



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

SEPTEMBER

2025

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Practice Question

Polity and Governance

1. Regarding the Waqf Board, consider the following statements:

1. A Waqf Board is a legal entity that can acquire, hold, transfer property, and sue or be sued.
2. The Waqf Act, 1995, establishes Waqf Boards at both the state and national levels.
3. The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, allows Non-Muslim Representation in Waqf Boards.

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

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

2. With reference to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), consider the following statements:

1. All state and central government employees are eligible for the UPS.
2. It provides assured, inflation-indexed retirement benefits.
3. It is regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

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

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):

Statement I: SBM-Grameen and SBM-Urban were launched in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation in rural and urban India.

Statement II: All villages in India have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under SBM-Grameen.

Statement III: SBM-Urban 2.0 focuses on making cities garbage-free while aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

4. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Bonnard Standard sets the standard that an injunction can only be granted if the court is satisfied that the defendant cannot justify the defamation claim.

Statement II: An injunction is a court order that requires someone to do or stop doing a specific action.

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

5. In the context of fake news and misinformation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Circulation of misinformation has implications for public order, national security, and democratic processes.
2. The right to information as part of Article 19 has been upheld by the Supreme Court as essential for participatory democracy in K S Puttaswamy case.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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6. What is the primary objective of the NE-SPARKS program?

- To provide scholarships for higher education to students from the North Eastern Region.
- To establish new science and technology universities in the eight North Eastern states.
- To give meritorious science students from the North Eastern Region exposure to ISRO's space technology and inspire interest in STEM fields.
- To fund and promote agricultural research and development projects in the North Eastern Region using satellite data.

7. Which of the following are positive functions of President's Rule within India's federal structure?

- It restores constitutional machinery when state governance collapses.
- It safeguards national integrity in cases of secessionist movements or external threats.
- It automatically suspends citizens' fundamental rights under Article 19 during its operation.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

8. Consider the following about PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation):

- It promotes the "Team India" approach for better governance.
- It bypasses the Prime Minister's office in decision-making to speed up approvals.
- It is integrated with the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

9. Consider the following pairs:

Digital Initiatives Functions

- SabhaSaar AI tool to record Gram Sabha minutes
- SVAMITVA Provides legal ownership papers to rural households
- eGramSwaraj Delivers broadband access via Wi-Fi hotspots

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None of the above

10. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, 2023 proposed synchronising Lok Sabha and state assembly elections.

Statement II: Simultaneous elections help prevent policy paralysis by reducing the prolonged enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct.

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

- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- Statement I is correct, Statement II is not correct
- Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

11. With reference to "Mission Indradhanush" launched by the Government of India, consider the following statements:

- It aims to achieve 100% immunisation coverage of children below 2 years and pregnant women.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched to focus on districts with low immunisation coverage.
- Mission Indradhanush is implemented in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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12. Consider the following statements regarding the Capacity Building and Human Resource Development Scheme:

1. The CBHRD Scheme is implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
2. The scheme aims to strengthen India's human resource capacity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medical, and Mathematical) fields.
3. The scheme is applicable only to Institutes of National Importance, and Institutes of Eminence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding the National Initiative on Water Security:

1. It is implemented under the Jal Jeevan Mission and aims to address depleting groundwater levels in rural areas.
2. Under the initiative, funds for water conservation are allocated only for over-exploited and semi-critical blocks.

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. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Sixth Schedule empowers Governors to establish Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and Autonomous Regional Councils (ARCs).

Statement II: ARCs allow the Governor to divide an autonomous district into separate regions if it has different Scheduled Tribes.

Statement III: Each ADC usually has up to 30 members serving a five-year term.

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

15. With reference to the Citizenship Act, 1955, consider the following statements:

1. It prescribes five ways of acquiring citizenship, including incorporation of territory.
2. The Act, in its original form, explicitly provides for dual citizenship.
3. The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, introduced an exception for certain communities from three neighbouring countries who entered India before a specified date.

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

Economy

16. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) proposed a National Global Capability Centres (GCCs) Policy to make India a global hub for innovation-driven GCCs.

Statement II: A Global Capability Centre (GCC) is a fully owned offshore unit of a multinational corporation.

Statement III: India hosts less than a quarter of the world's GCCs.

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

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17. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: India is the fifth-largest startup ecosystem in the world, with over 100 unicorns.

Statement II: A unicorn is a privately held startup company with a valuation of over USD 1 billion.

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

18. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Insurance Density is calculated as the per capita premium, i.e., the ratio of premium to population.
- 2. Insurance Penetration is measured as the percentage of insurance premium to GDP.

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

19. Consider the following statements about the PM Vishwakarma Scheme:

- 1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched to support traditional artisans and craftspeople in the organized sector.
- 2. The scheme is implemented solely by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- 3. Eligibility for the scheme requires the applicant to be engaged in one of the 18 specified trades, such as carpentry or pottery.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 3
- C. Only 2 and 3
- D. None of the above

20. Consider the following statements:

- 1. World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is the first WTO agreement focused on ocean governance and protecting marine resources.
- 2. India has ratified the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

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

21. With reference to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, consider the following statements:

- 1. India has been ranked 38th among 139 economies.
- 2. India is the highest ranked country among the lower middle income economies.
- 3. India is the leading innovator in the Central and Southern Asia region.

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

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding rising state public debt in India:

- 1. States' total public debt has more than tripled over the last decade, while debt as a share of GSDP has also increased.
- 2. The Golden Rule of Fiscal Policy, which states that borrowings should be used for capital expenditure, has been fully adhered to by all states.
- 3. High debt levels in states can limit developmental spending and increase reliance on central transfers.

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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23. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: A recent study by Crisil using a 'thali index' shows that up to 50% of rural and 20% of urban Indians cannot afford two balanced meals a day.

Statement II: The "thali Index" measures only calorie intake and does not account for nutrition or satisfaction.

Statement III: This approach reveals hidden deprivation and highlights the need to restructure the Public Distribution System (PDS).

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

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

24. Consider the following statements about the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT):

- GSTAT was established under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 to hear appeals against orders of Appellate or Revisional Authorities.
- GSTAT operates only through a single Principal Bench in New Delhi and has no state-level benches.
- The tribunal combines judicial and technical expertise through its composition of Judicial Members and Technical Members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. India is the largest producer of the following agricultural commodities?

- Milk
- Rice
- Onions
- Pulses
- Wheat

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

26. Match the following regulatory marks/bodies in India with their respective functions:**Column I (Regulatory Marks/Bodies)****Column II (Functions)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. AGMARK | 1. National accreditation body for testing and certification in India |
| b. ISI / Standard Mark (BIS) | 2. Certification mark for agricultural products in India |
| c. NABCB (National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies) | 3. Product standards & certification scheme for goods (made mandatory through QCOs) |
| d. FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) | 4. Regulatory authority for ensuring food safety in India |

Which of the following is the correct matching?

- a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- a-4, b-1, c-2, d-3
- a-1, b-4, c-2, d-3

International Relations**27. With reference to India's global power aspirations, consider the following statements:**

- Between 2016 and 2020, India accounted for 9.5% of global arms imports.
- India's rank in the World Press Freedom Index 2024 was 159 out of 180 countries.
- India ranks higher than China on the Global Innovation Index.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. It is the only African country to access both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, located across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain, and features the High Atlas Mountains.

Which of the following countries best fits the description above?

- A. Morocco
- B. Egypt
- C. Algeria
- D. Tunisia

29. With reference to the G20, consider the following statements:

1. The G20 does not have a permanent secretariat, its Presidency rotates annually among member countries.
2. The European Union is a member of the G20 along with its individual member states.
3. Decisions of the G20 are legally binding on its members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. The term "Snapback Mechanism", often seen in the news, refers to:

- A. A WTO dispute settlement process that allows member states to reimpose tariffs in case of unfair trade practices.
- B. A provision under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that enables participants to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran in case of "significant non-performance."
- C. An IMF emergency funding clause that allows reversal of loan moratoriums if a country defaults on reforms.

- D. A UNSC peacekeeping mandate that automatically restores military sanctions if ceasefire agreements are violated.

31. Consider the following statements:

1. Saudi Arabia is a member of the G20 group.
2. India is the 2nd largest trade partner of Saudi Arabia.
3. India and Saudi Arabia are strengthening defense ties through joint exercises like EX-SADA TANSEEQ and Vajra Prahar.

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

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

32. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of the European Union?

- A. France, Germany, Spain, Sweden
- B. Norway, Switzerland, Greece, Italy
- C. United Kingdom, Ireland, Poland, Denmark
- D. Turkey, Austria, Portugal, Finland

33. Consider the following statements regarding Chabahar Port:

1. It is located on the Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
2. It is Iran's only deep-sea port with direct ocean access.
3. India's development efforts are focused on the Shahid Kalantari terminal.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

34. Consider the following statements:

1. The WTO has no formal criteria for classifying countries as 'developed' or 'developing'; members self-designate their status.
2. Self-declared developing country status at the WTO guarantees benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences.

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3. Special and Differential Treatment is designed to promote equity in trade rules by acknowledging the varying capacities of member countries.

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

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

35. A major airbase located north of Kabul, this facility was built by the Soviets and later became the primary US hub in Afghanistan. It remains strategically vital due to its control over key transit routes and its proximity to sensitive Chinese sites.

Which of the following airbases fits the description above?

- A. Kandahar Airbase
- B. Bagram Airbase
- C. Shindand Airbase
- D. Nur Khan Airbase

36. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Qatar
- 2. France
- 3. Singapore
- 4. Bhutan
- 5. Sri Lanka

How many of the countries listed above have currently adopted India's Unified Payment Interface as of September 2025?

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

37. Kokrajhar–Gelephu and Banarhat–Samtse, recently in the news, are associated with which of the following?

- A. India's cross-border rail links with Bhutan.
- B. India's trade corridor with Myanmar.
- C. India's maritime trade corridor with Maldives.
- D. India's infrastructure development and connectivity with Bangladesh

38. Consider the following statements related to European Union:

- 1. All the countries of the union use EURO as their official currency.
- 2. The European Commission defines the union's overall political direction and priorities.
- 3. The European Council is the executive body of the European Union.

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

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

39. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Kenya
- 2. Ethiopia
- 3. Angola
- 4. Rwanda
- 5. Zambia

Which of the above countries share a border with the Democratic Republic of Congo?

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

Science and Technology

40. With reference to 'Gausort' technology, often mentioned in the news, which of the following best describes it?

- A. A CRISPR-based gene-editing tool developed for treating genetic disorders.
- B. An indigenously developed satellite imaging system designed to monitor coastal erosion and marine pollution.
- C. A blockchain-enabled platform launched for transparent land record management.
- D. An indigenously developed technology for sex-sorting bovine semen to increase the likelihood of female calves.

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41. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Aluminium-ion batteries are being explored as a promising next-generation energy storage technology.

Reason (R): Aluminium is more abundant than lithium in the Earth's crust and has higher electrical conductivity.

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

42. With reference to the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, consider the following statements:

- 1. It will be the first time that a nation from the Global South hosts this global AI summit.
- 2. The initiative called AI Pitch Fest (UDAAN) focuses on encouraging participation of Tier-2 and Tier-3 AI start-ups.
- 3. The official logo unveiled for the summit incorporates the Ashoka Chakra to signify ethical and responsible AI.

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

43. Consider the following statements regarding LiDAR technology:

- 1. It uses laser light to measure variable distances to the Earth.
- 2. It is an active sensing system that can be used day or night.
- 3. In India, it has been used for projects like the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

44. The Homosep Atom robot, recently in the news, is best associated with which of the following?

- A. Conducting experiments on microgravity
- B. Manhole cleaning
- C. Automated planting and irrigation
- D. Remote monitoring of patients at home

45. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs) are newly identified cosmic explosions, weaker than gamma-ray bursts (GRBs).

Statement II: ENTs are driven by stellar debris from massive stars, at least three times the Sun's mass.

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

46. Consider the following pairs:

Space Object	Description
1. Quasi-Moon	An asteroid that orbits the Sun in a path that's similar to Earth's, and it is gravitationally bound to the earth.
2. Mini-Moon	An asteroid temporarily orbiting Earth for a brief period before drifting away.
3. Quasi-Satellite	Arjuna 2025 PN7 is a quasi-satellite of Earth.

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

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

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47. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sun and other stars produce energy through nuclear fusion.
2. Fusion of atoms requires extremely high temperatures around 100 million °C and extremely high pressure to generate energy.
3. Fusion produces far less radioactive waste compared to fission.

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

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

48. Consider the following statements about India's National Green Hydrogen Mission:

1. It aims to achieve a production capacity of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of green hydrogen by 2030, a goal that includes both domestic consumption and export.
2. The Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Program is a component of the mission focused solely on providing direct financial subsidies to green hydrogen producers.
3. A primary objective of the mission is to reduce the cost of green hydrogen to under \$1 per kilogram (kg) by 2030, making it globally competitive.

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

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

49. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, DNA testing does not amount to a violation of the Right against Self-Incrimination.
2. DNA evidence is highly susceptible to degradation from environmental factors such as temperature and humidity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. With reference to solar energy in India, consider the following statements:

1. India currently produces more solar modules than solar cells.
2. Polysilicon production is the most capital-intensive stage in the solar value chain.
3. The ALMM (Approved List of Models and Manufacturers) applies equally to imported and domestically manufactured solar equipment.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements regarding Ion Chromatography (IC):

1. Ion chromatography separates ions based on their interaction with a stationary phase and a mobile phase.
2. Ion chromatography can detect heavy metals like lead and mercury in water samples.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

52. The term 'NDM-1 Gene' was recently in the news most likely in the context of:

- A. A new gene-editing technique for crop improvement developed in India.
- B. A gene identified as a potential marker for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease.
- C. The growing global threat of Antimicrobial Resistance and superbugs.
- D. A gene thought to influence the coloration patterns in certain species of tropical fish.

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53. ADITYA-U and SST-1, recently in news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. Satellite navigation systems
- B. Nuclear fusion research
- C. Deep-sea mining technology
- D. Hypersonic missile development

Environment and Ecology

54. With reference to hilly hazards and climate change, consider the following statements:

1. A warmer atmosphere can hold more water vapor, thereby increasing the intensity of cloudbursts and flash floods in mountainous regions.
2. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) occur mainly due to earthquakes destabilizing moraine-dammed lakes, not glacier retreat.
3. Thawing of permafrost in high-altitude areas contributes to slope instability, increasing landslide risks.

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

55. With reference to stubble burning, consider the following statements:

1. It releases pollutants such as PM_{2.5}, NO_x, methane (CH₄), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
2. It is much cheaper compared to other methods of residue disposal.
3. The practice is encouraged because it also improves long-term soil fertility.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

56. Consider the following statements regarding certain species in India:

1. The Red Panda is native to the Eastern Himalayas, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

2. Olive Ridley turtles nest exclusively along the eastern coast of India.
3. Asiatic Lions are found in the wild in both Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. Consider the following statements regarding the Achanakmar Tiger Reserve:

1. The Maniyari River, which flows through the reserve, is a part of the Mahanadi river basin.
2. It serves as a critical wildlife corridor connecting the Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves.
3. The Baiga, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), inhabits the area.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

58. What is the principal application of the 'Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)' test?

- A. Clinical analysis of oxygen in the bloodstream
- B. Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems
- C. Determining the concentration of organic pollutants in aquatic systems
- D. Gauging oxygen saturation in high-altitude atmospheres

59. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Himalayan Musk Deer?

1. It is found exclusively in the alpine regions of the Himalayan region of India, above 2,500 meters.
2. They are distinct due to their antlers and the absence of a gall bladder, unlike other deer species.
3. It is categorised as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

60. This low-cost, scalable, and sustainable desalination system uses a gravity-driven process involving a unique material combination, including fabric and metal, to draw salty water from a reservoir. It efficiently evaporates and condenses water using solar or waste heat, making it particularly suitable for off-grid and coastal regions with high salinity. Which of the following systems best fits this description?

- A. Reverse Osmosis Desalination System
- B. Siphon-Powered Desalination System
- C. Multi-Stage Flash Distillation
- D. Evaporative Desalination System

History, Art & Culture

61. Consider the following statements regarding the Dancing Girl figurine:

1. It is a bronze figurine from the Indus Valley Civilization, discovered at Mohenjodaro by Ernest Mackay.
2. The figurine was created using the traditional method of clay molding and is considered a fine example of realism in ancient Indian art.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. With reference to the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), consider the following statements:

1. It was founded in 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi, after the re-organization of the Hindustan Republican Association.
2. Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, and Sukhdev were key leaders associated with HSRA.
3. It aimed at achieving independence of India through constitutional reforms and negotiations with the British.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Geography

63. The country is the second-largest in Africa, with its capital city situated on the banks of the river that crosses the equator twice. It is exceptionally rich in mineral resources, including cobalt, copper, and industrial diamonds, and is home to the active volcano Mount Nyiragongo, known for its persistent lava lake. Additionally, the country has a small coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. Which country is described by the above described features?

- A. Angola
- B. Democratic Republic of the Congo
- C. Nigeria
- D. Zambia

64. Regarding Opium Poppy, consider the following statements:

1. It is cultivated for medicinal use, edible seeds, and seed oil, thriving in temperate climates and suitable for winter cultivation in sub-tropical regions.
2. India is the only country authorized by the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) to produce gum opium.

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

65. Consider the following pairs:

Natural Heritage Site	State
1. Varkala Cliff	Goa
2. Erra Matti Dibbalu	Telangana
3. Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster	Kerala

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

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

66. Consider the following statements regarding Tropical Cyclones:

1. Tropical cyclones are rapidly rotating, non-frontal low-pressure systems that originate over tropical oceans.
2. They are called Hurricanes in the Atlantic, Typhoons in the Western Pacific, and Cyclones in the Indian Ocean.
3. Tropical cyclones cannot form near the equator due to the absence of the Coriolis force.
4. The eye of a cyclone is a region of intense turbulence and heavy rainfall.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

67. Consider the following statements related to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982:

1. It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
2. Under the convention, the contiguous zone extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles from its baselines.
3. Under the convention, the Exclusive Economic Zone grants rights to carry out activities like the production of energy from the water, currents and wind.

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

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

68. Consider the following statements regarding the cultivation of tea in India:

1. It is a tropical crop that requires hot and humid climatic conditions with well-distributed rainfall.
2. It thrives in a specific temperature range, and temperatures exceeding 35°C are detrimental to its growth.
3. It prefers calcium-rich, alkaline soil for optimal growth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding 'Paatalkot Valley':

1. Paatalkot Valley is a horseshoe-shaped valley covering an area of 79 sq km situated in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The Satpuda Adventure Sports Festival is held annually in March to promote tourism and local engagement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. The Sawalkote Hydropower Project, recently in the news, is located on which river?

- A. Ganges River
- B. Brahmaputra River
- C. Chenab River
- D. Yamuna River

71. With reference to the physical features of the Middle East and South Asia, consider the following statements:

1. The Rub' al Khali, also called the Empty Quarter, is located primarily in Saudi Arabia.
2. The Indus River originates from the Karakoram Range and flows into the Arabian Sea.
3. The Zagros Mountains extend into Pakistan's Balochistan province.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

72. Consider the following statements:

1. Subansiri river originates in the Tibetan Himalayas and enters India through the Miri Hills of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The Oju Hydroelectric Project aims to tap the vast hydropower potential of the Subansiri basin.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Agriculture

73. Consider the following statements:

1. India allows commercial cultivation of genetically modified maize.
2. Over 90% of US corn production is genetically modified.
3. India legally prohibits the import of GM corn for food and feed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. Consider the following statements:

1. Bamboo is classified as a tree under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, which prohibits its cutting.
2. India's first bamboo-based bioethanol plant is located in Golaghat, Assam.
3. Bioethanol produced from bamboo can only be used as a gasoline additive.

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

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

75. Maize, a highly versatile crop, has significant utility in various sectors. Which of the following purposes can maize be used for?

1. Production of starch and sweeteners
2. Raw material for the paper and packaging industry
3. Feed for livestock and poultry
4. Production of ethanol, especially from high amylopectin varieties

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Social Issues

76. With reference to the Moran community, consider the following statements:

1. The Moran community were once rulers of an independent kingdom and later came under the influence of Vaishnavism through the teachings of Aniruddhadeva.
2. They belong to the Moamoria sect of Vaishnavism and are primarily concentrated in Assam, with a small presence in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Moran community is already recognized as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) in Assam.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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77. According to UNICEF's Child Nutrition Report 2025:

1. Obesity among children and adolescents is decreasing globally.
2. Children in poorer areas are less exposed to unhealthy foods than wealthier peers.
3. Most countries have mandatory nutrition standards for school meals.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

78. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: India has achieved its best-ever position in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index in 2025.

Statement II: The average life expectancy in India has currently reached 75 years.

Statement III: Recently, India has achieved universal immunisation coverage of 100%.

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

Defence & Security

79. It is a single-engine, single-seater, multi-role supersonic fighter jet, inducted into the Indian Air Force in 1963, and played decisive roles in the 1971 war, Kargil conflict, Balakot airstrike, and Operation Sindoor. Often called the "bird of all seasons" and infamously the "flying coffin," which aircraft best fits this description?

- A. Mirage-2000
- B. MiG-21
- C. Sukhoi-30 MKI
- D. Rafale M

80. Consider the following exercises:

1. Vajra Prahar
2. Malabar
3. Zapad
4. Mitra Shakti
5. Yudh Abhyas

Which of the above are bilateral or multilateral exercises involving India and the US?

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

Answers

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

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Explanation

Polity and Governance

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

Waqf Board:

- 💡 A Waqf Board is a legal entity that can acquire, hold, transfer property, and sue or be sued. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It manages **Waqf properties** (assets dedicated for religious or charitable purposes), recovers lost assets, and approves transfers (sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, lease) with at least two-thirds board approval.
- 💡 The **Waqf Act, 1995**, establishes **Waqf Boards at both the state and national levels** to oversee these properties, ensuring they are used for their intended purposes and managed transparently and legally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 (UMEED (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development) Act)**, allowed large numbers of non-Muslims, even a majority, in Waqf Boards and the Central Waqf Council. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ✦ However, the Supreme Court in its recent judgement ruled that State Waqf Boards (11 members) shall not have more than **3 non-Muslims**.

2.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The UPS, recommended by the **T.V. Somanathan committee (2023)** to review the **National Pension System (NPS)**, was announced in August 2024 and came into effect on 1st April 2025 as an **optional pension scheme** for **Central Government employees** under the NPS. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 UPS provides **assured, inflation-indexed, and adequate retirement benefits**, addressing concerns related to longevity protection and pension predictability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 UPS is regulated by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, and is available to both serving and retired employees, subject to specific conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

3.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Launched on 2nd October 2014, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) aims to achieve universal sanitation coverage in India. It has two sub-missions: SBM (Gramin) and SBM (Urban) to eliminate open defecation and improve sanitation in rural and urban India. **Hence, Statement I is correct.**
- 💡 SBM-Grameen Phase I (2014–2019) achieved **100% sanitation coverage**, built over 10 crore household toilets, and declared **all villages in India Open Defecation Free (ODF)** by 2019. **Hence, Statement II is correct.**
- 💡 **SBM-Urban (SBM-U) Phase I (2014-2021)** targeted **ODF cities** and **100% scientific management of municipal solid waste** across **4,041 statutory towns**.
 - ✦ The Phase II (SBM-U 2.0 (2021-2026)) aims for “Garbage Free” cities, institutionalizing Swachh behavior, and contributing to **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030**. **Hence, Statement III is correct.**

💡 Hence, option A, is correct because both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both explain Statement I.

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

Bonnard Standard

- 💡 **About:** Established in **Bonnard vs Perryman (1891, United Kingdom)**; sets the standard that an **injunction** can only be granted if the court is satisfied that the **defendant cannot justify the defamation claim**, and not just based on suspicion. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- 💡 An **injunction** is a **court order that requires someone to do or stop doing a specific action**. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- 💡 Therefore, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

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5.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 **Fake news** can disrupt public order (e.g., mob lynchings), affect national security (e.g., CAA protests), and distort democratic processes (e.g., elections). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 In **Raj Narayan vs State of Uttar Pradesh (1975)**, the Supreme Court recognised the right to information as part of freedom of **speech under Article 19(1)(a)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

✦ In **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)**, the Supreme Court of India unanimously held that a fundamental right to privacy is guaranteed under the Indian Constitution, deriving primarily from Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty).

6.

Ans: C

Exp:

North East Students' Programme for Awareness, Reach, and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS) Program:

🔦 **NE-SPARKS** is a pioneering initiative aimed at igniting curiosity and fostering awareness about **space science and technology among students from the North Eastern Region (NER) of India.**

🔦 This program seeks to bridge geographical and informational gaps by providing students with an immersive experience of India's advancements in space research and exploration through visits to ISRO Centre in Bengaluru.

🔦 **Hence, option C is correct.**

7.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 President's Rule ensures continuity of governance when a state machinery fails. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 It allows the Union to maintain security and sovereignty in extraordinary situations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 Unlike a National Emergency, President's Rule does not curtail fundamental rights under Article 19. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

8.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 **PRAGATI** is an innovative, **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)-enabled platform** initiated in 2015 to ensure **timely implementation of government projects**, and redress public grievances.

🔦 It facilitates Centre-State coordination, fostering the **"Team India" approach** (a unified approach to national development that transcends political divides) and resolves inter-state disputes efficiently, bypassing red tapeism. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 PRAGATI has a three-tier system (**Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States**) for direct communication. Prime Minister-led oversight ensures timely decisions and swift resolution of bottlenecks. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 PRAGATI is integrated with the **Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System, PM Gati Shakti, PARIVESH, and Project Monitoring Group portal**, enabling real-time monitoring and predictive tracking. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

Key Digital Initiatives Related to Gram Panchayats

🔦 **SabhaSaar:** Launched in **August 2025**, SabhaSaar is an **AI tool** that produces structured **minutes of meetings** from Gram Sabha and other Panchayat gatherings. Integrated with **Bhashini**, it supports **14 Indian languages**, providing real-time, **accurate**, and **unbiased records**. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

🔦 **SVAMITVA: Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas** Scheme grants rural households legal **ownership papers** for their homes and land facilitating **bank loans**, dispute resolution, and asset utilisation. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

✦ As of **August 2025**, under the **SVAMITVA Scheme**, **2.63 crore property cards** have been issued across **1.73 lakh villages**.

🔦 **eGramSwaraj:** This comprehensive application integrates core **Panchayat** functions like **planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, reporting, asset**

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management, and online payments, serving over 2.7 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions across 28 States and 6 UTs. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.

- 🔦 **BharatNet:** BharatNet aims to deliver broadband via Wi-Fi hotspots, Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections, and other services, with over 13 lakh FTTH connections commissioned so far.

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 🔦 High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, 2023 headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, proposed restoring a cycle of simultaneous polls in two stages,
- 🔦 first synchronising Lok Sabha and state assembly elections, followed by aligning municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 🔦 Simultaneous elections (One Nation, One Election) refer to conducting elections for the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies at the same time. This does not mean voting happens across the country on the same day, polls can still be held in phases.
- 🔦 Simultaneous elections prolonged enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and allowed governments to ensure smoother policy implementation and better continuity in governance. It allows parties to dedicate efforts to public welfare rather than frequent elections. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 🔦 Hence, option A is correct because both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.

11.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 🔦 The target of Mission Indradhanush is to ensure full immunisation for children under 2 years and pregnant women. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 🔦 Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) identifies high-focus districts and urban areas with low coverage to accelerate progress. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 🔦 Mission Indradhanush is primarily a Government of India initiative under the Health Ministry, though supported by WHO/UNICEF in technical capacity, not as joint implementers. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- 🔦 Hence, option A is correct

12.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 🔦 The Union Cabinet has approved the Capacity Building and Human Resource Development Scheme for the period 2021-2026 under the 15th Finance Commission Cycle.
- 🔦 The scheme is being implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which is the apex body for scientific research in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 🔦 It aims to strengthen India's human resource capacity in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medical, and Mathematical (STEMM) sciences and enhance the country's R&D ecosystem. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 🔦 The scheme will encompass all R&D institutions, national laboratories, Institutes of National Importance, Institutes of Eminence, and universities across the country. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- 🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

13.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 🔦 The Union Government has launched the National Initiative on Water Security under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005. It aims to address depleting groundwater levels and ensure long-term rural water security. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 🔦 Under the initiative, water conservation works are made mandatory by allocating funds. In 'over-exploited' blocks, 65% of MGNREGA funds will be used for water-related works, while in 'semi-critical' blocks, 40% will be allocated for water conservation. Even in blocks without water scarcity, at least 30% of funds will be directed towards water-related projects. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

14.

Ans: A

Exp:

The Sixth Schedule

- 🔦 **About:** The Sixth Schedule, enshrined in Articles 244(2) and 275(1), is based on the Bardoloi Committee's recommendations to safeguard tribal governance.

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💡 **Provisions:** It empowers Governors to establish **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** and **Autonomous Regional Councils (ARCs)**, providing self-rule to tribal areas. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

✦ ARCs allow the Governor to divide an autonomous district into separate regions if it has **different Scheduled Tribes**. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

✦ **Each ADC** usually has up to 30 members (26 elected, 4 nominated by the Governor) serving a five-year term (Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam is an exception, it has more than 40 members). **Hence, statement III is correct.**

✦ Currently, the Northeast has 10 ADCs across Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.

💡 **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.**

15.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **Citizenship Act, 1955** indeed prescribes **five ways** of acquiring Indian citizenship i.e., by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, and incorporation of territory. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **Citizenship Act, 1955** does not provide for **dual citizenship**. In fact, it explicitly restricts it. The act details the ways in which an **Indian citizen** can **lose their citizenship**, including by **voluntarily acquiring the citizenship of another country**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 The **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019**, amended the original act of **1955** to provide that **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan** shall not be treated as **illegal migrants** if they entered **India** on or before **31st December, 2014**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Hence, Option B is correct**

Economy

16.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** suggested a **framework for a National Global Capability Centres (GCCs) Policy**, which can position India as the **global headquarters**

for **innovation-driven GCCs**. Hence, **statement I is correct.**
Global Capability Centres

💡 **About:** A **Global Capability Centre (GCC)** is a fully owned offshore unit of a multinational corporation. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

✦ It centralises and delivers key functions like **IT, finance, engineering, customer service, and R&D** from cost-efficient global locations.

💡 **GCCs in India:** India hosts nearly **half of the world's GCCs**, and according to **CII**, their number could rise from **1,800 to 5,000 by 2030**, with **36 new GCCs** added every **two weeks**. **Hence, statement III is not correct.**

💡 **Economic Contribution:** It contributes approximately **USD 68 billion in Direct Gross Value Addition (GVA)**, accounting for **1.8% of India's GDP**. By **FY2030**, it could contribute **USD 470– USD 600 billion** to India's **GDP**.

💡 **Hence, option C is correct because only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.**

17.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 India has emerged as the **third-largest startup ecosystem globally**, home to **100+ unicorns**. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**

✦ By mid-2025, India had **118 unicorns (4 in 2014)**, with firms like **Zomato, PhonePe, Razorpay, Ola, Meesho, and Delhivery** solving local challenges and going global.

✦ According to the **Future Unicorn Report 2025**, **11 new startups** have joined India's unicorn club in 2025.

✦ A **unicorn** is a **privately held startup company** with a **valuation of over USD 1 billion**. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

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

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 India is the **10th largest insurance market globally** and is **projected to become the 6th largest by 2032**, surpassing **Germany, Canada, Italy, and South Korea**.

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Insurance Density increased from USD 92 in FY23 to USD 95 in FY24, calculated as the per capita premium (ratio of premium to population). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The insurance penetration declined from 4% in FY23 to 3.7% in FY24 (global average 7%). Insurance penetration is measured as the percentage of insurance premium to GDP. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Hence, option C is correct.

19.

Ans: B

Exp:

PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme offering comprehensive support to traditional artisans and craftspeople involved in manual and tool-based work. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The scheme is jointly implemented by the Union Ministries of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Skill Development, and Finance. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The applicant must be an artisan or craftsman in one of the 18 traditional trades in the unorganized sector, self-employed, above 18 years, and actively working at the time of registration.

The 18 eligible trades include Carpenter, Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter among others. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option B is correct.

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is a binding multilateral agreement, aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and fair trade in global fisheries. It is the first WTO agreement focused on ocean governance and protecting marine resources. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The agreement was adopted at WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in 2022, under the Geneva Package; it entered into force in September 2025 after two-thirds of WTO members deposited their acceptance instruments.

India has not yet ratified. It is in the process of ratifying the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, emphasizing careful alignment with its national interests. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

India's overall position in the Global Innovation Index 2025 is 38th out of 139 economies. This reflects steady progress from its earlier positions in the last decade and highlights resilience in maintaining its place among the top 40 global innovators. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Within the World Intellectual Property Organization's classification, India continues to perform strongly in the lower middle-income group, securing the first position among these economies. This indicates that, despite challenges in institutional and infrastructural pillars, India outperforms peers in knowledge creation, technology outputs, and market sophistication. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Regionally, India has retained its role as the innovation leader in Central and Southern Asia, consistently outpacing neighbours like Iran, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan. This leadership is attributed to its vibrant start-up ecosystem, strong ICT services exports, and research outputs. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option C is correct.

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

States' public debt rose from Rs 17.57 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 59.6 lakh crore in 2022-23, and debt-to-GSDP ratio increased from 16.66% to 22.96%. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

At least 11 states violated the Golden Rule of Fiscal Policy, using borrowings for current expenditure rather than capital investment. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

High debt servicing costs restrict states' capacity for capital spending and increase dependence on central government transfers. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

23.

Ans: C

Exp:

A recent study by Crisil using a 'thali index' shows that up to 50% of rural and 20% of urban Indians cannot afford two balanced meals a day, revealing widespread food deprivation. Hence, statement I is correct.

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Thali Index

Unlike conventional poverty measures **based only on calories or income**, the “thali index” approach measures food deprivation by assessing whether households can afford a **basic, balanced meal** (the thali, which includes rice, dal, roti, vegetables, curd, and salad).

It reflects **both nutrition and satisfaction, not just calories. Hence, statement II is not correct.**

It reveals **hidden deprivation**, as many households cannot afford even two thalis a day despite low official poverty levels.

This approach highlights the **need to restructure the Public Distribution System (PDS)** to promote equity in primary food consumption. **Hence, statement III is correct.**

Hence, **option C is correct because only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.**

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) is a statutory body established under the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017** to hear appeals against orders passed by the Appellate or Revisional Authorities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

GSTAT functions via a **Principal Bench in New Delhi** and **31 State Benches** across 45 locations, ensuring nationwide reach. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Each bench has **2 Judicial Members, 1 Central Technical Member, and 1 State Technical Member**, blending judicial and technical expertise for impartial and consistent decisions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, **option A is correct.**

25.

Ans: B

Exp:

India's Food Processing Industry

Food Processing: It involves methods to transform raw agricultural, animal, or fish **products into edible, commercially valuable finished or semi-finished products**, altering their original physical properties.

Growth of India's Food Processing Industry:

India is the **largest producer of milk, onions, and pulses**, showcasing its dominance in key agricultural commodities.

It is also the **second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, fruits & vegetables, and eggs**, offering vast potential for food processing growth.

India's agricultural and processed food exports reached **USD 49.4 billion in 2024–25, with processed foods contributing 20.4%** (up from 13.7% in 2014–15).

The sector employs 2.23 million in registered units and 4.68 million in unregistered ones.

Hence, **option B is correct.**

26.

Ans: A

Exp:

AGMARK- A certification mark under the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture, that assures quality of agricultural produce.

ISI / Standard Mark- The hallmark of BIS product certification; applied to industrial, electronic, and consumer goods. When certain products are brought under mandatory Quality Control Orders (QCOs), this mark becomes compulsory.

NABCB- Provides accreditation to certification and inspection bodies; ensures credibility of conformity assessment.

FSSAI- A statutory authority under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, responsible for food safety regulation, labelling, and hygiene standards.

Hence, **option A is correct**

International Relations

27.

Ans: A

Exp:

Key Constraints Hindering India's Global Power Aspirations:

Ambition vs. Strategic Capacity: While India aspires to global power status, critics argue it lacks the **strategic clarity and institutional capacity to translate ambition into influence.**

For example, **India's military expenditure in 2024 stood at USD 86 billion**, far behind China's **USD 314 billion**, limiting its power projection capability.

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✦ India remains one of the **largest arms importers globally**, accounting for **9.5% of global imports (2016–2020)**, highlighting its dependency and underdeveloped indigenous defence capabilities. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Internal Social Fault Lines:** India's rank in the **World Press Freedom Index 2024** was **159 out of 180 countries**, impacting its global democratic credibility. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✦ Within India, states like Goa (HDI ~0.75) and Uttar Pradesh (~0.60) show stark development gaps.

✦ Such disparities weaken national coherence and limit India's ability to act as a unified global actor.

💡 **Technological Gaps and Innovation Challenges:** India ranked **39th on the Global Innovation Index 2024**, compared to China's 11th and the US's 3rd. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

✦ While India has made digital strides (e.g., **UPI, Aadhaar**), gaps remain in cutting-edge sectors like **semiconductors, quantum computing, and biotech.**

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Morocco** is a mountainous country in western North Africa, located across the **Strait of Gibraltar** from Spain.

💡 It is bordered by **Western Sahara (south)** and **Algeria (east)**, with coastlines on both the **Atlantic Ocean (west)** and **Mediterranean Sea (north)**, making it the **only African country with access to both.**

💡 Geographically, Morocco features the **High Atlas Mountains**. Its highest point is **Mount Toubkal**, which is also the tallest peak in the Atlas Mountains. The **Draa River** is the longest river in the country.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

29.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 G20 has no permanent secretariat; the presidency rotates annually and the host sets the agenda. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The European Union is a G20 member, along with individual EU countries like France and Germany. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 G20 decisions are political commitments, not legally binding treaties. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 Hence, **Option A is correct**

30.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Iran's Foreign Minister** is set to discuss the country's **nuclear program with the UK, France, and Germany** to avert the **reimposition of international sanctions** under the '**snapback mechanism**', which were lifted under the **2015 JCPOA.**

💡 The **E3 (Britain, France, Germany)** have invoked the **30-day snapback mechanism** to reimpose **UN sanctions**, unless **Iran restores UN nuclear inspector access** to its nuclear sites and **re-engages with the US.**

💡 **Snapback Mechanism:** It allows any **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) participant** to reimpose **UN sanctions** if Iran commits "**significant non-performance.**"

✦ In such a case, the issue can be referred to the **JCPOA Joint Commission**, coordinated by the **European Union (EU)**, and addressed through its **Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM).**

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

31.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The G20 comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, **India**, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, **Saudi Arabia**, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the US), the European Union, and since 2023, the African Union. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Saudi Arabia is **India's fifth largest trade partner** and **India is Saudi Arabia's second largest trade partner.** During FY 2023-24, total trade with Saudi Arabia accounted for 4.53% of India's total trade. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 India and Saudi are strengthening defence ties through **joint exercises** like **EX-SADA TANSEEQ (land)** and **Al Mohed Al Hindi (naval)** with enhanced **interoperability, trust, and regional security cooperation.** Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

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32.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ The **European Union (EU)** is made up of **27 member countries**: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, **France, Germany**, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, **Spain**, and **Sweden**.
- ⚡ In **June 2016**, the **United Kingdom** voted to leave the **European Union**, and on **31 January 2020**, it officially exited the EU.
- ⚡ **Switzerland** and **Turkey** are **not members** of the **European Union (EU)**.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

33.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ Chabahar Port is a **deep-water port** in **Sistan-Baluchistan, Iran**, on the **Makran coast** near the **Gulf of Oman**, at the mouth of the **Strait of Hormuz**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ It is Iran's only **deep-sea port** with **direct open-ocean access**, providing **India** secure and direct access for **large cargo ships**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ⚡ It has two main terminals—**Shahid Beheshti** and **Shahid Kalantari**—with India actively involved in developing the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

34.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ The **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** lacks an official definition of **developing or developed** nations; members self-designate their status, though others can **challenge** if benefits are misused. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ Self-declared **developing country status** at the **WTO** does not guarantee benefits under unilateral schemes like the **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ⚡ **Special and Differential Treatment (SDT)** provides developing and least-developed countries with greater flexibility in meeting obligations, such as **longer timeframes, preferential treatment, technical assistance, and exemptions**.

- ✦ **Special and Differential Treatment (SDT)** is designed to promote **equity in trade rules** by acknowledging the varying capacities of member countries. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ **Bagram airbase**, Afghanistan's largest military base, is located about **60 km north of Kabul** in **Parwan province**, a strategic gateway linking northern and southern cities via highways and the **2.6 km Salang tunnel**.
- ⚡ Built by the **Soviets** in the 1950s, it rose to prominence during the **Cold War** and **Soviet-Afghan War (1979–1989)**.
- ⚡ After the **US-led invasion in 2001**, it became a major **US operational hub**, serving as a logistics, intelligence, and command center.
- ⚡ Despite US withdrawal, **Bagram** retains strategic value due to **regional dynamics**, **Taliban ties with China**, and proximity to **Chinese nuclear sites** like **Lop Nur** and **Koko Nur**.
- ⚡ Hence, **option B is correct**.

36.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ⚡ All five countries listed, **Qatar, France, Singapore, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka**, have officially adopted and launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system for Indian travellers as of September 2025.
- ⚡ The current status of adoption for each country is:
 - ✦ **Bhutan (2021)**: The first country outside of India to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment, enabling payments via the BHIM app.
 - ✦ **Singapore (2023)**: UPI is fully integrated with Singapore's national payment system, PayNow, enabling seamless cross-border Person-to-Person (P2P) transfers and widespread merchant acceptance.
 - ✦ **France (2024)**: The **first European country to launch UPI**, starting with acceptance at key tourist and retail locations like the Eiffel Tower.
 - ✦ **Sri Lanka (2024)**: UPI services were officially launched in early 2024, enabling acceptance at airports and major retail outlets.

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- ✦ **Qatar (Recently Live, September 2025):** The service was enabled through a partnership with Qatar National Bank and NPCI International (NIPL), with Qatar Duty Free becoming the first merchant to go live, marking its official operational status.

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 India has announced the **first-ever railway links with Bhutan**, namely the **Kokrajhar–Gelephu** (Assam) and **Banarhat–Samtse** (West Bengal) lines, totaling **89 km**, marking a milestone in bilateral connectivity and regional integration.
- 💡 Gelephu and Samtse are key export-import hubs in Bhutan along the 700-km India-Bhutan border. **Gelephu is being developed as “Mindfulness City,”**. Samtse is being developed as an **industrial town by the Government of Bhutan**. Enhancing connectivity between these towns and India will significantly boost India-Bhutan trade.
- 💡 These railway links reinforce **India’s Neighbourhood First Policy**, counters China’s growing influence in **South Asia**, and deepens trust-based partnership.
- ✦ For Bhutan, seamless rail connectivity to India provides access to **1.5 lakh km of the Indian Railways network**.
- ✦ Since India is Bhutan’s **largest trading partner, handling 80% of its total trade**, this link will enhance Bhutan’s access to global markets via Indian ports while also boosting **tourism, industrial growth, people-to-people ties, and smooth movement of goods**.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

38.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **European Union** is a supranational political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe.
- ✦ Not all European Union members use the EURO as their currency, several countries, such as **Sweden, Denmark, and Poland, have retained their national currencies**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- 💡 The **European Council (and not European Commission)**, which consists of the heads of state or government of the member countries, **defines the EU’s overall political direction and priorities**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- 💡 The **European Commission (and not European Council)** is the **executive body responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding EU treaties, and managing the day-to-day business of the Union**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

39.

Ans: C

Exp:

Democratic Republic of Congo (Political Features):

- 💡 The DRC, Africa’s **2nd-largest country**, shares borders with **Angola, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Zambia**.
- 💡 The country also has a coastline on the **Atlantic Ocean** to the southwest.



Science and Technology

40.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 GauSort Technology, developed by the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** under the **Make-in-India and Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives, sorts bovine semen to ensure a **higher likelihood of female calves, with up to 90% accuracy**.

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- Part of the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**, GauSort Technology aims to revolutionize dairy farming by boosting milk production and **farmer income through increased female calf births**.

Hence, option D is correct.

41.

Ans: A

Exp.

- Lithium-ion batteries dominate today's EV and electronics market, but face challenges- **lithium scarcity, high cost, safety (thermal runaway), and limited recyclability**.
 - Aluminium-ion (Al-ion) offers a viable alternative, Al³⁺ allows **multi-electron redox reactions**- potentially higher charge storage per ion.
 - Aluminium is the **third most abundant element in Earth's crust**, far more accessible than lithium. This makes it cheaper, geopolitically less risky, and more sustainable.
 - Aluminium has **higher electrical conductivity** than lithium, enabling faster charge-discharge cycles in lab-scale prototypes.
 - Despite advantages, commercialisation is hindered by **limited cycle life, cathode material compatibility, and dendrite formation**. Thus, Li-ion remains dominant, while Al-ion is still at **R&D stage**.
 - Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Hence, option (A) is correct.

42.

Ans: D

Exp.

- The **India-AI Impact Summit 2026**, hosted by the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**, marks the first instance of a Global South country hosting such a summit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **AI Pitch Fest (UDAAN)** is designed to showcase and promote AI start-ups from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, thereby broadening the innovation ecosystem beyond metros. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **official logo of the summit** indeed features the **Ashoka Chakra**, symbolising ethics, inclusivity, and responsible AI governance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

43.

Ans: C

Exp:

- LiDAR**, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that **uses pulsed laser light to measure distances to the Earth's surface**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - By calculating the time it takes for the laser to travel to an object and reflect back, it generates precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.
- Because **LiDAR provides its own source of illumination (the laser)**, it is an active sensing system, allowing it to **collect data day or night**, unlike passive systems that rely on the sun. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, this technology has been practically applied in significant national initiatives; for instance, under the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, LiDAR surveys were conducted to generate high-resolution topographical maps of the Ganga's riverbanks, aiding in better planning and management of the river basin. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Homosep Atom Robot** is India's first **septic tank and manhole cleaning robot**, designed to eliminate manual scavenging and strengthen the **Swachh Bharat Mission**. It integrates **AI** to inspect, clean, and manage confined sanitation spaces safely and efficiently.
 - The robot can perform **blade cleaning, solid waste desilting, suction, and storage** in a single device, reducing the need for multiple equipment.
 - Its miniature design allows navigation through pipelines as small as **100mm**, addressing urban sanitation challenges like **sewer blockages, overflows, water contamination, and illegal tapings**.
 - Other technologies, such as **Endobot** and **Swasth AI**, complement the system by diagnosing and mitigating pipeline defects.

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- ⚡ The project is supported under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)-Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIT Madras** and is a model for **knowledge-driven startups**, combining technology, public health, and labor welfare to provide sustainable, scalable sanitation solutions in urban India.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

45.

Ans: D

Exp:

Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs) are a newly discovered class of **cosmic explosions**, even more powerful than **gamma-ray bursts (GRBs)**, which are the **most intense flashes of electromagnetic radiation**. Hence, statement I is not correct.

- ⚡ **About:** **Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs)** are powered by the **accumulation of stellar debris** from **massive stars**, at least **three times the mass of the Sun**, which are torn apart by **supermassive black holes**. Hence, statement II is correct.
- ⚡ **Mechanism:** **Extreme tidal forces** stretch and compress the star near the **event horizon**, releasing enormous amounts of electromagnetic energy.
- ⚡ **Features:** ENTs can **remain luminous in radio wavelengths for years**, making them detectable across vast distances.
 - ✖ While ENTs share similarities with **Tidal Disruption Events (TDEs)**, they differ in that ENTs occur in larger host galaxies and involve more massive central black holes.
 - ✖ **Fast X-ray transients (FXTs)** are short-lived and less energetic than ENTs, originating from **supernovae** rather than interactions with supermassive black holes.
- ⚡ Therefore, option D is correct because Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

46.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ Quasi-Moon is an asteroid that orbits the **Sun in a path similar to Earth's**, staying near Earth **but not gravitationally bound to it**. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- ⚡ Mini-Moon is a small asteroid that is temporarily captured by Earth's gravity, orbiting the planet for a short time before drifting away. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

- ⚡ Quasi-Satellite is an object that orbits the Sun in sync with **Earth (1:1 resonance)** meaning Quasi-Satellite completes **one orbit around the Sun in the same time Earth does**.

- ⚡ **Arjuna 2025 PN7** is **Earth's seventh known quasi-satellite and quasi-moon**, it belongs to the **Arjuna asteroid class**. It orbits the Sun, and stays near Earth due to a **1:1 orbital resonance**. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

47.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ⚡ Fusion is the process where **two small, light atoms** (like hydrogen isotopes) come together to form a **bigger, heavier atom**, releasing vast amounts of **energy**. This is the energy process that powers the Sun and stars. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ✖ For example, in the Sun, **hydrogen nuclei fuse to form helium** and release energy in the form of light and heat.
- ⚡ Fusion needs a **very high temperature (about 100 million °C)**, **high pressure**, **plasma state of matter**, and sufficient confinement time to sustain the reaction. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ⚡ In fission, a **heavy nucleus (like uranium) splits into smaller nuclei**, releasing energy. Fusion produces **much less radioactive waste than fission**, making it a more **attractive option for clean energy**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

48.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ **National Green Hydrogen Mission** has an official and ambitious target of producing at least **5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of green hydrogen by 2030**, with a focus on both domestic consumption and becoming a global export hub. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Program** is not focused solely on providing **direct financial subsidies to green hydrogen producers**.
 - ✖ SIGHT is a broader initiative with two distinct financial incentive mechanisms: one for the domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and the other for the production of green hydrogen. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

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- While a primary goal of the mission is to significantly reduce costs to achieve global competitiveness, the **official target is to bring down the cost of green hydrogen to approximately \$2 per kg by 2030**, not \$1 per kg. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

✦ Reaching \$1 per kg is often cited as a long-term goal for the industry as a whole, but it is not the official target of the mission itself.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

- In the case of **Sharda v. Dharmpal (2003)**, the **Supreme Court** approved the use of Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence technology in civil and matrimonial disputes and held that it does not violate Article 21 (Right to Personal Liberty) or Article 20(3) (Right against Self-Incrimination). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- DNA evidence is highly vulnerable to degradation, with heat, humidity, UV radiation, and chemical exposure accelerating its breakdown and reducing its forensic value. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

50.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India's solar module capacity (~100 GW) is much higher than its solar cell capacity (~27 GW). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Polysilicon production is the most capital-intensive stage in the solar value chain.
- Polysilicon manufacturing requires extremely high technology, purity, and energy-intensive processes. It is considered the most capital- and technology-intensive part of the upstream value chain. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The ALMM (Approved List of Models and Manufacturers) applies equally to imported and domestically manufactured solar equipment. ALMM is designed primarily as a non-tariff barrier to encourage **domestic** solar manufacturing. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Ion chromatography IC separates ions (anions or cations) based on their interaction with a stationary

phase (resin) and elution with a mobile phase. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

- Detection of heavy metals like lead and mercury typically requires **atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) or Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS)**, not Ion chromatography (IC). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

- NDM-1** is a **gene found in certain bacteria** that enables them to produce an enzyme called **New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase**.
- This enzyme makes the bacteria **resistant** to many **powerful antibiotics (Antimicrobial Resistance)**, including some of the **last-resort drugs**.
- Antimicrobial Resistance** occurs when **microorganisms** (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites) develop resistance to **antibiotics** and **antivirals**, making infections harder to treat and easier to spread.
- Hence, option C is correct.**

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ADITYA-U and SST-1** are associated with **nuclear fusion research**. They are both tokamaks, which are experimental devices used to contain superheated plasma with powerful magnetic fields in an effort to harness nuclear fusion as a source of clean energy.
- The **Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) in India** operates both of these devices as part of its program to study plasma physics and advance fusion technology.
- Hence, option B is correct.**

Environment and Ecology

54.

Ans: C

Exp:

- A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, which intensifies cloudbursts and flash floods. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- While earthquakes can trigger local hazards, **GLOFs are primarily caused by the destabilization of moraine-dammed lakes due to glacier retreat** and not mainly due to earthquakes. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

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- Permafrost thaw weakens slopes, increasing landslide risks in high-altitude areas. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

55.

Ans: A

Exp:

Stubble Burning

- About:** It refers to the practice of **setting fire** to the **leftover straw after harvesting crops like paddy and wheat**.

- It is commonly used **to clear paddy crop residues** from fields **before sowing wheat**, typically between late September and early November.
- This practice is most prevalent in the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh during this period.

Impacts:

- Air Pollution:** Stubble burning releases **major air pollutants** like **PM10, PM2.5, NOx, methane (CH₄), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - These pollutants create **smog** that spreads in the air and raises the risk of **asthma, COPD, bronchitis, and lung cancer**.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The practice contributes to **greenhouse gas emissions**, thereby **accelerating global warming**.
- Soil Fertility Loss:** Burning crop residue **destroys nutrients** in the soil, reducing **fertility**. The **heat penetration** also leads to **loss of soil moisture** and kills **beneficial microbes**, further degrading soil health. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Reason for Stubble Burning:

- Mono-Cropping Patterns:** The **minimum support price (MSP) system** primarily favors **wheat and rice**, encouraging **mono-cropping patterns**.
 - As a result, farmers often resort to burning crop residues to quickly prepare their fields for the next planting season.
- Cost-Effectiveness:** It is **much cheaper compared to other methods** of residue disposal, such as incorporating the stubble into the soil or using machinery like **balers or shredders**, which

require significant investment and labor. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Weed Management:** Fire helps in **eliminating weeds** and their seeds present in the crop residues, reducing the **need for additional herbicides**. It is a simple way to control weed growth before sowing the next crop.
- Impact of Climate Variability:** Erratic monsoons and **rising temperatures** delay harvesting, pushing farmers to burn stubble to meet **sowing deadlines**.

56.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Red Panda is native to the Eastern Himalayas, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar. They are found in temperate forests of the Eastern Himalayas and are classified as Endangered by the IUCN. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Olive Ridley turtles do not nest exclusively along the eastern coast of India. They also nest along the western coast, including Gujarat and Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Asiatic Lions are not found in the wild in both Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The only natural habitat of Asiatic Lions is Gir National Park in Gujarat. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

57.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Located in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, **Achanakmar Tiger Reserve (ATR)** was established as a wildlife sanctuary in **1975** and became a tiger reserve in **2009**. It is part of the **Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve**.

- The **Maniyari River**, which flows through the reserve, is known as its life line. It merges in the Seonath River of the Mahanadi river Basin. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The reserve forms a **vital corridor linking Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves**, enabling tiger movement and maintaining genetic diversity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ATR is home to the **Baigas (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG))**, Gond, and Yadav communities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Hence, option C is correct.

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58.

Ans: C

Exp:

- It uses a **composite siphon** (fabric wick + grooved metallic surface) to draw **salty water from a reservoir**, while gravity ensures smooth, continuous flow. The **siphon flushes out salts before crystallisation**, preventing buildup.
 - Water spreads as a thin film, evaporates, and condenses efficiently, producing over **6 litres of clean water per m² per hour under sunlight**, several times higher than conventional solar stills.
 - Siphon-powered desalination unit is **low-cost, scalable, and sustainable**, built from simple materials like aluminium and fabric.
 - It runs on **solar or waste heat**, works in **off-grid and coastal regions**, and can treat **high-salinity water (up to 20%)** without clogging, making it a breakthrough in brine management.
 - Waste heat to power (WHP) is the process of capturing heat discarded by an existing thermal process and using that heat to generate power.
- Hence, option B is correct.

59.

Ans: A

Exp:

Himalayan Musk Deer:

- It is a deer species found in alpine regions above 2,500m in the Himalayan region of India, as well as in Nepal, Bhutan, and China. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They **lack antlers** and have a gall bladder, distinguishing them from other deer. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is categorised as **endangered** in the IUCN Red List. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



60.

Ans: B

Exp:

Siphon-Powered Desalination System:

- It uses the principle of **siphon** (gravity-driven flow through a tube or wick).

- It uses a **composite siphon** (fabric wick + grooved metallic surface) to draw **salty water from a reservoir**, while gravity ensures smooth, continuous flow. The **siphon flushes out salts before crystallisation**, preventing buildup.
 - Water spreads as a thin film, evaporates, and condenses efficiently, producing over **6 litres of clean water per m² per hour under sunlight**, several times higher than conventional solar stills.
 - Siphon-powered desalination unit is **low-cost, scalable, and sustainable**, built from simple materials like aluminium and fabric.
 - It runs on **solar or waste heat**, works in **off-grid and coastal regions**, and can treat **high-salinity water (up to 20%)** without clogging, making it a breakthrough in brine management.
 - Waste heat to power (WHP) is the process of capturing heat discarded by an existing thermal process and using that heat to generate power.
- Hence, option B is correct.

History, Art & Culture

61.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Dancing Girl is a **bronze figurine** from the **Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500 BCE)**, discovered in 1926 by archaeologist Ernest Mackay (British archeologist) at Mohenjodaro. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The figurine was created using the **Lost-Wax Casting Technique**, a sophisticated metallurgical process.
- Lost-wax casting is a process where a **wax model is covered with a heat-resistant mold**, the wax is melted out, molten metal is poured into the hollow cavity, and once it cools, the mold is removed to reveal the metal object.
- The sculpture shows a young girl in a confident pose with tilted head and long arms, combining **realism with stylized exaggeration**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), formed in 1924, was reorganized as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) in 1928 at Feroz Shah

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Kotla, Delhi, to emphasize socialist principles. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✦ Prominent revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Rajguru, and Bhagwati Charan Vohra were central figures of the HSRA. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✦ The HSRA categorically rejected constitutional reforms or negotiations; instead, it aimed at overthrowing British rule through revolutionary means, with socialism as the ultimate goal. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

✦ Hence, **Option B is correct**

Geography

63.

Ans: B

Exp:

✦ The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Africa's **2nd-largest country**, shares borders with **Angola, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Zambia.**

✦ The country also has a coastline on the **Atlantic Ocean** to the southwest.

✦ It has the **mineral-rich Katanga Plateau (cobalt, copper, tin, uranium, diamonds).**

✦ Its capital **Kinshasa** lies on the **Congo River**, the only African river to cross the **equator twice.**

✦ **Mount Nyiragongo, an active volcano in the Virunga Mountains**, is one of the country's notable geological features.



✦ Hence, **option B is correct.**

64.

Ans: C

Exp:

Opium Poppy:

✦ The **opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum* L.)** is an **annual medicinal herb** belonging to the ***Papaveraceae* family.**

✦ It is the primary source of **opium gum**, which contains **alkaloids** like **morphine, codeine, and thebaine**, widely used in modern medicine as **painkillers, cough suppressants, and antispasmodics.**

✦ It is cultivated for medicinal use, edible seeds, and seed oil, thriving in temperate climates and suitable for winter cultivation in sub-tropical regions. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✦ India is the only country authorized by the **United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)** to **produce gum opium.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✦ 11 other countries cultivate opium poppy, but **they do not extract gum.**

65.

Ans: D

Exp:

✦ The **Varkala Cliff** along **Kerala's coastline** expose the **Warkalli Formation of the Mio-Pliocene age**, featuring natural springs and striking erosional landforms, offering both scientific and touristic value. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

✦ **Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Hills)** near **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, features unique **paleo-climatic and coastal geomorphological formations.** Declared a **Geoheritage Monument** by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in 2016, it reveals Earth's climatic history. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

✦ **Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster in Karnataka** is known for its rare **columnar basaltic rock formations**, this island cluster dates back to the Late Cretaceous period (101 to 66 million years ago). Hence, **pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

66.

Ans: B

Exp:

✦ Tropical cyclones are **rapidly rotating, non-frontal low-pressure systems** that form over **tropical oceans.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

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They are called **Cyclones** in the Indian Ocean, **Hurricanes** in the Atlantic, **Typhoons** in the Western Pacific and South China Sea, and **Willy-willies** in Western Australia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The **Coriolis force**, which is essential for imparting **rotation** to storm systems, is absent near the **equator** (approximately 0–5° latitude). Its absence prevents the formation of **tropical cyclones** in this region. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

The **eye** of a cyclone features **calm conditions**, **subsiding air**, and relatively **clear skies**, while the **eye wall** surrounding it experiences the **strongest winds** and **heaviest rainfall**. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

67.

Ans: B

Exp:

The **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982**, is the **only international convention** that provides a comprehensive legal framework for all state activities in the oceans and seas, stipulating a clear framework for jurisdiction in maritime spaces. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Under UNCLOS, the **contiguous zone extends up to 24 nautical miles from the baseline**, while the territorial sea extends up to 12 nautical miles. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Within a country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends up to 200 nautical miles from its baseline, a coastal state has sovereign rights to **explore, exploit, conserve, and manage both living and non-living resources**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

✦ This includes the right to carry out activities for the economic exploration and exploitation of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents, and wind.

68.

Ans: A

Exp:

Tea is a tropical and sub-tropical crop that thrives in **hot, humid conditions**. It requires **150–300 cm of well-distributed rainfall** annually. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

It grows best between **20°–30°C**, while temperatures **above 35°C or below 10°C** are detrimental to its growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

It prefers **slightly acidic, calcium-free soil** with a **porous sub-soil** to allow free water percolation. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

69.

Ans: A

Exp:

Paatalkot Valley is a **horseshoe-shaped valley** situated in Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh, and spans an area of **79 sq km**. It is geologically significant and home to **Gond and Bahria tribes (PVTGs)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The **Satpuda Adventure Sports Festival** is held annually in **October**, not March. The festival aims to promote **tourism, adventure activities, and local engagement** with tribal communities. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, Option A is correct.

70.

Ans: C

Exp:

Sawalkote Hydropower Project is a **1,856 MW run-of-the-river** (uses the natural flow of a river with little or no water storage) **hydroelectric project** located on the **Chenab River** (a western river under Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)) in Ramban, J&K.

✦ The project was initiated in 1984 and has faced multiple delays over the years. Declared as a **project of national importance**, it involves the construction of a **concrete gravity dam with a reservoir**.

✦ Once operational, Sawalkote is expected to generate over **7,000 million units of electricity annually**, making it one of the largest hydroelectric projects in India.

✦ **Strategic Importance:** With the IWT in abeyance, the project is considered crucial for **harnessing Chenab River's hydropower potential** and enhancing **India's control over western rivers of IWT**. It is a strategic priority to optimize water resources and strengthen energy security.

Hence, option C is correct.

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71.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 🔦 The **Rub' al Khali**, or Empty Quarter, is one of the world's largest sand deserts, covering much of **Saudi Arabia**, and also extending into **Oman, UAE, and Yemen**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 🔦 The **Indus River** originates in the **Tibetan Plateau**, specifically near **Ladakh in the Karakoram Range**, flows through **India and Pakistan**, and drains into the **Arabian Sea**, forming the backbone of Pakistan's irrigation and agriculture. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 🔦 The **Zagros Mountains** are primarily located in **Iran**, stretching from the northwest to the southeast of the country. They do **not extend into Pakistan's Balochistan province**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

72.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 🔦 Subansiri river is a **Trans-Himalayan river** that originates from the **western slopes of Mount Porom** in the **Tibetan Himalayas** and enters **India** through the **Miri Hills of Arunachal Pradesh**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 🔦 The **Oju Hydroelectric Project** is a **2,220 MW run-of-river project** that aims to **tap the Subansiri basin's hydropower potential** and boost **India's renewable energy capacity**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 🔦 Hence, **option C is correct**.

Agriculture

73.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 India allows GM cultivation only for cotton (Bt cotton). GM maize is not approved for cultivation. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 🔦 The United States Department of Agriculture data (2024) shows that about 94% of US corn is genetically modified. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- 🔦 FSSAI regulations prohibit import of GM food crops unless specifically approved. GM corn imports are barred. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

🔦 Hence, **Option B is correct**.

74.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 🔦 After the amendment to the **Indian Forest Act, 1927**, **bamboo is no longer classified as a tree**, lifting the ban on its cutting. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ✖ This change supports the **livelihoods of forest communities** and private growers.
- 🔦 The Prime Minister inaugurated India's first **bamboo-based bioethanol plant** in Golaghat, Assam, marking a significant step toward **achieving energy self-sufficiency and promoting green energy**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 🔦 Bioethanol is a high-octane biofuel (C_2H_5OH) derived from biomass sources such as corn, sugarcane, grains, bamboo, and vegetable residues. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
 - ✖ It is primarily used as a gasoline additive but can also be burned as pure ethanol in modern engines.

75.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 🔦 Maize is highly valued globally for its **multifarious uses as food, feed & fodder** for livestock and poultry, and **raw material** for industries.
- 🔦 Apart from **food and feed**, **14–15% of India's maize** is used for **industrial purposes**.
- 🔦 It is a critical ingredient in **starch, oil, protein, alcoholic beverages, food sweeteners, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, textiles, films, gum, packaging, and paper industries**.
- 🔦 **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)** has developed India's first "**waxy**" **maize hybrid**, high in **amylopectin starch**, making it ideal for **ethanol production**.
- 🔦 Hence, **option D is correct**.

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Social Issues

76.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Moran community** is an **aboriginal tribe of Assam** that once had an **independent kingdom** before the **Ahom rule**. In the **17th century**, **Aniruddhadeva converted them to Vaishnavism**, sparking cultural and social regeneration. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 They belong to the **Moamoria sect of Vaishnavism** and are primarily concentrated in **Assam**, with a small presence in **Arunachal Pradesh's Namsai district**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The **Morans** are one of the **six communities**—along with **Tea Tribes/Adivasis, Motok, Tai Ahom, Chutia, and Koch-Rajbongshi**—that are **agitating for ST status**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

77.

Ans: D

Exp:

A **UNICEF** report titled **Feeding Profit: How Food Environments Are Failing Children** reveals how unhealthy food environments are contributing to the worldwide surge in **overweight and obesity in children and adolescents**.

Key Findings of Child Nutrition Report 2025

- 💡 **High Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity:** One in five children and adolescents (5–19 years) are living with overweight.
 - ✦ Obesity is **rising faster than overall overweight rates**.
 - ✦ In 2025, for the first time, **global obesity prevalence** among 5–19-year-olds (9.4%) surpassed underweight (9.2%). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ✦ Obesity poses greater health risks and is harder to reverse, making this trend particularly concerning.
- 💡 **Unhealthy Food Environments:** Children face increasing exposure to ultra-processed foods and sugary beverages.
 - ✦ School food environments, instead of promoting health, are contributing to poor dietary habits.

✍ UNICEF's U-Report poll (2023) in eight South Asian countries found that **unhealthy foods and drinks were more commonly available in schools than fruits or vegetables**.

- ✦ Children in **poorer areas face greater exposure to unhealthy food displays** (sugary cereals, snacks, sweetened drinks) than wealthier peers. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 **Weak Legal Protections:** Only **18% of 202 countries** studied have **mandatory nutrition standards** for school meals. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- ✦ Only **19% of countries** impose **national taxes** on unhealthy foods and sugar-sweetened beverages.
- ✦ Most countries rely on voluntary or fragmented measures, leaving children vulnerable to unhealthy food systems.

78.

Ans: D

Exp:

India has achieved its best-ever position in the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2025**, ranking **99th** out of 167 countries, up from **109** in 2024. The rise reflects progress in **infrastructure and basic services**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

💡 However, challenges remain in achieving **SDG 3-Good Health and Well-being**, with persistent **health disparities**, especially in **rural and tribal areas**.

Status of India's Progress on SDG 3

- ✦ **Maternal Health:** The **maternal mortality ratio (MMR)** stands at **97 deaths per 100,000 live births**, far from the target of **70**.
- ✦ **Child Mortality:** The **under-five mortality rate** is **32 deaths per 1,000 live births**, against a target of **25**.
- ✦ **Life Expectancy:** The **average life expectancy** is currently **70 years**, falling short of the **73.63-year target**. Hence, **statement II is not correct**.
- ✦ **Financial Burden:** **Out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure** remains a **heavy burden at 13% of total consumption**, nearly double the target of **7.83%**.
- ✦ **Immunisation:** While high at **93.23%**, **immunisation coverage** has not yet achieved the **universal target of 100%**. Hence, **statement III is not correct**.

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- ⚡ Hence, option D is correct because neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

Defence & Security

79.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ **Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21** is a **single-engine, single-seater, multi-role supersonic fighter** jet developed by the **Soviet Union's Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau**. Initially inducted into the **Indian Air Force** in 1963 as an interceptor, it was later upgraded for ground attack and other fighter roles.
- ✖ It is known as the **"bird of all seasons"**, the MiG-21 excelled as an **interceptor, ground-attack aircraft, frontline air defence jet, and trainer**, shaping generations of Indian fighter pilots and shaped **India's air strategy**.
- ⚡ The MiG-21 played decisive roles in the **Indo-Pak War (1971)**, **Kargil conflict**, **Balakot airstrike**, and **Operation Sindoor**. However, It is also known as

flying coffin due to its high rate of operational losses and crashes throughout its decades-long service.

- ⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

80.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ **Vajra Prahar**: Bilateral **Army** exercise between **India and the US**, focusing on counter-terrorism and joint operations.
- ⚡ **Malabar**: Multilateral **Naval** exercise involving **India, the US, Japan, and Australia**, aimed at maritime security and interoperability.
- ⚡ **Zapad**: Multinational **military** exercise led by Russia, India has participated, but the US is not involved.
- ⚡ **Mitra Shakti**: Bilateral military exercise between India and Sri Lanka, focusing on counter-insurgency and peacekeeping.
- ⚡ **Yudh Abhyas**: Bilateral **Army** exercise between India and the US, centered on high-altitude and counter-insurgency operations.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

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