



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

November
2025
PART-II



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21,
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Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent
Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhara
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,
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Practice Question

Polity & Governance

1. With reference to the Assam Agitation, consider the following statements:

1. The movement emerged from fears of demographic changes threatening Assamese cultural and political identity.
2. The Assam Accord aimed to create a legal framework for identifying and dealing with illegal immigrants in the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding euthanasia in India:

1. The Supreme Court has held that the right to die with dignity is part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21.
2. Passive euthanasia is legally recognised in India, subject to medical-board procedures mandated by the Supreme Court.
3. Active euthanasia is allowed in India if authorised through a valid living will.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements about the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA):

1. International IDEA is an inter-governmental organization established in 1995 to support sustainable democracy worldwide.
2. The organization has its secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, and India is a founding member.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements regarding custodial violence in India:

1. The term “custodial violence” is defined under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.
2. Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which includes the freedom from custodial torture.
3. India has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), 1984.

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

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

5. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) under Mission Saksham Anganwadi targets girls aged 14–18 years, especially in priority regions.

Statement II: The mission focuses solely on maternal nutrition and does not include adolescent nutrition.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- D. Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

6. With reference to the recent Supreme Court ruling, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court held that a Governor is constitutionally bound by a fixed timeline to grant or withhold assent to a bill.
2. The Court ruled that the concept of “deemed assent” is unconstitutional.

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3. The President must mandatorily seek the Supreme Court's advice under Article 143 before deciding on any bill reserved for consideration.

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

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

7. Consider the following statements about the 'Womaniya' initiative:

1. It is an initiative launched on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal to enable women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups to sell directly to government buyers.
2. Its primary objective is to ensure that a minimum of 25% of the total government procurement is reserved for women-owned businesses.

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. With reference to India's defence indigenisation efforts, consider the following statements:

1. India's defence exports have grown to over ₹23,000 crore, supplying equipment to more than 100 countries.
2. The Technology Development Fund (TDF) supports start-ups and MSMEs for developing defence and aerospace technologies.
3. The Open General Export Licence (OGEL) allows pre-approved exports of sensitive military systems to any country.

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

9. With reference to Tribunals in India, consider the following statements:

1. Part XIV-A of the Constitution, inserted by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, provides for the establishment of tribunals.

2. Tribunals can be established only for subjects listed specifically under Article 323B.
3. Tribunals can only be established by Parliament and not by State Legislatures.

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

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

10. With reference to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), consider the following statements:

1. The Dhebar Commission (1973) first recommended the creation of a special category for the least developed tribal groups.
2. A 'Universal Entitlement Card' will be issued to each PVTG individual to indicate their eligibility for government schemes.
3. Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs among all states in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:

1. The Act empowers the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) as a statutory body to regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
2. Under the 2021 Amendment, adoption orders are issued only by the Juvenile Justice Boards to speed up the adoption process.

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

12. The initiative ASHA, recently launched to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS), is best described as:

- A. A national platform for inter-state portability of ration cards

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- B. A real-time GPS-based vehicle surveillance system for PDS trucks
- C. A blockchain-based platform for tracking foodgrain movement
- D. An AI-enabled system for beneficiary feedback and grievance monitoring

13. Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court's power to review its own judgments is provided under Article 137 of the Constitution.
2. A curative petition should be filed before a review petition is decided.

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

14. Arrange the following events associated with the prime ministership of Indira Gandhi in chronological order:

1. Nationalisation of 14 major commercial banks.
2. Imposition of a National Emergency.
3. Enactment of the 26th Constitutional Amendment Act.
4. Successful testing of India's first nuclear device in Pokhran.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

15. Consider the following statements with reference to Surrogacy:

1. It refers to a practice in which a woman carries and gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention of handing over the child after birth.
2. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 permits commercial surrogacy if the surrogate mother gives written consent and receives compensation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

16. With reference to Viral Hepatitis, consider the following statements:

1. Hepatitis B and C are responsible for the majority of chronic liver infections and viral hepatitis-related mortality worldwide.
2. The World Health Organization's target for 2030 includes a 90% reduction in mortality and a 65% reduction in new hepatitis cases compared to 2015 levels.
3. India's National Viral Hepatitis Control Program aims for the elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030, along with managing the burden of other hepatitis viruses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

International Relations

17. The Senkaku Islands, often in the news, lie in which of the following water bodies?

- A. South China Sea
- B. East China Sea
- C. Yellow Sea
- D. Sea of Japan

18. The "Cost of Capital Commission", launched at the G20 Johannesburg Summit 2025, is best described as:

- A. A G20 mechanism designed to align monetary regulations across emerging economies
- B. A global initiative created to reform credit rating practices for developing economies
- C. A multilateral platform established to advance cross-border digital payment systems
- D. A UN-supported framework intended to standardise sovereign debt restructuring norms

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19. Consider the following pairs:

Operation	Country Assisted
1. Operation Maitri	Nepal
2. Operation Samudra Maitri	Indonesia
3. Operation Sagar Bandhu	Sri Lanka

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

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

20. With reference to the India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) Forum, consider the following statements:

- It was formalised through the Brasilia Declaration in 2003.
- IBSA Trust fund supports poverty alleviation and hunger reduction in least developed countries (LDCs)
- IBSA Dialogue Forum has a permanent secretariat based in Brasília.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Economy

21. Consider the following statements regarding the National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025:

- The Ministry of Commerce released the NIC 2025 during the culmination ceremony marking 75 years of the National Sample Survey (NSS).
- The NIC serves as a key tool for organising economic activities for surveys, censuses, research studies, and policymaking.
- The NIC 2025 has been updated in accordance with the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Revision 5 issued by the United Nations Statistics Division.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two

C. All Three

D. None

22. With reference to India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI), consider the following statements:

- The WPI basket consists of Primary Articles, Fuel & Power, and Manufactured Products.
- In the WPI basket, Manufactured Products carry the highest weight, followed by Primary Articles, while Fuel & Power has the lowest.
- WPI includes services in its coverage.
- WPI is compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements regarding India's tea sector:

- India is the world's second-largest producer and consumer of tea.
- India exports more tea than Kenya but less than China.
- The Tea Board of India is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements regarding the revised classification of MSMEs in India:

- An enterprise is classified as micro, small, or medium based on investment in plant & machinery, employment size, and turnover.
- Under the revised criteria, a micro enterprise is one with investment up to ₹1 crore and turnover up to ₹5 crore.
- The same MSME definition applies uniformly to both the manufacturing and services sectors.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

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- C. All three
- D. None

25. Which of the following elements are used in Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)?

1. Samarium (Sm)
2. Neodymium (Nd)
3. Praseodymium (Pr)
4. Calcium (Ca)
5. Dysprosium (Dy)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

26. With reference to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) exchange rate classification, consider the following statements:

1. A crawl-like arrangement requires the exchange rate to stay within roughly a 2% band around a trend for at least six months.
2. A crawling peg involves pre-announced periodic adjustments to the exchange rate.

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

27. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 created a unified, time-bound, creditor-driven framework to resolve corporate distress and reduce delays in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) recovery.

Statement II: Time-bound insolvency resolution prevents loss of asset value and improves creditor recovery.

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

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I

- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- D. Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

28. Which of the following are the three pillars of the Basel framework for banking supervision?

1. Minimum Capital Requirements
2. Supervisory Review
3. Market Discipline
4. Deposit Insurance Protection

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

29. Consider the following statements about the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC):

1. It was established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO).
2. It sets International standards for food safety and quality.
3. Its standards are legally binding on all member countries.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

30. With reference to cryptocurrency regulation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Cryptocurrency is not recognized as legal tender in India, but its trading is not prohibited.
2. In India, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can investigate crypto-related money laundering under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
3. All cryptocurrency exchanges operating in India are mandatorily required to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

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How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

31. Consider the following statements regarding RBI's Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs):

1. FRBs were first issued in India in 1995 and are government securities with a variable coupon rate that is reset at pre-announced intervals.
2. In some retail FRBs, the coupon is linked to the NSC rate, allowing returns to adjust automatically with changes in broader interest rates.

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. Regarding the Dugongs, consider the following statements:

1. They are primarily found in the Gulf of Kutch, the Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay region (between India and Sri Lanka), and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. In India, they are protected under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. They play a vital role in maintaining seagrass meadows, which promote biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration.

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

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

33. With reference to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), consider the following statements:

1. The CEC was formed on Supreme Court orders during the T.N. Godavarman case.
2. The CEC's mandate includes monitoring compliance with Supreme Court orders on

environmental matters and conducting independent field inspections.

3. The CEC is composed entirely of judicial members appointed by the Supreme Court.

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

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

34. Which of the following correctly describes the role of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC)?

- A. It adjudicates environmental disputes and issues binding orders.
- B. It monitors compliance with Supreme Court environmental orders and submits fact-finding reports.
- C. It issues environmental clearances for major developmental projects.
- D. It frames national forest policy under the Forest Conservation Act.

35. With reference to the Humboldt penguin, consider the following statements:

1. It is found along the Humboldt Current in the Indian Ocean.
2. It is a fully migratory penguin species with global dispersal.
3. It is classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.

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

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

36. With reference to outcomes of 30th edition of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP30), consider the following statements:

1. The Global Mutirão Agreement includes binding timelines for fossil fuel phase-out.
2. A dedicated funding mechanism was finalised to operationalise Just Transition Mechanism.

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3. The “Belém 4x” pledge aims to quadruple sustainable fuel production and use by 2035, from 2024 levels.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is home to the highest population of Sloth Bears in Gujarat and also supports a significant leopard population.
2. The sanctuary forms the catchment of the Panam River, aiding water conservation in the region.

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

38. In which of the following regions in India are Dugongs primarily found?

1. Gulf of Kutch
2. Gulf of Mannar
3. Sunderbans Delta
4. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

39. Consider the following features of a protected area:

1. It was established in 1936 as Asia's first national park.
2. It became the first national park to be brought under Project Tiger in 1973.
3. It is located in the Himalayan foothills, characterised by Bhabar and lower Shivalik landscapes.

4. The area is known for its chauras (grasslands) such as Dhikala and Bijrani, supporting a high density of tigers.

Which national park is being described above?

- A. Kaziranga National Park
B. Jim Corbett National Park
C. Kanha National Park
D. Dudhwa National Park

History and Art & Culture

40. Consider the following statements :

Statement I: Ambaji marble from Gujarat has received the GI tag for its unique white stone and cultural and industrial significance.

Statement II: A GI tag is an Intellectual Property Right valid for 20 years, renewable, and regulated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Statement III: Marble is a sedimentary rock formed when limestone undergoes heat and pressure, leading to the recrystallisation of calcite.

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

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

41. Consider the following literary works:

1. Gulamgiri
2. Shetkaryacha Asud
3. Satyarth Prakash
4. Tritiya Ratna
5. Chhatrapati Shivaji Raje Bosale Yanche Powada

Which of the above are the works of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
C. 3, 4 and 5 only
D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

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42. Consider the following pairs:

Place	Historical Significance
1. Anandpur Sahib	Creation of the Khalsa in 1699
2. Patna Sahib	Birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh
3. Takht Sri Hazur Sahib	Place of Guru Gobind Singh's cremation in 1708

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

43. This 17th-century commander from the Ahom Kingdom is celebrated for his decisive victory at the Battle of Saraighat, where his brilliant river-based tactics repelled a massive Mughal invasion. Who is this legendary figure?

- A. Chilarai
- B. Joymoti
- C. Lachit Borphukan
- D. Surendra Sai

44. Consider the following statements regarding Guru Tegh Bahadur:

1. He was the 6th Sikh Guru and was originally named Tyag Mal due to his ascetic nature.
2. He founded the town of Chak-Nanki, which later expanded into Shri Anandpur Sahib.
3. He earned the title "Hind di Chadar" for defending religious freedom.

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

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

45. Which of the following best explains why the British invoked the Doctrine of Lapse against Jhansi?

- A. The British considered the adoption of heirs legally invalid.
- B. Jhansi had signed a treaty prohibiting adoption by rulers.
- C. The East India Company planned to merge Jhansi with Oudh.

- D. Jhansi had refused to pay enhanced revenue demands.

Geography

46. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical location of Gaza:

1. Gaza shares a land border with Israel on its eastern and northern sides.
2. Gaza touches the Mediterranean Sea along its western coastline.
3. Gaza shares a border with Egypt along its southern side.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

47. Indonesia's strategic maritime relevance for India is primarily due to its proximity to which of the following sea lanes?

1. Strait of Malacca
2. Sunda Strait
3. Lombok Strait
4. Strait of Hormuz

How many of the above are correct?

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

48. Seychelles, recently in news for joining the Colombo Security Conclave, is located in which of the following regions?

- A. Eastern Mediterranean Sea
- B. Western Indian Ocean
- C. Southern Atlantic Ocean
- D. South Pacific Ocean

49. Consider the following statements regarding the Mekedatu Project, recently in news:

1. The proposed Mekedatu reservoir is located at the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers in Karnataka.

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2. The project aims to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and also generate hydropower.
3. Tamil Nadu supports the project as it increases downstream water availability.
4. The project requires approval from the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

50. Consider the following:

1. Pyroclastic debris
2. Ash and dust
3. Nitrogen compounds
4. Sulphur compounds

How many of the above are released from volcanic eruptions?

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

51. A perennial crop requires the following conditions for optimal growth:

1. A narrow annual temperature range between 13°C and 28°C, with ideal growth at 23–25°C.
2. Well-distributed annual rainfall between 1,500 and 2,500 mm, keeping the soil moist but not waterlogged.
3. Deep, friable, acidic soils rich in organic matter.
4. Multiple “flush” periods where new leaves are harvested, influenced by predictable seasonal cycles.

The crop described above is:

- A. Coffee
- B. Tea
- C. Rubber
- D. Cocoa

52. With reference to auroras, consider the following statements:

1. They are produced when charged particles from the Sun interact with Earth’s magnetic field and atmosphere.

2. Their colours depend on the type of atmospheric gas and the altitude of collisions.
3. They are visible only in the Northern Hemisphere.

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

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

53. It is a Ramsar site and the second-largest lake in Kerala, often called the gateway to the backwaters. Fed by the Kallada River, draining into the Arabian Sea, and surrounded by mangroves, which of the following best fits this description?

- A. Vembanad Lake
- B. Ashtamudi Lake
- C. Sasthamkotta Lake
- D. Pulicat Lake

54. This maritime chokepoint lies between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. It is the only sea channel linking the oil-rich Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, and carries nearly 20% of the world’s oil supply. Which of the following best fits this description?

- A. Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- B. Strait of Hormuz
- C. Strait of Malacca
- D. Sunda Strait

Science & Tech

55. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: A quantum clock measures time using the behaviour of quantum particles, whose states change in tiny and probabilistic ways.

Statement II: A quantum clock operates using a Double Quantum Dot (DQD) system, consisting of two tiny electron-holding “islands” in a semiconductor.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I

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- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

56. Regarding the implementation of the National Quantum Mission (NQM), consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
2. India is the first Asian country to launch a dedicated National Quantum Mission.
3. The mission period extends up to the year 2030-31.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. The term 'superposition', often mentioned in the context of quantum technology, refers to:

- A. A system existing simultaneously in all its possible states until measured
- B. The instantaneous correlation between two distant, entangled particles
- C. The collapse of a quantum state due to environmental interaction
- D. The secure transmission of an encryption key using photons

58. Consider the following pairs:

Martian Landform	Named After / Associated With
1. Periyar Vallis	A longest river in the Indian state of Kerala
2. Varkala Crater	A historic 17th-century coastal fort in Karnataka
3. Thumba Crater	The birthplace of India's space program
4. Krishnan Crater	A pioneering Indian geologist

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only two pairs

- C. Only three pairs
- D. All four pairs

59. BIRSA 101, recently in news, is best described as:

- A. India's first indigenous CRISPR-based genome-editing platform for agricultural crops
- B. India's first indigenously developed CRISPR-based gene therapy for Sickle Cell Disease
- C. A national genomic surveillance mission for tracking mutating infectious pathogens
- D. An artificial-intelligence enabled system for population-scale genetic screening in tribal regions

60. With reference to Neurotechnology, consider the following statements:

1. It includes technologies that can both record and modulate brain activity.
2. Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is a non-invasive technique used for Parkinson's disease.
3. Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) enable communication between neural signals and external devices.

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

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

61. Regarding the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), consider the following statements:

1. The Antibiotic Stewardship Program (AMSP) is an initiative aimed at reducing antibiotic misuse in hospitals and ICUs.
2. Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), is an initiative of the World Health Organisation aimed to guide global strategies on AMR.
3. The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, combat AMR by promoting rational use with prescription-only rules under Schedules H and H1.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two

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- C. All Three
- D. None

62. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The NITI Aayog introduced the 3W framework for AI and outlines its potential impact on work, workers, and the workforce.

Statement II: The NITI Aayog has estimated that AI could add USD 1000 billion to GDP by 2030.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Social Issues

63. With reference to 'Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0', consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented during the 15th Finance Commission period (2021–26).
2. It integrates the National Crèche Scheme along with ICDS and Poshan Abhiyan.
3. The supplementary nutrition for adolescent girls targets the age group of 11-14 years across all districts of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

64. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The UN designated 25th November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2025.

Statement II: Violence against women remains widespread globally and many countries still do not criminalise domestic violence.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

65. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) in India has increased sharply between 2015 and 2024.

Statement II: India accounts for 25% of global TB cases.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

66. Consider the following statements regarding the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:

1. The Act is gender-neutral and safeguards all children, irrespective of gender.
2. It defines a child as any person below 16 years of age.
3. The Act prescribes the death penalty for aggravated penetrative sexual assault of a child and mandates that Special Courts complete trials within one year wherever possible.

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

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

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Defence & Security

67. Consider the following statements regarding the HAMMER Precision-Guided Weapon:

1. It is a ground-to-air precision-guided weapon developed by Safran Electronics & Defence of France.
2. It converts unguided bombs into precision-strike weapons through a modular guidance and propulsion kit.
3. It remains highly accurate even in GPS-denied or electronic warfare environments.

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

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

68. India's first major post-Independence international peacekeeping deployment, carried out during the Sri Lankan Civil War under the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord 1987. Which of the following best fits the description?

- A. Operation Meghdoot
- B. Operation Pawan
- C. Operation Bluestar
- D. Operation Raahat

69. With reference to Territorial Army (TA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a part-time voluntary military force that supports and augments the Regular Indian Army.
2. Territorial Army's first camp was formally inaugurated by Shri C Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor General of India

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

Miscellaneous

70. With reference to the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2026, consider the following statements:

1. IIT Delhi is the only Indian university to feature within the global top 200.

2. The QS Sustainability Rankings assess universities on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) parameters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. Which of the following are identified as critical thematic areas under the scope of the Sujalam Bharat Summit 2025?

1. Rejuvenation of Rivers and Springs
2. Greywater Management
3. Marine Biodiversity Conservation
4. Technology-driven Water Management
5. Community Engagement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

72. Consider the following pairs:

Nuclear Power Plant	State
1. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant	Tamil Nadu
2. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	Maharashtra
3. Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP)	Rajasthan
4. Tarapur Atomic Power Station	Maharashtra

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

73. Consider the following pairs of India's bilateral military exercises with foreign countries:

Exercise	Partner Country
1. SURYA KIRAN	Nepal
2. VINBAX	Vietnam
3. SHINYUU Maitri	Japan
4. GARUDA SHAKTI	Sri Lanka

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How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

74. EB-1A, recently seen in the news, is related to:

- A. A fast-track U.S. work visa for temporary skilled workers
- B. A US permanent residency category for individuals with extraordinary ability
- C. A visa programme for technology startups and entrepreneurs in the US
- D. A non-immigrant student work permit issued under Optional Practical Training (OPT) rules

75. Consider the following statements regarding the Regional One Digital Health Summit (RODHS):

1. It is a platform specifically dedicated to the WHO South-East Asia Region.

2. The summit primarily focuses on traditional medicine and surgical procedures rather than technology.
3. The inaugural summit of this initiative was held in Nairobi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

76. INS Mahe, recently seen in the news, belongs to which category of naval vessel?

- A. Offshore patrol combat vessel
- B. Anti-submarine shallow-water craft
- C. Amphibious landing dock vessel
- D. Modern mine-countermeasure vessel

Answers

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

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Explanation:

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Assam Agitation**, driven by fears of losing indigenous **Assamese cultural, linguistic, and political identity**, focused on identifying and expelling illegal immigrants, mainly from Bangladesh. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The unrest eventually led to the **Assam Accord of 1985**, which laid down clear provisions for identifying and addressing illegal immigration into the state. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✖ It officially set **25th March, 1971**, as the **cut-off date** for detecting **illegal foreigners.**
 - ✖ Anyone who entered Assam between **1st January, 1966**, and **24th March, 1971**, would be detected as a **foreigner** and would have their name **deleted from the voter list for 10 years**, after which their **citizenship rights** would be restored.
 - ✖ Anyone who entered on or after **25th March, 1971**, would be **detected and deported.**

2.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The Supreme Court in **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)** held that the **right to die with dignity** forms part of **Article 21**, giving constitutional backing to passive euthanasia and advanced medical directives. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The legality of **passive euthanasia** was first acknowledged in **Aruna Shanbaug (2011)** and later affirmed and expanded in **Common Cause (2018)**, which mandated a **medical-board oversight system** simplified further by the Court in 2023. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Active euthanasia** means any direct act to end life, remains **prohibited** under Indian criminal law; a **living will** only permits withholding or withdrawing treatment, not active intervention to cause death. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

3.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance** is an **inter-governmental organization (IGO)** established in **1995** with an explicit mandate to support **sustainable democracy** worldwide. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **International IDEA** has been granted **UN observer status**, and its **secretariat** is located in **Stockholm, Sweden.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✖ It comprises **35 member states**, with the **United States** and **Japan** as observers. **India** is a **founding member.**

4.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The term “custodial violence” is **not defined** under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**. It remains an extra-statutory concept referring to physical or psychological harm inflicted on a person in lawful custody. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Article 21** guarantees the **right to life and personal liberty**, which includes freedom from torture, inhuman treatment, and custodial abuse. The Supreme Court has repeatedly expanded Article 21 to cover protection from unlawful detention and coercive interrogation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 India has **not ratified** the **United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), 1984**. India signed the convention in 1997 but has not completed the ratification process due to the absence of a standalone anti-torture law. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

5.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Saksham Anganwadi** and **POSHAN 2.0** is **India's flagship Integrated Nutrition Support Programme** that integrates key child and maternal welfare programmes like **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme**, **Poshan Abhiyan**, the **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)**, and the **National Crèche Scheme.**

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💡 SAG specifically targets adolescent girls aged **14–18 years**, with a focus on priority regions such as **Aspirational Districts and the Northeast**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

💡 The mission does not focus solely on maternal nutrition. It includes **multiple beneficiary groups, including children (0–6 years), pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls**. Adolescent nutrition is a dedicated component of the programme. Hence, **statement II is not correct**.

💡 Hence, **option C is correct**.

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

Key Highlights of SC Ruling on 16th Presidential Reference

💡 **No Judicially-Imposed Timelines:** The Court held that neither a **Governor (under Article 200)** nor the **President (under Article 201)** is subject to **fixed, court-imposed timelines** for granting or withholding assent to bills, as doing so would amount to **judicial overreach** and violate the doctrine of **Separation of Powers**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

✦ The Court clarified that Articles 200 and 201 contain **no fixed timelines**, and the phrase “**as soon as possible**” cannot be interpreted as a strict or **enforceable deadline**.

✦ However, the SC held that “**prolonged, unexplained, and indefinite inaction**” can be **reviewed by the judiciary**, and in such cases the Court may direct the Governor to act, but **without imposing a deadline or examining the merits of the decision**.

💡 **‘Deemed Assent’ is Unconstitutional:** The Court firmly rejected the idea that a bill automatically becomes law (“**deemed assent**”) simply because the Governor or President did not act within some timeframe.

✦ The Court held that **deemed assent has no constitutional basis** and using **Article 142 to create it is impermissible**, as it would let the judiciary replace the Governor or President and violate separation of powers. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **No Mandatory SC Advice for President:** SC clarified that the President is **not mandatorily required** to seek the Court’s opinion under **Article 143** for every

reserved bill, and that decisions under Article 201 can be taken based on the President’s own constitutional satisfaction. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

7.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Launched in **2019**, the **Womaniya initiative** on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) supports women entrepreneurship by helping **women-led MSEs, SHGs**, artisans, and marginalized women sell directly to the government. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 It addresses the **triple challenge** faced by women entrepreneurs—**access to markets, access to finance, and access to value-addition**.

💡 It supports the goal of reserving **3% of government procurement** for women-owned businesses. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

8.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 India’s **defence exports** have risen nearly **twenty-fold**, from under **₹1,000 crore (2014)** to **₹23,622 crore in FY 2024–25**, covering items like **armoured vehicles, radars, UAV parts, surveillance systems, artillery components, and aerospace parts** supplied to **100+ countries**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **Technology Development Fund (TDF)**, run by **DRDO**, finances indigenous development by **start-ups, MSMEs, academia, and private innovators**. It supports projects up to **₹50 crore** in areas like **AI systems, advanced materials, robotics, autonomous platforms, sensors, and electronic warfare**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The **Open General Export Licence (OGEL)**, allows export of **pre-approved, non-sensitive defence items** to selected friendly nations. It **excludes sensitive/classified systems** and is **not valid for all countries**. Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct**.

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Part XIV-A was inserted by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, providing the constitutional framework for **tribunals**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 In 2010, the Supreme Court of India clarified that legislatures can establish **tribunals for any subject**

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listed in the **Seventh Schedule**, not just those specified under Article 323B. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

- Article 323B permits Parliament and state legislatures to create tribunals on subjects like taxation, land reforms and industrial disputes. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

10.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Dhebar Commission (1973)** first identified the need to classify certain Scheduled Tribe groups as **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** due to their extreme vulnerability, low development indicators, and distinct socio-cultural characteristics. These PTGs were officially renamed **PVTGs** in 2006. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- As part of the recently conducted **Individual Entitlement Survey**, the government will issue a **Universal Entitlement Card** to each PVTG individual. This card will record their **eligibility and access status** across **39 identified central government schemes**, ensuring targeted delivery and monitoring. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- India has **75 notified PVTGs**, spread across **18 states and one UT**. Among them, **Odisha has the highest number (13 PVTGs)**, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (12). Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

11.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 gives **statutory status to the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** and authorizes it to regulate and monitor **in-country and inter-country adoptions**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021**, the power to issue adoption orders was shifted from courts to the **District Magistrate (DM)** — not to Juvenile Justice Boards. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

12.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ASHA (Anna Sahayata Holistic AI Solution)** is an **AI-driven platform** launched by the Ministry of Consumer

Affairs, Food & Public Distribution to strengthen PDS oversight.

- It uses **automated calls and AI analytics** to collect beneficiary feedback on **ration entitlements, grain quality, quantities received, and Fair Price Shop behaviour**, helping detect irregularities early.
- It is **not related** to ration portability (which is handled under ONORC), blockchain-based logistics systems, or GPS tracking of foodgrain transport. Hence, **option D is correct.**

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 137 empowers the Supreme Court to **review its own judgments or orders** to correct errors or prevent injustice. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- A curative petition is an **extraordinary remedy** introduced by the Supreme Court of India in **Rupa Ashok Hurra (2002)** and can be filed **only after the review petition has been dismissed**, not before. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- A curative petition addresses rare situations of judicial bias, procedural injustice, or abuse of process, ensuring fairness even after finality.

14.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Indira Gandhi** was India's first and only woman Prime Minister, serving from 1966–1977 and again from 1980–1984.
- Events occurred during **Indira Gandhi's** prime ministership in chronological order are as under:
 - ✦ **Nationalisation of Banks (1969):** Indira Gandhi nationalised 14 major commercial banks to expand credit access and support development..
 - ✦ **26th Constitutional Amendment (1971):** Abolished the Privy Purses and official privileges of former princes.
 - ✦ **Pokhran-I Nuclear Test (1974):** Successful testing of India's first nuclear device under her government.
 - ✦ **National Emergency (1975–1977):** Declared due to "internal disturbances," resulting in suspension of civil liberties and press restrictions.
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

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15.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 “**Surrogacy**” means a practice whereby one woman bears and gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention of handing over such child to the intending couple after the birth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 prohibits **commercial surrogacy** and only **permits altruistic surrogacy**, where the surrogate mother receives no monetary payment beyond medical expenses and insurance coverage.

✦ Commercial surrogacy, which involves financial compensation for the surrogate beyond these expenses, is banned to prevent the exploitation of women. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Hepatitis** is **liver inflammation** caused by viral infections, autoimmune disorders, or alcohol/drug toxicity.

💡 Types **B and C** cause long-term infections and are the major causes of **cirrhosis, liver cancer, and viral hepatitis deaths**, leading to about **1.3 million deaths each year** and affecting **304 million people** worldwide. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections (2022–2030)** aims to achieve a **90% reduction** in new hepatitis cases and **65% drop in mortality** from **2015** levels by **2030**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (2018)** aims to **eliminate Hepatitis C by 2030** and significantly reduce the **infected population, morbidity, and mortality** from **Hepatitis A, B, C, and E** across India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

International Relations

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

The Senkaku Islands (Diaoyu/Diaoyutai), administered by Japan and claimed by China and Taiwan, are located in the

East China Sea, close to the maritime boundaries of all three. They were recently in the news after **China Coast Guard vessels conducted a “rights enforcement patrol”** near the **islands**, escalating tensions between China and Japan. **Hence, option B is correct.**

18.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **Cost of Capital Commission**, launched at the G20 Johannesburg Summit 2025, aims to address the systematic bias in global credit rating methodologies that disproportionately label African and other developing economies as “high-risk,” even when fundamentals are comparable to advanced economies.

💡 This bias creates an **inflated risk premium**, raising the cost of borrowing for Global South nations and worsening debt vulnerabilities—especially in Africa, where over half the population lives in countries spending more on interest payments than on health or education.

💡 The Commission will work toward **reforming rating criteria**, improving transparency, and promoting **more equitable access to development finance**, aligning with the Summit’s theme of Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability. **Hence, option B is correct.**

19.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Operation Maitri was India’s rescue and relief mission launched after the 2015 Nepal earthquake. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

💡 Operation Samudra Maitri was India’s humanitarian assistance mission to Indonesia following the earthquake and tsunami of 2018. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

💡 Operation Sagar Bandhu is India’s Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation to assist Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

20.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **IBSA Dialogue Forum** was formalised through the **Brasilia Declaration in 2003**, establishing India, Brazil, and South Africa as a trilateral platform for cooperation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- IBSA Trust fund supports **poverty reduction and hunger alleviation initiatives**. Since its inception, it has supported 46 South-South development projects across 34 partner countries, primarily in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- IBSA does **not have a permanent secretariat**; coordination is done through rotating chairmanship. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Economy

21.

Ans: B

Exp:

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025** during the 'Culmination Ceremony' of the 75th anniversary of **National Sample Survey (NSS)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

- NIC 2025:** The NIC is a fundamental tool used in statistical surveys, censuses, economic research, and policy formulation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It groups businesses and activities into structured categories so data can be collected, compared, and analysed consistently across the country.
 - India's classification system, introduced in 1962** and later updated as NIC 1970, 1987, 1990, 1998, 2004 and 2008, has now been comprehensively revised to reflect the country's evolving economic structure.
 - The NIC 2025 is in line with **International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 5**, developed by the **United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **WPI basket is structured around three major groups**—Primary Articles, Fuel & Power, and Manufactured Products—based on the 2011–12 base year. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Manufactured Products carry the highest weight (64.23)**, **Primary Articles hold the second-highest (22.62)**, and **Fuel & Power has the lowest weight (13.15) in the WPI basket**. These weights reflect the

relative share of each category in national production. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- WPI tracks wholesale price changes only for goods**, and services are entirely excluded, unlike the CPI which covers both goods and services. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA)**, **DPIIT**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** compiles and releases the WPI every month. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India's Tea Market:**

- Major Producers:** India is the **2nd largest producer and consumer** of tea and the **3rd largest exporter**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Kenya** leads in exports, while **China** is the **2nd largest exporter**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Tea Producing Regions:** Key tea-growing states—**Assam** (Assam Valley, Cachar), **West Bengal** (Dooars, Terai, Darjeeling), **Tamil Nadu**, and **Kerala**—account for about **96%** of India's total production.
- Consumption:** India consumes **80%** of its tea domestically, with a **per capita consumption of 840 gm/year**.
- Exports:** India exports tea to **25+ countries**, including **Russia, Iran, UAE, USA, UK, Germany, and China**. About **96%** of exports is **black tea**, alongside **regular, green, herbal, masala, and lemon tea**.

- Tea Board of India:** The **Tea Board of India**, established under the **Tea Act of 1953**, is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Commerce** that provides **financial and technical support** for tea cultivation, production, and marketing. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- It is headquartered in **Kolkata** with overseas offices in **London, Dubai, and Moscow**.

24.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The revised MSME classification uses **only two criteria**—investment in plant & machinery/equipment and annual turnover. **Employment size is not part of the definition**. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**

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- As per the new MSME rules (2020), the classification is as follows:

Category	Investment Limit	Turnover Limit
Micro Enterprise	≤ ₹1 crore	≤ ₹5 crore
Small Enterprise	≤ ₹10 crore	≤ ₹50 crore
Medium Enterprise	≤ ₹50 crore	≤ ₹250 crore

- A Micro enterprise therefore has **investment ≤ ₹1 crore** and **turnover ≤ ₹5 crore**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- The updated MSME norms apply **uniformly to both manufacturing and services sectors**, removing the earlier separation. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.

25.

Ans: C

Exp:

Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)

- About:** REPMs are high-performance magnets made from rare earth elements such as **samarium (Sm)**, **neodymium (Nd)**, **praseodymium (Pr)**, **dysprosium (Dy)**, and **cerium (Ce)**.
- Compared to ferrite or AlNiCo magnets, REPMs offer a much **higher maximum energy product**, greater coercivity, stronger magnetic output in compact sizes, and superior performance in high-precision or high-power applications.
 - This makes them **indispensable for high-efficiency motors and miniaturised devices**.
 - Calcium (Ca)** is not a rare earth element and is **not used in REPMs**.

Hence, option C is correct.

26.

Ans: C

Exp:

- A **crawl-like arrangement**, as defined by the IMF, is identified when the exchange rate remains within roughly a 2% band around a trend for at least six months, even without a declared policy. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- A **crawling peg**, unlike a **crawl-like arrangement**, involves small, pre-announced and rule-based adjustments to the exchange rate based on measurable indicators. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

27.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 was enacted to provide a **unified, time-bound, and**

creditor-driven system for resolving corporate distress and improving the recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Hence, **Statement I is correct**.

- The purpose of imposing strict timelines—**330 days for completing the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**—is to avoid delays that erode the value of stressed assets.

- Faster resolution helps maximise recovery for creditors and ensures that assets do not deteriorate during prolonged litigation. Hence, **Statement II is also correct**.

- Therefore, option A is correct because Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Basel Norms are a set of international **banking regulations** developed by the **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** to strengthen the **global financial system** by ensuring that banks hold enough **capital** to absorb **unexpected losses**.

- The Basel framework for banking supervision rests on **three pillars**:

- Pillar 1 – Minimum Capital Requirements:** Banks must hold capital proportional to their **risk-weighted assets (RWA)**, with riskier assets requiring more capital.
- Pillar 2 – Supervisory Review:** Regulators assess each bank's **internal risk processes** and ensure capital stays **above minimum requirements**.
- Pillar 3 – Market Discipline:** Banks must **disclose** their risk profiles and capital levels to promote **transparency** and encourage prudent behavior through market scrutiny.

- BCBS is the global **standard-setter** for banking regulation, creating frameworks like **Basel I–III** to strengthen financial stability.

- Hence, option A is correct.

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** was created in 1963 by **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and **World Health Organization (WHO)**, sets global

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food safety and quality standards to protect consumers and ensure fair food trade. It has **189 members**, and **India joined in 1964**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ✦ CAC is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the **Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme**.

💡 The **Codex Alimentarius, or "Food Code"**, adopted by CAC is a collection of international standards, guidelines, and codes covering food hygiene, additives, pesticide residues, contaminants, labelling, and inspection. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 Codex texts are voluntary and do not have binding effect on national food legislation. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- ✦ However, the **Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)** recognizes Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations as reference standards for international trade and trade dispute settlement.

30.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Cryptocurrency is not recognised as legal tender in India**, meaning it cannot be used as an officially accepted medium of exchange. However, **trading, buying, or holding crypto assets is not prohibited**, and they are treated as **Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)** for taxation and compliance purposes. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **Ministry of Finance** has notified **Virtual Digital Asset Service Providers (VDASPs)** under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**, enabling the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** to investigate crypto-related money laundering, enforce Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, and track suspicious transactions. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 Crypto exchanges are **not mandated to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, because India has **not yet classified cryptocurrency as a security, commodity, or regulated financial product**. Instead, exchanges must register with the **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** for AML/KYC compliance under PMLA. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

31.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 First issued in 1995 in India, **RBI's Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs)** are **government securities** with a **variable coupon rate** instead of a fixed one. The rate is **reset at pre-announced intervals** (typically every 6 months or 1 year) based on a **pre-selected benchmark**, distinguishing them from traditional fixed-rate bonds. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **interest rate** on **FRBs** is tied to a **market-based benchmark**, typically the **average yield** of the last three auctions of **182-day Treasury Bills** or a **base rate** plus a **fixed spread** decided through auction.

- ✦ In some cases, such as **RBI's retail FRBs**, the **coupon** is linked to the **National Savings Certificate (NSC)**, making the **returns** adjust automatically with changes in **broader interest rates**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Environment & Ecology

32.

Ans: C

Exp:

Dugongs:

💡 They are primarily found in the **Gulf of Kutch**, the **Gulf of Mannar-Palk Bay** region (between India and Sri Lanka), and the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ✦ The report, titled '*A Global Assessment of Dugong Status and Conservation Needs*', indicates that the survival of dugongs in the **Gulf of Kutch** and the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** is uncertain and highly challenged, while the population in the **Gulf of Mannar-Palk Bay** has significantly decreased.

💡 In India, they are protected under **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ✦ The Dugong is listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.
- ✦ **Appendix I** of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** bans international trade of dugongs or their parts, ensuring strict protection.

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- They play a vital role in maintaining seagrass meadows, which promote biodiversity, enhance **carbon sequestration**, and support marine life by releasing nutrients beneficial to fish, shellfish, and invertebrates. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

33.

Ans: B

Exp:

Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

- About:** It was created in **2002** on a SC order in the *T.N. Godavarman case (1995)* and was given **statutory status in 2023** through a Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notification issued on the SC's directions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Mandate:** CEC monitors compliance with **SC orders on environment, forest and wildlife matters**, conducts field inspections, and submits independent fact-finding reports to SC. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- It reviews **cases of non-compliance**, oversees issues like encroachment removal and compensatory afforestation, and considers petitions from **aggrieved persons to support the Court's environmental oversight**.

- Composition:** The CEC consists of a **chairperson, three expert members** (one from each **environment, forest, wildlife**), and a member secretary, who are civil servants appointed by the **MoEFCC**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

- Impact:** CEC reports assisted the court in issues like **Goa's first tiger reserve (Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary)**, tourism regulation in **Sariska Tiger Reserve**, tree-felling in **Hyderabad's Kancha Gachibowli** and mining in the **Aravallis**.

34.

Ans: B

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- Hence, option B is correct.

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Humboldt penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*)** is found along the **Humboldt Current in the Pacific Ocean**. Its range is restricted to the coastal regions of **Peru and Chile**, with nearly 80% of the population along Chile's coastline. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- Humboldt penguins exhibit **limited, seasonal movement and partial migration**, mainly linked to food availability and climate variations such as El Niño events. They do **not display global migratory behavior**, nor do they disperse across oceans like fully migratory species. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- The species is **classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List**, and it is also listed under **CITES Appendix I**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

36.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Global Mutirão Agreement** adopted at UNFCCC COP30 focuses on cooperation and implementation but does **not include binding timelines** for phasing out fossil fuels. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- COP30** adopted a new Just Transition Mechanism (JTM), also called the **Belém Action Mechanism (BAM)**, to support capacity-building and cooperation for workers and economies shifting away from fossil fuels, but it does not include new or guaranteed finance. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

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- Belém 4x Pledge adopted at COP 30 aims to quadruple the use of sustainable fuels by 2035 compared to 2024 levels, with flexibility for national circumstances. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) will monitor progress annually. It focuses on scaling fuels like hydrogen, biofuels, biogas, and e-fuels at affordable costs to support the energy transition, especially in transport and industry.

37.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary is a key habitat for the Sloth Bear and hosts the highest population of the species in Gujarat. It also supports a substantial leopard population. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It forms the catchment of river Panam, supporting water conservation and irrigation in Dahod and Panchmahals districts. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

38.

Ans: C

Exp:

In India, current dugong populations are primarily restricted to a few specific locations:

- Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu)
- Palk Bay (Tamil Nadu)
- Gulf of Kutch (Gujarat)
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Dugongs are not found in the Sundarbans region as they require extensive, shallow seagrass meadows for grazing, which are not characteristic of the dynamic, mangrove-dominated deltaic environment of the Sundarbans.

- Hence, option C is the correct answer.

39.

Ans: B

Exp:

The description given in the question refers to Jim Corbett National Park.

- Jim Corbett National Park, India's and Asia's first national park, created in 1936 as Hailey National Park under the advice and involvement of Jim Corbett, the renowned hunter-turned-conservationist whose efforts were instrumental in its establishment. Renamed in 1956 to honour him, the park later became the first site selected under Project Tiger (1973) owing to its high tiger density and ecological significance.

- Located in the Bhabar-Shivalik foothills of Uttarakhand, it features an undulating terrain shaped by the Ramganga, Sonanadi, and Palain rivers, supporting diverse habitats including sal forests, riparian belts, mixed woodlands, and extensive grasslands (chaurs) such as Dhikala and Bijrani. These ecological characteristics, combined with its historical legacy and pioneering role in tiger conservation, uniquely identify the park. Hence, option B is correct.

History and Art & Culture

40.

Ans: D

Exp:

Ambaji Marble Earns GI Tag

Ambaji marble from Gujarat has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognising its unique white stone and strengthening its cultural, industrial and global identity. Hence, statement I is correct.

- Origin: Ambaji marble quarried in Ambaji town of Banaskantha district, Gujarat, a major pilgrimage site and Shaktipeeth.

- Unique Qualities: It is known for its pure white colour, exceptional shine, high calcium content and remarkable durability.

- Its durability is often compared to other historical stones, including those used in the Taj Mahal and it is widely used in temples and sacred architecture, it is valued for both its aesthetic appeal and strength.

- Significance: Ambaji marble is exported for temple architecture to cities such as Miami, Los Angeles, Boston, and to countries like New Zealand and England.

- The marble mines of Ambaji are believed to be 1,200–1,500 years old and were used in the construction of the Dilwara Jain Temple in Mount Abu.

- Implications of GI Tag: A GI tag is a type of Intellectual property right (IPR) that identifies products with qualities linked to a specific region and protects them from imitation.

- It is valid for 10 years, renewable, and regulated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence, statement II is not correct.

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- ✦ GI tag will help build a **distinct brand identity**, enhance market demand, and support **local industries and artisans**.
- ✦ GI recognition safeguards **authenticity**, prevents imitation, and improves **export competitiveness**.

Marble

- 💡 Marble is a **metamorphic rock** formed when **limestone** undergoes high heat and pressure, causing its **calcite to recrystallise into a denser mass of interlocking crystals**. Hence, statement III is not correct.
- ✦ Mostly made of **calcite (CaCO₃)** and may include clay, mica, quartz, pyrite, iron oxides or graphite. Marble colours come from **small impurities present during metamorphism**.
- 💡 Therefore, option D is correct because neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

41.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Jyotiba Phule was a 19th-century social activist, thinker, and writer who dedicated his life to challenging the **caste system** and empowering the **downtrodden**, including SCs, STs, OBCs, Shudras, and women.
- 💡 Phule's perspective transformed after reading Thomas Paine's "Rights of Man," which inspired his lifelong commitment to **social justice** and **equality**.
- 💡 Phule articulated his revolutionary ideas through influential works:
 - ✦ Tiritiya Ratna: A conversation between a **Kunbi (lower caste) woman**, a **Brahman**, and a **commentator**, exposing the **cunningness of the Brahman**.
 - ✦ Gulamgiri: Comparing **caste oppression** to **slavery**.
 - ✦ Shetkaryacha Asud: Exposing **peasant exploitation**.
 - ✦ Sarvajanik Satya Dharma: Promoting **rational religious thought**.
 - ✦ Chhatrapati Shivaji Raje Bosale Yanche Powada: Reinterpreted Shivaji as a non-Brahmin leader.
- 💡 Satyarth Prakash (The Light of Truth) was authored by **Dayananda Saraswati**, the founder of the **Arya Samaj**, and is not a work of Jyotiba Phule.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

42.

Ans: C

Explanation:

- 💡 **Anandpur Sahib**, in present-day Punjab, is the site where **Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa** on Vaisakhi in 1699, marking a turning point in Sikh history. Hence, Pair 1 is correctly matched.
- 💡 **Patna Sahib** (Takht Sri Patna Sahib) in Bihar is historically significant as the **birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh**, the tenth Sikh Guru, in 1666. The site also preserves several artefacts from his early childhood. Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched.
- 💡 **Takht Sri Hazur Sahib in Nanded, Maharashtra**, marks the place where **Guru Gobind Singh spent his final days** and where his cremation took place in 1708. It is one of the five Takhts and an important pilgrimage site for Sikhs. Hence, Pair 3 is correctly matched.

43.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Lachit Borphukan** (born 24th November 1622 at Charaideo, Assam) was the youngest son of **Momai Tamuli Borbarua**, a key military administrator under **Ahom ruler Pratap Singha**.
- 💡 Trained in administration, military strategy, and scriptures, he grew up amid **Mughal-Ahom wars** and later rose as one of Assam's greatest military leaders.
 - ✦ Recognising his leadership, he was appointed as **Borphukan (Commander-in-Chief)** to reclaim Assam from Mughal occupation after the **Mir Jumla invasion**.
- 💡 Using **guerrilla warfare, river-based naval tactics, and strategic fortifications**, Lachit defeated the Mughal army led by Raja Ram Singh I in the **Battle of Saraighat (1671)**.
 - ✦ The **victory halted Mughal expansion into the Northeast** and preserved Assam's sovereignty.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

Guru Teg Bahadur

- 💡 **About:** He was the 9th Sikh Guru, revered for his teachings, bravery, and martyrdom. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

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- Early Life and Lineage: He was born on 21st April, 1621, in Amritsar to the 6th Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind, and Mata Nanki. He was originally named Tyag Mal, reflecting his ascetic nature.
- Education and Martial Training: He received a holistic education, trained in scriptures by the renowned Bhai Gurdas and in martial arts by Baba Budha.
- Contributions and Leadership: As Guru, he contributed 116 hymns to the Guru Granth Sahib, travelled extensively to spread Sikh teachings, and founded the town of Chak-Nanki, which later enlarged into the city of Shri Anandpur Sahib. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Martyrdom and Legacy: In 1675, he was executed in Delhi on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb for his fearless defence of religious freedom and his stand against forced conversions.
 - This supreme sacrifice earned him the eternal title of "Hind di Chadar" or "Shield of India." Hence, statement 3 is correct.

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Doctrine of Lapse, introduced by Lord Dalhousie, stated that if a ruler died without a natural male heir, his kingdom would "lapse" to the British. Adopted heirs were not recognised as legitimate successors.
- In Jhansi, Raja Gangadhar Rao died without a biological male heir. Shortly before his death, he adopted Damodar Rao and requested the British to recognise him as the successor. The British, led by Governor-General Lord Dalhousie, subsequently rejected this request under the Doctrine of Lapse, treating Jhansi as a leaderless state and annexing it in 1854 despite Rani Lakshmibai's strenuous objections.
- Several major states were taken over using this doctrine, including Satara (1848), Jaitpur (1849), Sambalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Udaipur (1852), and Nagpur (1854). Hence, option A is correct.

Geography

46.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Gaza is bordered by Israel on both the eastern and northern sides, which forms the longest portion of its land boundary. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Gaza has a continuous western coastline along the Mediterranean Sea, which serves as its only maritime outlet. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The southern boundary of Gaza touches Egypt, with the Rafah crossing acting as the principal land link between Gaza and the Arab world. Hence, statement 3 is correct.



47.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Strait of Malacca, located between Malaysia and Indonesia, is one of the world's busiest shipping corridors and carries a major share of India's maritime trade and energy imports, making Indonesia strategically significant for India.
- The Sunda Strait, lying between Java and Sumatra, connects the Java Sea with the Indian Ocean and serves as an important alternative to the Malacca route, strengthening India's Indo-Pacific maritime strategy.
- The Lombok Strait, situated between Bali and Lombok, is a deep-water passage suitable for submarines and large vessels, giving it strategic value for India's monitoring of Indo-Pacific naval movements.
- The Strait of Hormuz, located between Oman and Iran, is crucial for India's energy supplies but has no geographical link to Indonesia, and thus does not influence Indonesia's maritime relevance. Hence, option C is correct.

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48.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 📌 Seychelles is an archipelagic state of 155 islands located in the **western Indian Ocean**, northeast of Madagascar and off the east coast of mainland Africa.
- 📌 The islands rest on the **Mascarene Plateau**, an extensive submarine ridge of the Indian Ocean.
- 📌 Seychelles was recently inducted as the **6th full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**, strengthening regional maritime security cooperation alongside India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, and Bangladesh.



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49.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ The Mekedatu project proposes a balancing reservoir in Karnataka's **Kanakapura region**, precisely at the **deep gorge where the Cauvery meets its tributary, the Arkavathi**. This location allows storage and flow regulation before water moves downstream into Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ Mekedatu is conceived as a **multi-purpose project** intended primarily to supply **drinking water to Bengaluru Metropolitan Region**, while also generating approximately **400 MW of hydroelectric power** through a run-of-river system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ Tamil Nadu has **consistently opposed** the project because it fears it would reduce assured flows mandated by the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) Final Order (2007)** and the **Supreme Court judgment (2018)**. Tamil Nadu argues that upstream storage gives Karnataka control over release patterns, potentially violating its downstream entitlements. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ⚡ Following the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling, any new construction affecting river regulation in the Cauvery basin requires **prior approval of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)**, which oversees implementation of the CWDT award. Mekedatu cannot proceed without this statutory clearance. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

50.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ⚡ **Volcanic Eruption** is the **expulsion of gases, rock fragments, and molten lava** from within the Earth through a vent, releasing them onto the surface or into the atmosphere.
- ⚡ The **Earth's mantle**, a dense layer beneath the **solid crust**, contains a weaker zone called the **asthenosphere**, where molten rock, known as **magma**, escapes.
 - ✦ As **gases** dissolved in the **magma** expand, they build up **pressure**, which pushes the magma upward, forcing it through **cracks** and **fissures** in the **volcano**, resulting in an **eruption**.

- ⚡ Volcanic eruption releases **volcanic ash and dust, pyroclastic debris** (tiny glass/rock particles) and **Nitrogen and Sulphur compounds**.

⚡ Hence, option D is correct.

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

The description given in the question refers to Tea.

- ⚡ Tea uniquely requires **moderate temperatures, high but well-distributed rainfall**, and **deep acidic soils rich in organic matter**.
- ⚡ Its hallmark feature is the presence of **multiple "flush" cycles**, during which tender new shoots are harvested—crucial for determining both yield and quality.
- ⚡ In contrast, coffee, rubber, and cocoa demand different climatic regimes: coffee prefers **cooler, shaded highlands**; rubber thrives in **hot equatorial climates**; cocoa grows best in **uniformly warm-humid lowland tropics**. **Hence, B is the correct answer.**

52.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ Auroras are natural light displays formed when charged particles from the Sun, carried by the solar wind, interact with Earth's magnetic field and are directed toward the poles.
 - ✦ These particles collide with gases such as oxygen and nitrogen in the upper atmosphere, producing colourful emissions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ The colour of an aurora **depends on which gas is excited and the altitude of the collision** — for example, green-yellow auroras occur when solar particles collide with oxygen atoms at lower altitudes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ Auroras are not limited to the Northern Hemisphere; they occur in both hemispheres. The northern lights are called *Aurora Borealis*, and the southern lights are called *Aurora Australis*. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

Ashtamudi Lake

- ⚡ **About:** Ashtamudi Lake is a **Ramsar site** in **Kollam district**, and the second-largest lake in Kerala. It is regarded as the **gateway to the backwaters**.

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✦ The name 'Ashtamudi' means 'eight braids' in Malayalam, derived from its unique eight-armed or branched shape.

💡 **Geography:** It is fed by several rivers including the Kallada River, drains into the Arabian Sea, and is surrounded by mangroves, coconut palms, and lush greenery..

💡 **Biodiversity:** Bird species like kingfishers, herons, egrets, and cormorants inhabit the wetlands. Kallada River serves as a breeding ground for pearl spot fish (karimeen).

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow maritime chokepoint (55–95 km wide) between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. It is the only sea channel linking the oil-rich Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea

✦ It functions as a critical corridor for global shipments of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Persian Gulf nations.

💡 It is one of the world's most critical energy corridors, carrying 20% of global oil trade and significant LNG shipments.

✦ Major exporters such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, UAE, and Qatar depend on this route, with over 80% of the oil headed toward Asian markets, especially India, China, Japan, and South Korea.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

Science & Tech

55.

Ans: A

Exp:

Quantum Clock

💡 **About:** A quantum clock measures time using the behaviour of quantum particles, whose states change in tiny and probabilistic ways. Hence, statement I is correct.

✦ Unlike classical clocks that always tick forward, quantum clocks show randomness, generate very little entropy (heat or disorder created

when energy is used), and can even tick backward — raising the challenge of how they create a reliable and irreversible sense of time.

💡 **Working:** A quantum clock operates using a Double Quantum Dot (DQD) system, consisting of two tiny electron-holding "islands" in a semiconductor. Hence, statement II is correct.

✦ A single electron moves through them in the sequence $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow R \rightarrow 0$, and this full cycle counts as one clock tick.

✦ The electron's movement is controlled by voltages, and when forward and backward jumps become equal (equilibrium), no entropy is produced, and the device stops functioning as a clock.

💡 **Measurement:** To read the time, a nearby quantum dot acts as a charge sensor, and its current changes depending on whether the electron is in state 0, L, or R.

✦ Measuring the electron's state uses energy, which creates a small amount of heat or disorder (entropy).

💡 Therefore, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

56.

Ans:

Exp:

National Quantum Mission

💡 The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science & Technology. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 India is not the first Asian country to launch such a mission. China launched a dedicated national quantum initiative well before India and is a global leader in the field. India is the 7th country globally to have a dedicated quantum mission, following the USA, Austria, Finland, France, Canada, and China. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 The mission was approved by the Union Cabinet on April 19, 2023, with a total outlay of ₹6,003.65 crore. The implementation timeline is set for eight years, spanning from 2023-24 to 2030-31. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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57.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Superposition is a core quantum-mechanical principle under which a quantum system (such as an electron or qubit) can **exist in multiple possible states simultaneously**. For example, both 0 and 1 at once until an observation forces it into a definite state.

Hence, option A is correct.

58.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has approved 7 new Indian names proposed by Kerala-based researchers for **Martian geological features**.
- Periyar Vallis**: A Martian valley named after **Kerala's longest river**, Periyar, which flows from the Western Ghats to the Arabian Sea. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Varkala Crater**: Named after **Varkala beach**, known for its geologically unique cliffs rich in **jarosite**, a mineral also detected on Mars, making it an important Martian analogue site. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Thumba Crater**: Named after **Thumba**, the birthplace of India's space programme and site of the **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Centre (1962)**, where **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** began its early launches. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- Krishnan Crater**: Named in honour of **M. S. Krishnan**, India's pioneering geologist and first Indian Director of the Geological Survey of India. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

Hence, option C is correct.

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

- BIRSA 101** is India's first indigenous **CRISPR-based gene therapy** specifically designed to correct the mutation responsible for **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**.
 - It uses the **enFnCas9 (enhanced Francisella novicida Cas9)** platform developed by **CSIR-Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology (IGIB)**, offering a **low-cost alternative** to high-priced global gene therapies.
- Hence, option B is correct.

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Neurotechnology** refers to **devices and procedures that access, assess, and act on neural systems, especially the human brain**.
 - It works by recording brain signals or stimulating specific brain regions to improve function, restore abilities, or enable brain-machine communication. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)** is an **invasive neurostimulation** procedure in which electrodes are surgically implanted deep inside the brain.
 - It is used mainly for Parkinson's disease, essential tremor and dystonia. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs)** are systems that create a direct communication pathway between the brain (neural signals) and an external device, translating brain signals into commands for external devices like prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, computers or robots. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

- Antibiotic Stewardship Program (AMSP)** seeks to curb antibiotic misuse in hospitals/ICUs and has resulted in the ban of 40 inappropriate Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)**, launched in 2015, **WHO's GLASS** collects **AMR data** from humans, antimicrobial use, the **food chain**, and the **environment** to guide strategies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945**, combats AMR by ensuring antibiotic quality via Schedule M (Good Manufacturing Practices) and promoting rational use through prescription-only rules under Schedules H and H1. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

62.

Ans: C

Exp:

NITI Aayog Reports about AI's Impact on the Indian Economy

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)** is set to drive India's **next phase of economic growth**, with **NITI Aayog**

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estimating that AI could add **USD 500–600 billion to GDP by 2030**. Hence, statement II is not correct.

- 🔦 **Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy:** This report presents India's strategic plan to address the disruptions caused by AI, aiming to position the country as the global hub for **AI-driven workforce development**.

- ✦ It introduces the **3W framework** for AI and outlines its potential impact on **work, workers, and the workforce**. Hence, statement I is correct.

- 🔦 **Roadmap on AI for Inclusive Societal Development:** This report focuses on utilizing **cutting-edge technologies** to transition **informal workers** into a more **formal, empowered, and future-ready labor force**.

- ✦ It emphasizes **AI's potential** to enhance **inclusivity** and foster **sustainable development**.

- 🔦 **AI as Both a Challenge and Opportunity for India:** AI presents both **challenges** and **opportunities** for India's economy.

- ✦ While it disrupts traditional **formal jobs**, it simultaneously provides a unique opportunity to **formalize** and significantly improve the **productivity** of the vast **informal workforce**.

- 🔦 Therefore, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

Social Issues

63.

Ans: D

Exp:

Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 was approved for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period, which covers the financial years 2021–22 to 2025–26. Hence, statement 1 is Correct.

The mission functions as an umbrella Integrated Nutrition Support Programme. It effectively merges and integrates the National Crèche Scheme, ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services), Poshan Abhiyan, and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls to create a unified framework for maternal and child welfare. Hence, statement 2 is Correct.

The supplementary nutrition component for adolescent girls under the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) has specific targets that differ from the statement:

- 🔦 **Age Group:** It targets the age group of 14–18 years, not 11–14 years.

- 🔦 **Geographical Scope:** It is not implemented across all districts immediately but focuses on Aspirational Districts and the North Eastern Region (NER).

- 🔦 Hence, statement 3 is not Correct.

64.

Ans: D

Exp:

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

- 🔦 **Background:** Despite the UN adopting the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, 1979 (India ratified it), gender-based violence remains widespread across the world.

- ✦ In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted **resolution 48/104**, establishing the **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** and laying the groundwork for global action.

- ✦ In 2000, the UN formally designated **25th November** as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and urged governments, international bodies, and civil society to **organise awareness campaigns annually**. Hence, statement I is not correct.

- 🔦 **Significance of the Day:** The day is crucial because violence against women remains widespread as **globally, 30% of women have faced physical and/or sexual violence** and domestic violence isn't criminalised in many countries. Hence, statement II is correct.

- ✦ Violence against women is **one of humanity's oldest and most pervasive injustices**, yet still one of the least acted upon. More than 30 nations let rapists avoid punishment by marrying the victim, and over 40 nations **lack domestic violence laws**.

- ✦ The day underscores the urgent need for stronger protections, better prevention, and survivor-centred support.

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

65.

Ans: D

Exp:

The **World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2025** shows a sharp **21% fall in India's TB incidence**, dropping from 237 per lakh in 2015 to 187 per

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lakh in 2024, nearly twice the pace of the global decline and marking a major milestone in India's fight against the disease. Hence, statement I is not correct.

The Key Findings of the WHO Global TB Report 2025

- 💡 **Global:** In 2024, **10.7 million people** fell ill with TB and **1.23 million** died. The **incidence rate** was 131 per 100,000 and the **case fatality rate** was 11.5%.
 - ✦ TB is among the **top 10 causes of death globally** and the **leading killer** from a single infectious agent.
 - ✦ **High-burden Countries:** **30 high-burden countries** account for **87%** of global TB. The top contributors are **India (25%)**, Indonesia (10%), Philippines (6.8%), China (6.5%), Pakistan (6.3%), Nigeria (4.8%), DR Congo (3.9%), Bangladesh (3.6%).
 - ✦ **Key Drivers of TB Incidence:** **Undernutrition, low income, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), diabetes, smoking, and alcohol-use disorders.**
- 💡 **India's Achievement in Sharp Decline:** India accounts for **25% of global TB cases** but has shown one of the **fastest declines among high-burden countries**. Treatment coverage improved from 53% (2015) to 92% (2024). Hence, statement II is correct.
 - ✦ India's TB mortality rate fell from **28 per lakh in 2015 to 21 per lakh in 2024**. However, despite this progress, India still accounted for **about 28% of all TB deaths worldwide in 2024**.
 - ✦ Treatment success rate under **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan** is at 90% (2024), above the global average of 88%.
 - ✦ India reports **one lakh cases remained "missing,"** meaning undiagnosed cases that continue to spread the infection. India still contributes 8.8% of the global detection gap, **second only to Indonesia (10%)**.
- 💡 Therefore, option D is correct because Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

66.

Ans: B

Exp:

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

- 💡 **About:** **POCSO Act, 2012** was enacted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to address the

heinous crimes of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

Salient Features:

- ✦ **Gender Neutrality:** The Act is **gender-neutral** and safeguards **all children**, irrespective of gender. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ✦ **Definition of a Child:** It defines a child as any person **below 18 years of age**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ✦ **Coverage of Abuse:** The Act covers **penetrative and non-penetrative assault, sexual harassment, and pornography**. Offences are **aggravated** if committed by someone in **trust or authority** or against a **mentally ill child**, and **child trafficking** for sexual purposes is also **punishable**.
- 💡 **Graded Punishments:** Punishments range from **10 years to life imprisonment** for **penetrative sexual assault** and **20 years to life** for **aggravated cases**, with stricter terms if the **child is under 16**.
 - ✦ **Use, possession, attempt, and abetment** of offences, including **child pornography**, are also punishable, with fines or imprisonment up to **7 years** depending on severity and intent.
 - ✦ The Act was amended in 2019 that increased **punishments**, including the **death penalty** for **aggravated penetrative sexual assault of a child**.
 - 📎 The Act requires **Special Courts** to try offences. It ensures that the **evidence of the child is recorded within 30 days**, and the **trial is completed within 1 year**, wherever possible. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Defence & Security

67.

Ans: B

Exp:

HAMMER Precision-Guided Weapon

- 💡 **About:** It is a **precision-guided air-to-ground weapon** developed by **French Safran Electronics & Defence**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ✦ It converts **unguided bombs** into **precision-strike weapons** using a **modular guidance + propulsion kit**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 **Key Features:** Has a **stand-off range of up to 70 km**, enabling attacks from **outside hostile air defence zones**.

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✦ Maintains **high accuracy** even in **GPS-denied** or **electronic warfare** conditions. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

✦ Effective against **stationary and moving targets.**

💡 **Operational Use:** It was effectively used by India during **Operation Sindoor** and is compatible with the French **Rafale** and India's **Tejas** light combat aircraft.

68.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Operation Pawan** was the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)** mission in Sri Lanka under the **1987 Indo-Sri Lanka Accord**, undertaken during the **Sri Lankan Civil War (1983–2009)**, marking India's first major post-Independence **international peacekeeping deployment.**

✦ The **Accord** signed by **PM Rajiv Gandhi** and **President J. R. Jayewardene**, sought to curb the intensifying conflict between the **Sinhalese-majority government** and **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).**

✦ The IPKF was tasked with **removing LTTE control over the Jaffna Peninsula** of Sri Lanka and **enforcing disarmament.**

✦ The IPKF conducted a **counter-insurgency campaign** from December 1987 to March 1990, preventing the **LTTE from retaking Jaffna.** This mission came to be known as **Operation Pawan.**

💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

69.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The Territorial Army (TA) is a **part-time voluntary military force that supports and augments the Regular Indian Army.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✦ It is based on a **Citizen Soldiers' army ('Sons of Soil')** concept and officers undergo **Annual Training on basic military skills.**

✦ It functions under the **Territorial Army Act, 1948** and allows trained civilian volunteers to serve in uniform while continuing their regular professions.

💡 The roots of the TA trace back to the **Volunteer Forces of 1857** formed after the First War of Independence in 1857.

✦ After Independence, the Territorial Army Act, 1948 was passed, The TA was formally inaugurated on **9th October 1949** by **first Indian Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari** (now celebrated as **Raising Day of Territorial Army**). Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

Miscellaneous

70.

Ans: B

Explanation:

💡 **IIT Delhi**, the highest-ranked Indian institution in the QS Sustainability 2026 list, is placed at **205th**, which means **no Indian university** features within the global top 200. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 The QS Sustainability Rankings assess universities based on their **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** impact across indicators such as environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and institutional governance. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

The Sujalam Bharat Summit 2025 is structured around six critical thematic areas aimed at ensuring inland water security and sustainability. The 6 critical thematic areas are:

💡 **Rejuvenation of Rivers and Springs:** Wetland restoration, catchment protection, and community river stewardship.

💡 **Greywater Management:** Circular water use, pricing models, nature-based solutions, and septage treatment.

💡 **Technology-driven Water Management:** AI-based monitoring, micro-irrigation, leak detection, and precision agriculture.

💡 **Water Conservation:** Aquifer recharge, **traditional water systems**, and LiFE-aligned behavioural change.

💡 **Sustainable Drinking Water Supply:** Climate-resilient systems, source sustainability, and community-based operations and maintenance.

💡 **Community Engagement:** Empowering **PRIs, SHGs**, and local bodies for long-term sustainability of water assets.

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- Marine Biodiversity Conservation is not a thematic area under this summit.

Hence, Option B is the correct answer.

72.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP)** is located in **Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu**, and is India's largest nuclear power station, built in collaboration with Russia using VVER-1000 reactors. It is central to India's expansion of Light Water Reactors (LWRs). Hence, pair 1 is correct.
- Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)** is situated near **Surat in Gujarat**, not Maharashtra. It houses India's first indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), marking a major milestone in domestic reactor design. Hence, pair 2 is not correct.
- Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP)** is located at **Rawatbhata, Rajasthan**, and includes some of India's earliest PHWR units built with Canadian assistance before India's 1974 nuclear test. It remains a key PHWR hub. Hence, pair 3 is correct.
- Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS)**, located in **Maharashtra**, is India's oldest operational nuclear power plant, featuring Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs) supplied initially under the US Atoms for Peace programme. Hence, pair 4 is correct.

73.

Ans: C

Exp:

- SURYA KIRAN** is a long-standing bilateral **military exercise between India and Nepal**, conducted alternately in both countries to enhance infantry-level cooperation. The **latest edition, SURYA KIRAN-XIX (2025)**, was held at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, India**. Hence, Pair 1 is correct.
- VINBAX** is a bilateral **army exercise between India and Vietnam**, focusing on counter-insurgency, UN peacekeeping drills, and interoperability. The **latest edition was held in Hanoi, Vietnam**. Hence, Pair 2 is correct.
- SHINYUU Maitri** is a bilateral **air force exercise between India and Japan**, centred on airlift capability and humanitarian assistance operations. Hence, Pair 3 is correct.

- GARUDA SHAKTI** is actually a bilateral **Special Forces exercise between India and Indonesia**, not Sri Lanka. India's exercise with Sri Lanka is Mitra Shakti. Hence, Pair 4 is not correct.

74.

Ans: B

Exp:

- EB-1A** is a **US green card (permanent residency) category** meant for individuals with **extraordinary ability** in fields such as science, technology, education, arts, business, or athletics.
- It allows **self-petitioning without employer sponsorship**, making it a preferred alternative among highly skilled Indian professionals amid recent US visa policy changes.
- Hence, option B is correct.

75.

Ans: C

Exp:

- RODHS** functions as a key regional platform dedicated to advancing open, interoperable, and people-centered digital health systems specifically across the WHO South-East Asia Region. Hence, statement 1 is Correct.
- The summit does not focus on traditional medicine; instead, it brings together experts to discuss Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), WHO SMART Guidelines, and AI-enabled innovation. Hence, statement 2 is NOT Correct.
- The inaugural summit of this initiative was held in Nairobi. Hence, statement 3 is Correct.

76.

Ans: B

Exp:

- INS Mahe** is part of the Indian Navy's **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** class, designed for operations in coastal and near-shore waters.
- These vessels are equipped with **hull-mounted sonar, lightweight torpedoes, and anti-submarine weapons** to detect and neutralise submarines in shallow seas. They also support **patrol, search-and-rescue, and littoral security** functions.
- Hence, option B is correct.



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