



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

January

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 the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:

1. The NIA was established under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, to investigate offences affecting the sovereignty, security, and integrity of India.
2. It can take up investigation of scheduled offences across states with the consent of the concerned State Government.
3. The administrative control of the NIA vests with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

1. It was originally established as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) in 1947.
2. The BIS Act, 2016 provides the statutory basis for its functions of standardisation and certification.
3. It has achieved 100% harmonisation of Indian standards with International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standards.
4. Its Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022–27 is a roadmap for standardisation in areas like emerging technologies and climate action.

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

1. It is a constitutional body established under Article 39A of the Constitution of India.

2. The Chief Justice of India is the ex-officio Patron-in-Chief of NALSA.
3. It disburses funds to State Legal Services Authorities but not to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).
4. Its mandate includes providing free legal aid specifically to members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Economically Weaker Sections.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

4. Recently seen in the news, 'Udai' can be best described as:

- A. A new blockchain-based digital identity system launched by UIDAI.
- B. A resident-friendly Aadhaar mascot introduced as a communication tool.
- C. A new biometric verification technology for offline Aadhaar usage.
- D. A secure mobile application for generating virtual Aadhaar IDs.

5. With reference to the PANKHUDI portal, recently in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a single-window digital platform to facilitate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and partnership initiatives for women and child development.
2. The portal supports flagship schemes such as Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

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2. The Malabar Exercise is a bilateral naval drill conducted between India and the United States.
3. The Quad has a mutual defence treaty obligation among its members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
 - B. 1 and 2 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
- 12. Which doctrine of U.S. foreign policy opposed European colonisation in the Western Hemisphere and committed the United States to non-interference in European affairs?**
- A. Truman Doctrine
 - B. Monroe Doctrine
 - C. Roosevelt Corollary
 - D. Open Door Policy

13. Consider the following statements about the recent global initiatives:

1. China proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at the G20 Summit which took place in Johannesburg, South Africa.
2. The Global Development Initiative (GDI) focuses on people-centric development, protecting livelihoods, and ensuring equitable sharing of growth benefits.
3. The Global Security Initiative (GSI) emphasises peace through dialogue and consultation while respecting sovereign development paths.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 2
 - B. Only 2 and 3
 - C. Only 2
 - D. All of the above
- 14. Consider the following countries:**
1. Japan
 2. Netherlands
 3. Australia
 4. India

Which of the above are members of Pax Silica?

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

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM):

1. The Chairpersonship of the ABDM rotates annually based on region or discussion theme.
2. The ABDM convenes biannually, with meetings alternating between New York and Geneva.
3. After every session, the ABDM submits its report directly to the UN General Assembly.
4. The ABDM also acts as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Economy

16. With reference to the MSME Champions Portal, consider the following statements.

1. It integrates grievance redressal, handholding, and grievance monitoring under one digital platform.
2. It supports schemes such as ZED, Lean Manufacturing, and Lean Six Sigma initiatives.
3. It functions primarily as a credit disbursal platform for MSMEs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

17. With reference to India's economic trajectory and long-term projections, consider the following statements:

1. India's rise in PPP ranking reflects a demand-driven growth model supported by domestic consumption.
2. IMF projections suggest India's nominal GDP will exceed USD 20 trillion by 2030.

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3. Vision 2047 links India's growth strategy with structural reforms and social sector strengthening.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

18. With reference to the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a digitally enabled umbrella framework aimed at strengthening India's export ecosystem, especially MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors.
2. It operates through two integrated sub-schemes namely the Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha, to provide financial and non-financial support to exporters.
3. It is implemented by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

19. With reference to banking frauds in India as highlighted in the recent RBI report, consider the following statements:

1. Card and internet frauds constituted the largest share in terms of number of fraud cases.
2. Loan-related frauds accounted for the highest share in terms of monetary value.
3. Public Sector Banks reported the highest number of fraud cases.

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

20. Consider the following statements regarding Ayush Export Promotion Council:

1. It serves as the nodal Export Promotion Council for the AYUSH sector and was launched by the Prime Minister at the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit, Gandhinagar (2022).

2. It functions in consultation with the Ministry of AYUSH with support from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

3. AYUSHEXCIL is responsible for anchoring the Ayush Quality Mark programme of the Ministry of AYUSH, aimed at strengthening global quality assurance and product credibility.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. With reference to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consider the following statements:

1. Nominal GDP is measured at current market prices and is not adjusted for inflation.
2. Real GDP adjusted for inflation reflects the actual quantity of goods and services produced in an economy.
3. GDP at factor cost includes indirect taxes and excludes subsidies.

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

22. With reference to recent trends in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, consider the following statements:

1. FDI entails long-term investment with ownership and management control, whereas Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) is largely short-term and portfolio-based.
2. Karnataka emerged as the largest recipient of FDI inflows in India, overtaking Maharashtra in terms of total share.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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23. The Petrodollar system emerged mainly as a consequence of:

- Formation of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- Oil price volatility triggered by the Gulf War
- Collapse of the Bretton Woods system
- Shale oil revolution in the United States of America (USA)

24. Which of the following countries have already used Catastrophe bonds for disaster risk financing?

- Japan and Indonesia
- India and Sri Lanka
- Mexico and the Philippines
- Bangladesh and Myanmar

25. Consider the following statements regarding Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):

- FTAs may extend beyond trade in goods to include provisions related to intellectual property rights.
- Rules of Origin are required in FTAs to prevent trade deflection.
- An FTA is an exception to the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

Environment & Ecology

26. Consider the following statements:

- The Declaration of Rights for Native Stingless Bees has been adopted by the United Nations as part of its global biodiversity conservation framework.
- The Supreme Court of India has extended the protection of Article 21 of the Constitution to animals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only

- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

27. With reference to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's Standards and Labelling (S&L) Programme, consider the following statements:

- The S&L Programme was launched under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to promote energy-efficient appliances.
- Star labels are static and once assigned do not change over time.
- The programme includes both mandatory and voluntary labelling depending on the product category.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

28. Consider the following statements about the Galaxy Frog (*Melanobatrachus indicus*):

- It is a non-vocal, cold-blooded amphibian endemic to the Western Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- Its habitat is restricted to cool, moist forest patches, often under rotten logs.
- It is declared the flagship species of Mathikettan Shola National Park in Kerala.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

29. With reference to the Paris Agreement, consider the following statements:

- It embeds the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), recognising differing national capacities and responsibilities.
- Under the Paris Agreement, countries are required to submit updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every five years.
- India achieved 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 target under its NDC.

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

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

30. With reference to wildlife conservation initiatives of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the year 2025, consider the following:

1. Madhav Tiger Reserve is the latest addition to India's tiger reserve network in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The number of notified Elephant Reserves in India increased to 40 in the year 2025.
3. Project Cheetah was confined only to Kuno National Park.
4. India has launched national action plans for River Dolphins, Snow Leopards, Tigers and Bustards.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

31. The term "Temperature Regulation Capability", often seen in news in the context of urban heat and greening, is best described as:

- A. The difference between maximum and minimum daily temperatures in urban areas.
- B. The ability of vegetation to regulate humidity through evapotranspiration.
- C. The temperature difference between vegetated surfaces and built-up surfaces such as concrete and asphalt.
- D. The reduction in ambient air temperature due to urban tree canopy cover.

32. The White-bellied Heron is considered a bio-indicator species primarily because it reflects the health of which of the following ecosystems :

- A. Alpine grassland
- B. Himalayan freshwater riverine
- C. Tropical forest
- D. Wetland floodplain

33. Consider the following statements regarding Olive Ridley Turtles:

1. Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest sea turtle species and are known for synchronised mass nesting along certain tropical coastlines.
2. In India, Olive Ridley turtles receive the highest level of legal protection under domestic wildlife law and are also covered by an international trade ban.
3. Olive Ridley turtles are categorised as Endangered under the IUCN Red List due to rapid population decline.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. Species such as Citrine Wagtail, Northern Pintail, Pied Avocet, and Glossy Ibis — often highlighted in recent news — can be best described as:

- A. Endemic species of Northeast India
- B. Vulnerable terrestrial mammals in the Lakshadweep Islands
- C. Migratory birds using the Central Asian Flyway
- D. Aquatic reptiles found in Ramsar sites

35. With reference to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
2. It is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
3. It seeks to strengthen forest-based climate mitigation initiatives such as REDD+ by promoting afforestation-centric livelihood models.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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History, Art & Culture

36. With reference to the Sunrise Festival 2025–26, consider the following statements:

1. The festival was inaugurated at Dong village in Arunachal Pradesh, the easternmost point where sunrise first touches Indian territory.
2. It is designed as a religious festival centred exclusively on sun worship practices.
3. The festival aims to promote adventure-led cultural tourism in Arunachal Pradesh.

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

37. With reference to the Somnath Temple, consider the following statements:

1. The Somnath Temple was first destroyed in 1026 CE by Mahmud of Ghazni, as documented by the Persian scholar Al-Biruni.
2. The temple is built in the Kailas Mahameru Prasad architectural style and features a 155-foot-high Shikhar overlooking the Arabian Sea.
3. The present Somnath Temple was reconstructed after Independence on the initiative of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with the Pran-Pratistha performed by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad in 1951.

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

38. The famous painting “Bani Thani”, often regarded as the Mona Lisa of India, is associated with which school of Indian miniature painting?

- A. Kishangarh school
- B. Tanjore School
- C. Bengal School
- D. Pahari School

39. With reference to Makar Sankranti, consider the following statements:

1. Makar Sankranti is a pan-India harvest festival celebrated around 14th January, marked by diverse regional customs and traditions.
2. It is celebrated as Pongal in Kerala, where it is observed as a four-day festival marked by kolam decorations.

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

40. Consider the following statements regarding Mannathu Padmanabhan:

1. He founded the Nair Service Society (NSS) in 1914 to promote social reform and education.
2. He led the Savarnajatha Satyagraha to support temple entry for oppressed communities.
3. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1966 for his contribution to social reform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding Rani Velu Nachiyar:

1. She was also known as “Veeramangai” and was the queen of the Ramnad Kingdom of Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu.
2. She is regarded as the first Indian queen to lead an organised armed resistance against the British East India Company.
3. She also deployed the first recorded human bomb in Indian military history as a tactical weapon against colonial forces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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42. Consider the following statements:

1. National Youth Day is observed on 15th January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
2. Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1900 to propagate the ideals of service, education, and spiritual upliftment.

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

Geography

43. Which of the following village commons are correctly matched with their respective States?

| Village common | State |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Charnoi lands | Madhya Pradesh |
| 2. Panchami lands | Tamil Nadu |
| 3. Shamilat Deh | Haryana |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

44. A steep-sided stratovolcano in central Mexico, known as the "Smoking Mountain", located on the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt and formed due to the subduction of the Cocos Plate beneath the North American Plate. It is Mexico's second-highest volcano after Pico de Orizaba. Which of the following best fits the description?

- A. Colima Volcano
- B. Popocatepetl
- C. Nevado de Toluca
- D. Parícutin Volcano

45. With reference to the Wolf Supermoon, consider the following statements:

1. A Wolf Supermoon occurs when the full moon in January coincides with the Moon's perigee.

2. The Moon undergoes a physical expansion during a supermoon due to increased tidal forces.
3. A supermoon occurs when a full moon coincides with the Moon's closest approach to Earth (perigee).

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

46. With reference to the Western Ghats, consider the following statements:

1. The Western Ghats are known as Sahyadri in northern Maharashtra and Sahya Parvatham in Kerala.
2. The Konkan Coast lies to the east of the Western Ghats, while the Malabar Coast lies to its west.
3. Geologically, the Western Ghats are not true fold mountains but represent the faulted edge of the Deccan Plateau.
4. The rivers originating from the Western Ghats and flowing westwards are generally more suitable for hydroelectric power generation than the east-flowing rivers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

47. With reference to the Shaksgam Valley, consider the following statements:

1. The Shaksgam valley lies south of the Siachen Glacier, a part of the Hunza-Gilgit region.
2. Under the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement, India rejected the transfer of Shaksgam Valley to China.

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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Science & Tech

48. With reference to National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), consider the following statements:

1. It enables secure, purpose-based access to databases without creating a central data repository.
2. NATGRID was conceptualised after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks to address information silos among security agencies.
3. Access to any NATGRID data mandatorily requires prior registration of an First Information Report (FIR).

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

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

49. With reference to metallurgical coke (met coke), consider the following statements:

1. It is produced by heating coking coal in the absence of air through a process known as destructive distillation.
2. Low ash and ultra-low phosphorous met coke are critical for manufacturing high-grade steel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Consider the following statements about the ICGS Samudra Pratap:

1. It is the first indigenously built pollution control vessel of the Indian Coast Guard.
2. It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), West Bengal.
3. The vessel can sail at speed above 22 knots and has an endurance of 6,000 nautical miles making it the largest ship in the ICG fleet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- C. Only 2
- D. All of the above

51. Under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme, support is provided for which of the following stages of the semiconductor design lifecycle?

1. Integrated Circuits (ICs)
2. Systems-on-Chip (SoCs)
3. Intellectual Property cores (IP cores)
4. Semiconductor fabrication plants

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

52. Consider the following statements about Akash-NG missiles:

1. Akash-NG has over 95% indigenous components.
2. Its production involves both Public Sector Undertakings and private sector companies.
3. Export versions of Akash-NG are identical to those deployed with the Indian Armed Forces.
4. Akash-NG strengthens India's layered air defence architecture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

53. Under certain physical conditions, hotter water can freeze faster than colder water, defying conventional thermodynamic expectations. The above description refers to which of the following effects?

- A. Leidenfrost Effect
- B. Mpemba Effect
- C. Tyndall Effect
- D. Seebeck Effect

54. With reference to Remote Sensing, consider the following statements:

1. Remote sensing involves acquisition of information about Earth's surface without direct physical contact

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2. Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Programme was initiated with the launch of RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite)-1 in 1988.
3. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) is a type of remote sensing that uses active microwave radiation to generate images of the Earth's surface.

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

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

55. With reference to the BHASHINI platform and its Shrutlekh tool, consider the following statements:

1. BHASHINI is a component of India's Digital Public Infrastructure that provides the language interoperability layer alongside Aadhaar, UPI and DigiLocker.
2. Shrutlekh enables real-time multilingual speech transcription and translation into all the 22 scheduled languages only.
3. Bhashadaan is a crowdsourcing initiative under BHASHINI for collecting language data to improve AI language models.

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 Avian Flu:

1. India reported its first outbreak of avian influenza in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat in 2015.
2. Transmission of avian influenza to humans mainly occurs through airborne spread between infected persons.
3. Severe avian influenza infection may lead to respiratory failure and neurological complications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. With reference to binary stars and stellar evolution, consider the following statements:

1. A binary star system consists of two stars gravitationally bound and orbiting around a common centre of mass known as the barycenter.
2. W Ursae Majoris stars are detached binary systems in which both stars evolve independently without sharing any stellar material.
3. Low-mass stars, after shedding their outer layers as planetary nebulae, finally evolve into white dwarfs.

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

58. With reference to nanotechnology, consider the following statements:

1. Nanotechnology involves engineering of matter at dimensions of 100 nanometres or less.
2. Quantum size effects in nanomaterials are significant only for mechanical properties and not for electronic or optical applications.
3. Increased surface area of nanomaterials enhances their catalytic efficiency.
4. Superparamagnetism observed in nanoparticles is useful for magnetic recording and information storage.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Defence & Security

59. Consider the following statements with reference to the Pralay Missile:

1. It is a solid-fuel, surface-to-surface, quasi-ballistic missile having an operational range of over 1500 km.
2. Its guidance system includes an Inertial Navigation System and a Radio Frequency seeker for high precision.

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How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

60. India's first Made-in-India, multi-calibre, long-range rocket launcher system, capable of precision strikes up to 300 km. A single launcher can fire multiple types of rockets and guided munitions, offering high mobility and supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

The above description refers to which of the following missile/artillery systems?

- A. Pinaka
- B. Prahaar
- C. Suryastra
- D. BrahMos

61. In the context of recent developments in the Indian Army, what is the primary role of the newly raised 'Bhairav Battalions'?

- A. To function as strategic deep-strike units behind enemy lines like the Para Special Forces.
- B. To serve as localized assault teams at the battalion level, similar to Ghatak Platoons.
- C. To act as rapid-response offensive formations for immediate border contingencies and short-notice operations.
- D. To provide dedicated cyber and electronic warfare capabilities for integrated theatre commands.

Social Issues

62. With reference to child marriage, consider the following statements:

1. UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 aims to end child marriage by the year 2030.
2. Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, the legal age of marriage for girls is 18 years and for boys is 21 years.
3. India accounts for nearly one-third of the world's child brides.

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

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

Miscellaneous

63. Consider the following pairs.

| Infrastructure | Primary Significance |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Anji Khad Rail Bridge | Cable-stayed design for unstable mountain terrain |
| 2. New Pamban Railway Bridge | Vertical-lift sea bridge for maritime navigation |
| 3. Chenab Rail Bridge | World's highest railway arch bridge |
| 4. Bairabi-Sairang New Line | First rail connectivity to Aizawl |

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

64. Consider the following pairs regarding India's Braille ecosystem:

| Initiative | Purpose |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Bharati Braille (2025) | Unified Unicode-mapped Braille script |
| 2. Sugamya Pustakalaya | Multilingual digital Braille learning platform |
| 3. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan | Exclusive braille-enabled public infrastructure & digital accessibility |
| 4. Draft Bharati Braille 2.1 | Digital upgradation of national Braille standards |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

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65. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hindi language:

1. Hindi is the second most spoken language in the world, after English.
2. World Hindi Day is observed annually on 10th January, marking the first World Hindi Conference held in 1975.

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

Answers

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

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Explanation:

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The NIA was constituted under the **NIA Act, 2008** as a central counter-terrorism agency to investigate and prosecute offences that threaten India's sovereignty, security, and integrity, including terrorism and related crimes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Under the **NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019**, the NIA can **suo motu take over investigation of scheduled offences without the consent of the State Government**, if directed by the Central Government. Thus, state consent is **not mandatory**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The NIA functions under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, which oversees its operations, staffing, and coordination with other security agencies. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

2.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is India's National Standards Body under the Department of Consumer Affairs, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**, responsible for ensuring product safety, reliability and global competitiveness.
- 💡 It was initially set up as the **Indian Standards Institution (ISI)** that came into being on 6th January 1947. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016**, provides statutory backing for standardisation, certification and hallmarking. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **About 94%** of Indian standards have been harmonised with the **International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)** and the **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)** standards. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022–27** is a national roadmap that steers **standardisation for**

emerging technologies, sustainability and climate action, positioning standards as enablers of India's economic growth and quality culture. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

3.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a **statutory body** constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**. Article 39A provides the constitutional mandate for free legal aid, but the authority itself is created by a parliamentary act. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - 💡 The **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is the **ex-officio Patron-in-Chief of NALSA**. This **ex-officio designation** underscores the **judiciary's central role** in promoting **access to justice and legal aid across India**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - 💡 One of NALSA's primary functions is to disburse **funds and grants** to both **State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)** and **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)** for implementing legal aid schemes. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - 💡 NALSA's eligible groups, as specified under the Act, include members of **Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)**, among others like women, children, and disabled persons. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
 - 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**
- 4.
- Ans: B**
- Exp:**
- 💡 The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has introduced 'Udai', a resident-friendly **Aadhaar mascot**, as a **communication tool** to make Aadhaar services more **accessible and relatable** to the public.
 - 💡 It aims to simplify **updates, authentication**, offline verification, selective sharing of information, and responsible usage.
 - 💡 Aadhaar is a **12-digit** biometric identification number issued by the UIDAI, serving as a **proof of identity and address** for residents across India. It is **not proof of citizenship or date of birth**, and cannot be used to establish nationality.
 - 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

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5.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **PANKHUDI**: It is an **integrated, single-window digital portal** launched to facilitate **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and partnership initiatives** for women and child development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ Inspired by the vision of **technology-driven governance and Jan Bhagidari**, PANKHUDI acts as a bridge between the **government, citizens, and institutions** to promote transparency, participation, and trust.

💡 **Coverage**: The portal covers key thematic areas such as **nutrition, health, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), child welfare, protection and rehabilitation, and women's safety and empowerment.**

💡 **Significance**: PANKHUDI strengthens the implementation of flagship schemes including **Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti** through structured workflows. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

6.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Tex-RAMPS** is specifically designed to improve the **coverage, quality, timeliness and credibility of textile-related data, statistics and research**, enabling evidence-based planning and policymaking in the textile sector. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme**, fully funded by the **Ministry of Textiles**, and **not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with cost-sharing between the Centre and States. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Tex-RAMPS** is implemented for the period **FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31**, which is aligned with the **16th Finance Commission cycle**, ensuring consistency with medium-term fiscal planning. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

7.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Responsible Nations Index (RNI)** assesses countries on **responsible governance**, focusing on

ethical conduct, sustainability, social well-being, and global responsibility rather than traditional **GDP- or military-power-based metrics**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **RNI is India's first globally anchored index** that evaluates national performance using a **value-based and human-centric framework**, marking a shift from conventional power-centric global rankings. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The Index is **not prepared by NITI Aayog**. It is developed by the **World Intellectual Foundation (WIF)** in collaboration with **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), IIM Mumbai, and the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

8.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs)** are modern multi-modal railway cargo hubs developed under the **GCT Policy, 2021** of the Ministry of Railways, designed to integrate rail with road, ports, and airports. **Hence, Statement I is correct.**

💡 Before, **GCTs freight movement in India** was scattered across different transport modes without seamless linkages, resulting in inefficient handling and longer turnaround times, high logistics costs, congestion, and higher emissions

✦ **GCTs address this gap** by acting as strategic nodes in the logistics chain, connecting multiple modes of transport and significantly reducing cargo handling time, costs, and environmental impact. **Hence, Statement II is correct.**

💡 **Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I**. **Hence, option A is correct.**

9.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC)** was constituted in **1972 under the Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution, which provides autonomy to tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- 💡 CADC was created specifically to **protect the political, cultural and social interests of the Chakma people** residing in Mizoram, ensuring self-governance and preservation of their identity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Like other Sixth Schedule bodies, the CADC exercises **legislative, executive and limited judicial powers** over notified subjects such as land, forests (excluding reserved forests), inheritance, and customary laws. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Under the **Sixth Schedule**, the **Governor may intervene and assume the powers of an Autonomous District Council** in case of administrative breakdown, a provision invoked during periods of political instability, as seen in the CADC. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

International Relations

10.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **Hanimaadhoo Island**, located in the northern Haa Dhaalu Atoll of Maldives, is a key site of **India–Maldives development cooperation**. India has extended a **Line of Credit (LoC)** for the **expansion and modernization of Hanimaadhoo International Airport**, aimed at improving regional connectivity, tourism, and economic integration.
 - ✦ The project also enhances India's strategic footprint in the northern Maldives, close to major international sea lanes.
- 💡 **Thilamale** refers to the **Greater Malé Connectivity Project (GMCP)**, which links **Malé, Villingili, Gulhifalhu, and Thilafushi** through a series of bridges and causeways.
 - ✦ It is **India's largest infrastructure project in the Maldives**, funded through a Line of Credit and grant assistance.
 - ✦ The project significantly improves urban mobility, trade, and disaster resilience in the Malé region.
- 💡 **Hulhumalé**, a reclaimed island near Malé, has been a major focus of Indian developmental assistance. India has supported **housing projects, water and sanitation infrastructure, and urban development** in Hulhumalé

as part of its commitment to sustainable urban expansion in the Maldives.

- 💡 **Addu City** is an important recipient of Indian-funded infrastructure assistance, including road and drainage works and institutional support like the National College for Policing and Law Enforcement.
 - ✦ All four locations have major infrastructure/ connectivity projects funded by India.
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

11.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 After being **proposed in 2007 by Japan's PM**, the Quad became inactive when Australia stepped back in 2008. It was **formally revived in 2017** when Australia rejoined consultations with India, Japan and the United States amid growing strategic concerns in the Indo-Pacific. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The **Malabar Exercise** started as an annual bilateral naval drill between India and the US in 1992. Japan joined in 2015, and Australia participated in Malabar 2020, making it a **four-nation exercise** under the **Quad framework**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Quad is **not a formal military alliance** and has **no mutual defence treaty** like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It focuses on strategic coordination and maritime cooperation rather than collective military defence. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The doctrine described in the question was articulated in **1823 by the U.S. President James Monroe** as a foundational principle of American foreign policy. It laid down three core pillars:
 - ✦ **Non-colonisation:** It warned European powers against establishing new colonies in the Western Hemisphere.
 - ✦ **Non-interference:** Any attempt by European nations to intervene in the affairs of independent states in the Americas would be considered a hostile act against the United States.
 - ✦ **U.S. restraint in Europe:** The United States, in return, committed itself to non-interference in European internal affairs and wars.

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⚡ This doctrine effectively asserted the **Western Hemisphere as the United States' strategic sphere of influence**, marking the beginning of U.S. hemispheric dominance in international politics.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

13.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ China proposed the **Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at the 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tianjin Summit 2025**, not at the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

⚡ The **Global Development Initiative (GDI)** focuses on **people-centred development, protecting livelihoods, and ensuring equitable sharing of growth benefits**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ The **Global Security Initiative (GSI)** emphasises **peace through dialogue and consultation while respecting sovereign development paths**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

14.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Pax Silica is a **US-led coalition** created to build a **secure and resilient silicon and AI supply chain**, especially in response to China's dominance in critical minerals and semiconductor processing. **Japan, the Netherlands, and Australia** are members because they host key capabilities. **India is not yet a member**, though it may be inducted later.

✦ Japan anchors the ecosystem through its **strength in electronics, semiconductor materials, and precision manufacturing**, while the Netherlands is pivotal due to **ASML's EUV lithography machines**, essential for advanced chip production.

✦ **Australia provides critical minerals such as lithium and rare earths**, securing the upstream supply base for semiconductors and AI technologies.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The Chairpersonship of the ABDM rotates annually based on regional representation or thematic focus,

ensuring balanced and inclusive leadership. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ The ABDM meets **twice a year**, and its sessions are held alternately in **New York and Geneva**, reflecting the two principal UN disarmament hubs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ After each session, the Chair submits a **private report to the UN Secretary-General**, not directly to the UN General Assembly. The Secretary-General subsequently submits an annual consolidated report to the UNGA. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

⚡ The ABDM also functions as the **Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)**, guiding research and policy-oriented disarmament studies. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

Economy

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ The **MSME Champions Portal** was launched to provide a **single-window digital platform** for MSMEs. It integrates grievance redressal, grievance tracking, and handholding support, allowing enterprises to raise issues related to credit, marketing, technology, or delayed payments and receive time-bound resolutions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ The portal acts as a **facilitator and monitoring platform** for various MSME support schemes, including **Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED), Lean Manufacturing, and Technology Upgradation programmes**, helping enterprises improve quality, efficiency, and competitiveness. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ The MSME Champions Portal **does not directly disburse loans or financial assistance**. Instead, it connects enterprises to relevant schemes, banks, and government departments while focusing on grievance redressal, facilitation, and handholding. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

17.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) measures an economy's real purchasing capacity within its domestic market

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by adjusting for price-level differences across countries.

- ✦ India's high PPP ranking shows a large volume of economic activity driven by **domestic consumption, internal demand, and relatively lower price levels**, indicating a demand-driven growth model rather than one dependent only on exports or external markets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projection of **USD 20.7 trillion by 2030** refers specifically to India's **PPP-based GDP**, not nominal GDP. Nominal GDP reflects market exchange rates and is considerably lower than PPP values. India is **not projected to cross USD 20 trillion in nominal GDP by 2030**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 Vision 2047 is India's long-term development framework aimed at achieving high middle-income status by the centenary of independence.

- ✦ It emphasises **structural reforms, economic resilience, inclusive social development, and governance transformation**, linking economic growth with social sector strengthening to ensure sustainability and equity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) has been conceptualised as a **single, digitally enabled umbrella framework** to strengthen India's export ecosystem. Its primary focus is on **enhancing the global competitiveness of MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors**, which are critical for employment generation, inclusive growth and expanding India's export base. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Prior to EPM, multiple export promotion schemes operated in silos across ministries and departments. The EPM **merges these fragmented schemes into a unified, coordinated framework** through two integrated sub-schemes—**Niryat Protsahan** (financial enablers) and **Niryat Disha** (non-financial enablers). This integration improves efficiency, avoids duplication and ensures targeted support to exporters. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The governance structure of EPM involves a **coordinated institutional framework** comprising the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Finance, Export Promotion Councils, State Governments and others. The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** serves as the **implementing agency**, ensuring execution, monitoring and facilitation of benefits under the Mission. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The RBI's Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024–25 notes that **card and internet frauds were the most frequent**, accounting for about **66.8% of the total number of fraud cases**, reflecting the rising use of digital payment channels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Although fewer in number, **loan-related (advances-related) frauds involved the highest monetary value**, contributing around **33.1% of the total amount involved in banking frauds**, due to their large-ticket nature. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **Private sector banks**, not Public Sector Banks, reported the **highest number of fraud cases by volume**. However, Public Sector Banks accounted for the **largest share of the total amount involved**, bearing the maximum financial impact. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

20.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 The **Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL)** has been designated as the official body to **promote and facilitate exports of AYUSH products and services** from India. It was formally inaugurated during the **Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit** held at **Gandhinagar in 2022**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The Council operates in close coordination with the **Ministry of AYUSH** while receiving **policy and administrative support** from the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, ensuring alignment between **trade promotion and sectoral regulation**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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⚡ **AYUSHEXCIL** also plays a key role in implementing the **Ayush Quality Mark initiative**, which aims to **enhance international confidence** in **AYUSH products** by ensuring **quality standards, certification, and global credibility**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

⚡ Hence, **option D is correct**.

21.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is the total monetary value of all **final goods and services** produced within a country's borders during a specific period (usually a year or a quarter).

⚡ **Types of GDP:**

✖ **Nominal GDP:** Measured at **current market prices**, without adjusting for inflation. Useful for same-year comparisons but **not reliable across years**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

✖ **Real GDP:** Adjusted for inflation using the **GDP deflator**. Reflects the **actual quantity of goods and services produced**. It enables comparison of economic growth over time. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

⚡ GDP at Factor Cost excludes indirect taxes and includes subsidies to reflect the actual cost of production. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

⚡ Hence, **option A is correct**.

22.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) involves **long-term capital investment** by a foreign entity with **ownership stake and management control** in an enterprise (generally 10% or more equity). In contrast, Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) refers to **investment in financial assets** such as shares and bonds without managerial control and is typically **short-term and market-driven**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

⚡ **Maharashtra** remained the top **FDI recipient** with about **30% share**. **Karnataka (USD 9.4 bn)** and **Tamil Nadu (USD 3.6 bn)** were the 2nd and 3rd largest recipients, while **Gujarat's share** fell to **6.4%**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

⚡ Hence, **option A is correct**.

23.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The Petrodollar system emerged in the **mid-1970s** after the **collapse of the Bretton Woods system (1971–73)**, when the US dollar was delinked from gold and shifted to a fiat currency regime. This created a need for a new, durable source of **global demand for the US dollar**.

⚡ Subsequently, the US reached strategic understandings with major oil-exporting countries (notably Saudi Arabia) whereby **crude oil would be priced and traded predominantly in US dollars**, and oil exporters would recycle surplus revenues into **US financial assets**, especially Treasury bonds. This arrangement helped stabilise the dollar, support US fiscal deficits, and reinforce American financial and geopolitical influence—thus giving rise to the **petrodollar system**.

⚡ Hence, **option C is correct**.

24.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ **Catastrophe (CAT) bonds** are insurance-linked securities that transfer disaster risks from governments or insurers to global investors. Governments pay premiums, and if a catastrophe occurs, investors' principal is used for recovery; otherwise, investors earn high returns. They enable **quick payouts, fiscal risk transfer, and portfolio diversification** since returns are largely uncorrelated with financial markets.

⚡ Mexico and the Philippines are among the earliest adopters of **Catastrophe Bonds as sovereign disaster risk financing instruments**. Mexico has repeatedly issued CAT bonds through the World Bank-supported catastrophe risk pools to protect against earthquakes and hurricanes, while the Philippines has used CAT bonds to hedge fiscal risks arising from typhoons and major earthquakes.

⚡ Both countries face frequent high-impact natural disasters and have therefore adopted CAT bonds to **ensure quick post-disaster liquidity, reduce reliance on emergency borrowing, and shift disaster risk to global capital markets**, making them global reference models for disaster-resilient public finance frameworks.

⚡ Hence, **option C is correct**.

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25.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 A **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** is an arrangement between **two or more countries or regional blocs to reduce or eliminate trade barriers** through mutual negotiations to promote trade.
 - ✦ FTAs can cover trade in goods (such as agricultural or industrial products) or trade in services (such as banking, construction, trading etc).
 - ✦ FTAs can also cover other areas such as **intellectual property rights (IPRs)**, investment, government procurement and competition policy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Rules of Origin** are an essential component of FTAs as they **prevent trade deflection**, where goods from non-member countries are routed through a member country to unfairly gain tariff concessions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 FTAs are a **permitted exception to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle** under Article XXIV of GATT, allowing preferential treatment among member countries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

Environment & Ecology

26.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Satipo Municipality in Peru** has adopted the *Declaration of Rights for Native Stingless Bees* (tribe **Meliponini**), marking a pioneering **Rights of Nature-based legal framework for insect conservation**.
 - ✦ The Declaration recognises the **right of stingless bees to exist and flourish, maintain healthy populations, live in a pollution-free habitat, experience ecologically stable climatic conditions, and regenerate natural cycles.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Animal Welfare Board of India vs. A. Nagaraja (2014):** In this judgment, the **Supreme Court of India has extended the Right to Life under Article 21 to animals**, recognising that animals have a right to live with **intrinsic worth, dignity and freedom from unnecessary pain and suffering**, and laid the

constitutional foundation for animal welfare in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

27.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Standards and Labelling (S&L) Programme was launched under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). Its objective is to promote **energy-efficient appliances** and reduce overall electricity consumption by informing consumers through standardized energy labels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - 💡 They are **periodically revised and tightened** to reflect technological advancement and improved energy efficiency standards. As appliances become more efficient over time, BEE **raises the benchmark** for each star category. This means a **product that earlier qualified for a 5-star rating may later be downgraded to 3 or 4 stars under revised norms**, even though its performance remains unchanged. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - 💡 The programme operates through a mix of **mandatory and voluntary labelling**, allowing flexibility. Mandatory labels apply to high-energy-consuming appliances, while voluntary labels are introduced to encourage gradual adoption of efficiency standards in other product categories. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**
- 28.
- Ans: C
- Exp:
- 💡 **Galaxy Frog (*Melanobatrachus indicus*)** is a **rare, endemic amphibian** found only in the **Western Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.
 - 💡 Measuring only **2–3.5 cm**, the species is **non-vocal, cold-blooded, and relies partly on moist skin for respiration**, making it highly sensitive to heat, drying, and disturbance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - 💡 It is listed as **Vulnerable** by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - 💡 Found exclusively under rotten logs in cool, moist forest patches, the species is endemic to the wet evergreen forests of the **southern Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Galaxy Frogs were declared the flagship species of **Mathikettan Shola National Park in Idukki, Kerala**. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

Hence, **option C is correct**.

29.

Ans: D

Exp:

The **Paris Agreement** is a legally binding global climate agreement adopted in **2015 (21st Conference of the Parties (COP))** under the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**.

The Paris agreement embedded **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**, recognising differing national capacities and responsibilities. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

The **Paris Agreement** follows a **five-year cycle** of progressively stronger climate action by countries.

Every five years, countries submit updated **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, outlining plans for **emission reduction (mitigation)** and **climate resilience (adaptation)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

India's updated NDC targets include reducing emissions intensity of GDP by **45% from 2005 levels by 2030**, achieving **about 50% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources**, and creating an **additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent**.

India achieved **50% of its electricity capacity from non-fossil sources in 2025**, well ahead of the 2030 target, and committed to **Net Zero emissions by 2070 at COP26**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

30.

Ans: B

Exp:

In 2025, **Madhav Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh**, was officially declared as Tiger Reserve, strengthening India's tiger conservation network and expanding protected habitats under Project Tiger. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

India's **Elephant Reserves** has increased to **33 in 2025**, reflecting the expansion of notified elephant landscapes to ensure habitat connectivity, migratory corridor protection and reduction of human–elephant conflict. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

Project Cheetah is not only confined to Kuno National Park. In 2025, the project entered its expansion phase with the introduction of cheetahs into **Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)**, indicating a landscape-level rewilding approach. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

The Ministry launched **national-level action plans** covering **River Dolphins, Snow Leopards, Tigers and Bustards**, signalling a shift towards ecosystem-based, multi-species conservation planning. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

Hence, **option B is correct**.

31.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **Temperature Regulation Capability** is a **quantitative metric** used in urban climate studies to compare how different land surfaces influence temperature. It is defined as the **temperature difference between vegetated surfaces and built-up surfaces such as concrete and asphalt**, helping assess whether urban greening leads to **cooling or warming**.

A **negative value** indicates that vegetation is cooler than built-up areas (cooling effect), while a **positive value** indicates that vegetation is warmer (warming effect), helping the study assess when and where urban greening reduces or intensifies city heat.

Hence, **option C is correct**.

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

The White-bellied Heron is strictly dependent on free-flowing Himalayan rivers and feeds on fish in fast-flowing rapids, making it **extremely sensitive to changes in water quality and river flow**. So, its presence or decline **reliably reflects the health of Himalayan freshwater riverine ecosystems**.

Recognising this vulnerability, it is listed as **Critically Endangered** on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and placed under **Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, indicating its severe conservation concern and **bio-indicator value**.

Hence, **option B is correct**.

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33.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Olive Ridley turtles are the **smallest sea turtles** and are globally known for **arribada**, a phenomenon of mass nesting along tropical coastlines. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 In India, all sea turtle species including Olive Ridley turtles are protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and are also included in **CITES Appendix I**, ensuring strict **international trade ban**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The conservation status of Olive Ridley turtles on the **IUCN Red List is Vulnerable**, not Endangered. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Each winter, Assam's **wetlands**, riverbeds, floodplains, and natural & artificial reservoirs, become **vital seasonal habitats** for a diverse array of **migratory birds** arriving via the **Central Asian Flyway** to escape the harsh cold of Siberia, Tibet, and Europe.
- 💡 **Notable Migratory Species: Citrine Wagtail** is the **first avian visitor** to arrive in Assam's wetlands, floodplains, and marshes.
 - ✦ **Bar-headed geese**, White-fronted geese, Greylag geese.
 - ✦ **Northern pintails**, Common pochards, Ferruginous pochards.
 - ✦ **Pied avocets**, Falcated ducks, Great crested grebes.
 - ✦ **Glossy ibis**, Eurasian wigeons, Purple herons.
- 💡 Major migratory bird habitats include **Deepor Beel** (Ramsar Site), **Maguri Motapung Beel**, **Pani Dihing Beel**, **Son Beel** (largest wetland in Assam), **Kaziranga National Park** and Tiger Reserve (wetland lakes) and **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **United Nations General Assembly declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)** to draw global attention to the

ecological, climate, and livelihood importance of rangelands and pastoral communities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The initiative is **led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, which coordinates international efforts related to rangeland management, pastoral livelihoods, food security, and sustainable land use. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 IYRP does **not promote afforestation-centric or forest-based initiatives like REDD+**. Instead, it recognises **rangelands as distinct ecosystems** that depend on grazing and fire regimes, and it focuses on **pastoral mobility, land tenure security, and sustainable rangeland governance**, rather than tree-planting approaches. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

History, Art & Culture

36.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Dong village in Arunachal Pradesh, is globally known as the **first sunrise point of India**, and the inaugural **Sunrise Festival** was celebrated at this very location to leverage its geographical uniqueness. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Although Dong is home to the Meyor (Zakhring) tribe whose culture includes sun-related beliefs, the festival itself is **not exclusively religious**. Its core focus is **tourism, culture, and adventure**, not ritual worship. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The festival is explicitly conceptualised as an **adventure-led cultural tourism platform**, integrating nature-based experiences with tribal culture and heritage to boost sustainable tourism. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

37.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The Somnath Temple was first destroyed in **1026 CE by Mahmud of Ghazni**, an event recorded by the Persian scholar **Al-Biruni**. Thereafter, the shrine faced repeated cycles of destruction and rebuilding in **1297, 1394 and 1706 CE**, reflecting a continuous civilisational

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struggle to preserve faith and cultural identity. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 Somnath is built in the **Kailas Mahameru Prasad architectural style** and features a **155-foot-high Shikhar** rising prominently along the **Arabian Sea coast at Prabhas Patan**. These architectural elements define its classical temple layout, including the **Garbhgruh, Sabhamandap and Nrityamandap**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 The present structure of Somnath was **reconstructed after Independence** on the initiative of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, with strong support from **K.M. Munshi**, and the **Pran-Pratistha ceremony was performed by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad on 11 May 1951**. This reconstruction symbolised national resurgence and cultural revival. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, **option D is correct.**

38.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The painting known as **Bani Thani** is one of the most celebrated masterpieces of **Indian miniature art**, belonging to the **Kishangarh school of Rajasthani painting**.

🔦 Created by the renowned **artist Nihal Chand** under the patronage of **Raja Sawant Singh of Kishangarh** (a princely state in **present-day Rajasthan**), it is often referred to as the **"Mona Lisa of India"** due to its **enigmatic beauty, refined elegance, and enduring cultural significance**.

🔦 Hence, **option A is correct.**

39.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 **Makar Sankranti** is a **pan-India harvest festival**, observed on **14th January**, marked by regionally **diverse customs and celebrations**.

✦ It follows the **solar calendar**, falling consistently around **14th January**, marking the **Sun's northward journey (Uttarayan)** into **Capricorn (Makara)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 Pongal is celebrated as a **four-day harvest festival in Tamil Nadu**, not Kerala. Kolam decorations are a feature of Pongal. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, **option A is correct.**

40.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 Mannathu Padmanabhan founded the **Nair Service Society (NSS)** in **1914** to promote **social reform, education, and community upliftment**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 He led the **Savarnajatha Satyagraha** to support **temple entry for oppressed communities**, contributing to the broader anti-untouchability movement. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in **1966**, not the Padma Vibhushan. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, **option A is correct.**

41.

Ans: D

Exp:

🔦 She was also known as **"Veeramangai"** and was the **queen of the Ramnad Kingdom of Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 She is regarded as the **first Indian queen to lead an organised armed resistance against the British East India Company**, asserting indigenous self-rule well before the national freedom movement. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 She **deployed the first recorded human bomb in Indian military history** as a tactical weapon against colonial forces. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, **option D is correct.**

42.

Ans: D

Exp:

🔦 **National Youth Day** is observed annually on **12th January**, commemorating the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, whose ideals of character, courage, service, and nation-building continue to inspire India's youth. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

🔦 **Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897** to promote service, education, and spiritual upliftment.

✦ In **1899**, he established the **Belur Math**, which became his permanent abode. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, **option D is correct.**

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Geography

43.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 In Madhya Pradesh, village common grazing lands are locally known as **Charnoi lands or Gochar lands**. These lands are traditionally used for **grazing livestock** and form an important part of the rural commons system, supporting pastoral livelihoods and maintaining village-level food security. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 In Tamil Nadu, **Panchami lands** refer to village commons that were historically earmarked for **allocation to Dalit** (Depressed Classes) households to protect their access to land and common resources. They were intended as a social justice measure to reduce caste-based land exclusion and ensure livelihood security for marginalised communities. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 In Haryana (and also in Punjab), **Shamilat Deh** denotes village common lands owned collectively by the village community and managed by the **Gram Panchayat**. These lands are used for grazing, water bodies, village pathways and other shared community purposes and function as a vital social safety net for landless and small households. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct**

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Popocatepetl Volcano:** Also known as “Smoking Mountain”, it is a **steep-sided stratovolcano in central Mexico**, located on the **border of the states of México and Puebla**.
 - ✦ It lies on the **Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt**, formed due to the **subduction of the Cocos Plate beneath the North American Plate**.
 - ✦ Rising to an elevation of **5,452 m above sea level**, Popocatépetl is **Mexico’s second-highest volcano after Pico de Orizaba**, and is **one of the country’s most active and dangerous volcanoes**, with **recorded eruptions since 1519**, forming part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 A Wolf Supermoon is the combined occurrence of the **Wolf Moon (January’s full moon)** and a **supermoon**, which happens when the Moon is at or near **perigee**, its closest point to the Earth, during the full moon phase. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Moon **does not undergo any physical expansion or structural change** during a supermoon. The increase in apparent size and brightness is purely due to **reduced Earth–Moon distance**, not due to tidal stretching or gravitational enlargement of the Moon. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 A **supermoon** is scientifically defined as a **full moon that occurs at or very near perigee**, i.e., the point of closest approach of the Moon to the Earth in its elliptical orbit. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

46

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Western Ghats are known as *Sahyadri* in northern Maharashtra and as *Sahya Parvatham* in Kerala. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Konkan, Kanara and Malabar are coastal plains located **between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea**, i.e., on the **western side of the Western Ghats**, and not to the east. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Geologically, the Western Ghats are **not true fold mountains**; they are **block mountains** formed due to faulting and represent the **faulted edge of the Deccan Plateau**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Rivers flowing west from the Western Ghats are **short, swift and have steep gradients**, making them more suitable for **hydroelectric power generation** compared to the slower, long east-flowing rivers. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

47.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Shaksgam Valley (**Trans-Karakoram Tract**) is a high-altitude, sparsely populated region in the eastern **Karakoram mountain range**. It lies **north of the Siachen Glacier**, a part of the Hunza-Gilgit region

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of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), and borders China's Xinjiang province to the north. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

India does not recognize the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement and rejects the transfer of Shaksgam Valley, asserting it as an inseparable part of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option B is correct.

Science & Tech

48.

Ans: A

Exp:

The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is a secure, integrated intelligence-sharing platform that enables authorised law enforcement and security agencies to access multiple existing databases in real time for counter-terrorism and serious criminal investigations.

It operates as a federated access system, providing controlled query-based access, and does not function as a centralised data repository. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

NATGRID was conceived in 2009, in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks (2008), to overcome information silos among security agencies and enable faster, intelligence-led responses. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Agencies can access vast amounts of personal data on NATGRID without necessarily registering a First Information Report (FIR). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

Metallurgical coke (met coke) is a high-carbon, low-impurity fuel obtained from coking coal, used as a key input in blast furnace steelmaking, and produced by heating coal in the absence of air (destructive distillation) in coke ovens. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It acts as both a fuel and a reducing agent in blast furnaces, helping convert iron ore into molten iron.

Low ash and ultra-low phosphorous variants of met coke are especially important for high-grade steel manufacturing. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

ICGS Samudra Pratap is indeed the first indigenously built pollution control vessel of the Indian Coast Guard. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is built by Goa Shipyard Limited, not Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), West Bengal. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The vessel can sail at speeds above 22 knots, has an endurance of 6,000 nautical miles and is the largest ship in the ICG fleet. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

The DLI Scheme explicitly supports design and development of ICs, which are the core building blocks of electronic systems. Incentives cover design expenses and enable access to Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools and prototyping facilities, aligning squarely with IC-level design. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

SoCs integrate multiple functional blocks (CPU, memory, interfaces) on a single chip. The scheme prioritises fabless SoC design, encouraging indigenous IP ownership and deployment in products like Internet of Things (IoT), communications, and consumer electronics. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Creation and ownership of IP cores (e.g., processor cores, controllers, accelerators) are central to value capture in semiconductors. Design Linked Incentive (DLI) supports IP-core design as part of the design lifecycle, reducing long-term dependence on imported core technologies. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

The DLI Scheme does not support fabrication (fabs) plants. It is focused on design and IP creation under a fabless model, where manufacturing is outsourced to specialised foundries. Fabrication incentives fall under other components of the Semicon India Programme, not DLI. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

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52.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Akash-NG has a very high level of indigenisation, with about **96% of its components developed within India**, including the Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, propulsion system, radars, Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) and command-and-control elements. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Akash-NG is developed by DRDO and its main production agencies are Defence Public Sector Undertakings such as **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, its manufacturing ecosystem also involves **numerous Indian private sector firms** that supply subsystems, electronics, software and components. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- 💡 The **export version of Akash-NG is not identical** to the version deployed with the Indian Armed Forces, as **export variants typically involve modifications in range, seeker sensitivity, software, encryption and electronic counter-countermeasure** features to safeguard sensitive operational capabilities. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Akash-NG significantly **strengthens India's layered air defence architecture** by providing a **highly mobile, medium-range surface-to-air missile capability** that **bridges the gap between short-range air defence systems and long-range systems such as the S-400**, thereby improving protection against modern aerial threats like aircraft, drones and cruise missiles. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The statement describes a counter-intuitive thermodynamic phenomenon in which **hotter water freezes faster than colder water under specific conditions**, which is scientifically termed as the **Mpemba Effect**.
- 💡 Recent supercomputer-based simulations by the **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)** have provided the **first molecular-level explanation** of this effect. The study revealed that:
 - ✦ Water does **not freeze directly into ice**, but first passes through **short-lived intermediate molecular states**.

- ✦ Depending on the starting temperature, water can remain **trapped in these intermediate states for different durations**.
- ✦ **Hotter water can sometimes bypass these delays**, reaching the stage of ice nucleation faster than colder water.
- ✦ **This explains why hot water may freeze before cold water** under certain conditions.

- 💡 The study also confirmed that this phenomenon is **not restricted to water alone**, but can occur in other fluid-to-solid phase transitions, making it a major breakthrough in **nonequilibrium physics**.

- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Remote sensing involves the acquisition of information about the Earth's surface without direct physical contact, using sensors mounted on satellites, aircraft, or drones. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Programme was initiated with the launch of **Indian Remote Sensing satellite-1A (IRS-1A) in 1988**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) is an **active remote sensing system** that uses its own microwave radiation to generate images of the Earth's surface and can operate day and night as well as through clouds. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

55.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 BHASHINI functions as the **language layer of India's Digital Public Infrastructure**, enabling multilingual interoperability across Aadhaar, UPI and DigiLocker-based digital services, thereby promoting inclusive digital governance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Shrutlekh supports **more than 22 Indian languages** and is not restricted only to the 22 scheduled languages. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Bhashadaan** is a crowdsourcing initiative under BHASHINI that allows citizens to voluntarily contribute Indian language data to strengthen AI-based translation and speech models. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

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56.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India reported its first outbreak of avian influenza in **2015**, with cases reported from **Maharashtra and Gujarat** while it was first detected in **China** in **1996**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Human cases are primarily associated with **direct exposure to infected birds or contaminated environments**, and not due to efficient person-to-person spread. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Common symptoms include **high fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches**. In advanced stages, the infection can progress beyond mild illness and affect the **respiratory and nervous systems**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

- A binary star system is defined as a system of **two stars gravitationally bound and orbiting a common centre of mass called the barycenter**, rather than orbiting one another independently. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- W Ursae Majoris stars are contact binary systems** in which the two stars share a **common outer atmosphere and exchange stellar material**. Therefore, they are neither detached binaries, nor do they evolve independently. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Low-mass stars, after exhausting hydrogen in their cores, expand into giants, shed their outer layers as planetary nebulae and leave behind dense white dwarfs** that cool slowly over billions of years. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Nanotechnology involves designing and engineering structures at the nanoscale**—where dimensions are **100 nanometres or smaller**—by manipulating individual atoms and molecules. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- As grain size decreases, **quantum mechanical effects become dominant**, a property vital for **semiconductors, optoelectronics, and nonlinear**

optics. For example, **quantum dots** can be tuned to **emit or absorb specific light wavelengths** by adjusting their size, making them crucial for **display technologies and solar cells**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- Nanomaterials have **enhanced catalytic properties** due to their increased surface area, making them ideal for **chemical reactions and environmental remediation**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Nanoparticles often form a single magnetic domain, resulting in **superparamagnetism**, a property useful in **magnetic recording and information storage**. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

Defence & Security

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Pralay is a **solid-propellant, surface-to-surface, short-range** (150 km to 500 km), quasi-ballistic missile and a payload capacity of **500 kg to 1000 kg**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It is equipped with an advanced **Inertial Navigation System (INS)** and a **Radio Frequency (RF) seeker** for high precision and in-flight manoeuvrability. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

60.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Suryastra** is India's first **Made-in-India, multi-calibre, long-range** rocket launcher system developed by Pune-based **NIBE Limited** in collaboration with **Israel's Elbit Systems**.
- It leverages Elbit's **PULS (Precise & Universal Launching System)** architecture to deliver precision surface-to-surface strikes at ranges of up to 150 km and 300 km, **marking the first domestic production** of a high-precision rocket launcher with 300 km strike capability.
- It has demonstrated a **high accuracy** of less than five metres circular error probable (CEP) in trials and can also **fire loitering munitions** up to 100 km.
- A single launcher can fire **multiple types of rockets and guided munitions**, enhancing **operational flexibility** and reducing logistical burden.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

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61.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Bhairav Battalion** is a specialized formation that fills the operational gap between the strategic **Para Special Forces (SF)** and the tactical **Ghatak Platoons**.
 - ✦ While **Ghataks** function at the battalion level for **localized assaults**, and **Para SF** execute deep, **strategic missions** behind enemy lines, **Bhairav Battalions** provide rapid-response for immediate **border contingencies** or short-notice offensives.
- 💡 It is a **2025 Indian Army initiative** for modernization and **force restructuring** to meet the demands of **hybrid and technology-driven warfare**.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

Social Issues

62.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, specifically Target 5.3, aims to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by the year 2030. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, the legal minimum age of marriage is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 India accounts for nearly one-third of the world's child brides, as highlighted by UNICEF estimates. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option D is correct.

Miscellaneous

63.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **Anji Khad Rail Bridge** is **India's first cable-stayed railway bridge** designed for unstable Himalayan terrain. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- 💡 **New Pamban Railway Bridge** is **India's first vertical-lift sea bridge** facilitating maritime navigation. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- 💡 **Chenab Rail Bridge** is the **world's highest railway arch bridge** constructed as part of the **Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link** project. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

- 💡 **The Bairabi–Sairang New Line** has connected **Aizawl** to the national railway network for the first time. Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.

💡 Hence, option D is correct

64.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Bharati Braille (Standard Bharati Braille Code, 2025) establishes **India's unified Unicode-mapped national Braille script**, enabling seamless digital encoding and accessibility across Indian languages. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- 💡 Sugamya Pustakalaya is a **national multilingual digital library** providing accessible Braille, DAISY and other inclusive learning resources for persons with print disabilities. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- 💡 Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) is a **broad national accessibility mission** focused on retrofitting public infrastructure and government digital platforms for universal access; it is **not exclusively a Braille-specific infrastructure programme**. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
- 💡 Draft Bharati Braille 2.1 (2026) released by **National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD)** aims at **technological upgradation, digital compatibility and standard harmonisation** of national Braille standards. Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

65.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Hindi does **not** rank second globally; it is generally placed as the **third most spoken language**, after **English and Mandarin Chinese**, when total speakers are considered.
 - ✦ **UNESCO** recognised **Hindi** as an **official language in 1948**, and it was first used in the **United Nations General Assembly in 1949**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 The **10th of January** is designated as **World Hindi Day**, commemorating the **inaugural World Hindi Conference in 1975** held in Nagpur under the auspices of **Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.



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