



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

March

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 administration of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), consider the following statements:

- All the members of the Autonomous District Council are directly elected by the people.
- The Governor of the state has the power to create, alter, or reorganise Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Digital India Programme:

- The Digital India Programme is a flagship initiative administered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and was launched in July 2015.
- The core vision of the programme rests on three interconnected areas namely digital infrastructure as a utility, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to the concept of the "Creamy Layer" in India, consider the following statements:

- The concept was first applied following the landmark 1992 Indra Sawhney vs Union of India judgment.
- Children of Group A officers, or those promoted to such posts before the age of 40, are automatically excluded from the Other Backward Class (OBC) quota.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

4. With reference to Living Will (Advance Medical Directive) in India, consider the following statements:

- The concept of a living will was recognised by the Supreme Court in the Common Cause v. Union of India (2018) judgment.
- A living will permits individuals to provide advance instructions regarding medical treatment if they become terminally ill or unable to communicate informed consent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements:

- The Constitution explicitly uses the term "impeachment" for the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner and Supreme Court Judges.
- The service conditions of the Chief Election Commissioner can be altered to their disadvantage after appointment by a simple majority in Parliament.
- Other Election Commissioners can be removed from office only on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, consider the following statements:

- The Act was enacted to ensure availability of essential goods at fair prices and prevent hoarding and black marketing.

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2. Under the Act, the Central Government can regulate production, supply and distribution of essential commodities.
3. The Act empowers the Central Government to completely abolish private trade in essential commodities.

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):

1. It is implemented by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to provide affordable generic medicines through dedicated outlets.
2. Medicines sold under the scheme are procured only from World Health Organization–GMP certified manufacturers.

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges:

1. The committee is responsible for examining breaches of parliamentary privileges and can call witnesses and examine documents.
2. It consists of 22 members nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding:

1. The 16th Finance Commission retained the States' share in the divisible pool of central taxes at 41%.

2. Under Article 275 of the Constitution, the Comptroller and Auditor General certifies the net proceeds of taxes, and this certification is final.

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding "Bulldozer Justice" in India:

1. The Supreme Court declared punitive demolitions unconstitutional under Articles 21 and 300A.
2. Collective punishment of family members is allowed under Indian criminal law in such cases.

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

International Relations

11. With reference to the India–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, consider the following statements:

1. It came into force in 2011 to deepen economic and trade relations between India and Japan.
2. The agreement aims to eliminate tariffs on more than 90% of traded goods between the two countries.

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

12. With reference to the recent visit of the President of Finland to India, consider the following statements:

1. India and Finland elevated their bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability.
2. A Joint Task Force on 6G research was established involving the University of Oulu and the Bharat 6G Alliance.

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3. The Migration and Mobility Partnership aims to facilitate the movement of skilled Indian professionals to Finland.
4. Finland agreed to join the BRICS grouping as part of the outcomes of the visit.

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

13. With reference to the impact of the US–Israel–Iran conflict on India’s energy security, consider the following statements:

1. India imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements.
2. Most of India’s crude oil imports from the Gulf region pass through the Strait of Hormuz.
3. India’s Strategic Petroleum Reserves currently provide more than 100 days of import cover.

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

14. With reference to the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Canada to India, consider the following statements:

1. Canada agreed to become a full member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
2. A long-term uranium supply agreement was signed between India’s Department of Atomic Energy and Cameco.
3. Canada announced its decision to join both the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA).

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding Israel’s proposed “Hexagon of Alliances”:

1. Greece and Cyprus are included as core members along with Israel and India.
2. The alliance is designed to counter both Iran-led and radical Sunni extremist groups.

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

16. With reference to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the recent IAEA–Iran dispute over the alleged Natanz strike, consider the following statements:

1. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was established in 1957 following the “Atoms for Peace” proposal made by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
2. The headquarters of the IAEA is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. The primary objective of the IAEA is to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy while preventing its diversion for military purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

17. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), consider the following maritime zones:

1. Territorial Sea – Up to 12 nautical miles
2. Exclusive Economic Zone – Up to 200 nautical miles

Which of the pairs 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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18. The term “Axis of Resistance”, often seen in news, refers to which of the following:

- A NATO-backed security grouping in West Asia
- A network of Iran-backed proxy groups across West Asia
- A US-led maritime coalition in the Strait of Hormuz
- An economic alliance of Gulf Cooperation Council countries

Indian Economy

19. Consider the following statements regarding the revised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms for land-bordering countries:

- Investors from China are now permitted under the automatic route if they hold a controlling Beneficial Ownership of up to 10%.
- The easing of restrictions explicitly includes strategic sectors like semiconductors to help integrate India into global high-tech supply chains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

20. Which one of the following statements best describes ‘EASE 9.0’, recently seen in news?

- A global initiative to simplify trade procedures and reduce non-tariff barriers among G20 countries.
- A comprehensive reform agenda for Public Sector Banks (PSBs) aimed at leveraging technology, and improving productivity.
- An environmental assessment framework for evaluating sustainable development projects in South Asia.
- A digital governance platform for streamlining e-governance services across Indian states.

21. Which one of the following statements best describes the term ‘Rebasing’ commonly used in economic analysis?

- The process of resetting a country’s currency value by pegging it to a foreign currency to control inflation.

- The method of revising the calculation of poverty lines by updating the minimum calorie consumption norms.
- The process of updating the base year of macroeconomic indicators like GDP using improved data to reflect the current structure of the economy.
- The technique of adjusting fiscal deficit targets by excluding certain expenditures to present a better financial position.

22. The ‘Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO)’, recently seen in India’s energy policy news, can be best described as:

- A voluntary target for state governments to increase the share of hydro-power in their overall energy mix.
- A mandatory requirement for designated consumers to purchase a minimum percentage of their total electricity from non-fossil sources.
- A financial incentive scheme providing subsidies to households that install rooftop solar panels.
- An international commitment made by India at COP summits to reduce the carbon intensity of its power grid by 2030.

23. Which of the following best explains the concept of “crowding out” in the context of large-scale farm loan waivers announced by governments?

- Government borrowing to finance loan waivers increases demand for funds, which may reduce the availability of credit for private investment.
- Farm loan waivers encourage banks to reallocate credit away from agriculture towards industry and services.
- Loan waivers reduce farmers’ dependence on institutional credit, leading to a contraction in rural financial markets.
- Government assumption of farm debt leads to a decline in agricultural exports due to higher fiscal deficits.

24. Consider the following statements regarding Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs):

- In India, the existing Strategic Petroleum Reserves are located in underground rock caverns and are managed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

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2. As of March 2026, the total capacity of India's operational SPRs provides crude oil coverage for approximately 60 days, meeting the IEA mandate for member countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements about RBI's Open Market Operations (OMOs):

1. OMOs involve the buying and selling of government securities to manage liquidity in the banking system.
2. Temporary OMOs are long-term operations that adjust liquidity without permanently changing the money supply.

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

26. With reference to India's export performance in recent years, consider the following statements:

1. India's total exports of goods and services crossed USD 700 billion between April 2025 and January 2026.
2. India ranks among the top 5 countries globally for export product diversity.
3. India is currently among the top three exporters of pharmaceuticals globally by value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. With reference to the Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI) 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The IBEI measures startup success rates and unicorn creation across countries.

2. It evaluates business environments based on accessibility, predictability, and low-friction systems for innovators.
3. It is released by StartupBlink.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. With reference to India's new GDP series with base year 2022–23, consider the following statements:

1. The base year was revised to reflect a normal post-pandemic year.
2. The revision integrates the Supply and Use Table (SUT) framework in line with SNA 2008.
3. The new series has discontinued single deflation in all sectors.

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

29. With reference to the Fiscal Health Index (FHI), consider the following statements:

1. The Fiscal Health Index is released by the World Health Organization (WHO) to assess the fiscal performance of Indian states.
2. The index evaluates states on indicators such as revenue mobilisation, quality of expenditure, fiscal prudence, and debt sustainability.

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

30. Which of the following technologies may typically be integrated into a Digital Twin platform for port management?

1. Internet of Things (IoT) sensors
2. LiDAR mapping
3. Drone imaging
4. GPS tracking

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Select the correct answer:

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

31. Consider the following statements:

1. The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme was launched in 1998 to provide short-term institutional credit to farmers for crop cultivation and post-harvest needs.
2. The Revised KCC (2020) introduced a RuPay-enabled card with digital payment features and flexible withdrawal options.

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

Environment & Ecology

32. Consider the following statements regarding Fireflies:

1. Fireflies are not true flies but belong to the order Coleoptera, making them a type of beetle.
2. The light produced by fireflies is a form of “cold light” because the bioluminescent reaction emits negligible heat.
3. Both adult fireflies and their larvae (glowworms) use bioluminescence primarily for the same purpose.

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

33. With reference to Project Cheetah, recently in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a project to translocate and establish a cheetah population in India, where the species was declared extinct in 1952.
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is the central implementing agency for the project.

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

34. With reference to fireflies, consider the following statements:

1. Fireflies belong to the beetle order Coleoptera.
2. The light produced by fireflies during bioluminescence generates significant heat energy.

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

35. With reference to atmospheric phenomena affecting air quality, consider the following statements:

1. During a temperature inversion, air temperature decreases with an increase in altitude, allowing pollutants to disperse freely into the upper atmosphere.
2. Photochemical smog is characterized by a brownish-gray haze caused by the action of solar ultraviolet radiation on hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing are associated with which of the following international treaties?

- A. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- B. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- C. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- D. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

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37. With reference to Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka declared primarily for the conservation of wild flora.
2. The sanctuary represents a typical dryland ecosystem dominated by scrub jungles and grasslands.
3. It forms an important watershed for the Tungabhadra river basin.

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

History - Art & Culture

38. Who among the following organized a march on the Malabar coast to break the Salt Law in April 1930?

- A. C. Rajagopalachari
- B. K. Kelappan
- C. K. Kamaraj
- D. K. P. Kesava Menon

39. With reference to Savitribai Phule, consider the following statements:

1. She established the first Indian-run girls' school in Pune in 1848.
2. She founded the Satyashodhak Samaj to promote social equality and fight caste discrimination.

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. With reference to the Salt Satyagraha associated with the Dandi March, consider the following pairs:

| Leaders | Associated Regions |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. C. Rajagopalachari | Payyanur |
| 2. K. Kelappan | Vedaranyam |
| 3. Sarojini Naidu | Dharasana Salt Works |

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

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

41. With reference to the Megalithic Culture in India, consider the following statements:

1. Megaliths were primarily constructed as burial or commemorative structures.
2. The Megalithic period in South India corresponds largely with the Iron Age.
3. Megalithic sites are found only in peninsular India south of the Godavari River.

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

Geography

42. With reference to the Seismic Code (IS 1893) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The 2025 revision of IS 1893 was withdrawn by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), and the 2016 version has been reinstated as the applicable standard.
2. The revised code was based on advanced scientific techniques such as Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA), active fault mapping, and near-fault effects.
3. Under the current seismic zonation of India, the country is divided into five seismic zones ranging from Zone I to Zone V.

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

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43. With reference to Salar de Pajonales, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in northern Chile on the western margin of the Altiplano-Puna plateau.
2. It is an exorheic basin sustained primarily by glacial meltwater.
3. It lies within the hyperarid core of the Atacama Desert and mimics Martian environmental conditions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Science & Technology

44. Consider the following statements regarding Gravitational Waves:

1. Gravitational waves were first predicted by Albert Einstein in his General Theory of Relativity.
2. Gravitational waves are part of the electromagnetic spectrum similar to radio waves and X-rays.
3. Merging binary systems of black holes or neutron stars can generate gravitational waves.
4. Gravitational waves travel at the speed of light and cause tiny distortions in spacetime.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

45. With reference to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates coastal states to assist persons in distress at sea, but only if the distressed vessel belongs to a signatory nation.
2. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) serves as the coordinating authority for rescue operations under SAR within the Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR).
3. INDSAR is a mandatory ship reporting system operated by the Indian Navy to track all commercial vessels in the Indian Ocean.

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

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

46. With reference to peptides, consider the following statements:

1. Peptides are short chains of amino acids that form the basic structural units of proteins.
2. Proteins generally contain a larger number of amino acids than peptides and often fold into complex three-dimensional structures.
3. Peptides in the human body can function as hormones, neurotransmitters, and signalling molecules.

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

47. The Triple Elimination Strategy promoted by the World Health Organization targets elimination of which of the following infections?

1. HIV
2. Syphilis
3. Hepatitis B
4. Tuberculosis

Select the correct answer:

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

48. Consider the following statements regarding White Phosphorus:

1. It is a highly flammable, wax-like substance that typically emits a garlic-like odour.
2. Exposure to white phosphorus is generally limited to superficial skin burns and does not pose a threat to internal organs.
3. Militaries commonly use it as an incendiary munition to create smokescreens and illumination on battlefields.

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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

49. With reference to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in national security, consider the following statements:

1. AI integration into C4ISR systems helps process large volumes of intelligence data and accelerates military decision-making.
2. AI tools are increasingly used to detect cyber threats, identify deepfakes, and counter disinformation campaigns.

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

50. With reference to the LIGO-India Project, consider the following statements:

1. LIGO-India will host an advanced LIGO-style interferometer and will become the fifth node in the global gravitational-wave detection network.
2. The project is jointly led by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with international and Indian research institutions.
3. LIGO observatories detect gravitational waves using laser beams travelling through two long vacuum arms placed at right angles to each other.

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

51. Consider the following statements:

1. Naturally occurring Thorium (Th-232) is highly fissile and can directly sustain a nuclear chain reaction.
2. For power generation, Thorium-232 must capture a neutron to transmute into Uranium-233 which is then utilized as a fissile fuel.

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

52. With reference to the recent labour market study on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Anthropic, consider the following statements:

1. The study introduced the concept of “observed exposure” to measure the real-world use of AI in professional tasks.
2. Sectors such as construction and agriculture were identified as having relatively low exposure to AI-driven automation.

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

53. With reference to National Science Day in India, consider the following statements:

1. It commemorates the discovery of the Raman Effect, which demonstrated the quantum nature of light.
2. The Government of India declared 28 February as National Science Day in 1986, and the first celebration was held in 1987.
3. The theme for National Science Day 2026 was “Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat.”

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

54. With reference to meningococcal infection, consider the following statements:

1. It is caused by a Gram-negative bacterium.
2. It primarily affects the respiratory epithelium and rarely involves the central nervous system.
3. It can manifest as both meningitis and septicemia.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. With reference to Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) Technology, consider the following statements:

1. Unlike Solar PV panels that use semiconductors to directly convert sunlight into electricity, CST systems use mirrors or reflective surfaces to concentrate sunlight to generate heat.
2. The thermal energy generated by CST systems can be stored in mediums like molten salt, which is significantly more expensive than storing energy in lithium-ion batteries.

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

56. With reference to Rare Disease Day, consider the following statements:

1. Rare Disease Day is observed on 28th February every year, and on 29th February during leap years.
2. It was first observed in 2008 and is coordinated by EURORDIS.
3. Its primary objective is to promote pharmaceutical exports from developing countries.

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

57. Which of the following micronutrients are mandated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for rice fortification?

1. Iron
2. Folic Acid
3. Vitamin B12
4. Zinc

Select the correct answer:

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

Defence & Security

58. Consider the following pairs:

| Missile System | Characteristic |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Fattah Missile | A hypersonic weapon designed to bypass traditional anti-missile defence systems. |
| 2. Sejil Missile | A liquid-fuelled ballistic missile that requires longer launch preparation time. |
| 3. Blue Sparrow | An air-launched quasi-ballistic missile that briefly exits the atmosphere before re-entering to strike its target. |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

59. With reference to the Shtil Missile System, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenous long-range air defence system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It employs a Vertical Launch System (VLS) to intercept anti-ship missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to Exercise LAMITIYE, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint military exercise conducted between India and Seychelles.

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2. The exercise is held annually to improve cooperation in conventional warfare.

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

61. Consider the following pairs :

| Air Defence System | Country |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| ● Bavar-373 | Iran |
| ● Cheongung II | Israel |
| ● Patriot Missile System | United States |

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

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

62. With reference to Look Out Circulars (LOCs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. A Look Out Circular is used to prevent individuals wanted by law enforcement from leaving the country.
2. The Bureau of Immigration functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs and enforces LOCs at immigration checkpoints.
3. Statutory bodies such as the National Commission for Women can directly request the Bureau of Immigration to issue an LOC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Miscellaneous

63. With reference to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 consider the following statements:

1. India became the first team in history to successfully defend the ICC Men's T20 World Cup trophy.

2. The Men's T20 World Cup is an international cricket championship organised by the ICC and is generally conducted annually.

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

64. Consider the following description:

It is a toxic, wax-like chemical substance that ignites on contact with oxygen and burns at extremely high temperatures. It is used by militaries to create smokescreens and illumination but can cause severe burns and toxic organ damage when used in populated areas. Its use as an incendiary weapon against civilians is restricted under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), 1980.

Which of the following substances is best described above?

- A. Thermite
B. White Phosphorus
C. Agent Orange
D. Chlorine Gas

65. Consider the following pairs:

| Location | Primary Significance |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Natanz | Major underground uranium enrichment facility and a core site of Iran's nuclear program. |
| 2. Manama | Headquarters of the United States Navy's Fifth Fleet. |
| 3. Akrotiri and Dhekelia | Sovereign Base Areas controlled by the United States in the Mediterranean |

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

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

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66. With reference to Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs), consider the following statements:

1. Hybrid Electric Vehicles combine an internal combustion engine with an electric propulsion system and generally do not require external charging.
2. In regenerative braking, kinetic energy during braking is converted into electricity and stored in the battery.
3. Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) cannot be charged through external electric supply and depend only on regenerative braking.

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

67. With reference to the International Women's Day (IWD), consider the following statements:

1. It commemorates a massive women's strike for "bread and peace" in Petrograd, Russia, in 1917.
2. The United Nations officially observed International Women's Day for the first time in 1945, immediately following the end of World War II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

68. With reference to the Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household.
2. The mission promotes community participation through Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs).
3. It is implemented exclusively by the Central Government without involvement of State Governments.

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

69. The term "Black Rain", recently seen in news, was historically associated with which of the following events?

- A. Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster
- B. Hiroshima nuclear bombing
- C. Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
- D. Fukushima Nuclear Accident

70. With reference to the World Obesity Atlas 2026, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the World Health Organization every year on World Health Day.
2. China, India and the United States are among the countries with the highest number of children living with obesity.
3. The report warns that the global target of halving childhood obesity by 2025 is unlikely to be achieved.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. With reference to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. Its primary objective is to reduce the energy intensity of GDP by promoting energy efficiency across sectors such as industry, buildings, transport, agriculture, and appliances.
3. It is responsible for regulating renewable energy generation targets in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

72. With reference to Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAT), consider the following statements:

1. It detects infections by amplifying viral RNA or DNA present in donated blood.
2. It depends on the human body's antibody response to identify infections.
3. It reduces the "window period" for detecting infections such as HIV and Hepatitis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 3 only

B. 2 only

C. 1, 2 and 3

D. 3 only

73. With reference to Section 301 of the US Trade Act, 1974, consider the following statements:

1. Section 301 empowers the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to investigate foreign trade practices considered unfair or burdensome to US commerce.
2. If violations are found under Section 301, the United States may impose tariffs, import restrictions, or suspend trade concessions against the concerned country.
3. A WTO panel in 1998 declared Section 301 completely inconsistent with WTO rules, leading to its removal from US trade law.

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

Answers

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

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Explanation

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ A standard ADC under the Sixth Schedule consists of up to 30 members. Out of these, **26 are directly elected** on the basis of adult franchise, and the remaining **4 are nominated by the Governor**. (Note: The Bodoland Territorial Council is an exception with 46 members, but it also contains nominated members). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ Under the Sixth Schedule, the Governor of the state holds the authority to create, alter, or reorganise Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

2.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ Digital India Programme is a flagship initiative administered by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. It was launched in **July 2015** that seeks to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The programme rests on **3 interconnected** vision areas:

- ✦ **Digital infrastructure** as a utility to every citizen.
- ✦ **Governance and services on demand**, ensuring seamless, transparent, and paperless delivery.
- ✦ **Digital empowerment of citizens** through literacy, skills, and access to digital resources.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The **concept of the “creamy layer”** was indeed first applied in the landmark 1992 *Indra Sawhney vs Union of India* judgment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ Under the existing rules, children of Group A officers, or those who are promoted to such roles before the

age of 40, are completely excluded from the OBC quota. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

4.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The **Supreme Court in the Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)** judgment recognised the validity of a **Living Will (Advance Medical Directive)** and affirmed that the **right to die with dignity is part of Article 21 of the Constitution**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ A **living will** is a written document that allows individuals to provide **advance instructions regarding medical treatment**, including withdrawal or withholding of life support, if they become **terminally ill or incapable of expressing informed consent**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

5.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ The Constitution technically reserves the term “impeachment” exclusively for the President of India (Article 61), while the formal constitutional term for Judges and the CEC is “removal”. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ To ensure the independence of the ECI, the Constitution mandates that the service conditions of the CEC cannot be altered to their disadvantage after appointment. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ The Constitution provides that other Election Commissioners or Regional Commissioners can be removed from office only on the recommendation of the CEC. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The Essential Commodities Act was enacted in 1955 to ensure the **availability of essential goods such as food items and petroleum products at fair prices**, while preventing **hoarding, black marketing, and artificial shortages** that could harm consumers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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Under **Section 3 of the Act**, the **Central Government has wide powers to control production, supply, and distribution of essential commodities**, including imposing stock limits, regulating trade, fixing prices, and restricting hoarding in order to stabilise markets. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

However, the Act **does not provide for complete abolition of private trade in essential commodities**; instead, it regulates trade to prevent unfair practices and ensure equitable distribution. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

7.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** is implemented by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** under the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.

The scheme aims to provide **quality generic medicines at affordable prices** through **Jan Aushadhi Kendras**, reducing **out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Under PMBJP, medicines are procured only from **World Health Organization–Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified manufacturers** and are tested in **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-accredited laboratories**. This ensures **quality assurance while maintaining low prices**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

8.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges** investigates cases of **breach of parliamentary privileges** and has the authority to **call witnesses, summon documents, and examine evidence** to determine whether a privilege violation has occurred. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The **Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges** consists of **15 members**, not 22, who are **nominated by the Speaker**. The fixed number ensures **effective functioning, balanced representation of political parties, and**

streamlined decision-making. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

9.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **16th Finance Commission** continued the vertical devolution formula adopted by the previous Commission, keeping the **States' share in the divisible pool at 41%** for the award period **2026–31**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The authority for certification of **net tax proceeds** lies under **Article 279 of the Constitution of India**, not Article 275. **Article 275** deals with **statutory grants-in-aid to certain States**, whereas **Article 279** defines “**net proceeds**” and provides that the CAG’s certification is final. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

The Supreme Court, **invoking Article 142**, ruled that **demolitions of accused persons' properties** without due process violate **Articles 21 (Right to Life and Shelter) and 300A (Right to Property)**. It mandated prior notice, the **right to be heard, and accountability** before any property demolition. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Indian criminal law prohibits **collective punishment**; punishing family members for an **individual's alleged crime** violates the **principle of individual liability and constitutional rights**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

International Relations

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **India–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement** became operational in **August 2011**. It was designed to **strengthen economic cooperation between India and Japan** by expanding market access and promoting trade, services, and investment flows between the two economies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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Under the **CEPA** framework, both countries agreed to **progressively remove customs duties on the majority of traded goods**. The agreement envisages **tariff elimination on over 94% of products** traded between the two sides over a phased period, thereby facilitating smoother trade and lowering costs for exporters and importers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

12.

Ans: A

Exp:

During the high-level visit, India and Finland elevated their bilateral ties to a **“Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability.”** This reflects shared priorities in **green transition, digital technology, innovation, and sustainable development**. The partnership aims to strengthen collaboration in clean energy, digital infrastructure, and emerging technologies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

A **Joint Task Force on 6G research** was announced to deepen cooperation in next-generation telecommunications. This initiative links Finland’s **University of Oulu**, a global leader in 6G research, with India’s **Bharat 6G Alliance**, which coordinates India’s 6G development strategy. The collaboration aims to advance research in advanced communication technologies and digital innovation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

India and Finland signed a **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** to facilitate the **legal movement of skilled professionals, students, and researchers** between the two countries. Finland is an emerging destination for Indian **IT and technology professionals**, and the agreement creates a structured framework for talent mobility and cooperation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

There was **no agreement regarding Finland joining BRICS** during the visit. Finland is a member of the **European Union** and also joined **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** in 2023, while BRICS membership was not part of the bilateral discussions. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

India is one of the world’s largest energy consumers but has limited domestic crude oil reserves. As a

result, the country depends heavily on imports to meet its energy needs. According to official estimates, **India imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements**, mainly from West Asian countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, and Kuwait. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

A significant portion of India’s oil imports from the Gulf region passes through the **Strait of Hormuz**, a narrow maritime chokepoint between Iran and Oman that connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea. Nearly **one-fifth of the world’s oil trade and a large share of LNG shipments transit through this strait**, making it one of the most strategically important shipping routes globally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) are emergency stockpiles of crude oil maintained by governments to cushion against supply disruptions. While some countries like China and members of the International Energy Agency maintain reserves covering **90–140 days of imports**, India’s reserves remain relatively limited. India’s current SPR capacity is about **5.33 million metric tonnes**, which provides only **a few days of consumption cover**, far below the levels required for long-term supply shocks. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

14.

Ans: C

Exp:

Canada did not agree to become a full member of IORA, India expressed support for Canada’s joining as a Dialogue Partner, **not full membership**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

A long-term commercial contract **was signed between India’s Department of Atomic Energy and Canada’s Cameco** for the **supply of uranium ore** concentrates to support India’s nuclear energy expansion. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Canada announced its decision to **join both the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, as part of the visit outcomes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

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15.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 🔦 Greece and Cyprus, along with Israel and India, are identified as the **core countries** forming the **central structure of the “Hexagon of Alliances,”** aimed at strengthening cooperation among **like-minded moderate nations.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 🔦 The alliance is explicitly designed to counter threats from the **Iran-led Axis of Resistance and radical Sunni extremist groups,** including **ISIS remnants and Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated organizations.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 🔦 Hence, **option C is correct.**

16.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 🔦 The **IAEA was established in 1957** after the **“Atoms for Peace”** initiative proposed by **Dwight D. Eisenhower** at the UN General Assembly in 1953. The IAEA Statute was approved in **1956 by 81 countries,** with **India as a founding member.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 🔦 The **IAEA headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria,** not Geneva. From Vienna, the agency coordinates nuclear safeguards, inspections, and international cooperation related to nuclear technology. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 🔦 The **IAEA functions as the global nuclear watchdog,** promoting the **peaceful use of nuclear energy** in sectors such as **energy, medicine, and agriculture,** while ensuring that nuclear materials are **not diverted for nuclear weapons programmes** through safeguards and inspections. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- 🔦 Hence, **option A is the correct answer.**

17.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 🔦 **Territorial Sea:** Under UNCLOS Article 3, every coastal state has the right to establish its territorial sea up to 12 nautical miles measured from baselines, exercising full sovereignty subject to innocent passage. Hence, **pair 1 is correct.**
- 🔦 **Exclusive Economic Zone:** Under UNCLOS Part V (Articles 55-75), the EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles from baselines, granting sovereign rights for

exploration and exploitation of natural resources in water, seabed, and subsoil. Hence, **pair 2 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, **option C is correct.**

18.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 The **“Axis of Resistance”** is a strategic network built by Iran to counter US and Israeli influence in West Asia. It includes groups such as **Hezbollah (Lebanon), Hamas (Gaza), and the Houthis (Yemen).**
- 🔦 It emerged strongly after the 2003 Iraq War, when Iran expanded influence in the regional power vacuum. These groups function as strategic deterrents and asymmetric tools of influence.
- 🔦 Hence, **option B is correct.**

Indian Economy

19.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 🔦 The revised norms permit investors from land-bordering countries under the automatic route only if they have a **non-controlling Beneficial Ownership** of up to 10%, not a controlling one. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- 🔦 The easing strictly applies to non-strategic sectors like capital goods and electronic components. Strategic sectors, such as semiconductors, continue to remain restricted due to national security concerns. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 🔦 Hence, **option D is correct.**

20.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 The **EASE 9.0 (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) reforms,** launched in February 2026 by the **Department of Financial Services,** aim to transform **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** into globally competitive institutions aligned with the national vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047.**
- 🔦 It is aimed at **leveraging technology, improving productivity,** achieving scale through new business models, and enhancing customer experience while strengthening governance and risk management practices.

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Its four foundational pillars abbreviated as R.I.S.E. are **Risk & Resilience, Innovation, Socio-economic Impact, and Excellence.**

Hence, option B is correct.

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the **New Series of Annual and Quarterly National Accounts Estimates with base year 2022–23 replacing the earlier 2011–12**, marking a major update in the way the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is measured.

Rebasing refers to changing the **base year** of economic indices (such as **Gross Domestic Product**, Index of Industrial Production, and Consumer Price Index) to a more recent year.

This is done to **incorporate structural changes** in the economy, evolving consumption patterns, emergence of new goods and services, and improved data sources.

Hence, option C is correct.

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** celebrated its 25th Foundation Day on **1st March, 2026**, with the launch of **new digital initiatives** and reaffirmed energy efficiency as the country's "**First Fuel**" and a key instrument for balancing **energy security, affordability, and sustainability.**

Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) Portal, BEE Star Label Mobile App, and BEE@25 Logo were launched to enhance monitoring, empower consumers, and symbolize BEE's commitment to energy efficiency as a national priority.

The **Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO)** is a **mandatory** policy mechanism under the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022**, requiring designated consumers to source a **minimum specified percentage** of their **electricity from eligible non-fossil sources** (primarily renewables like solar, wind, hydro, biomass, etc).

Hence, option B is correct.

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

"Crowding out" occurs when increased **government borrowing** to finance expenditures (such as farm loan waivers) **raises interest rates or absorbs available financial resources**, thereby **reducing credit available for private sector investment.**

This concern has often been highlighted by the Reserve Bank of India in discussions on the fiscal impact of large farm loan waivers.

Hence, option A is correct.

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

SPRs are **emergency crude oil stockpiles** maintained by governments to **mitigate** petroleum supply **disruptions.**

India's operational SPRs are located at 3 underground rock cavern sites at **Visakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), Mangaluru (1.5 MMT), and Padur (2.5 MMT).** India's SPRs are managed by the **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)** under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The current total capacity of **5.33 million tonnes** provides for only about **9.5 days** of India's crude oil requirements, **not 60 days.** IEA members are required to hold **oil stock levels** equivalent to no less than **90 days of net imports.** Also, India is **not a full member of the IEA** but an **associate member.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

25.

Ans: A

Exp:

Open Market Operations (OMOs) are a **quantitative monetary policy tool** used by the **Reserve Bank of India** to regulate liquidity in the banking system. By purchasing **government securities**, the RBI injects **liquidity**, which increases the money available for banks to lend. Conversely, **selling government securities absorbs liquidity**, reducing money supply. OMOs also help in **stabilizing short-term interest rates**, managing inflationary pressures, and ensuring smooth monetary policy transmission without

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immediately changing policy rates. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Temporary OMOs are **short-term** operations, usually conducted via **repo or reverse repo**, to manage **day-to-day liquidity** needs. They do **not** cause permanent changes in the money supply, and they are not long-term operations. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

26.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India's total exports of **goods and services combined** reached about **USD 720.76 billion** between **April 2025 and January 2026**, reflecting a growth of around **6.15% year-on-year** despite global economic uncertainties. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- India ranks among the **top 5 countries globally for export product diversity** and **top 3 for trade partner diversity**, which helps reduce vulnerability to global demand shocks and supply chain disruptions. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- India is **not among the top three pharmaceutical exporters globally by value**. It currently ranks around **11th globally**, with roughly **3% share in the global pharmaceutical export market**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Hence, option C is correct.

27.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The IBEI does not measure startup success rates or unicorn creation. Instead, it focuses on foundational **input conditions** such as regulation, capital access, taxation, and infrastructure that enable innovation. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- The index evaluates business environments based on **accessibility, predictability, and low-friction systems**, assessing how conducive a country is for starting and scaling businesses. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI) 2026 is released by **StartupBlink**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The base year was **shifted to 2022–23** as it represents the **most recent "normal" year** after Covid-19

disruptions, ensuring stable growth comparisons. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The revised GDP series **integrates the Supply and Use Table (SUT) framework** following System of **National Accounts (SNA) 2008 guidelines**, improving consistency and reducing statistical discrepancies. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- While **single deflation has been discontinued**, single extrapolation is still used in certain sectors. **Double deflation** is applied mainly in manufacturing and agriculture. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Fiscal Health Index** is issued by **NITI Aayog** to analyse the fiscal position of Indian states. International health agencies like the **World Health Organization (WHO)** are not involved in preparing this index. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- The framework measures the fiscal condition of states using multiple parameters related to **tax and non-tax revenue generation, spending efficiency, fiscal discipline, and the sustainability of public debt**, enabling comparison of state finances. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option B is correct.

30.

Ans: D

Exp:

- All four technologies listed are typically integrated into a Digital Twin platform for port management:

- Internet of Things (IoT) sensors are used for real-time monitoring of equipment, energy consumption, and environmental conditions. Hence, 1 is correct.
- LiDAR mapping provides precise 3D data for infrastructure, container stacking, and crane alignment. Hence, 2 is correct.
- Drone imaging is used for aerial inspection, security, and updating 3D models. Hence, 3 is correct.
- GPS tracking is essential for real-time tracking of vessels, vehicles, and containers. Hence, 4 is correct.

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- Recent Digital Twin platforms in ports (such as the V.O. Chidambaranar Port in India) explicitly integrate IoT, LiDAR, drones, and GPS, along with AI and CCTVs, to create a virtual replica of the infrastructure.

Hence, option D is correct.

31.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme**, launched in **1998**, provides **short-term institutional credit to farmers** for crop cultivation, post-harvest needs, and allied activities. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- To make credit affordable, the government introduced the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) in 2006–07**, offering concessional interest rates and support during natural calamities.
- The **Revised KCC (2020)** provides **integrated, single-window credit through a RuPay-enabled card** with digital payments and flexible withdrawals via commercial, regional rural, and cooperative banks. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

Environment & Ecology

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Fireflies are “**soft-bodied beetles** belonging to the family **Lampyridae**, within the order **Coleoptera** (beetles).” Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- They are renowned for their remarkable ability to produce **light** through **bioluminescence**. The light is **produced** due to a chemical reaction involving the substrate **luciferin**, the enzyme **luciferase**, **oxygen**, and **adenosine triphosphate (ATP)**.
 - The **reaction** produces “**cold light**” that is **nearly 100% energy-efficient**, generating virtually no heat. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **primary function** of bioluminescence in adult fireflies is **mating communication**. In **larvae** (known as glowworms), the **light** serves as a **warning signal (aposematism)** to **predators** indicating **distastefulness**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

33.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Project Cheetah**, launched in **2022**, aims to reintroduce the **cheetah**, which was officially declared **extinct in India in 1952**. It is notable for being the **world’s first intercontinental translocation of a wild carnivore**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is the primary implementing agency, collaborating with the **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department**, the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, and a dedicated Steering Committee. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

34.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Fireflies** are actually **beetles** belonging to the family **Lampyridae** under the order **Coleoptera**, which also includes **insects such as ladybirds and weevils**. Despite their name, they are **neither flies nor true bugs**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **light emitted by fireflies** is produced through a **bioluminescent chemical reaction** involving **luciferin**, **luciferase**, **oxygen**, and **ATP (Adenosine triphosphate)** in specialised light-producing organs called **photophores**. This process produces “**cold light**”, meaning almost all the energy is converted into **light rather than heat**, so significant heat is not generated. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

- A temperature inversion (thermal inversion) occurs when **air temperature increases with altitude instead of decreasing**. This creates a warm layer above cooler air, which effectively traps pollutants near the ground, worsening surface-level air pollution. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Photochemical smog is a secondary atmospheric phenomenon formed by the action of solar ultraviolet radiation on an atmosphere polluted with hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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36.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is a landmark international treaty originating from the **1992 Rio Earth Summit** that provides the primary global framework for conserving and sustainably using biological resources.
- 💡 The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** and the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing** are both supplementary agreements (protocols) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
 - ✦ **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)**: Focuses on the **safe handling, transport, and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)** resulting from **modern biotechnology**.
 - ✦ **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (2010)**: Provides a legal framework for the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising from the **utilization of genetic resources**, thereby operationalizing the third objective of the CBD.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

37.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Kappatagudda is uniquely recognized as the only wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka declared primarily for the conservation of its rich and diverse wild flora, specifically its 400+ medicinal plant species. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Located in the arid Gadag district, it represents a classic dryland ecosystem. It is characterized by a mix of scrub jungles, grasslands, and dry deciduous forests, earning it the moniker "Western Ghats of North Karnataka". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The sanctuary is situated in the Tungabhadra river basin and acts as a vital watershed for the region, helping sustain water levels in a predominantly drought-prone area. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

History - Art & Culture

38.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Dandi March (1930)** was an important event in India's freedom struggle. It was led by **Mahatma**

Gandhi to oppose the **British salt tax** through a **peaceful act of civil disobedience**, challenging British economic control over India.

- ✦ **Mahatma Gandhi** deliberately chose salt because it was a **daily necessity**, making the **injustice universally relatable**.

- 💡 On **6th April 1930**, **Mahatma Gandhi** broke the **salt laws** by picking up a **handful of natural salt** from the **seashore at Dandi**. This single act served as a **signal for millions of Indians** to begin their own acts of **civil disobedience across the country**.

- ✦ E.g., **C. Rajagopalachari** broke salt law in the coastal town of **Vedaranyam** in the **Tanjore coast** (Madras Presidency). In the **Malabar coast** (present-day Kerala), **K. Kelappan** (Kerala Gandhi) organized salt marches from **Calicut to Payyanur**.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

39.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Savitribai Phule**, along with **Jyotiba Phule**, played a pioneering role in **women's education** by starting one of the earliest **modern schools for girls in Pune in 1848**. She is widely regarded as **India's first female teacher**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The **Satyashodhak Samaj** was established in **1873 by Jyotiba Phule** to challenge **caste hierarchy** and promote **social justice**. Savitribai supported its activities but was not its founder. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

40.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **C. Rajagopalachari** led the **Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha** on the **Tanjore coast** in the then Madras Presidency, not at Payyanur. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

- 💡 **K. Kelappan** organized the **Salt March in the Malabar region from Calicut to Payyanur** (in present-day Kerala), not at Vedaranyam. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

- 💡 After the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi during the **Civil Disobedience Movement**, **Sarojini Naidu** led a **nonviolent raid on the Dharasana Salt Works in May**

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1930, which became internationally known after reports of brutal police repression. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

☛ Hence, option C is correct.

41.

Ans: A

Exp:

☛ Megaliths (large stone monuments) were largely used for **burial practices**, often located away from settlements. Many contained **grave goods like pottery, iron tools, beads etc.** Hence, statement 1 is correct.

☛ South Indian Megalithic culture is associated with the **Iron Age**, evidenced by discoveries of **iron weapons, tools, and agricultural implements.** Hence, statement 2 is correct.

☛ While the **highest concentration** is in peninsular India south of the **Godavari**, megalithic sites are also found in: **Burzahom (Jammu & Kashmir), Punjab plains, Rajasthan and Gujarat and Indo-Gangetic basin.** Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

☛ Hence, option A is correct.

Geography

42.

Ans: A

Exp:

☛ The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** withdrew the **2025 revision of IS 1893** after concerns raised by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** regarding possible construction cost escalation and lack of adequate stakeholder consultation. Consequently, **IS 1893 (Part 1):2016** has been reinstated as the current applicable seismic standard. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

☛ The withdrawn **2025 revision** incorporated modern seismic assessment tools such as **Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA), active fault mapping, and near-fault ground motion analysis**, which aim to better estimate earthquake risk and structural vulnerability. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

☛ Under the **current IS 1893 (Part 1):2016**, India is divided into **four seismic zones—Zone II (Low), Zone III (Moderate), Zone IV (High), and Zone V (Very High).** Zone I was removed in the 2002 revision, so India does not have five seismic zones today. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

☛ Hence, option A is correct.

43.

Ans: A

Exp:

☛ Salar de Pajonales is a **large playa (salt flat)** situated in **northern Chile** at an elevation of **approximately 3,500 metres** above sea level. It lies on the **western margin of the Altiplano–Puna plateau** and is the third-largest salar in the Atacama Region after Salar de Atacama and Salar de Punta Negra. Its **high-altitude** setting contributes to its extreme environmental conditions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

☛ An exorheic basin is one that **drains outward into rivers or oceans.** However, Salar de Pajonales is an **endorheic basin**, meaning it has no external drainage and retains water internally. It is **primarily sustained by groundwater inflow** rather than glacial meltwater, and evaporation leads to mineral accumulation such as gypsum. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

☛ The salar lies **within the hyperarid core of the Atacama Desert**, one of the driest places on Earth. It experiences **polyextreme conditions** including intense solar and ultraviolet radiation, extreme aridity, high altitude, and sulfate-rich mineralogy, features that **closely resemble the environmental conditions** found on Mars. This makes it an important Martian analogue site. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

☛ Hence, option A is correct.

Science & Technology

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

☛ **Gravitational waves** are ripples in spacetime and was first predicted by **Einstein's general theory of relativity** in 1915. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

☛ They are **not electromagnetic waves**; they arise from **disturbances in spacetime caused by accelerating massive objects** rather than oscillating charges. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

☛ The strongest gravitational wave sources include:

- ✦ Binary systems of **black holes** or **neutron stars** spiraling inward and **merging.** Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ✦ Core-collapse supernova
- ✦ Events from the early universe.

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They propagate at the speed of light and produce extremely tiny distortions in spacetime, detectable by instruments like LIGO. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

Hence, option B is correct.

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

The SAR Convention requires ships and coastal states to assist persons in distress at sea regardless of their nationality or status, not just signatory nations. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

In India, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) coordinates rescue operations under SAR within the Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR), with the Director General ICG serving as the National Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinating Authority (NMSARCA). Hence, statement 2 is correct:

INDSAR is a voluntary ship reporting system, and it is operated by the Indian Coast Guard, not the Indian Navy. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

46.

Ans: D

Exp:

Peptides are short chains of amino acids (generally 2–50 amino acids) and are essentially smaller versions of proteins. Since proteins are also composed of amino acid chains, peptides can be considered basic structural units that contribute to protein formation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Proteins typically contain more than 50 amino acids and fold into complex three-dimensional structures, which enable them to perform diverse biological functions such as enzymatic activity, transport, and structural support. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Many peptides in the body act as signalling molecules, functioning as hormones, neurotransmitters, or local regulators that control processes such as metabolism, immune responses, and tissue repair. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option D is correct.

47.

Ans: B

Exp:

The WHO's Triple Elimination Strategy specifically targets the elimination of mother-to-child

transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B through integrated antenatal screening, treatment, and neonatal prophylaxis.

Tuberculosis is not part of this strategy; WHO addresses TB elimination separately through the End TB Strategy, not bundled with these vertically transmitted infections.

Hence, option B is correct.

48.

Ans: C

Exp:

White phosphorus is a toxic, wax-like chemical substance—typically white, yellow, or colourless—that has a garlic-like odour and burns at extremely high temperatures (above 800°C). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

White phosphorus is extremely harmful to humans; it causes deep burns that can penetrate to the bone and releases toxic chemicals that damage vital organs like the liver, kidneys, and heart. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Militaries often use white phosphorus as an incendiary munition because it ignites rapidly and produces dense smoke, making it highly effective for creating smokescreens and battlefield illumination. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option C is correct.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

AI is being integrated into C4ISR systems (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), which act as the information backbone of modern militaries. AI processes large datasets from satellites, sensors and battlefield inputs, enabling faster and more accurate military decision-making. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

AI is also widely used in cybersecurity and information warfare. Governments deploy AI to detect cyber intrusions, identify deepfake media, and track coordinated bot networks spreading disinformation, thereby protecting national security and societal stability. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option C is correct.

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50.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 LIGO-India is India's first **gravitational-wave observatory** and will host an **advanced LIGO interferometer**, becoming the **fifth detector in the global network**, alongside the two US LIGO detectors (Hanford and Livingston), Virgo in Italy, and KAGRA in Japan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The project is jointly implemented by the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** with collaboration from the **US LIGO Laboratory** and Indian institutions such as **IUCAA, Pune**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 LIGO detectors consist of **two perpendicular arms about 4 km long**, which act as vacuum chambers. Laser beams travel along these arms and reflect off mirrors; tiny changes in their lengths caused by passing gravitational waves are measured to detect these cosmic events. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 India possesses about 25% of the world's Thorium reserves, but naturally occurring **Thorium (Th-232)** is "**fertile,**" not "**fissile**". This means it cannot split and sustain a nuclear chain reaction on its own. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 To be used for power generation, **fertile Thorium-232 must first capture a neutron to transmute into Uranium-233 (U-233)**, which is a highly fissile material capable of sustaining a chain reaction. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The recent **labour market study on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Anthropic** introduced the metric "**observed exposure**", which assesses how frequently **AI tools** are actually used in real **professional workflows**. This approach differs from earlier studies that only evaluated the **potential capability** of AI systems. By analysing real usage data from AI tools such as **Claude AI**, the study provides a

more realistic picture of how AI is currently influencing workplace tasks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The analysis found that **manual and field-based occupations**, including **construction and agriculture**, currently show limited interaction with **AI technologies** compared to **knowledge-intensive sectors** like programming, finance, and office administration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

53.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 National Science Day commemorates the discovery of the **Raman Effect**, which **proved the quantum nature of light**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Government of India **designated 28 February as National Science Day in 1986**, with the **first celebration in 1987**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The **2026 theme** was "**Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat**." **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Meningococcal infection is caused by ***Neisseria meningitidis***, a Gram-negative diplococcus bacterium. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It colonizes the respiratory epithelium (nasopharynx) initially but frequently invades the bloodstream and central nervous system, causing meningitis, not rarely. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 It manifests as **both meningitis (CNS infection) and meningococcal septicemia** (bloodstream infection with rash). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

55.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST) systems use mirrors or reflective surfaces to concentrate sunlight onto a receiver to capture heat, whereas Solar PV panels use semiconductors to directly convert sunlight into electricity (electrons). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The receiver in a CST system captures heat and stores it in a Thermal Energy Storage (TES) medium such as oil, molten salt, or phase-change materials. This

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thermal storage is actually significantly cheaper than lithium-ion batteries, not more expensive. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

56.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 Rare Disease Day is observed on **28 February** every year, and on **29 February in leap years**, symbolising the rarity of such diseases. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The observance began in **2008** and is coordinated by **EURORDIS (European Organisation for Rare Diseases)** along with national patient alliances. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 The primary objective of Rare Disease Day is to promote **equitable access to diagnosis, healthcare, and treatment** for rare disease patients, not to promote pharmaceutical exports. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 As per the standards prescribed by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, rice fortification in India mandates the addition of:

- ✖ Iron
- ✖ Folic Acid (Vitamin B9)
- ✖ Vitamin B12. Hence, **statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.**

🔦 **Zinc**, though an important micronutrient, is **not among the three mandatory micronutrients** prescribed for rice fortification under current FSSAI standards. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

Defence & Security

58.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The Fattah Missile is claimed by Iran to be a next-generation hypersonic weapon capable of reaching speeds of up to Mach 15, with maneuverability designed to bypass traditional anti-missile shields. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched.**

🔦 The Sejil is a **solid-fueled medium-range ballistic missile**, which makes it much faster to launch than liquid-fueled missiles (like the Shahab-3), significantly reducing the time adversaries have to detect it. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

🔦 The Blue Sparrow is an Israeli air-launched quasi-ballistic missile that briefly exits the atmosphere before re-entering to strike its target, making interception by air-defence systems difficult. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched.**

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The Shtil Surface-to-Air Missile System is a ship-based **medium-range air defence system** developed by **Russian defence industries** (derived from the Buk Missile System), not an indigenous long-range system by DRDO. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

🔦 The system actively uses a **Vertical Launch System (VLS)**, which enables rapid, **all-weather interception** of multiple aerial threats, including aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, and anti-ship missiles. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 Exercise **LAMITIYE** is a **bilateral defence exercise** conducted between the armed forces of **India and Seychelles**. The exercise aims to strengthen **military cooperation**, improve coordination between the two forces, and enhance **interoperability** during joint operations. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The exercise is **biennial (held every two years)** and focuses mainly on **sub conventional operations**, such as **counter-insurgency and joint tactical training** in semi-urban environments. Therefore, the statement is incorrect because it describes the exercise as **annual** and related to **conventional warfare**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

61.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 **Bavar-373** is a long-range air defence system **designed by Iran** to intercept aircraft and ballistic missiles. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched.**

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⚡ **Cheongung II** is a **South Korean medium-range air defence system** that is operated by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to counter low-flying cruise missiles and tactical ballistic threats, not Israel. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

⚡ **Patriot Missile System** is a **United States system** that provides last-line defence against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and aircraft, widely used to protect critical infrastructure and military installations. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

62.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ A **Look Out Circular (LOC)** is issued to ensure that individuals who are **absconding or wanted by law enforcement agencies** do not leave the country. It is primarily **used at immigration checkpoints** to track or stop such individuals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The **Bureau of Immigration (BoI)** functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and is responsible for enforcing LOCs at **international airports, seaports, and other immigration checkpoints.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ As per the revised MHA guidelines, **statutory bodies such as the National Commission for Women (NCW), NHRC, NCPDR, and NCLT cannot directly request the Bureau of Immigration to issue an LOC.**

✦ Their requests must be routed through a **law enforcement agency with criminal jurisdiction**, such as the police or CBI. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

Miscellaneous

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, becoming the first team to successfully defend the trophy (having won in 2024 and 2026). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The Men's T20 World Cup, organised by the ICC, was first held in 2007 and is generally conducted *every two years*, not annually. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

64.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ **White Phosphorus** is a **toxic, wax-like chemical substance** that burns at temperatures above **800°C**, hot enough to melt metal.

⚡ Typically **white, yellow, or colourless with a garlic-like odour**, white phosphorus munitions are difficult to extinguish and **continue burning until the chemical is fully consumed or deprived of oxygen.**

⚡ Militaries often use White Phosphorus as **incendiary munition to create smokescreens and illumination on battlefields**, as it ignites rapidly and produces dense smoke that can spread over large areas.

⚡ **White phosphorus is extremely harmful to humans**, as it can cause **deep burns that penetrate to the bone** and release toxic chemicals that damage vital organs such as the **liver, kidneys, and heart.**

⚡ Its use as an incendiary weapon in **civilian-populated areas is strictly illegal under Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), 1980.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

65.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ Natanz, located in central Iran, is a heavily fortified, underground facility central to Iran's uranium enrichment program. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

⚡ Manama is the capital city of Bahrain and hosts the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, making it a critical node for Western naval power. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

⚡ Akrotiri and Dhekelia are Sovereign Base Areas controlled by the **United Kingdom**, not the United States, and are utilized for launching reconnaissance flights and intercepting regional projectiles. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

66.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ A **Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV)** combines a conventional **internal combustion engine (ICE)** with an **electric motor and battery** to improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions. Unlike Battery

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Electric Vehicles (BEVs), most standard hybrids **do not require external charging**, as the battery is replenished through regenerative braking and engine-generated electricity. These vehicles switch between or combine the two power sources to optimise performance and efficiency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ **Regenerative braking** is a key feature of hybrid and electric vehicles. During braking, the electric motor temporarily functions as a **generator**, converting the vehicle's **kinetic energy into electrical energy**. This electricity is then stored in the vehicle's battery instead of being lost as heat in conventional braking systems, thereby improving overall energy efficiency and extending battery usage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs)** are a specific category of hybrids that **can be charged externally through a power plug**, in addition to charging through regenerative braking and the internal combustion engine. This allows PHEVs to drive longer distances on pure electric power compared to standard hybrids. Since the statement claims they cannot be externally charged, it is incorrect. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

67.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March every year, commemorates a massive strike by women for "bread and peace" in Petrograd, Russia, in 1917 (according to the Gregorian calendar), which played a significant role in the Russian Revolution and eventually led to women gaining the right to vote there. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The United Nations did not observe it in 1945. It first officially observed International Women's Day on 8th March 1975, during International Women's Year, and formally recognized it in 1977. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

68.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The **Jal Jeevan Mission**, launched in **2019**, aims to provide **safe and adequate drinking water through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** to

every rural household in India. This marks a shift from infrastructure creation to assured service delivery in rural water supply systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ A key principle of the mission is **community ownership of water supply systems**, where **Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees** are responsible for planning, monitoring, and maintaining village-level water infrastructure. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ However, the Jal Jeevan Mission follows a **Centre-State partnership model**, where both governments share financial and administrative responsibilities. It is therefore not implemented solely by the Central Government. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

69.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ The most famous historical example of **black rain occurred after the Hiroshima atomic bombing (1945)**.

⚡ Radioactive dust, soot, and debris from the explosion mixed with rain clouds and fell as dark contaminated precipitation, spreading radioactive material beyond the blast zone.

⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

70.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ The **World Obesity Atlas 2026** is released by the **World Obesity Federation**, a global organization working on obesity prevention and policy advocacy. It is published on **World Obesity Day (4 March)** and not by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** or on World Health Day. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ The report highlights that **China, India and the United States** have the largest numbers of children living with obesity or high Body Mass Index (BMI). China leads globally, followed by **India**, which has the **second-highest number of children with high BMI**, and then the **United States**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The report warns that the **global target to halt or halve the rise in childhood obesity by 2025 will not be achieved**. The timeline has effectively shifted

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toward 2030, reflecting the growing burden of obesity worldwide. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was established in 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 as a statutory body. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ BEE aims to reduce energy intensity of GDP (energy used per unit of economic output). It works across industry, buildings, appliances, transport and agriculture sectors through energy efficiency programmes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ BEE does not regulate renewable energy generation targets. Renewable energy policy and targets are mainly handled by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Hence, statement is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

72.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ NAT is a molecular diagnostic technique that amplifies specific regions of viral RNA or DNA in donated blood samples. By directly detecting the pathogen's genetic material, it enables early identification of infections. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ Traditional serological tests such as ELISA rely on the detection of antibodies produced by the immune system. NAT, however, does not depend on antibody

formation and instead directly detects viral genetic material. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⚡ The "window period" refers to the time between initial infection and detectability. Since NAT identifies viral nucleic acids directly, it significantly shortens this period for infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

73.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Section 301 of the US Trade Act, 1974 authorises the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to investigate foreign trade practices that are considered unfair, discriminatory, or harmful to American commerce. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ If the investigation finds unfair trade practices, the US government can impose retaliatory measures such as tariffs, import restrictions, or suspension of trade concessions. For example, in 2018 the US imposed tariffs on Chinese imports under Section 301. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ In 1998 the European Union challenged Section 301 at the WTO, but the WTO panel concluded that the key provisions of the law were not inconsistent with WTO obligations, provided the US follows WTO dispute settlement procedures. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

⚡ Hence, option A is correct.



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