-I with List-II:**

List-I (Event/Concept)	List-II (Description)
A. Tashkent Declaration	1. Civil nuclear cooperation
B. Kudankulam Nuclear Plant	2. Soviet-mediated agreement restoring status quo after 1965 India–Pakistan war
C. iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies)	3. Strategic technology collaboration
D. Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, 1971	4. De-facto security guarantee during Bangladesh crisis

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**15. The 'Kimberley Process', recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?**

- A. Controlling the trade of conflict diamonds.
- B. Regulation of crude oil prices by OPEC.
- C. Conservation of biodiversity in the Amazon rainforest.
- D. Global standards for organic farming certification.

**16. With reference to safeguards for Indian farmers under the India–US Interim Trade Agreement, consider the following statements:**

1. India has excluded meat, dairy, and staple grains from tariff concessions.
2. Genetically Modified (GM) maize and soybean imports from the US have been permitted.
3. A “negative list” approach has been used to protect sensitive agricultural commodities.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

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

**17. Consider the following statements regarding the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme:**

1. The programme was launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with the release of scheme guidelines and a call for proposals.
2. The programme aims to develop India's capacity in hydrogen technologies, focusing on system integration, safety, techno-economic analysis, and life-cycle assessment.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**18. Assertion (A):** India can construct run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects on the Chenab River.

**Reason (R):** The Indus Waters Treaty permits India limited usage rights over Western Rivers subject to design and storage restrictions.

**Select the correct answer:**

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
C. A is true, but R is false.  
D. A is false, but R is true.

**19. Consider the following statements regarding the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START):**

1. New START was the last legally binding nuclear arms control treaty between the United States and Russia and expired on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
2. Under New START, both countries were limited to 700 deployed strategic delivery systems and 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads.
3. After its extension in 2021, Russia fully withdrew from the treaty in 2023, leading to the complete termination of all arms control obligations.
4. The expiry of New START has removed all legally binding limits on US–Russia strategic nuclear weapons for the first time since 1972.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Indian Economy**

**20. Consider the following statements:**

1. The term 'Budget' is explicitly defined under Article 112 of the Constitution.
2. The Annual Financial Statement must distinguish expenditure on revenue accounts from other expenditure.
3. The President shall cause the Annual Financial Statement to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**21. With reference to coking coal, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a specialised grade of bituminous coal used to produce coke for blast furnace steelmaking.
2. It can be easily substituted by thermal coal in steel production.
3. Its importance lies in caking properties and low impurity content.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**22. In the context of manufacturing, the term "servicification" as used in the Economic Survey 2025–26 refers to:**

- A. Decline of manufacturing relative to services.  
B. Increasing value addition from services embedded within manufacturing.

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- C. Outsourcing manufacturing to service-sector firms.
- D. Replacement of manufacturing by digital platforms.

**23. With reference to the Minimum Import Price (MIP) recently imposed on pharmaceutical inputs, consider the following statements:**

1. MIP sets a government-mandated floor price below which specified goods cannot be imported.
2. The objective of imposing MIP is to curb predatory low-cost imports and protect domestic API manufacturers.
3. The recent MIP has been imposed on Penicillin G and its salts, 6-Aminopenicillanic acid (6-APA), and Paracetamol.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**24. With reference to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is conducted every alternate month.
2. It traditionally focuses on rural households.
3. It captures expectations related to income, employment and prices.

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

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None

**25. Which of the following legislations were subsumed under the Code on Wages 2019?**

1. Payment of Wages Act, 1936
2. Minimum Wages Act, 1948
3. Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
4. Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**26. With reference to the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (16<sup>th</sup> FC), consider the following statements:**

1. The share of States in the divisible pool of central taxes has been retained at 41%.
2. Cesses and surcharges form part of the divisible pool of central taxes.
3. The 16th FC award period covers the years 2026–31.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**27. Consider the following statements regarding the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS):**

1. The scheme provides a hybrid incentive structure encompassing both turnover-linked and capex-linked fiscal support.
2. The scheme is designed to act as a 'horizontal enabler' for the India Semiconductor 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

**28. The RBI's 'neutral' monetary policy stance implies which of the following?**

1. The RBI has no pre-commitment to either rate cuts or rate hikes.
2. Policy actions will be guided by incoming macro-economic data.
3. The RBI prioritises inflation control over growth under all circumstances.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**29. Consider the following statements regarding the eligibility of entities for 'Startup' recognition in India:**

1. Multi-State Cooperative Societies are eligible for startup recognition.
2. Entities formed by splitting up or reconstructing an existing business are eligible if they focus on deep tech innovation.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

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30. With reference to India's chemical industry, consider the following statements:

1. It contributes around 7% to India's GDP.
2. India ranks among the top three chemical producers globally.
3. The sector supplies critical inputs to agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and automobiles.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

31. With reference to the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to improve regional air connectivity by making air travel affordable and accessible.
2. As of 2025, more than 600 routes have been operationalised under the scheme.
3. The scheme primarily promotes connectivity between major metropolitan cities to enhance traffic efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. The "Kasturi Cotton Bharat" initiative seeks to enhance India's textile competitiveness primarily by:

- A. Increasing cotton subsidies for farmers  
B. Using blockchain-based traceability to command a premium price  
C. Expanding cotton cultivation into forest areas  
D. Replacing cotton with synthetic fibres

33. Consider the following statements regarding India's Advanced Chemistry Cell Production Linked Incentive (ACC-PLI) scheme:

1. The scheme targets the creation of 50 GWh of lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity by 2030.
2. The scheme aims to reduce import dependence, attract private investment, and promote adoption of electric vehicles and energy storage systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. With reference to NITI Aayog's reports on "Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero", consider the following statements:

1. India's economic growth pathway envisages a shift from consumption-led growth to investment-driven growth.
2. India's GDP is projected to reach USD 30 trillion by 2047 under the Net Zero scenario.
3. Private consumption is expected to increase its share in GDP during the transition period.

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

35. Consider the following statements with reference to the criteria definitions adopted by the 16th Finance Commission:

1. The 'Income Distance' is calculated based on the gap between a state's per capita Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and the state with the single highest per capita income in India.
2. The 'Forest' criterion considers only dense and moderately dense forests, excluding open forests.
3. 'Demographic Performance' rewards states with lower population growth between 1971 and 2011.

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

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

36. Consider the following statements regarding India-Canada trade relations:

1. India was Canada's 7<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in 2024.
2. Both countries aim to double bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030.
3. India runs a trade deficit with Canada in goods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding the Pulses:

1. India is the largest producer and consumer of pulses.

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2. Pulses are generally grown as rainfed crops and require high rainfall of above 100 cm.
3. Pulses belong to the Leguminosae family and help in improving soil fertility through nitrogen fixation.

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

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

### Environment

**38. With reference to the circular economy approach in the mobility sector, consider the following statements:**

1. A rise in electric vehicle adoption necessarily reduces material intensity in the transport sector.
2. End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) pose both environmental risks and opportunities for secondary material recovery.
3. Formal scrappage infrastructure is sufficient in India to handle projected ELV growth by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**39. Consider the following statements regarding the Sacred Groves in India:**

1. They are exclusively found in the Himalayan foothills as alpine meadows.
2. They act as 'secret wizards of conservation' by serving as biodiversity refuges and maintaining high water quality.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**40. Consider the following statements regarding Rat-hole Mining:**

1. It is mainly practised in regions where coal seams are thin and unsuitable for large-scale open-cast mining.
2. It is a legally permitted activity regulated under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**41. With reference to *Lyriothemis keralensis*, recently discovered in Kerala, consider the following statements:**

1. It was earlier misidentified as *Lyriothemis acigastra*.
2. The species exhibits sexual dimorphism in coloration.
3. It is visible throughout the year only in its adult form.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**42. Consider the following statements with reference to Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) in India:**

1. CCUS can enable low-carbon steel production immediately by using existing infrastructure, serving as a bridge technology until hydrogen-based steelmaking becomes commercially viable.
2. The primary challenge in scaling CCUS in India is the lack of renewable energy resources, as CCUS relies entirely on solar and wind power for its operation.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**43. With reference to invasive alien plant species in the Arctic region, consider the following statements:**

1. Rapid Arctic warming is weakening natural climatic barriers, allowing more non-native plant species to survive.
2. Scientific studies estimate that more than 2,500 vascular plant species could potentially establish in the Arctic under warming scenarios.
3. Invasive species can occur both unintentionally and deliberately.
4. Invasive alien species are considered among the major drivers of global biodiversity loss.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

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44. It is a Ramsar site and a seasonal saline wetland situated between the Banni grasslands and the Kutch salt flats, serving as a key stopover on the western migratory flyway. It is the only Conservation Reserve in Gujarat and is known for supporting the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing and the unique “Chir Batti” phenomenon.

Which of the following wetlands is described in the above passage?

- A. Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary
- B. Chhari-Dhand
- C. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

45. With reference to recent developments in wildlife conservation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Gujarat has become the only Indian state to host Asiatic Lions, Royal Bengal Tigers, and Leopards within its forest ecosystems.
2. Jambughoda and Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuaries are characterised by wet evergreen forests with high rainfall.
3. Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary is ecologically significant as it forms the catchment area of the River Panam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

46. Consider the following statements:

1. Turtle trails are regulated ecotourism pathways proposed along key turtle nesting sites in Odisha, Karnataka, and Kerala.
2. Olive Ridley turtles exhibit solitary nesting behaviour and are herbivorous in nature.
3. Gahirmatha and Rushikulya in Odisha are among the largest nesting sites of Olive Ridley turtles in the world.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## History - Art & Culture

47. With reference to the National Anthem ‘Jana Gana Mana’, consider the following statements:

1. It was originally written in Sadhu Bhasha, a Sanskritized dialect of Bengali.
2. The English translation titled ‘The Morning Song of India’ was prepared by Rabindranath Tagore at Madanapalle.
3. It was officially adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1950.

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

48. Consider the following statements regarding Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions:

1. Nearly 30 inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit, and Sanskrit were discovered in China.
2. The inscriptions record personal names like “Cikai Koran,” showing cultural links to the Chera dynasty and early Tamil literature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. Which of the following schools of art is described as a blend of Indian and Greek cultural influences?

- A. Mathura School of Art
- B. Gandhara School of Art
- C. Amravati School of Art
- D. Vesara School of Art

## Geography

50. Consider the following statements:

1. India plans to establish a Regional Service Centre at Vijaynagar on Swaraj Dweep in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to strengthen tsunami warning services in the Indian Ocean region.
2. India’s existing tsunami warning system is capable of detecting both earthquake-triggered and non-seismic tsunamis such as those caused by submarine landslides and volcanic activity.

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3. The proposed next-generation system includes laying sub-sea cables along tectonic subduction zones to improve detection speed and reduce dependence on surface buoys.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

51. With reference to the Thwaites Glacier, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in East Antarctica and is commonly referred to as the "Doomsday Glacier."
2. It contains enough ice to raise global sea levels by more than 0.5 metres if it collapses completely.
3. The glacier rests on bedrock that slopes downward inland below sea level, making it vulnerable to melting by warm ocean water.
4. Its melting currently contributes nearly 4% to annual global sea-level rise.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## Science & Tech

52. With reference to leprosy in India, consider the following statements:

1. India achieved leprosy eradication in 2005 as transmission was completely stopped.
2. National leprosy elimination status is defined as prevalence rate less than 1 per 10,000 population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. With reference to ExoMiner++, recently released by NASA, consider the following statements:

1. It is a deep-learning AI model developed to detect exoplanets from space-telescope data.
2. It identifies exoplanets by analysing periodic dips in stellar brightness caused by planetary transits.
3. It functions as a black-box model without providing reasoning for its classifications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. With reference to the 'Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)' technology, consider the following statements:

1. Unlike conventional rockets, it carries an oxidizer tank to burn the solid fuel efficiently at high altitudes.
2. It is an air-breathing propulsion system that allows missiles to sustain supersonic speeds for longer durations compared to standard solid-fuel rockets.
3. It utilizes a nozzle-less booster to accelerate the missile to supersonic speeds before the ramjet sustains the flight.

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

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

55. With reference to Biomaterials, consider the following statements:

1. Biomaterials are derived wholly or partly from biological sources or produced using biological processes to replace petroleum-based materials.
2. Drop-in biomaterials are chemically different from fossil-based materials and require new recycling or composting systems.
3. India's biomaterials sector supports fossil-fuel import substitution, circular economy goals, and value addition to agricultural residues.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

56. Consider the following statements regarding a recently developed sunlight-powered energy storage device in India:

1. The technology relies on lithium-based electrodes and silicon photovoltaic cells to achieve energy storage.
2. The device combines solar energy harvesting and electrical energy storage within a single unit, eliminating the need for separate components.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. Consider the following statements regarding the India AI Stack:

1. India AI Stack is designed as an integrated framework to enable reliable, affordable and population-scale deployment of Artificial Intelligence across key sectors.
2. The AI Model Layer focuses on building India-centric and sovereign AI models through initiatives such as BharatGen, Bhashini and IndiaAIKosh.
3. The Energy Layer of the India AI Stack relies primarily on fossil fuels to meet the high power demand of AI data centres.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

58. With reference to CAR T-cell therapy, consider the following statements:

1. It involves genetically modifying a patient's T-cells to recognise and destroy cancer cells.
2. CAR T-cell therapy is currently approved mainly for certain blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma.
3. It relies on monoclonal antibodies produced outside the human body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

59. With reference to the acquisition of P-8I aircraft by India, consider the following statements:

1. The Boeing P-8I is primarily designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare and Maritime Surveillance operations.
2. The current deal for additional P-8I aircraft includes mandatory offset provisions and technology transfer under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.
3. The procurement is being pursued through an India-US Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA).

4. The Indian Navy currently operates P-8I aircraft from INS Rajali and INS Hansa.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

60. With reference to orbital motion, consider the following statements:

1. The gravitational force between two celestial bodies provides the centripetal force required for orbital motion.
2. A body in uniform circular motion experiences acceleration even if its speed remains constant.
3. In the absence of gravity, a planet would continue to move in a circular orbit due to inertia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

61. With reference to the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education as envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The "Adoption" stage of the Three A's framework focuses on familiarising learners with AI tools and overcoming technophobia.
2. The "Absorption" stage aims at developing the ability to critically evaluate AI outputs and understand their limitations and biases.
3. The "Application" stage emphasises replacing human reasoning with automated AI decision-making in academic assessments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. With reference to 'Ricin', often seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a carbohydrate-binding protein produced in the seeds of the *Ricinus communis* plant.
2. It causes cell death by accelerating the synthesis of proteins within the cell.
3. It is classified as a Schedule 1 substance under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**63. With reference to the National Large Solar Telescope (NLST), consider the following statements:**

1. It will operate primarily in X-ray wavelengths to observe solar flares.
2. It will be India's third ground-based solar observatory.
3. It will complement space-based solar missions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. One only                            B. Two only  
C. All three                            D. None

**64. Consider the following statements regarding Sodium-ion Batteries (SiBs):**

1. Unlike Lithium-ion batteries which use copper as current collectors, Sodium-ion batteries use aluminium, which reduces the overall cost.
2. While Lithium-ion batteries must be transported at partial charge to maintain health, Sodium-ion batteries can be transported at zero volts without degradation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Defence & Security

**65. With reference to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory body created under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
3. It has powers to issue binding directions to service providers and intermediaries.

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

**66. With reference to the Union Budget 2026–27 and defence modernisation, consider the following statements:**

1. The increase in defence capital allocation primarily reflects a shift away from revenue expenditure.
2. Network-centric warfare capability is supported by investments in defence communication infrastructure.
3. Capital acquisition includes both imported platforms and indigenous systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**67. With reference to the regulation of book publication by retired armed forces personnel in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Upon retirement, Army officers cease to be subject to the disciplinary provisions of the Army Act, 1950 in matters relating to publication.
2. Retirement from service grants immunity from prosecution under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 for disclosures made thereafter.
3. In the absence of a consolidated statutory framework, regulation of publications by retired Army officers currently operates in a legal grey area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**68. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Coast Guard (ICG):**

1. The ICG was established on the recommendations of the Nag Committee (1970) and the Rustamji Committee (1974–75).
2. The motto of the Indian Coast Guard is "Vayam Rakshamah" (We Protect).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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69. Established in 1835 as the “Cachar Levy” to protect British tea plantations, this is India’s oldest paramilitary force. It is unique among Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) for functioning under the dual control of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. Which of the following best fits the description?

- A. Border Security Force (BSF)
- B. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- C. Assam Rifles
- D. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

### Miscellaneous

70. Consider the following statements about Dr Zakir Husain:

1. He was the first Indian Muslim to hold the office of President of India.
2. He served as Governor of Bihar before becoming Vice President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. With reference to Bharat Parv 2026, consider the following statements:

1. Bharat Parv is a six day annual national cultural and tourism festival organised as part of the Republic Day celebrations since 2016.
2. Bharat Parv 2026 was organised by the Ministry of Culture at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
3. The 2026 edition commemorated 150 years of Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
4. Display of Republic Day tableaux and performances by armed forces bands are among the regular features of Bharat Parv.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

72. With reference to Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0, consider the following statements:

1. It is a time-bound campaign launched by NITI Aayog to achieve saturation of key development indicators.

2. The campaign adopts a mission-mode approach with district- and block-level action plans, monthly monitoring, and behaviour change initiatives.
3. It is scheduled to run for three months between January and April 2026.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

73. With reference to Yantra India Limited (YIL), consider the following statements:

1. Yantra India Limited was created after the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board in 2021.
2. It functions under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
3. It was granted Miniratna Category-II status in 2026.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. With reference to ‘Mission SAKSHAM’, recently launched by the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a sector-wide capacity-building and certification initiative.
2. It is specifically aimed at strengthening Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks.
3. It provides direct financial assistance to MSMEs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

75. Consider the following statements:

1. India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 was announced in the Union Budget 2026–27 with a budgetary allocation of ₹1,000 crore for FY 2026–27.
2. ISM 2.0 marks a shift from ecosystem creation towards consolidation, technological depth, indigenous IP development and global integration.
3. Under ISM 2.0, India aims to achieve complete self-sufficiency in semiconductor chip demand by 2029.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

76. With reference to Bodhan AI, consider the following statements:

1. It is described as a non-profit organisation under the Ministry of Education.
2. It has been developed by the AI Centre of Excellence for Education at IIT Delhi.
3. Its primary objective is to create an AI-enabled Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. Consider the following statements regarding the PRIYA Trial on Vitamin B12:

1. The PRIYA Trial examined whether vitamin B12 supplementation during adolescence can improve neonatal health outcomes through epigenetic mechanisms.
2. The trial found that vitamin B12 supplementation led to an improvement in neonatal ponderal index, indicating better foetal growth.
3. Vitamin B12 is a fat-soluble vitamin synthesised by the human body and commonly obtained from plant-based foods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

78. With reference to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, consider the following statements:

1. He propounded the philosophy of Integral Humanism emphasising self-reliance, social justice and economic equality.

2. His birth anniversary is observed as Antyodaya Diwas in India.
3. He was associated with the Indian National Congress and served as its president.
4. The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana is linked to the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

79. With reference to the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
2. The index assesses economies based on Technology, People, Governance, and Impact.
3. India is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among the lower-middle-income countries in this index.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

80. With reference to the Combined Task Force (CTF)-154, consider the following statements:

1. CTF-154 is a multinational maritime training task force operating under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).
2. The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is headquartered in Qatar.
3. India has recently assumed command of CTF-154 for the first time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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## Answers

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

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## Explanation

### Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Personality rights protect an individual's **name, image, voice, likeness, and other identifiable traits** from unauthorised **commercial exploitation**, especially in advertising, endorsements, and monetised digital content. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Courts derive personality rights from **Article 21**, particularly after the **K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)** judgment, which recognised privacy as a fundamental right encompassing control over one's personal identity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Not every unauthorised use amounts to a violation. Courts **balance personality rights with freedom of speech and expression**, permitting **artistic, satirical, informational, or non-misleading use** that does not imply endorsement or commercial gain. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

2.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The Supreme Court held that Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) is an integral part of the **right to life with dignity** under **Article 21**. It **linked menstrual health to dignity, bodily autonomy, privacy, and reproductive health**, elevating it from a policy issue to a constitutional guarantee. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Court **explicitly rejected the view that menstrual health is merely a welfare measure subject to executive discretion**. Instead, it recognised MHH as a **binding fundamental right**, imposing enforceable obligations on the State rather than optional policy choices. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Court observed that **lack of access to sanitary products, toilets, and safe disposal forces stigma, absenteeism, and exclusion**, which directly violates **bodily autonomy and privacy**, both of which are core components of Article 21. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

3.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Jhodia community** was earlier treated as a sub-group or synonym of the **Paroja tribe** in **southern Odisha**. On this basis, it had access to **Scheduled Tribe** benefits for several years, which were later withdrawn after a revision in classification. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The **Soura (Saora) language** is part of the **Austroasiatic (Munda)** linguistic family. It has its own indigenous script but does **not** figure in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

4.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) was established through a **tripartite agreement between the Union Government, the Nagaland State Government, and the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO)** to address the political and developmental aspirations of Eastern Nagaland without creating a separate State. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - 💡 The FNTA **does not alter the territorial integrity of Nagaland** or grant statehood; instead, it provides financial and administrative autonomy within the existing State structure. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - 💡 The agreement clearly states that the FNTA **operates within the framework of Article 371(A)**, which safeguards Naga customary laws, religious and social practices, and land ownership, while granting the Authority executive and legislative powers over selected subjects. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - 💡 Hence, option B is correct.
- 5.
- Ans: B
- Exp:
- 💡 The **Right to Disconnect Bill, 2026**, was introduced as a **Private Member's Bill**, not as a Constitutional Amendment. **Private Member's Bills** are **legislative proposals** brought by **Members of Parliament who are not part of the government**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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⚡ A central feature of the Bill is that employees **cannot face disciplinary action, negative performance evaluations, or career penalties** for choosing not to respond to emails, calls, or messages outside official working hours.

✦ This provision is aimed at protecting workers' mental health and promoting work-life balance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

6.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ A **Starred Question** is one to which a member desires an **oral answer** on the floor of the House. Such questions are distinguished by an asterisk. Supplementary questions can follow. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

⚡ An **Unstarred Question** is one which is not called for oral answer. A **written answer** is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House. No supplementary questions can be asked. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

⚡ A **Short Notice Question** relates to a matter of **urgent public importance**. It can be asked with a notice shorter than the usual 10 days, provided the Minister concerned agrees to answer it. It is answered orally. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

7.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ Under **Article 96**, the Speaker **cannot preside** over a sitting of the House while a resolution for his removal is under consideration.

⚡ However, he has the right to **speak and take part** in the proceedings. He is entitled to **vote in the first instance** (as an ordinary member) but **cannot exercise a casting vote** in the case of an equality of votes.

⚡ **Hence, Option C is correct.**

8.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ **Article 127** provides for the **appointment of a Judge of a High Court as an ad-hoc Judge of the Supreme Court by the Chief Justice of India** with the previous consent of the President, if there is a lack of quorum. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

⚡ **Article 128** deals with the attendance of retired Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts at sittings of the Supreme Court, requested by the CJ with the President's prior consent. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched**

⚡ **Article 224A** allows the Chief Justice of a High Court, with the previous consent of the President, to request a retired Judge of that High Court or any other High Court to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched**

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

9.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ **NBDSA is not a statutory body**; it is an **independent self-regulatory authority** set up by the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) and funded by its members. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ NBDSA enforces standards of **objectivity, impartiality, fairness, decency, and communal harmony** under the **News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Regulations, 2008**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ NBDSA has the power to **adjudicate complaints**, act **suo motu**, and issue **warnings, censures, penalties, or directions for content modification/removal**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

10.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ Under the the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026**, Social media platforms must now remove content deemed illegal by a court or "appropriate government" within **3 hours** (reduced from the earlier 24-36 hour window).

✦ **Sensitive content**, specifically **non-consensual nudity and deepfakes**, must be taken down within **2 hours** of reporting. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ The rules define synthetic content as audio-visual information created or altered algorithmically that appears **"indistinguishable from a natural person or real-world event."** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ A specific **exemption** is provided for minor **touch-ups automatically performed by smartphone cameras**, ensuring everyday photo enhancements are not penalized.

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Failure to comply with these rules puts the intermediary's **Safe Harbour protection** at risk (immunity from legal liability for third-party content under **Section 79 of the IT Act**).

Intermediaries that **knowingly permit, promote, or fail to act** on violative synthetic content will be deemed to have failed "due diligence." Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Hence, option B is correct.

### International Relations

11.

Ans: A

Exp:

In FY25, the bilateral trade between India and the US stood at a record USD 132 billion as against USD 119.71 billion in FY24. In FY25, India had a trade surplus of USD 40.82 billion with the US. US is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest investor in India with cumulative **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows of USD 70.65 billion from 2000- 2025. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

The **US-India COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology)** was launched in 2025. Under this framework, the '**Mission 500**' initiative was introduced to increase bilateral trade to **USD 500 billion by 2030**, supported by negotiations for a **Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

India is **not** currently a beneficiary of the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP status was **withdrawn in 2019**, citing that India had not assured "equitable and reasonable access" to its markets. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

**Malaysia** is a constitutional monarchy located in Southeast Asia.

It gained independence from the **United Kingdom in 1957**.

**Peninsular Malaysia** shares a land and maritime border with **Thailand** and maritime borders with **Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia**.

The **Strait of Malacca** lies between Peninsular Malaysia and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

India and Malaysia established a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in 2015, which was recently deepened during the Indian Prime Minister's visit in 2026.

Hence, option B is correct.

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

Seychelles is a sovereign **archipelagic island nation** consisting of 155 islands, located in the **western Indian Ocean**, northeast of Madagascar and off the east coast of mainland Africa. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

The islands of Seychelles are located on the **Mascarene Plateau**, a large submarine plateau in the Indian Ocean, making them geologically distinct from many other African island nations. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Seychelles is **Africa's smallest and least populated country**, not the most populous, and it is not located on the continental shelf of mainland Africa. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Seychelles occupies a **strategically important position in the Indian Ocean**, contributing to maritime security, anti-piracy operations, and Blue Economy cooperation, making it a key partner for India under the SAGAR and MAHASAGAR visions. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

14.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Tashkent Declaration**: Mediated by the Soviet Union to end the 1965 India–Pakistan War and restore pre-war positions. Hence, **A is correctly matched with 2**.

**Kudankulam Nuclear Plant**: Symbol of India–Russia civil nuclear cooperation, built despite India being outside the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) regime. Hence, **B is correctly matched with 1**.

**iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies)**: India–US framework for strategic collaboration in critical and emerging technologies like AI, semiconductors, defence and space. Hence, **C is correctly matched with 3**.

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🔦 **Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, 1971:** Indo-Soviet treaty that provided India a de-facto security guarantee during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Hence, D is correctly matched with 4.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 India assumed the chairmanship of the Kimberley Process (KP) from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

🔦 The Kimberley Process (KP) is an international forum initiated in 2000 by Southern African countries, to regulate the trade in rough diamonds. It aims to prevent the **flow of conflict diamonds** while helping to protect legitimate trade in rough diamonds.

✖ **Conflict diamonds** are **rough diamonds used by rebel groups or their allies to finance armed conflicts aimed at undermining legitimate governments.**

✖ **KP is not a formal international organisation or a legally binding treaty.** It has no permanent office or staff and functions on **burden-sharing contributions** from participating countries, with support from industry and civil society.

✖ Its rules are implemented **through national laws**, not international legal obligations.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

16.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 Meat, dairy, and staple grains (wheat, rice, maize, millets) have been explicitly **excluded from tariff concessions** to safeguard Indian farmers. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 India has **not permitted GM maize and GM soybean imports**; the GM ban continues. Only limited, processed feed inputs like DDGS are allowed under safeguards. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 A strict **“negative list” approach** has been adopted to protect sensitive agricultural commodities from tariff liberalisation. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

17.

Ans: C

Exp:

🔦 The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** is the nodal department responsible for launching the **Hydrogen Fellowship Programme**, providing **national-level oversight and guidelines** for research participation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The programme is designed to **enhance India’s technical capacity in hydrogen technologies**, focusing on integration into **energy systems, safety protocols, life-cycle assessment, and economic feasibility studies.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, option C is correct.

18.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 India is allowed to construct **run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects** on the Chenab River. Hence, **the assertion is correct.**

🔦 Under the **Indus Waters Treaty**, India has limited rights over the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab), including non-consumptive uses like hydropower generation, subject to specific **design and storage restrictions.** Hence, **the reason is correct.**

🔦 The Reason correctly explains why India can construct such projects — because the Treaty explicitly permits it within defined limits.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)** expired on **5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, ending the **last legally binding nuclear arms control agreement** between the United States and Russia. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 New START imposed **verifiable limits of 700 deployed Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs) and heavy bombers**, along with a cap of **1,550 deployed nuclear warheads.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 Russia **suspended participation** in the treaty in **2023** amid the Ukraine conflict, leading to a halt in inspections and data sharing, but it did **not formally withdraw** from the treaty at that time. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

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- With the treaty's expiry, there are **no legally binding limits on US–Russia strategic nuclear weapons** for the **first time since 1972**, increasing risks of arms buildup, miscalculation and escalation. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

### Indian Economy

20.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Constitution **does not use the word 'Budget'**. Article 112 refers to it as the **"Annual Financial Statement"**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 112** explicitly states that the estimates of expenditure shall "distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure (capital account). This separation classifies spending into the Revenue Budget (day-to-day expenses) and Capital Budget. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the **President of India is responsible for ensuring that the Annual Financial Statement**, containing estimated receipts and expenditures for the financial year, is laid before both Houses of Parliament. While the **Finance Minister typically presents this statement on the President's behalf.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

21.

Ans: A

Exp

- Coking coal (also called metallurgical coal) is a **specialised grade of bituminous coal** that is heated in the absence of air to produce **coke**, which is essential for **blast furnace steelmaking.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Thermal coal is used for **power generation** and does not possess the required **caking properties** needed to form coke. Therefore, it **cannot substitute coking coal** in blast furnace steel production. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The strategic value of coking coal lies in its **caking behaviour (softening and swelling on heating)** and **low levels of ash, sulphur, and phosphorus**, which are critical for high-quality steel production. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

- "Servicification" refers to the growing role of **services within the manufacturing process itself**, such as design, Research & Developments, logistics, software, after-sales support, and data analytics.
- The **Economic Survey 2025–26** highlights that modern manufacturing success increasingly depends on **service inputs embedded across the value chain.**
  - Thus, it signifies **manufacturing becoming more service-intensive**, not its decline or outsourcing.
- Hence, option B is correct.**

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

- A Minimum Import Price (MIP) is a **government-mandated floor price** below which certain goods cannot be imported. It is used as a trade policy tool to prevent injury to domestic industries from excessively cheap imports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The objective of imposing MIP in this case is to **curb predatory low-cost imports**, particularly from China, and **protect domestic Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) manufacturers**, whose viability is threatened by cheap imports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The recent MIP has been imposed on **Penicillin G and its salts, 6-Aminopenicillanic acid (6-APA), and amoxicillin, not paracetamol.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

24.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The RBI's Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) is conducted bi-monthly (every alternate month). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Traditionally, the CCS has been urban-focused; a separate Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS) was introduced later. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The survey captures consumer perceptions and expectations regarding income, employment, prices, and spending. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

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25.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Code on Wages, 2019** consolidates and replaces **four wage-related labour laws** to create a uniform legal framework across India. These are
  - ✦ **Payment of Wages Act, 1936** which regulated **timely payment of wages** and authorised deductions, now subsumed under the Code.
  - ✦ **Minimum Wages Act, 1948** which provided for **fixation and revision of minimum wages**, its provisions are fully incorporated in the Code.
  - ✦ **Payment of Bonus Act, 1965** which governed **payment of bonus to employees**, merged into the Code on Wages. **Hence, statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.**
- 💡 The **Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952** is **not subsumed** under the Code on Wages. It falls under the **Code on Social Security, 2020**, which deals with provident fund, pension, and insurance benefits. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

26.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission** has retained the **States' share at 41%** of the **divisible pool of central taxes**, continuing the level recommended by the 15th Finance Commission for the award period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Cesses and surcharges are excluded** from the divisible pool of central taxes. Since they are not shared with States, their increasing use reduces the quantum of tax devolution to States. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The **award period of the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission spans five years from 2026–27 to 2030–31**, commonly referred to as **2026–31**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

27.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** launched in April 2025 by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, it aims to build a **self-sustaining electronics component ecosystem** by attracting domestic and global investment across the value chain by integrating its

domestic electronic industry with the **Global Value Chains (GVCs)**.

- ✦ The ECMS provides **turnover-linked, capex-linked, or hybrid fiscal incentives**, with a portion of both turnover and capex incentives linked to employment generation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The ECMS acts as a horizontal enabler, working alongside the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and ISM 2.0** to build a comprehensive ecosystem covering materials, equipment, and advanced packaging. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 A **neutral monetary policy stance** indicates that the RBI has **no pre-set bias toward either increasing or decreasing policy interest rates**. It retains **full flexibility to respond to evolving economic conditions**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Under a neutral stance, **policy decisions are data-dependent**, meaning the **RBI bases future actions on incoming indicators** such as inflation, growth, liquidity, global conditions, and financial stability risks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 Prioritising inflation control **under all circumstances** reflects a **hawkish stance**, not a neutral one. **A neutral stance balances inflation and growth objectives without rigidly favouring one over the other**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

29.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Multi-State Cooperative Societies** (along with State and UT cooperative societies) are now **eligible for startup recognition** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) revised startup framework to promote innovation, especially in **agriculture and rural sectors**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 Entities formed by **splitting up or reconstructing existing businesses** are **explicitly excluded** from startup recognition, even if they claim to focus on deep tech innovation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

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30.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 India's chemical industry contributes about 7% to the country's GDP. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 India is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest chemical producer globally and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Asia, not among the top three worldwide. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The chemical industry is a "hub industry," supplying critical raw materials and intermediates to several key sectors, including agriculture (fertilizers and pesticides), pharmaceuticals (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients/APIs), and automobiles (polymers and rubber). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

31.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Primary goal is affordable regional connectivity to unserved/underserved airports, boosting tourism and economic growth in Tier-2/3 cities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 As of 2025 (8th anniversary), 625 routes operationalized, connecting 90 airports including heliports and water aerodromes; over 1.49 crore passengers benefited. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Focuses on Tier-2/3 and remote regions to regional airports, not metro-to-metro efficiency. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Kasturi Cotton Bharat** initiative focuses on **blockchain-based traceability** to certify Indian cotton as **pure, contamination-free, and ethically produced**.
  - ✦ This traceability builds trust among global buyers and allows Indian textiles to **command a premium price**, helping offset tariff disadvantages and strengthen India's competitiveness in international markets.
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

33.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Advanced Chemistry Cell Production Linked Incentive (ACC-PLI)** scheme aims to create **50 GWh of**

**lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity by 2026**, not 2030. The 2026 target aligns with the government's plan to rapidly scale domestic production for EVs and energy storage. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- 💡 The scheme is designed to **reduce import dependence**, attract private and foreign investment, and support the **adoption of electric vehicles and energy storage systems** by developing a local advanced battery supply chain, including cathode, anode, and electrolyte manufacturing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

34.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **NITI Aayog's scenario analysis highlights a structural transformation** of India's growth model, **from a consumption-led trajectory to an investment-driven pathway**.
  - ✦ This shift is essential to support large-scale infrastructure creation, energy transition, and productivity enhancement required for **achieving both Viksit Bharat and Net Zero goals**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The reports project India's GDP to expand from about **USD 4.18 trillion in 2025 to nearly USD 30 trillion by 2047**, reflecting sustained high growth rates driven by capital formation, technological upgrading, urbanisation, and green investments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 Contrary to this statement, **private consumption's share in GDP is expected to decline** over the transition period. As savings and investment rise to finance the green and infrastructure transition, consumption growth becomes relatively moderated, marking a **deliberate macroeconomic rebalancing rather than a demand-driven expansion**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Per Capita GSDP Distance (Income Distance):** Defined as the gap between a state's per capita GSDP and the average per capita GSDP of the **top three large states with the highest income levels (not the single highest)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- Unlike the 15<sup>th</sup> FC, the 16<sup>th</sup> FC includes open forests in addition to dense and moderately dense forests. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Demographic Performance measures population growth between 1971 and 2011 to reward states that have effectively controlled population. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

36.

Ans: A

Exp:

- In 2024, India emerged as Canada's 7<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner, reflecting growing economic engagement between the two countries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- During the renewed bilateral engagements, both India and Canada agreed to accelerate negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the stated goal of doubling bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India does not run a trade deficit with Canada in goods; instead, India maintains a trade surplus, driven by exports such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, and precious metals. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

37.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India is indeed the largest producer and consumer of pulses globally, contributing about 25% of the world's total production. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Pulses are typically dryland crops. They do not require high rainfall; according to the text, they require only 25–60 cm of rainfall and survive well in dry conditions. High rainfall (above 100 cm) can actually be detrimental to many pulse crops. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Pulses belong to the Leguminosae (Fabaceae) family. They are known for their ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen into the soil through their root nodules, thereby improving soil fertility. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option B is correct.

## Environment

38.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Rising electric vehicle (EV) adoption does not necessarily reduce material intensity. EVs often increase demand for critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths), making material intensity higher even if tailpipe emissions fall. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) create environmental risks (pollution, unsafe dismantling) but also offer opportunities for secondary material recovery (steel, aluminium, plastics, critical minerals), making them central to the circular economy. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India's formal scrappage infrastructure is currently insufficient to handle the projected rise in ELVs by 2030, which is why informal dismantling continues to dominate. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option B is correct.

39.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Sacred groves are patches of virgin or near-natural forests protected by local communities due to their religious, cultural, and spiritual significance.
- India is home to over 1 million sacred forests and approximately 100,000 to 150,000 sacred groves. Sacred groves are found across India especially in the Western Ghats, Himalayas, Northeast, and Central India with high concentrations in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
  - Unlike the forest-based groves elsewhere, sacred groves often take the form of alpine meadows at the Himalayan foothills. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- Ecological Significance:
  - Biodiversity Refuge: Known as the "secret wizards of conservation," these groves serve as refuges for various plant and animal species, resembling small natural forests.
  - Water Conservation: These groves maintain high water quality (meeting WHO potable standards) and provide undisturbed habitats for diverse flora and fauna. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

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40.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Rat-hole mining is typically carried out in areas where coal occurs in narrow seams, making mechanised or large-scale open-cast mining economically and technically difficult.

✦ It is a primitive and hazardous method of coal extraction in which very narrow tunnels are dug just large enough for a person to crawl through. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ Rat-hole mining is prohibited in India following judicial intervention and is considered illegal; it is not a recognised or regulated mining method under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

41.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ *Lyriothemis keralensis* was present in Kerala since 2013 but was mistakenly identified as *Lyriothemis acigastra* for over a decade. Detailed microscopic examination and comparison with museum specimens later confirmed it as a distinct species. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ The species shows clear sexual dimorphism. Males are bright blood-red with black markings, while females are yellow with black markings, indicating visible differences between the sexes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ The dragonfly is not visible throughout the year in its adult form. Adults are mainly seen during the Southwest Monsoon (late May to August), while during the rest of the year it persists in its aquatic larval stage. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

42.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) enables existing steel plants to produce low-carbon steel by capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial processes, acting as a transitional solution until hydrogen-based steelmaking becomes commercially feasible. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ CCUS is energy-intensive but not dependent solely on renewable sources; the main barriers in India are the high capital cost, lack of CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure, geological uncertainties, and limited markets for CO<sub>2</sub> utilization. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

43.

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ Climate change is reducing natural barriers like extreme cold and short growing seasons, enabling invasive plants to survive in the Arctic. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ Studies estimate about 2,554 vascular plant species could find suitable climatic niches in a warming Arctic. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ Invasions occur unintentionally via transport-stowaway, seed contamination, cargo, clothing, vehicles etc., as well as deliberately introduced by humans in plantation and agriculture. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

⚡ Invasive alien species are globally recognised as a major cause of biodiversity loss. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

⚡ Hence, option D is correct.

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat)

⚡ It is a seasonal saline wetland between the Banni grasslands and Kutch salt flats, expanding to nearly 80 sq km during the monsoon in the arid Kutch region.

⚡ It is Gujarat's only Conservation Reserve and a key stopover on the western migratory flyway, serving as an important wintering ground for waterfowl.

⚡ It supports about 30,000 Common Cranes annually, large populations of Greater and Lesser Flamingos, and threatened species such as the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing and the vulnerable Common Pochard.

⚡ Seasonal waters provide essential feeding and roosting habitats, surrounding drylands support chinkara, caracal, and desert fox, and the area is known for the "Chir Batti" phenomenon seen after sunset.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

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45.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 Gujarat has confirmed the sustained presence of a Royal Bengal Tiger along with its existing populations of Asiatic Lions and Leopards, making it the only Indian state hosting all three major big cats. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 🔦 Jambughoda and Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuaries are dominated by dry southern tropical and dry deciduous forests with teak, bamboo, and grasslands, not wet evergreen forests. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 🔦 Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary acts as a critical catchment area for the River Panam, supporting water conservation and ecological stability in the Dahod and Panchmahal districts. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

46.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 Turtle trails refer to designated coastal pathways and viewing infrastructure proposed under the Union Budget 2026–27 to promote regulated ecotourism around important turtle nesting beaches in Odisha, Karnataka, and Kerala. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 🔦 Olive Ridley turtles are omnivorous and are known for *arribada*, a synchronized mass nesting phenomenon involving thousands of females. They do not exhibit solitary nesting as a defining behaviour, nor are they strictly herbivorous. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 🔦 Gahirmatha and Rushikulya in Odisha are globally recognised as among the largest Olive Ridley turtle nesting sites. Gahirmatha is a restricted zone, while Rushikulya has faced regulated access due to past disturbances. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

### History - Art & Culture

47.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 🔦 The National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' was written and composed by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath

Tagore in 1911. It is the first stanza of the parent poem "Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata", which consists of 5 stanzas in total.

- ✦ Jana Gana Mana is originally written in Bengali (specifically *Sadhu Bhasha*, a Sanskritized dialect). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 🔦 Rabindranath Tagore translated the song into English while at Madanapalle (Andhra Pradesh). The translation is titled "The Morning Song of India". Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 🔦 It was adopted as the National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly of India on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1950. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 🔦 Hence, option D is correct.

48.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 The inscriptions were actually uncovered in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt, not in China. The discovery highlights the presence of Indian traders and visitors in ancient Egypt, indicating historical maritime and cultural connections. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 🔦 The carvings include personal names such as "Cikai Korran", reflecting Chera cultural influence and links with early Tamil literature, suggesting that Indian visitors were leaving identifiable cultural marks during their travels. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

49.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 The Gandhara School of Art or Greco-Indian School of Art has its origin in Greco tradition (Greek invaders brought with them the traditions of the Greek and Roman sculptors) which was further merged with the regional or local art of the time.
- ✦ **Initial Development:** Gandhara school was developed in the western frontiers of Punjab.
- ✦ **Patronage:** This school was patronized by both Shaka and Kushan rulers.
- ✦ **Major centers** of Gandhara school of art were Jalalabad (Eastern Afghanistan), Hadda (ancient region of Gandhara), Begram (Parwan province of Afghanistan) & Taxila (Pakistan).

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✦ **Key Features:** Buddha was depicted in Gandhara Art, through four types of hand gestures called Mudras:

- ✍ **Abahayamudra:** Indicates fearlessness
- ✍ **Dhyana mudra:** Indicates meditative position
- ✍ **Dharmachakramudra:** Means turning the wheel of law.
- ✍ **Bhumisparshamudra:** Touching the earth with right hand and calling it to witness truth.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

### Geography

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The article states that India will set up a ₹300-crore Regional Service Centre at Vijaynagar on Swaraj Dweep in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to strengthen tsunami monitoring and provide warning services to Indian Ocean countries such as Sri Lanka. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - 💡 India's current tsunami warning system mainly detects earthquake-triggered tsunamis and does not effectively cover non-seismic causes like submarine landslides and volcanic activity. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - 💡 The next-generation tsunami warning system involves laying about 270 km of sub-sea cables along tectonic subduction zones to enable faster acoustic signal detection and reduce data gaps caused by damage to surface buoys and satellite limitations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Thwaites Glacier is located in **West Antarctica**, not East Antarctica. It is popularly known as the "Doomsday Glacier" due to the severe global sea-level consequences if it destabilises. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Scientific estimates suggest that Thwaites contains enough ice to raise global sea levels by over 0.5

metres if it collapses entirely. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 The glacier rests on a bedrock that slopes downward inland below sea level (retrograde slope), allowing relatively warm ocean water to intrude beneath the floating ice shelf and accelerate melting from below. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - 💡 Ongoing melting of Thwaites already contributes nearly 4% to annual global sea-level rise, making it one of the most critical glaciers in climate change discussions. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

### Science & Tech

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 India did not achieve leprosy eradication in 2005. What India achieved was elimination as a public health problem, meaning transmission was reduced, not completely stopped. New cases are still detected. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - 💡 National leprosy elimination status is defined as a prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

53.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **ExoMiner++** is a **deep-learning-based artificial intelligence model** developed by NASA to detect **exoplanets using data from space telescopes**, making the planet-hunting process faster and more accurate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - 💡 The model works by analysing **periodic dips in a star's brightness**, which occur when a planet passes (transits) in front of its host star and temporarily blocks some of its light. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - 💡 ExoMiner++ is **not a black-box model**. It is an **explainable AI system** that provides **confidence scores and clear reasoning** behind each classification, helping astronomers distinguish real planets from false positives. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

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54.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** draws oxygen from the atmosphere to fuel combustion, which saves weight by not carrying an oxidizer tank. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 SFDR is an “air-breathing” engine, it combines **solid fuel with atmospheric oxygen, enabling missiles to sustain supersonic speeds** (Mach 2 to Mach 3.8) for longer durations compared to standard solid-fuel rockets that burn out quickly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 A nozzle-less booster is used to initially accelerate the missile to supersonic speeds within three seconds, which is a prerequisite for the ramjet to function. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

55.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Biomaterials are **materials derived from biological sources or produced using biological processes** and are intended to **replace or interact with conventional petroleum-based materials**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Drop-in biomaterials are **chemically identical** to fossil-based materials and are compatible with existing manufacturing systems, **such as Bio-PET**, it is **drop-out biomaterials** that require new processing or recycling systems. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Indigenous biomaterials **help reduce fossil-fuel imports, utilise agricultural residues**, promote circular economy objectives, and improve export competitiveness. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

56.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The newly developed **sunlight-powered energy storage device** does not use **lithium-based electrodes** or conventional **silicon photovoltaic cells**. Instead, it is based on **nickel-cobalt oxide nanowire electrodes** that directly respond to sunlight. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The innovation integrates the processes of capturing **solar energy and storing electrical charge** within a

single unit, enabling a **self-charging system** without the need for separate solar panels and storage devices. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **India AI Stack** is conceived as an integrated, multi-layered framework to **democratise Artificial Intelligence** and enable **population-scale deployment** across priority sectors such as health, agriculture, education and governance. Its objective is to take AI beyond pilots and ensure **inclusive, affordable and real-world impact**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The **AI Model Layer** forms the intelligence core of the stack and focuses on developing **sovereign, India-centric AI models** through initiatives such as the **IndiaAI Mission, BharatGen, Bhashini and IndiaAIKosh**, especially for Indian languages and public services. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The **Energy Layer** does **not rely mainly on fossil fuels**. It supports AI infrastructure through a **large and increasingly clean energy base**, with **over 51% of installed capacity from non-fossil sources**, along with battery storage, pumped storage and nuclear energy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 CAR T-cell therapy involves **extracting T-cells from a patient and genetically engineering them in the laboratory** to express Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CARs). These receptors enable the modified T-cells to **specifically recognise and destroy cancer cells** when infused back into the patient. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 At present, CAR T-cell therapy is **approved mainly for certain blood cancers**, such as **leukemia and lymphoma**, where cancer cells express well-defined surface antigens that can be effectively targeted by CAR-modified T-cells. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 CAR T-cell therapy **does not rely on monoclonal antibodies produced outside the human body**. Instead, it uses **genetically engineered immune cells** derived from the patient’s own body, making it a form

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of cell-based immunotherapy, not antibody therapy. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The Boeing P-8I Poseidon is a multi-mission, long-range maritime patrol aircraft designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Maritime Domain Awareness and Search and Rescue operations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

🔦 The procurement is being processed under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, which removed offset requirements for Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA). Therefore, this deal does not include offset clauses or mandatory technology transfer provisions. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

🔦 The acquisition is being pursued through an India–US Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) framework. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

🔦 The Indian Navy currently operates 12 P-8I aircraft stationed at INS Rajali (INAS 312) and INS Hansa (INAS 316). Hence, statement 4 is correct.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 In orbital motion, gravitational force acts as the centripetal force that keeps a planet or satellite in its curved path. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

🔦 Even if speed is constant, velocity changes direction continuously in circular motion. Since acceleration is the rate of change of velocity (magnitude or direction), the body experiences centripetal acceleration. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

🔦 In the absence of gravity, a planet would move in a straight line (tangential to the orbit) due to inertia (Newton's First Law), not in a circular orbit. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

61.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The Adoption phase is the foundation stage where students and teachers become comfortable using AI

tools (e.g., Large Language Models). It reduces fear of technology and builds digital literacy. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

🔦 The Absorption stage focuses on understanding how AI works, including verification of AI outputs, identifying hallucinations, recognising bias, and applying ethical reasoning. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

🔦 The Application stage does not replace human reasoning. Instead, it uses AI as a support tool for real-world problem-solving, innovation, and analysis. NEP 2020 emphasises human oversight and critical thinking, not automation of judgment. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 Ricin is a naturally occurring carbohydrate-binding protein (lectin) produced in the seeds of *Ricinus communis* (castor beans). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

🔦 Ricin works by inhibiting protein synthesis (not accelerating it). Without these proteins, cells suffer damage and eventually die. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

🔦 Due to its extreme toxicity and high potential for misuse as a biological weapon, Ricin is classified as a Schedule 1 substance under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Hence, statement 3 is correct.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

63.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The National Large Solar Telescope (NLST), a 2-meter aperture ground-based facility planned for Merak, Ladakh.

🔦 NLST operates optically (380 nm to 2.5 μm), unlike X-ray missions like Aditya-L1; it complements them for multi-wavelength solar study. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

🔦 NLST will be India's third major ground-based solar observatory after Kodaikanal and Udaipur Solar Observatory. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

🔦 Designed to support space missions like Aditya-L1 by providing high-resolution ground observations of

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solar activity affecting space weather. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

64.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 Sodium-ion (Na-ion) batteries are cost-effective, and safe alternatives to lithium-ion batteries, utilizing abundant sodium resources (e.g., sea salt) for energy storage.

✦ They offer rapid charging, excellent low-temperature performance, and a longer lifespan, making them ideal for **electric vehicles (EVs), grid storage, and solar applications.**

🔦 Sodium-ion batteries (SIBs) utilize **aluminum foil for both anode and cathode current collectors**, unlike Lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) which require expensive copper for the anode.

✦ This substitution significantly lowers material costs, reduces weight, and improves sustainability of SIBs, as aluminum is cheaper and more abundant. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

🔦 Unlike lithium-ion batteries, SIBs can be stored and transported at **zero volts without degradation**, which eliminates fire risks. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

## Defence & Security

65.

Ans: D

Exp:

🔦 CERT-In was established as a statutory body under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (as amended in 2008), making it India's national agency for cybersecurity incident response. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

🔦 It operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), coordinating cyber threat responses across government and private sectors. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

🔦 Under the IT Rules 2013 and subsequent directions, CERT-In can issue mandatory cybersecurity guidelines to service providers, intermediaries, data centers, and body corporates, with non-compliance attracting penalties under the IT Act. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

🔦 Hence, option D is correct.

66.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 Although defence capital allocation has increased, it does not primarily reflect a shift away from revenue expenditure. Salaries and pensions continue to consume a large share of the defence budget, and capital outlay remains constrained. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

🔦 Investment in optical fibre-based defence communication networks supports network-centric warfare, jointness and real-time information sharing. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

🔦 Capital acquisition covers both indigenous systems and certain imported platforms, even though a large portion of the budget is reserved for domestic procurement. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

67.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 After retirement, Army officers are **no longer subject to the disciplinary control of the Army Act, 1950 or the Army Rules, 1954** in matters such as publication of books. These service laws apply only to *-serving personnel*, and their disciplinary provisions lapse upon retirement. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

🔦 Retirement **does not confer immunity** from the **Official Secrets Act, 1923**. The OSA applies **for life**, and any disclosure of classified information, operational details, or material prejudicial to national security—even after retirement—remains a punishable offence. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

🔦 At present, there is **no single consolidated statutory framework** governing book-writing by retired Army officers. In the absence of explicit post-retirement rules, regulation exists in a **legal grey area**, largely relying on individual discretion and general criminal law, prompting the Ministry of Defence to draft new guidelines. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

🔦 Hence, Option A is correct

68.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** was established on **1<sup>st</sup> February 1977** to ensure safety and law enforcement

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in Indian waters. Its formation was based on the recommendations of the **Nag Committee (1970)** and the **Rustamji Committee (1974–75)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

It was formally inaugurated as an independent armed force of the Union Government under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978**, with the motto “**Vayam Rakshamah (We Protect)**”. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

The force was created to counter **sea-borne smuggling**, protect offshore assets like **Mumbai High**, and police India’s **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** in compliance with the **United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.

Hence, **option B is correct**.

69.

Ans: C

Exp:

The Assam Rifles is India’s oldest paramilitary force, originally established in 1835 as the “**Cachar Levy**”. It was raised to protect British tea plantations and settlements from tribal raids in the Northeast.

The force is primarily responsible for security and counter-insurgency operations in the Northeast and for guarding the Indo-Myanmar border.

It functions under a unique dual control structure: its administrative control lies with the Ministry of Home Affairs, while its operational control lies with the Ministry of Defence.

Hence, **option C is correct**.

### Miscellaneous

70.

Ans: C

Exp:

Dr **Zakir Husain** was the first **Muslim** to become **President of India** from **1967 to 1969**.

He co-founded the **National Muslim University** in Aligarh, which later shifted to Delhi and became **Jamia Millia Islamia**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

He served as **Governor of Bihar** from **1957 to 1962** and then became **Vice President (1962–1967)** before assuming the presidency.

He passed away on **3<sup>rd</sup> May 1969**, becoming the **first Indian President to die in office**, and was

succeeded by **V. V. Giri**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Hence, **option C is correct**.

71.

Ans: A

Exp:

Bharat Parv is organised annually since 2016 as part of Republic Day celebrations to showcase India’s cultural and tourism heritage. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Bharat Parv 2026 was organised by the **Ministry of Tourism**, not the **Ministry of Culture**, at the Red Fort, New Delhi. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

The 2026 edition commemorated **150 years of Vande Mataram**, which was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

**Bharat Parv** regularly features Republic Day tableaux from States, Union Territories and Central Ministries, along with cultural performances by Armed Forces and paramilitary bands. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

Hence, **option A is correct**.

72.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0** is a **time-bound campaign** launched by **NITI Aayog** with the objective of saturating select **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** related to health, nutrition, sanitation, and basic services, rather than introducing new schemes. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

The campaign follows a **mission-mode governance approach**, requiring **district- and block-level three-month action plans, monthly progress tracking, and behaviour change and awareness initiatives** to address last-mile service delivery gaps. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 is designed as a **three-month intensive drive**, running from **28 January to 14 April 2026**, to fast-track implementation through close monitoring and administrative focus. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Hence, **option C is correct**.

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73.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Yantra India Limited (YIL) was created on **1<sup>st</sup> October 2021** following the **corporatisation of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**, as part of reforms to improve efficiency, accountability, and competitiveness in defence production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- YIL functions under the **Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence**, which oversees **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** involved in indigenous defence manufacturing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Yantra India Limited was granted **Miniratna Category-I**, not **Category-II**, status. The Category-I status provides greater financial and operational autonomy, including higher limits for capital expenditure without prior government approval. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

74.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Mission SAKSHAM is designed as a **sector-wide capacity-building and certification framework**, focusing on training, skill upgradation, and standardisation of practices across the cooperative banking sector. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The initiative is **specifically targeted at Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**, with the objective of strengthening their governance, operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, and long-term financial resilience. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Mission SAKSHAM **does not provide direct financial assistance or credit support to MSMEs**. Its focus is on **institutional capacity building of banks**, not on lending or subsidy delivery. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

75.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Union Budget 2026–27** announced **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0** with a budgetary provision of **₹1,000 crore** for FY 2026–27. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

ISM 2.0 represents a transition from policy formulation and capacity creation under **ISM 1.0** to consolidation, advanced manufacturing, indigenous semiconductor IP development and global integration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

India targets 70–75% self-sufficiency in domestic chip demand by 2029, not complete self-sufficiency. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Hence, option A is correct.**

76.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Bodhan AI is described as a non-profit organisation under the Ministry of Education. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The initiative has been developed by the **AI Centre of Excellence for Education at IIT Madras**, which is the technical implementing institution behind the platform. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The primary aim of the initiative is to build an **AI-enabled Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for education through the Bharat EduAI Stack, including AI tutors, teacher support and policy analytics. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

77.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Pune Rural Intervention in Young Adolescents (PRIYA) Trial was conducted within the Pune Maternal Nutrition Study to assess whether improving vitamin B12 status during adolescence could reduce intergenerational metabolic risks.
  - The follow-up findings showed that vitamin B12 supplementation during adolescence improves neonatal health through **epigenetic mechanisms**, influencing foetal development and long-term health outcomes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The study reported a significant improvement in the **neonatal ponderal index**, which measures birth weight relative to length and is an indicator of foetal growth and nutritional status.
  - This improvement reflects better intrauterine growth and early-life nutritional outcomes in neonates born to supplemented mothers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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⚡ Vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin) is a **water-soluble vitamin** that the human body **cannot synthesise**. It is produced by microorganisms and obtained mainly from **animal-based foods**. Plant-based foods do not naturally contain adequate vitamin B12. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

78.

**Ans: B**

**Exp:**

⚡ Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya developed the philosophy of *Integral Humanism*, focusing on welfare, social justice, self-reliance and balanced economic development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ His birth anniversary (25 September) has been celebrated as **Antyodaya Diwas** since 2014. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ He was not associated with the Indian National Congress. He was an ideologue of the RSS and leader of the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was renamed **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM** in 2015. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

79.

**Ans: B**

**Exp:**

⚡ The Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025 was released by the **Portulans Institute**, a non-profit research

institute based in Washington, DC, not the World Economic Forum or NITI Aayog. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ The index methodology maps the network-based readiness of 127 economies across 53 indicators grouped under four pillars: **Technology, People, Governance, and Impact**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ India has improved its digital readiness by four ranks to 45th position in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025 and India is ranked 2nd among lower-middle-income countries, after Vietnam. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

80.

**Ans: A**

**Exp:**

⚡ CTF-154 was established under the Combined Maritime Forces as a multinational task force focused on maritime security training and capacity building across the Middle East and adjoining waters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The headquarters of the Combined Maritime Forces is located in Bahrain, not Qatar. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ The Indian Navy has recently taken command of CTF-154 for the first time, marking a significant step in India's cooperative maritime security role. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**



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