



drishti

**March 2025  
(Part-2)**

**Current  
Affairs  
MCQ  
(Consolidation)**

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## Practice Question

### 1. Consider the following statements:

1. This country gave India's Prime Minister the highest national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.'
2. Recently, India elevated its ties with this country to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership.
3. India announced its first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit to support this country in replacing its water pipelines.
4. Mahatma Gandhi also visited this country in 1901, advocating education and political empowerment for the Indian community.

Which of the following countries best matches the above description?

- A. Mauritius
- B. Maldives
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Seychelles

### 2. With reference to the methods used to convert biomass into electric power, consider the following statements:

1. The most common method to generate electricity from biomass is through direct combustion.
2. Pyrolysis yields bio-oil by rapidly heating the biomass in the absence of oxygen.

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

### 3. Which of the following organizations published the World Air Quality Report in 2024?

- A. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)
- B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C. IQAir
- D. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

### 4. Consider the following statements regarding the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID:

1. It was introduced under the National Education Policy 2020, linking student records to DigiLocker and the Academic Bank of Credits.

2. Concerns over APAAR ID include data privacy risks for minors, potential violation of the Supreme Court's ruling on Aadhaar.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

### 5. With reference to Mycelium Bricks, consider the following statements:

1. They are made from fungal spores, husk, and sawdust, forming a lightweight fibrous structure.
2. Mycelium bricks emit significantly more CO<sub>2</sub> than traditional fired clay bricks during production.
3. They are biodegradable, fire-resistant, and provide good thermal insulation.

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

### 6. Consider the following:

1. High salinity
2. Warm tropical and subtropical climate
3. High wave energy
4. Low-oxygen muddy soil

Which of the following conditions given above is/are essential for the growth of mangrove forests?

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

### 7. Consider the following ports in ancient and medieval India and their respective trade specializations:

1. Lothal: Export of beads, gemstones, and cotton textiles
2. Muziris: Trade with the Roman Empire in spices and ivory
3. Masulipatnam: Major center for European textile trade in the 17<sup>th</sup> century

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

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

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

8. Consider the following and select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. Activated Sludge Process
2. Trickling Filters
3. Reverse Osmosis
4. Bioremediation

Which of the following methods given above is/are used in wastewater treatment?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding *Uniyala keralensis*, recently discovered in India:

1. It is a newly identified bat species recently discovered in the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve.
2. Its IUCN status is Data Deficient (DD) due to limited information about its population and threats.

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding "Zero Tillage Farming":

1. Zero tillage farming involves the practice of planting crops without plowing the soil.
2. This technique helps conserve soil moisture and reduces soil erosion.
3. Zero tillage farming requires more labor compared to conventional farming methods.
4. It is best suited for regions with high rainfall and humidity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding CAR T-Cell Therapy:

1. It is a type of gene therapy that modifies a patient's T-cells to target and destroy cancer cells.

2. CAR T-Cell Therapy is associated with potential side effects, including cytokine release syndrome and neurotoxicity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Remittances are classified under which of the following components of the Balance of Payments (BoP)?

- A. Capital Account
- B. Current Account
- C. Financial Account
- D. Trade Account

13. Consider the following statements regarding the wave nature of light:

1. Polarization is the fundamental property of transverse waves like light, but not of longitudinal waves like sound.
2. The phenomenon of diffraction occurs due to the bending of light waves around obstacles.

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. Regarding Yemen, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Middle East at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.
2. It shares borders with Saudi Arabia to the north and Oman to the east.
3. Its coastline stretches along the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea, and the Guardafui Channel to the south.

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

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

15. The mBridge Project, sometimes seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Cross-border digital currency transactions using Central Bank Digital Currencies.

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- B. AI-powered cybersecurity framework for border security.
- C. A decentralized finance (DeFi) platform for global trade settlements
- D. Blockchain-based supply chain management for international trade.

**16. With reference to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), consider the following statements:**

1. It was introduced under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022, to establish the Indian Carbon Market (ICM).
2. The scheme shifts focus from energy efficiency to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity.
3. It issues Energy Saving Certificates (ESCs) to industries exceeding emission reduction targets.

**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

**17. With reference to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), consider the following statements:**

1. ASHAs are community health volunteers introduced as part of the Community Development Programme in 1952.
2. ASHAs work alongside Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to improve healthcare accessibility.

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

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

**18. Consider the following statements regarding the Bongosagar 2025 Naval Exercise:**

1. It was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lankan Navy to enhance maritime security and regional stability in the Indian Ocean.
2. INS Ranvir, which participated in the exercise, is a Rajput-class Guided Missile Destroyer commissioned in 1986.

**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 features:**

1. It is situated on the banks of Kosasthalai river.
2. It holds the inscriptions and records from Pallava king Aparajita and Chola King Aditya-I.
3. It showcases Dravidian-style architecture, similar to the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur.

**Which of the following temples are best described by above features?**

- A. Jalanatheswarar temple
- B. Airavatesvara Temple
- C. Kailasanathar Temple, Kanchipuram
- D. Vaitheeswaran Koil

**20. Consider the following statements related to Gulf of Oman:**

1. It is a western extension of the Arabian Sea.
2. It connects the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Gibraltar.
3. China, Iran, and Russia held the Maritime Security Belt 2025 naval drills in the Gulf of Oman.

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

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

**21. With reference to India's recent achievement in space docking, consider the following statements:**

1. India has become the fourth country in the world to demonstrate space docking and undocking capabilities.
2. The docking experiment involved SDX01 (the Target) and SDX02 (the Chaser) satellites.
3. This technology will be crucial for India's Bhartiya Antriksh Station and future lunar missions.

**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

**22. Which of the following is *not* a member of the Five Eyes Alliance?**

1. Canada
2. New Zealand

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3. France
4. United Kingdom
5. United States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**23. Consider the following statements regarding Basal Ganglia:**

1. It teaches the brain to repeat pleasurable activities, whether from food, social interaction, or addictive substances.
2. Basal Ganglia works with neurotransmitters like dopamine and serotonin to reinforce pleasurable behaviors.

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

**24. Consider the following statements related to Navayana Buddhism:**

1. It emphasizes social equality and class struggle over traditional spiritual doctrines.
2. It promotes Buddhist doctrines of Four Noble Truths and Rebirth.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

**25. Nagorno-Karabakh Region, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following countries?**

- A. Armenia and Azerbaijan
- B. Ukraine and Russia
- C. Georgia and Turkey
- D. Iran and Turkmenistan

**26. Regarding the Melioidosis, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a bacterial infectious disease, linked to rainfall, temperature, and humidity.

2. It is caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and primarily acquired by inoculation, inhalation, and/or ingestion of soil- and water-dwelling environmental saprophytes.
3. It is endemic to India.

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

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

**27. Regarding Menhirs, consider the following statements:**

1. Menhirs are large, upright stones, often tapered at the top, erected by humans.
2. Mudumal's menhirs are India's oldest menhirs, dating back 3,500–4,000 BP, and are located near the banks of the Krishna River.
3. The Mudumal megalithic menhirs in Telangana have been added to UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites in 2025.

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

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

**28. Consider the following statements regarding Notifiable Disease:**

1. A notifiable disease is optionally reported, with no legal requirement for tracking or resource allocation.
2. Infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, and Covid-19 are typically notifiable due to their potential to spread.

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

**29. Consider the following statements regarding Disinvestment:**

1. It is the government's process of acquiring stakes in Public sector Enterprises (PSEs) to raise funds, and limit private participation.
2. Disinvestment methods include Initial Public Offer for unlisted companies, Further Public Offer for listed ones, Offer for Sale for quick stake dilution.

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3. The disinvestment process is conducted by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management under the Ministry of Finance.

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

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

**30. Opening Doors to India policy, sometimes seen in the news, is related to which country?**

- A. United States  
B. United Kingdom  
C. New Zealand  
D. Japan

**31. Exercise Varuna-2025 is conducted between which of the following pairs of countries?**

- A. India-France  
B. India-United States  
C. India-Indonesia  
D. India-Nepal

**32. Consider the following statements regarding the killifish species:**

- It is the first known endemic forest-dwelling fish, discovered in Kenya's Gongoni Forest, which is approximately 7.09 million years old.
- It is classified as Critically Endangered under the IUCN Red List and is endemic to Kenya.

**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

**33. Consider the following statements regarding Kenya:**

- Kenya shares its borders with South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, and the Indian Ocean.
- India is sourcing 20 cheetahs from Kenya for the Kuno National Park as part of its cheetah reintroduction program.

**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

**34. Which of the following releases the State of Global Climate Report?**

- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
B. World Health Organization (WHO)  
C. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
D. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**35. Consider the following statements regarding Crew Dragon:**

- Crew Dragon is a variant of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Hayabusa2 spacecraft.
- Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore came back to Earth from the International Space Station on the Crew Dragon spacecraft "Freedom."

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

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

**36. Birefringence, recently in news, is best described as:**

- A. The optical property of certain materials where incident light splits into two rays, each traveling at different speeds due to varying refractive indices in different directions.
- B. The phenomenon where light completely reflects back into a medium when it strikes the interface at a certain critical angle.
- C. The ability of a material to absorb light and re-emit it at a different wavelength, commonly seen in fluorescent substances.
- D. The scattering of light by particles much smaller than the wavelength of light, causing the sky to appear blue.

**37. Consider the following statements:**

- Gopal Ratna Award and Kamdhenu Award to recognize exemplary management of indigenous cattle and herds.
- Gokul Grams for the promotion and conservation of indigenous breeds.
- National Bovine Genomic Center for genomic enhancement to select high-merit bulls using gene-based technology.

**How many of the above is/are a part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission?**

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

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**38. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT):**

1. UNCAT defines torture as the intentional infliction of severe physical or mental pain for specific purposes, with the involvement or consent of a public official.
2. Under UNCAT, states are required to criminalize torture under domestic law and provide compensation to victims.
3. India has both signed and ratified UNCAT.

**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

**39. Consider the following statements regarding Consumer Rights:**

1. World Consumer Rights Day is observed on 15th March every year to promote consumer awareness and commemorate President John F. Kennedy's address to the US Congress in 1962.
2. India observes National Consumer Day on 24<sup>th</sup> December every year to mark the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

**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

**40. Consider the following statements regarding Sonic Weapons:**

1. Sonic Weapons are devices that deliver highly concentrated, amplified sound over long distances usually for crowd control.
2. Infrasonic Weapon emits high-frequency sounds that primarily affect younger individuals under the age of 30, causing discomfort and discouraging loitering.
3. The Mosquito Device delivers low-frequency, inaudible sounds causing pain and disorientation.

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

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

**41. Regarding the Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary, consider the following statements:**

1. It is India's first and only vulture sanctuary established in 2012 to safeguard endangered vulture species.
2. It is recognized for being home to all nine vulture species found in India.

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

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

**42. Which of the following best describes the term natural farming?**

- A. A farming method that uses chemical fertilizers and pesticides for higher crop yields.
- B. A farming technique that involves monocropping and high water usage for crops.
- C. A farming practice that integrates genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to increase productivity.
- D. A chemical-free, traditional farming method that integrates crops, trees, and livestock with functional biodiversity.

**43. Consider the following statements regarding Raisina Dialogue:**

1. Raisina Dialogue is launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in collaboration with the World Bank.
2. It is India's premier geopolitics and geo-economics Biannual conference, comparable to Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.

**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

**44. Consider the following statements regarding ecosystem functions:**

1. Energy flow in an ecosystem is unidirectional, whereas nutrient cycling is a continuous process.
2. In a food chain, 90% of the energy is transferred to the next trophic level, while 10% is lost at each trophic level.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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

**45. Consider the following statements regarding 5G Technology:**

1. 5G operates at higher frequencies than 4G, allowing faster data speeds but with reduced range.
2. 5G technology enables ultra-low latency communication.
3. 5G utilizes beamforming technology to improve signal efficiency and reduce interference.

**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

**46. Match the following fuel gases with their major components:**

Fuel Gas	Major Component
A. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	1. Methane
B. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	2. Butane & Propane
C. Biogas	3. Hydrogen & Carbon Monoxide
D. Producer Gas	4. Methane & Carbon Dioxide

**Select the correct match using the codes given below:**

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

**47. Which of the following statements regarding UPI AutoPay feature is correct?**

- A. It requires the user to manually authorize every transaction through a UPI PIN.  
B. It allows users to schedule recurring payments for bills, subscriptions, and other services.  
C. It is available only for merchant payments and not for peer-to-peer (P2P) transfers.  
D. It does not support transactions exceeding Rs 5,000 per month.

**48. Consider the following taxes:**

1. Stamp duty on bills of exchange.
2. Taxes on the sale of newspapers.

**Which of the taxes given above are levied by the Central Government but collected and appropriated by the State Governments?**

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

**49. Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Committees:**

1. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the appropriation accounts and audit reports submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
2. The Estimates Committee is the only committee chaired by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

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

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

**50. Consider the following statements regarding human circulatory system:**

1. Arteries always carry oxygenated blood.
2. The pulmonary vein carries oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart.
3. Veins have valves to prevent the backflow of blood.

**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

**51. Consider the following statements:**

1. India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen below the replacement level of 2.1 in recent years.
2. The National Population Policy, 2000, aims to achieve a stable population by 2045.

**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. Consider the following statements regarding Tuberculosis (TB):**

1. TB is caused by a virus that primarily affects the lungs.
2. The BCG vaccine is administered through an oral route.

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3. India has set a target to eliminate TB by 2025 under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

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

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

**53. Consider the following statements regarding blockchain technology:**

1. Blockchain is a centralized database that ensures secure transactions using cryptography.
2. Smart contracts on blockchain platforms execute transactions automatically when predefined conditions are met.
3. Public blockchains like Bitcoin are permissioned, meaning only authorized users can validate transactions.

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

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

**54. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Samarth' Incubation Program:**

1. The program is implemented by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) in collaboration with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).
2. It aims to support DPIIT-recognized startups working on emerging technologies like 5G/6G, AI, IoT, Quantum Technologies, and Cyber Security.

**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

**55. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):**

1. It is a climate phenomenon that occurs in the Indian Ocean and influences monsoonal patterns in the surrounding regions.
2. A negative IOD phase is characterized by warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures near the eastern Indian Ocean (Indonesia and Australia) and cooler temperatures in the western Indian Ocean (near the African coast).

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

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

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

1. It is recognized as an indigenous tribe of Assam.
2. The Morans follow Neo-Vaishnavism and belong to the Moamoria sect.
3. The Moran community has been granted Permanent Residence Certificates (PRCs) by the Assam government for members living in Arunachal Pradesh.

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

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

**57. With reference to the World Happiness Report (WHR) 2025, consider the following statements:**

1. The report is jointly published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford, Gallup, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN).
2. India has secured the 118<sup>th</sup> rank in the World Happiness Report 2025, improving from the 126<sup>th</sup> position in 2024.

**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

**58. Consider the following statements regarding Photo-assisted, self-charging energy storage devices:**

1. These devices integrate solar energy conversion with self-recharging mechanisms utilizing atmospheric oxygen.
2. These devices require external charging due to incomplete energy storage, low-light dependence, and limited charge retention.

**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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**59. Greyhounds and Bandyopadhyay Committee (2006), sometimes in news, is associated with which of the following?**

- Modernization of paramilitary forces
- Food security and public distribution reforms
- Criminal justice reforms and investigation procedures
- Left-Wing Extremism and counterinsurgency operations

**60. Consider the following characteristics:**

- He was the member of Hindustan Republican Association started by Sachindranath Sanyal.
- He is credited with the creation of Naujawan Bharat Sabha.
- He worked with Sohan Singh Josh and joined the editorial board of Kirti.

**Which of the following personalities is best described by the above characteristics?**

- Ram Prasad Bismil
- Chandra Shekhar Azad
- Bhagat Singh
- Batukeshwar Dutt

**61. The term 'Lapis lazuli', which was recently seen in the news, is best described as:**

- A rare species of bird
- A semi-precious gemstone known for its blue color
- A type of gold used in ancient coins
- A rare type of tree found in the Amazon rainforest

**62. Regarding the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), consider the following statements:**

- IORA is an intergovernmental organisation established to promote economic cooperation and regional integration among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.
- IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.
- All sovereign States of the Indian Ocean Rim are eligible for membership of the Association.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

**63. Consider the following statements regarding Judicial Transfers:**

- Article 222 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to transfer a judge from one High Court to another High Court.

- Consent of the judge is required, whether it is the first or a subsequent transfer.
- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) initiates the transfer proposal and his opinion is determinative.

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

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

**64. Consider the following milestones:**

- The Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Statement on Forest Principles
- Agenda 21

**How many of the above was/were part of Earth Summit 1992?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**65. Consider the following species:**

- Hangul
- Brow-Antlered Deer
- Arabian Sea Humpback Whale
- Malabar Civet

**How many of the above is/are mentioned in Critically Endangered Category of IUCN Red list?**

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

**66. Consider the following statements:**

- It is a direct tax imposed on foreign digital service providers to tax income generated from digital transactions in India.
- It aims to ensure fair taxation of digital businesses that do not have a physical presence in India.
- It aligns with the BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) Action Plan to curb tax avoidance.

**Which of the following best matches the above description?**

- Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- Equalisation Levy
- Corporate Tax
- Excise Duty

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**67. Consider the following statements:**

1. 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was celebrated as the first World Day for Glaciers.
2. World Water Development (WWD) Report 2025 was released by the United Nations (UN).
3. The UN has declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (IYGP).

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

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

**68. With reference to the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), consider the following statements:**

1. GFCF refers to the net increase in an economy's fixed capital assets over a specific period.
2. It constitutes a significant portion of India's nominal GDP, making it the largest component, with the other being private final consumption expenditure.

**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

**69. Consider the following statements related to International Energy Agency:**

1. It was founded in response to the 2007 subprime crisis.
2. A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD.
3. The World Energy Investment Report is one of its key publications.

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

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

**70. Consider the following geographical phenomena:**

1. The Intertropical Convergence Zone shifts northward in summer, creating low pressure over India.
2. The Tibetan Plateau heats up intensely, generating the Tropical Easterly Jet.
3. Somali jet stream blows diagonally across the Indian Ocean, parallel to the coasts of Oman.

**How many of the above is/are responsible for the development of Southwest Monsoon In India?**

- A. Only one

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

**71. Consider the following statements:**

1. It is also known as Muthodi Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. It is a Project Tiger reserve, and hosts diverse forests, including Southern Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests, Dry Deciduous Forests, and Shola Forests.
3. It hosts diverse fauna, including tigers, leopards, dholes, gaurs, deer, and elephants.

**Which of the following best matches the above description?**

- A. Bandipur National Park
- B. Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Nagarhole National Park
- D. Dachigam National Park

**72. Sahyog Portal, which was recently seen in the news, is best described as:**

- A. A portal to improve collaboration between government agencies and social media intermediaries for better compliance and safer cyberspace.
- B. A platform for social media influencers to promote government policies.
- C. A tool for citizens to report cybercrimes directly to law enforcement.
- D. An online marketplace for government services and products.

**73. Consider the following statements related to Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme:**

1. They are issued by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Government of India.
2. They are available for purchase through Scheduled Commercial banks and Small Finance banks.
3. They have a maturity period of 8 years.

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

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

**74. Plumbism and Saturism, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?**

- A. A rare genetic disorder affecting blood clotting
- B. A nutritional deficiency affecting bone growth
- C. Lead poisoning caused by prolonged exposure to lead
- D. A new technique in water purification

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**75. With reference to the contempt power of courts in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Contempt proceedings can be initiated either by the court itself or by the individual's petition with the prior permission of the Attorney General (AG).
2. Article 129 empowers the Supreme Court to punish contempt of itself, while Article 215 grants the same power to High Courts.

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

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

**76. Regarding the Inner Line Permit (ILP), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an obligatory official travel document issued by the concerned State Government to allow the inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
2. It aims to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India.
3. It is currently implemented across all northeastern states and Jammu and Kashmir in the north.

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

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

**77. Regarding the Priority Sector Lending (PSL), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an RBI-mandated requirement for banks to allocate a set portion of their loans to key priority sectors that face credit shortages but are crucial for economic development.
2. It was formalized in 1972 based on the RBI's Informal Study Group's report (1971).
3. Banks failing to meet PSL targets must contribute to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), ensuring funds still reach priority sectors.

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

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

**78. Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs):**

1. Recently, the disclosure threshold for FPIs has been reduced from ₹50,000 crore to ₹25,000 crore.
2. FPIs in India are governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**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

**79. With reference to the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), consider the following statements:**

1. NJAC was a proposed constitutional body to replace the collegium system for appointing judges to the SC and HCs.
2. The 99<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014, and the NJAC Act, 2014, were passed to establish a new system for judicial appointments.
3. A 5-judge bench struck down the NJAC by a 4:1 majority, declaring it unconstitutional.

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

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

**80. With reference to the Pala dynasty, consider the following statements:**

1. The Pala dynasty, founded by Gopala, ruled Bihar and Bengal from the 8th to 12th century CE.
2. Pala art style was transmitted chiefly through bronze sculptures and palm-leaf paintings, celebrating the Buddha and other divinities.
3. The Palas were devout patrons of Vajrayana Buddhism.

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

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

**81. Consider the following statements regarding nuclear reactions:**

1. In nuclear fission, the mass of the products is less than the mass of the reactants, and the difference in mass is released as energy.

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2. The chain reaction in a fission process can be controlled by using control rods made of materials like boron or cadmium.
3. Nuclear reactions follow the Law of Conservation of Matter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**82. Consider the following statements regarding Food Corporation of India (FCI):**

1. FCI is a statutory body under the Food Corporation Act, 1964.
2. FCI's economic cost comprises procurement price, procurement cost, and distribution expenses.

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

**83. Consider the following events:**

1. Introduction of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
2. Adoption of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at UN Summit.
3. Adoption of Agenda 21.

Arrange them in the correct chronological order and select the correct code:

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

**84. Consider the following pairs:**

Name of Exercise	Country
1. Garuda Shakti	Indonesia
2. Ekuverin	China
3. Hand-in-Hand	Maldives

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

**85. Consider the following statements regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**

1. It was established in 1957 to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy while preventing its use for military purposes.
2. The IAEA functions as an autonomous organization and reports only to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

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

## Answers

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (A)  | 2. (C)  | 3. (C)  | 4. (D)  | 5. (C)  | 6. B    | 7. (D)  | 8. (D)  | 9. (B)  | 10. (D) |
| 11. (C) | 12. (B) | 13. (C) | 14. (C) | 15. (A) | 16. (A) | 17. (A) | 18. (B) | 19. (A) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (C) | 22. (A) | 23. (C) | 24. (A) | 25. (A) | 26. (B) | 27. (C) | 28. (B) | 29. (B) | 30. (C) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (C) | 33. (A) | 34. (C) | 35. (B) | 36. (A) | 37. (C) | 38. (A) | 39. (C) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (A) | 42. (D) | 43. (D) | 44. (B) | 45. (D) | 46. (A) | 47. (B) | 48. (A) | 49. (A) | 50. (B) |
| 51. (C) | 52. (A) | 53. (B) | 54. (C) | 55. (D) | 56. (D) | 57. (C) | 58. (C) | 59. (D) | 60. (C) |
| 61. (B) | 62. (C) | 63. (C) | 64. (C) | 65. (B) | 66. (B) | 67. (C) | 68. (A) | 69. (B) | 70. (C) |
| 71. (B) | 72. (A) | 3. (B)  | 74. (C) | 75. (D) | 76. (B) | 77. (C) | 78. (D) | 79. (C) | 80. (B) |
| 81. (D) | 82. (C) | 83. (B) | 84. (A) | 85. (A) |         |         |         |         |         |

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## Explanations

1. (A)

Exp:

Mauritius:

- India's Prime Minister received the **highest national award of Mauritius**, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.
- India and Mauritius elevated their ties to an **Enhanced Strategic Partnership**, strengthening security, trade, and development while reaffirming their commitment to a **free and secure Indian Ocean**.
- India announced its **first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit** to support Mauritius in replacing its water pipelines.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** visited Mauritius in 1901, advocating education and political empowerment for the Indian community.
  - ◆ As a tribute to Gandhi, Mauritius celebrates its **National Day on 12<sup>th</sup> March**, marking the Dandi March.
- Hence, option A is correct.

2. (C)

Exp:

Biomass

- Biomass is **renewable organic material** that comes from plants and animals.
  - ◆ It is used for facility heating, electric power generation, and combined heat and power.
- Biomass can be converted into electric power through **several methods**:
  - ◆ Combustion of biomass material:
    - The most common is direct combustion of biomass material, such as agricultural waste or woody materials. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Gasification:
    - Gasification produces a synthesis gas with usable energy content by heating the biomass with less oxygen than needed for complete combustion.
  - ◆ Pyrolysis:
    - Pyrolysis yields bio-oil by rapidly heating the biomass in the absence of oxygen. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Anaerobic digestion:
    - Anaerobic digestion produces a renewable natural gas when organic matter is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen.
- Wastes like animal and human wastes, are converted into a medium-energy content gas in an anaerobic digester.

3. (C)

Exp:

**The World Air Quality Report 2024, released by Swiss company IQAir, ranked India as the 5<sup>th</sup> most polluted country globally.**

**The Key Findings of the World Air Quality Report:**

- **India:** India is the **5<sup>th</sup> most polluted country in 2024**, improving slightly from 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2023.
  - ◆ **Polluted Cities:** Delhi remains the **most polluted capital** globally with a Particulate matter (PM) 2.5 concentration of **91.6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**  (micrograms per cubic metre).
    - 6 of the world's 10 most polluted cities and 13 of the top 20 are in India, with **Byrnihat** (Assam-Meghalaya border) topping the list at a **PM2.5 concentration of 128.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** .
- Other polluted cities include **Mullanpur** (Punjab), Gurugram, **Faridabad**, Bhiwadi, and **Noida**.
  - ◆ **PM2.5 Reduction:** India saw a **7% decrease** in PM2.5 levels, averaging **50.6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**  in 2024, down from **54.4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**  in 2023.
    - However, this is still **10 times higher** than the **World Health Organization (WHO's) recommended safe limit** of **5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** . **35% of Indian cities** reported PM2.5 levels exceeding this limit.
  - ◆ **Pollution Sources:** Major contributors include **vehicle emissions, industrial pollution, and the burning of biomass**.
    - **Northern India faced extreme pollution levels** with crop stubble-burning contributing to **60% of PM2.5 levels**.
- **Global:** The most polluted countries by annual average PM2.5 levels are Chad (91.8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), Bangladesh (78  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), Pakistan (73.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), and Congo (58.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).
  - ◆ The report highlights that **most of the global population** is breathing polluted air, with **only 12 countries, regions, or territories** reporting PM2.5 concentrations below the **WHO's recommended limit**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

4. (D)

Exp:

- The **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID**, aims to **standardize student records**. However, concerns over **implementation, data privacy** have sparked debates among activists.

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- **APAAR ID:** Introduced under the **National Education Policy 2020** and aligned with the **National Credit Framework**, it aims to establish a “**One Nation, One Student ID**” system to streamline academic records and facilitate transitions between educational levels.
  - ◆ APAAR assigns a **12-digit ID**, linking academic records to **DigiLocker** and **Academic Bank of Credits** for storage and verification. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Schools** record data, while **Higher Education Institutions & Skill Institutes** access verified academic records for admissions and recruitment.
- **Concerns About APAAR ID:** APAAR’s Aadhaar linkage is causing issues due to spelling mismatches, necessitating updates.
  - ◆ While the Education Ministry claims APAAR is voluntary, **Central Board of Secondary Education’s push for 100% enrolment of APAAR** raises concerns of implicit mandates, contradicting the Supreme Court ruling in *Justice (Retd.) K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2019)*, which held that Aadhaar cannot be required for basic education access.
  - ◆ Thus, concerns over APAAR ID include **data privacy risks for minors, potential violation of the Supreme Court’s ruling on Aadhaar.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
    - The **Data Protection Act, 2023** (not yet enforced) mandates that consent **must be free, informed, and unambiguous**, which activists argue is being ignored.

5. (C)

Exp:

- Mycelium Bricks
- In the face of **climate change**, the construction industry is seeking **low-carbon alternatives**, and **mycelium bricks** have emerged as a promising innovation.
- **Mycelium Bricks:** Created from **fungus spores**, husk, and sawdust, **mycelium bricks form a lightweight, fibrous structure** with a low environmental impact compared to traditional fired clay bricks. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Unlike traditional fired clay bricks, which emit nearly 300 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, mycelium bricks have a low carbon footprint. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ They are **biodegradable, fire-resistant, lightweight, and good heat insulators**, making them suitable for interior panelling, filters, and electronics. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ Potential applications include interior panelling, liquid filters, sports equipment, and electronic components.

6. (B)

Exp:

- Mangroves are coastal ecosystems that thrive in **tropical and subtropical regions**. They are **dense forests of salt-tolerant trees** and shrubs that thrive in **intertidal zones, where land meets the sea.**
- **Conditions Essential for the Growth of Mangrove Forests:**
  - ◆ **High Salinity:** Mangroves are salt-tolerant (halophytic) plants with adaptations like salt-excreting leaves (Avicennia) and salt-filtering roots (Rhizophora).
  - ◆ **Warm Climate:** They thrive in tropical and subtropical regions (25°N–25°S) with no prolonged frost or cold temperatures.
  - ◆ **Low-Oxygen Muddy Soil:** Mangroves grow in oxygen-deficient, waterlogged soils and develop aerial roots (pneumatophores) for respiration.
  - ◆ **Tidal Influence:** Regular tidal inundation provides nutrients, aids seed dispersal, and removes waste, ensuring healthy growth.
  - ◆ **Sheltered Coastlines:** They prefer calm estuaries, deltas, and lagoons with low to moderate wave action to prevent uprooting.
  - ◆ **Sediment Deposition:** Nutrient-rich silt from river deltas supports mangrove growth and helps in coastal stabilization.
  - ◆ **Freshwater Inflow:** A balanced mix of freshwater and seawater maintains optimal salinity, crucial for mangrove survival.

- Mangroves thrive in **low wave energy environments** because **high wave action can damage their delicate root systems and structures**, leading to **erosion and hindering** their ability to establish and grow.

- Hence, **Option B is correct**

7. (D)

Exp:

- **Lothal (Indus Valley Civilization):** Located in present-day Gujarat, Lothal had a well-planned **dockyard** and was a major trade center, exporting **beads, gemstones, and cotton textiles** to Mesopotamian cities like Ur and Sumer.
- **Muziris (Ancient Roman Trade):** Situated in present-day Kerala, Muziris was a thriving port that exported **spices (black pepper), ivory, pearls, and precious stones** to the **Roman Empire**. Roman coins and amphorae found in Kerala confirm this extensive trade.
- **Masulipatnam (Medieval and Early Modern Period):** A major port in Andhra Pradesh, Masulipatnam became a

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European textile trade center in the **17th century**, with the British and Dutch exporting **Muslin and Kalamkari fabrics** to European markets.

- Hence, option D is correct

8. (D)

Exp:

- The **activated sludge process (ASP)** is a widely used biological wastewater treatment method that utilizes **microorganisms to break down organic matter in wastewater**, effectively removing pollutants and producing a treated effluent.
- **Trickling filters** are a biological wastewater treatment method where **microorganisms attached to a fixed bed of material**, like rocks or plastic, oxidize organic matter in wastewater as it trickles over them.
- **Reverse osmosis** is a membrane treatment process primarily used to separate dissolved solutes from water. Reverse osmosis is most commonly known for its use in drinking water purification, particularly with regard to removing salt and other effluent materials from water molecules.
- **Bioremediation** is a process that uses microorganisms (like bacteria and fungi) or plants to break down, remove, or detoxify pollutants from soil, water, and air, offering an environmentally friendly approach to cleaning up contaminated sites.
- Hence, Option D is correct.

9. (B)

Exp:

- *Uniyala keralensis* is a **newly identified plant species** belonging to the genus *Uniyala*. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - ◆ It is a **dense shrub with light purple flowers**, and it is endemic to southwest India, found in **Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve** at 700-1,400m elevation.
- Its **IUCN status of *Uniyala keralensis* is Data Deficient (DD)** due to limited information about its population and threats. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

10. (D)

Exp:

- Zero tillage farming is a technique for **growing crops without disturbing the soil through tillage**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- By **leaving the soil undisturbed**, zero tillage **conserves soil moisture and reduces erosion**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Other Benefits of No-Till Farming:**
  - ◆ **Improved Soil Health:** Enhances soil structure, water infiltration, and carbon sequestration, promoting healthier soil.

- ◆ **Water Conservation:** Improves water infiltration and reduces evaporation, increasing water use efficiency.
- ◆ **Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Lowers nitrous oxide emissions and helps sequester carbon, mitigating climate change.

- Zero tillage farming generally **requires less labor compared to conventional farming methods**, as it **reduces the need for fuel-intensive plowing and other tillage operations**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Zero tillage is particularly beneficial in dryland areas where water is a limiting factor, as it improves water retention and infiltration. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.

11. (C)

Exp:

- **Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy** is a cancer treatment that uses **genetically modified T cells to attack cancer cells**. It's a type of **immunotherapy** and **cell-based gene therapy**.
- **CAR T-cell therapy** is an advanced cancer treatment where a patient's own T cells (a type of white blood cell) are modified in a lab to better recognize and target cancer cells. Scientists add a lab-made gene to the T cells, creating **Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CARs)**, which help the T cells identify specific antigens on cancer cells. Once reintroduced into the bloodstream, these modified CAR T cells multiply and actively destroy cancer cells, providing long-term cancer-fighting effects. This process makes CAR T-cell therapy a "living drug" for treating certain cancers. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **CAR T-cell therapy** carries risks such as **Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)** and **Immune Effector Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome (ICANS)**.
  - ◆ CRS is an inflammatory response causing symptoms like fever and organ failure, while ICANS affects the nervous system, leading to confusion and seizures. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

12. (B)

Exp:

- **Remittances** refer to the money that migrants send back to their home country, typically to support their families.
- The **Balance of Payments (BoP)** is a comprehensive record of all economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world over a specific period, usually a year or a quarter.
- **BoP** consists of the **Current Account** and **Capital Account**.
  - ◆ The **Current Account** includes the **trade of goods** (exports and imports) and **trade of services (invisibles)** like IT, tourism, and **remittances**, which help offset trade deficits.

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- ◆ The **Capital Account** captures foreign investments (**FDI, FII**), commercial borrowings, banking flows, and loans, crucial for economic stability. Together, these components determine India's external economic position.
- The **Financial Account** is a component of the **BoP** that records all transactions related to financial assets and liabilities between a country and the rest of the world. It reflects how a nation finances its current account deficit or utilizes its surplus.
- The **Trade Account**, also known as the **Balance of Trade (BoT)**, is a part of the **Current Account** in the BoP. It measures the difference between a country's **exports and imports of goods** over a period.
- Hence, option B is correct

13. (C)

Exp:

- **Polarization** is a phenomenon where the vibrations of a wave are confined to a specific direction, perpendicular to its propagation.
  - ◆ It occurs only in **transverse waves**, as their **oscillations are perpendicular to the direction of travel**. The ability of light to undergo polarization serves as **direct evidence of its transverse nature**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ In contrast, **longitudinal waves**, like sound, have oscillations parallel to their propagation and **cannot be polarized**.
- **Diffraction** is the **bending and spreading of waves** when they encounter an **obstacle or pass through a narrow opening**.
  - ◆ It occurs as **secondary wavelets spread into shadow regions**, creating an **interference pattern**, which confirms the wave nature of light.

- ◆ Examples include the formation of patterns when light passes through a narrow slit and the ability to hear sound around corners due to the **diffraction of sound waves**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

14. (C)

Exp:

Yemen:

- It is located in the Middle East at the **southern tip** of the Arabian Peninsula. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It shares borders with **Saudi Arabia to the north** and Oman to the east. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Its coastline stretches along the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea, and the Guardafui Channel to the south. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
  - ◆ The **Bab el-Mandeb Strait**, between **Djibouti and Yemen**, is a **key maritime chokepoint** connecting the **Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea** via the **Red Sea and Suez Canal**, crucial for global trade.
- The US has intensified airstrikes on Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen to counter their missile and drone attacks in the **Red Sea**, citing threats to global shipping routes.



15. (A)

Exp:

mBridge Project:

- The **mBridge Project** is a **multi-central bank digital currency (CBDC) initiative** led by the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Innovation Hub**, involving **China, Thailand, UAE, and Hong Kong**.
- It aims to **enhance cross-border payments** using **blockchain technology**, ensuring **faster, cost-effective, and secure transactions**, reducing reliance on traditional financial intermediaries.
- Hence, option A is correct.

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16. (A)

Exp:

- The **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023** introduced under the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022**, replaces the **Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme** to establish the **Indian Carbon Market (ICM)**, aligning with **India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Transition from PAT to CCTS:** The **PAT scheme** focused on **energy efficiency improvements** in energy-intensive industries through **Energy Saving Certificates (ESCs)**.
  - ◆ CCTS replaces PAT, shifting the focus from **energy efficiency to reducing GHG emission intensity**, monitoring **emissions per tonne of GHG equivalent**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - It issues **Carbon Credit Certificates (CCC)**, each representing a **one-tonne CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) reduction**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

17. (A)

Exp:

- **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs):**
  - ◆ **About:** ASHAs are **community health volunteers** introduced under the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), 2005** to provide essential healthcare services in rural areas. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - In 2013, the NRHM merged with the **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)** to form the **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
  - ASHAs work alongside **Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)** under the **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)** to improve healthcare accessibility. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - An ASHA is a local woman (age 25-45 years), preferably married, widowed, or divorced, with **at least Class 10 education**. NHM considers them volunteers, limiting their earnings to task-based incentives.
- ASHAs serve **one per 1,000 people**, with 9.2 lakh in rural and 79,900 in urban areas (2022-23).
  - ◆ **Key Responsibilities of ASHAs:** Ensure **antenatal check-ups, and postnatal care**, while educating mothers on **breastfeeding and infant nutrition**.
  - ASHAs support **immunization, tuberculosis (TB) treatment, malaria screenings, and disease prevention**. Additionally, they provide **basic healthcare, essential medicines, first aid, and report births and deaths**.

18. (B)

Exp:

- Indian Navy's **INS Ranvir** and Bangladesh Navy's **BNS Abu Ubaidah** conducted the **Bongosagar 2025 Naval Exercise** in the Bay of Bengal, enhancing operational coordination, maritime security, and regional stability under **India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **INS Ranvir:** It is the fourth of five **Rajput-class Guided Missile Destroyers**, commissioned in 1986. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **India-Bangladesh Exercises:** Army (**Exercise Sampriti**) and Navy (**Exercise Bongo Sagar, and Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)**).

19. (A)

Exp:

- **Jalanatheswarar Temple** was originally built in 876 AD by **Pallava King Aparajitha Varman**, while the 3-tiered Rajagopuram was added in 1543 AD by Vijayanagara King **Veera Prathaba Sadasiva Maharayar**.
- It is situated on the **banks of Kosasthalai river**. It holds the inscriptions and records from **Pallava king Aparajitha and Chola King Aditya I**, detailing grants of land, gold, and goats.
- The temple showcases **Dravidian-style of architecture**, similar to the **Brihadeeswarar Temple** in Thanjavur and the **Meenakshi Temple** in Madurai.
- The temple is one of the 275 **Paadal Petra Sthalams**, glorified in the **Tevaram hymns** by **Tamil Saivite Nayanar Sambandar**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

20. (B)

Exp:

- **Gulf of Oman**
  - ◆ It is a western extension of the **Arabian Sea**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ It connects the **Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
  - ◆ Its bordering Countries: It borders **Iran (north), UAE (west), and Oman (south)**. **China, Iran, and Russia** held the **Maritime Security Belt 2025** naval drills in the Gulf of Oman, near the **Strait of Hormuz**, amid tensions over Iran's nuclear program. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

21. (C)

Exp:

- India has become the **4<sup>th</sup> country**, after the **US, Russia, and China** to demonstrate **space docking and undocking capabilities**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- **ISRO autonomously undocked two satellites i.e., SDX01 (the Chaser) and SDX02 (the Target)** in space, reinforcing India's ability to conduct complex orbital maneuvers essential for future space missions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Space undocking** refers to the process of separating a spacecraft from a space station or another spacecraft.
  - ◆ It is crucial for **India's planned Bhartiya Antriksh Station (by 2035) and human mission to the Moon (by 2040)**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
    - Chandrayaan-4, which will bring back lunar soil and rock samples, will rely on this technology.

22. (A)

Exp:

**Five Eyes Alliance:**

- The **Five Eyes** is an **intelligence-sharing alliance** comprising **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- **Formation and Evolution:** Originating during **World War II**, the alliance emerged from **UK-US cooperation** in deciphering **German and Japanese codes**.
  - ◆ This alliance is based on a **series of secret agreements**, primarily the **UKUSA Agreement (1946)**, which facilitates extensive **surveillance, intelligence collection, and data sharing** among member countries.
- **Scope of Operations:**
  - ◆ **Interception, collection, analysis, and decryption** of global communications.
  - ◆ **Automatic intelligence-sharing** among the five countries.
  - ◆ **Integrated programs, staff, bases, and analytical processes** for global surveillance.
- Hence, option A is correct.

23. (C)

Exp:

**Neuroscience of Addiction:**

- **Role of Brain in Addiction:** The study highlights **3 key brain regions** involved in addiction i.e., **basal ganglia, extended amygdala, and prefrontal cortex**.
- **Basal Ganglia:** It teaches the brain to **repeat pleasurable activities**, whether from food, social interaction, or addictive substances. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It works with neurotransmitters like **dopamine and serotonin** to **reinforce pleasurable behaviors**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Extended Amygdala:** It triggers **anxiety, irritability, and unease** when substance use stops, pushing **continued use** despite harm.

- **Prefrontal Cortex:** It explains why **substance use continues** despite knowing its harmful effects, a key trait of addiction.
  - ◆ The prefrontal cortex, which handles decision-making, time management, and prioritization, **completes the triad**.

24. (A)

Exp:

- **Navayana (New Vehicle) Buddhism**, founded by B.R. Ambedkar in 1956, is a reinterpretation of Buddhism that **emphasizes social equality and class struggle over traditional spiritual doctrines**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It rejects core Buddhist doctrines like **Four Noble Truths, karma, rebirth, nirvana, and monasticism**, considering them pessimistic and irrelevant to social justice. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Mass conversions of Dalits to Navayana began in 1956, with **14<sup>th</sup> October** marked as **Dharmachakra Pravartan Day**.

25. (A)

Exp:

- **Armenia and Azerbaijan** have finalized the text of a peace agreement, marking a significant step towards ending hostilities over the **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**.
- During the Soviet era, Nagorno-Karabakh was an autonomous region in muslim dominated Azerbaijan, but it's **Armenian population (Christian)** sought unification with Armenia.
  - ◆ As the USSR collapsed, tensions escalated into war (1988–1994).
- The 1994 ceasefire left Nagorno-Karabakh under Armenian-backed control (but internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan).
- Hence, option A is correct.

26. (B)

Exp:

**Melioidosis:**

- A recent study highlights how **climate conditions**, particularly **monsoon-related factors**, influence the spread of **melioidosis**.
- It is a **bacterial infectious disease**, linked to **rainfall, temperature, and humidity**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ It is caused by **Burkholderia pseudomallei** and primarily **acquired by inoculation, inhalation, and/or ingestion** of soil- and water-dwelling environmental **saprophytes**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **South Asia** (endemic to **Bangladesh and Sri Lanka**), including **India**, accounts for **44%** of global melioidosis cases, with **Odisha** as a **hotspot** due to its agriculture and extreme weather. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

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- ◆ It is primarily found in **Northern Australia and Southeast Asia**.

- Symptoms range from **mild skin infections to severe pneumonia and sepsis**, with a fatality rate of up to **50% in septic cases**.

- ◆ It is **not transmitted from animals to humans**, and **human-to-human transmission is rare**.

27. (C)

Exp:

Menhirs:

- Menhirs are **large, upright stones, often tapered at the top**, erected by humans. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Mudumal's menhirs are India's oldest menhirs**, dating back 3,500–4,000 BP, and are located near the banks of the Krishna River. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ BP is a time scale counting years before 1950 CE.
- The **Mudumal megalithic menhirs** in Telangana's Narayanpet district have been added to **UNESCO's tentative list for World Heritage Sites in 2025**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- A **megalith** is a large stone used in **prehistoric structures**, serving as either a **burial site or a commemorative monument**.
  - ◆ The Mudumal Menhir site is a **well-preserved megalithic burial site**.

28. (B)

Exp:

- A **notifiable disease** is one that **must be legally reported** to government authorities by **healthcare providers** for real-time epidemiological tracking, resource allocation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897** governs the notification and regulation of **epidemic disease** (rapid spread of disease to a large number) reporting.
- Infectious diseases like **tuberculosis, malaria, and Covid-19** are **typically notifiable** due to their potential to spread. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

29. (B)

Exp:

- It is the government's process of **selling its stake in Public sector Enterprises (PSEs)** to raise funds, reduce fiscal burden, and boost private participation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Disinvestment methods include **Initial Public Offer** for unlisted companies, **Further Public Offer** for listed ones, **Offer for Sale** for quick stake dilution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The disinvestment process is conducted by the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management** under the Ministry of Finance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

30. (C)

Exp:

**Opening Doors to India Policy:**

- Both India and New Zealand agreed to initiate negotiations for a **balanced, ambitious, and mutually beneficial trade agreement** under New Zealand's "**Opening Doors to India**" policy.
- New Zealand designated **India as a priority country** in this policy, first introduced in **October 2011** and reaffirmed in **2015**.
- Additionally, in **2011**, New Zealand launched the **NZ Inc. India Strategy**, aimed at strengthening **trade, economic, and political ties** with India.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

31. (A)

Exp:

**Exercise Varuna-2025:**

- The **Indian and French navies** are set to commence the **23<sup>rd</sup>** edition of the annual bilateral naval exercise, **Varuna-2025**, in the **Arabian Sea**.
- It will include aircraft carriers **INS Vikrant (India)** and **Charles de Gaulle (France)**, along with **fighter aircraft, destroyers, frigates, and an Indian Scorpene-class submarine**.
- It was first held in **2001** and aims to enhance **interoperability and operational synergy**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

32. (C)

Exp:

- **Killifish:**
  - ◆ A new species of killifish (*Nothobranchius sylvaticus*), has been discovered in **Kenya's Gongoni Forest (7.09 million years old)**. It is the **first known endemic forest-dwelling killifish**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is **endemic to Kenya** and is classified as **Critically Endangered (IUCN)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Killifish are **small, egg-laying (oviparous) fish** belonging to the **Cyprinodontiformes** order, commonly known as **toothcarps**.
- **Habitat:**
  - ◆ Killifish inhabit **freshwater and brackish waters** across the **Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia**, with some species thriving in **ephemeral (seasonal) water bodies** like swamps and temporary pools.
- **Adaptability:**
  - ◆ They **adapt to extreme environments**, tolerate **high salinity and low oxygen**, and serve as **model organisms** in aging and genetics research.

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33. (A)

Exp:

Kenya:

- Kenya (an equatorial and East African nation) shares its borders with **South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, and the Indian Ocean**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Dadaab Refugee Complex** is one of the largest camps, sheltering refugees from Somalia's civil war.
- **Major Lakes:** Lake Turkana, Lake Victoria (shared by Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda), etc.
- India is sourcing **20 cheetahs from Kenya** for **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** (Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan) to aid population revival. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

34. (C)

Exp:

- The **State of Global Climate Report** is an annual publication released by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.
- It is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations whose mandate covers **weather, climate and water resources**.
- According to the **State of Global Climate report 2024**, global warming is nearing the **1.5°C Paris Agreement** threshold.
- Hence, option C is correct.

35. (B)

Exp:

- Crew Dragon is one of the two variants of **SpaceX's Dragon 2 spacecraft**, featuring a reusable capsule and launching atop a **Falcon 9 rocket**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - ◆ Hayabusa2, a spacecraft developed by the JAXA, is an asteroid sample-return mission that explored the asteroid Ryugu.
- **NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 mission** returned Williams and Wilmore from the International Space Station (ISS) aboard the Crew Dragon spacecraft named **Freedom**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

36. (A)

Exp:

- **Birefringence** is the **optical property** of certain materials where incident light splits into **2 rays**, each traveling at different speeds due to **varying refractive indices** in different directions.
  - ◆ It arises due to the **anisotropic nature** of materials.
- The **refractive index** is the ratio of the **speed of light in a vacuum to its speed in a medium**.
  - ◆ A **vacuum** has a **refractive index of 1**. A **higher refractive index** indicates **greater optical density** and **slower light speed**.
- **Types of Birefringent Materials:**
  - ◆ **Natural:** Calcite, quartz, mica
  - ◆ **Synthetic:** Barium borate, lithium niobate
  - ◆ **Induced:** Can be created by applying physical stress, electric, or magnetic fields
- Hence, option A is correct.

37. (C)

Exp:

- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission** was launched in 2014 for the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds.
  - ◆ The mission continues as part of the Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojna for the period 2021 to 2026 with a budget outlay of Rs. 2400 crore.
- **Key Initiatives Under RGM:**
  - ◆ **Gokul Grams:** For the **promotion and conservation of indigenous breeds**.
  - ◆ **Awards for Farmers:** **Gopal Ratna Award** and **Kamdhenu Award** to recognize exemplary management of indigenous cattle and herds.
  - ◆ **National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre:** A center for scientific conservation and development of indigenous breeds. It functions as a national repository of germplasm (genetic material) of Indigenous Breeds of the country
  - ◆ **E-Pashu Haat – Nakul Prajnan Bazaar:** An e-market portal connecting breeders and farmers.
  - ◆ **National Bovine Genomic Center:** A center for **genomic enhancement to select high-merit bulls using gene-based technology**
- Therefore, all three are key initiatives under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

38. (A)

Exp:

- **UNCAT** is an **international human rights treaty** to prevent **torture** and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment worldwide.

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- **Article 1** of UNCAT defines torture as the **intentional infliction of severe physical or mental pain** for purposes like obtaining information, punishment, or intimidation, with **involvement or consent** of a public official. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Under UNCAT, states must **criminalize torture** through domestic laws (**Article 4**) and ensure redress and **compensation for victims (Article 14)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- India **signed** UNCAT in **1997** but has **not ratified it yet**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

39. (C)

Exp:

- **World Consumer Rights Day:**
  - ◆ Instituted on **15<sup>th</sup> March 1983**, the day (15<sup>th</sup> March) commemorates **President John F. Kennedy's 1962 address to the US Congress**, where he became the **first global leader to formally recognize consumer rights**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** celebrated the **World Consumer Rights Day** with the theme **"A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles."**
  - ◆ India celebrates **24<sup>th</sup> December** as **National Consumer Day** every year, and the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** provides comprehensive legislation to strengthen consumer rights. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

40. (A)

Exp:

- Sonic Weapons are devices that deliver **highly concentrated, amplified sound** over long distances usually for crowd control. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- In **2004**, the **United States first used** such special devices to project loud sounds over long distances in **Iraq**.
- It is of **3 types**:
  - ◆ **Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD):** Produces sound up to **160 decibels (dB)** causing **ringing ears (tinnitus)**, **hearing damage**, and other health issues.
    - A **jet engine** during takeoff produces **130-140 dB**, and a **gunshot** around **150 dB**. Sounds **above 120 dB** can cause **permanent hearing damage**.
  - ◆ **Mosquito Device:** Emits **high-pitched sounds** painful only to younger people (under 30). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **Infrasonic Weapon:** Delivers **low-frequency, inaudible sounds** causing pain and disorientation. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

41. (A)

Exp:

**Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary:**

- It is situated in the **Ramadevara Betta Hill Range** in **Ramanagara, Karnataka**.
- It is **India's first and only vulture sanctuary** established in 2012 and notified **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)** in 2017 to safeguard endangered vulture species. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Among the 9 vulture species in India, **3 are found here**- the **Indian Long-Billed Vulture**, **Egyptian Vulture**, and **White-Backed Vulture**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- The rare sighting of the **Indian Long-Billed Vulture** (Indian Vulture) at **Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary** underscores the success of **protected area-based conservation efforts**.
- **Indian Long-Billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*):**
  - It is a **medium-sized, bulky scavenger** native to **Asia** (India, Pakistan, and Nepal), primarily feeding on animal carcasses, **with females being smaller than males**.
  - They prefer **savannas, open landscapes near villages, cities, and cultivated areas**.
  - **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered.

42. (D)

Exp:

**Natural Farming:**

- Natural Farming (NF) is a **chemical-free, traditional farming method** that integrates crops, trees, and livestock with functional biodiversity.
- It emphasizes **minimal human intervention**, earning it the name **"do-nothing farming."**
- **Unlike organic farming**, which allows external organic inputs, natural farming relies solely on on-farm inputs. E.g., mulching, crop diversity, and bio-inputs.
- Hence, **option D is correct.**

43. (D)

Exp:

- **Raisina Dialogue** launched in 2016 by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), it is named after **Raisina Hills in New Delhi**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Raisina Dialogue** is India's premier **geopolitics and geo-economics conference**, organized annually by the MEA in collaboration with the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**. It is comparable to the **Munich Security Conference** (Germany) and **Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

44 (B)

Exp:

- The flow of energy and nutrients in an ecosystem is **unidirectional**, meaning it moves in one direction- from

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the sun to **producers (plants)** and then to consumers at different trophic levels.

- ◆ Once used, energy is **lost as heat and does not return to the system**.
- ◆ In contrast, **nutrient cycling is a continuous process**, as essential elements like **carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus are recycled** through **biogeochemical cycles**, ensuring their availability for organisms over time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the **10% Law of Energy Transfer** proposed by **Lindeman**, only **10% of energy is transferred to the next trophic level**, while **90% of the energy is lost** as heat, respiration, and other metabolic activities at each step. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ This limits the number of trophic levels in a food chain, as energy diminishes with each transfer.

**45. (D)**

**Exp:**

- 5G operates at higher frequencies than 4G, using a **wider spectrum**, including **millimeter-wave frequencies (24 GHz – 100 GHz)**. This enables **faster data speeds** but comes with a **shorter range**, requiring **more base stations and small cells** to maintain coverage. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 5G technology enables **ultra-low latency (~1 milliseconds)**, making it essential for applications like **autonomous vehicles, remote surgery, and IoT**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ In contrast, **4G latency is around 30-50 ms**, making 5G significantly faster in real-time communications.
- ◆ **Latency** refers to the **time delay** between sending and receiving data over a network. It is measured in **milliseconds (ms)**.
- **Beamforming** is a technology used in **5G networks** to **enhance signal efficiency and reduce interference**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ **Beamforming** is a **signal processing technique** that directs **wireless signals toward specific users or devices** instead of broadcasting them in all directions.
- ◆ It uses **advanced antenna arrays** to precisely **direct signals**, reducing **interference**, enhancing **efficiency**, and improving **network capacity**, especially in **high-density urban areas**.

**46. (A)**

**Exp:**

- **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** is a mixture of hydrocarbons, mainly **butane (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>)** and **propane (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>)**. It is used for **cooking, heating, and vehicle fuel**.

- **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)** consists mainly of **methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)**, which is the cleanest-burning hydrocarbon. It is used as an **alternative fuel for vehicles** due to its lower emissions.
- **Biogas** is produced from **anaerobic digestion** of organic waste. It contains **methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)** and **carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** in significant amounts. It is used for **electricity generation, cooking, and heating**.
- **Producer gas** is obtained by the **partial combustion of coal, wood, or biomass** in limited oxygen. It consists mainly of **hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>)** and **carbon monoxide (CO)**. It is used in industrial furnaces and as a fuel for power generation.

- Hence, option A is correct

**47. (B)**

**Exp:**

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is an **instant real-time payment system** developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to facilitate **inter-bank transactions through mobile phones**.
- The **UPI AutoPay** feature enables users to set up **recurring payments** for services like **utility bills, OTT subscriptions, and loan EMI repayments**.
- Once authorized initially, payments occur automatically without requiring UPI PIN input each time (unless exceeding the RBI-defined limit for mandates).
- Hence, option B is correct

**48. (A)**

**Exp:**

- **Stamp duty on bills of exchange** is levied by the **Union government but collected and appropriated by the concerned State governments** as per **Article 268** of the Indian Constitution.
- In India, **taxes on the sale or purchase of newspapers**, and on advertisements published therein, are **levied and collected by the Union government**, but the net proceeds are assigned to the States as per **Article 269** of the Indian Constitution.
- Hence, option A is correct

**49. (A)**

**Exp:**

- The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** is a parliamentary committee responsible for **auditing the revenue and expenditure of the Government of India** to ensure financial accountability. It comprises **22 members** (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha), elected annually. The **Lok Sabha Speaker appoints the Chairperson**, and **ministers are ineligible**.
- ◆ PAC examines the **appropriation accounts and audit reports** submitted by the **CAG** after its presentation in

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Parliament and ensures that government spending aligns with approved allocations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The **Estimates Committee** is a **30-membered Lok Sabha committee**, elected annually, that examines government expenditure and budget estimates to ensure **economy, efficiency, and administrative improvements** in financial management.

◆ It is the largest Parliamentary Committee but is **not the only one chaired by the Speaker**. The **Business Advisory Committee** and the **Rules Committee** of the Lok Sabha are also chaired by the Speaker. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

50. (B)

Exp:

- The **human circulatory system** (cardiovascular system) is a network of **organs and blood vessels** responsible for pumping blood throughout the body. It delivers **oxygen and nutrients** to tissues while **removing waste products**, ensuring proper bodily function.
- Blood vessels form a network for blood circulation and include **arteries, veins, and capillaries**.
- Arteries generally carry oxygenated blood from the heart to various body parts. However, the **pulmonary artery** is an exception as it carries **deoxygenated blood** from the heart to the lungs for oxygenation. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Unlike other veins, the **pulmonary vein** carries **oxygenated blood** from the lungs to the left atrium of the heart. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Veins transport blood **toward the heart** and have **valves** to ensure unidirectional blood flow. These valves prevent the backflow of blood, especially in the lower extremities, where gravity can cause pooling. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

51. (C)

Exp:

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** refers to the **average number of children** a woman is expected to have during her reproductive years.
  - ◆ The **replacement level fertility** (2.1) is the rate at which a population replaces itself without migration.
  - ◆ As per recent **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** (2019-21) data, TFR has declined to **2.0 children per woman**, i.e. below 2.1, indicating a **demographic transition** toward population stabilization. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **National Population Policy (NPP), 2000** seeks to **achieve population stabilization** by 2045 in line with

**socio-economic development and sustainable growth**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ NPP 2000 focuses on **reducing infant and maternal mortality rates**, increasing **contraceptive prevalence**, and improving **reproductive health services**.

52. (A)

Exp:

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by the **bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis***, not a virus. It primarily affects the lungs (**pulmonary TB**) but can also impact other organs (**extrapulmonary TB**). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The **BCG vaccine** is given as an **intradermal injection**, not orally. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The **National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)** aims to eliminate TB in India by **2025**, five years ahead of the **global target of 2030** under the **WHO End TB Strategy**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
  - ◆ The program focuses on **early detection, free treatment, and community engagement** to combat TB.

53. (B)

Exp:

- **Blockchain** is a **decentralized and distributed ledger** technology, not a centralized database. It ensures secure and **tamper-proof transactions** using **cryptographic techniques** and **consensus mechanisms** (like Proof of Work or Proof of Stake). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **Smart contracts** are **self-executing programs** stored on a **blockchain** that trigger actions when **predefined conditions** are fulfilled. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ They eliminate the need for intermediaries, enhancing **transparency and efficiency** in transactions. Example: Ethereum uses smart contracts for **decentralized applications (DApps)**.
- **Public blockchains** (e.g., Bitcoin, Ethereum) are **permissionless**, meaning **anyone** can participate in transaction validation (mining/staking) without requiring approval. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
  - ◆ **Permissioned blockchains**, on the other hand, restrict access to **authorized participants only** (e.g., Hyperledger Fabric used in enterprise applications).

54. (C)

Exp:

- The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)** has launched the '**Samarth**' Incubation Program to foster innovation in **Telecom and IT sectors** by **startup collaboration and attracting investments**. It is implemented in partnership with **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** under MeitY. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- **Samarth Program:** It aims to support DPIIT- recognized startups developing next-generation technologies in Telecom Software, Cyber Security, 5G/6G, AI, IoT, and Quantum Technologies. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ It will provide sustainable and scalable business models, cutting-edge resources, and facilitate startup growth from ideation to commercialization.

55. (D)

Exp:

- **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):**
  - ◆ IOD, sometimes referred to as the **Indian Nino**, is similar to the **El Nino phenomenon**, occurring in the relatively smaller area of the Indian Ocean between the Indonesian and Malaysian coastline in the east and the African coastline near Somalia in the west. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
    - The El Nino is the warmer-than-normal phase of the **El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon**, during which there are generally warmer temperatures and less rainfall than normal in many regions of the world, including India.
  - ◆ One side of the ocean, along the equator, gets warmer than the other.
  - ◆ IOD is said to be positive when the western side of the Indian Ocean, near the **Somalia coast**, becomes warmer than the eastern Indian Ocean.
    - It is negative when the **western Indian Ocean** is cooler. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

56. (D)

Exp:

- **Moran Community:**
  - ◆ It is recognized as an **indigenous tribe** of Assam, with a small population also residing in **Arunachal Pradesh**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ They are **Vaishnava** by religion and belong to the **Moamoria Sect**. **Sri Aniruddha Deva** (1553–1624), a disciple of Sri Sankara Deva, introduced them to **Neo-Vaishnavism in Assam**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ The Assam government has decided to grant **Permanent Residence Certificates (PRCs)** to members of the **Moran community** living in **Arunachal Pradesh**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

57. (C)

Exp:

- The **Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford** in partnership with **Gallup**, the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)** has published the **World Happiness Report (WHR) 2025** on World Happiness Day (20<sup>th</sup> March). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- **Key Highlights of WHR 2025**

- ◆ **Happiest Countries:** Finland (8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year), followed by Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden.
- ◆ **India's Ranking:** 118<sup>th</sup> (2025), 126<sup>th</sup> in 2024. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

58. (C)

Exp:

- **Photo-Assisted, self-charging energy storage devices** are advanced **energy storage systems** (batteries) that **integrate solar energy conversion** with **self-recharging capabilities** using atmospheric oxygen. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Photo-assisted batteries** are batteries that combine **solar energy capture with storage**, enabling **direct energy conversion and retention**, but **require external charging** due to incomplete energy storage, low-light dependence, and limited charge retention. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

59. (D)

Exp:

- The **Greyhounds** is a **specialized anti-Maoist force** established in 1989 by IPS officer K.S. Vyas to counter the rising Maoist insurgency in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **Bandyopadhyay Committee** (2006) was **constituted to review and recommend measures for LWE-affected regions**.
  - ◆ It recommended tribal-friendly policies for land acquisition and rehabilitation to address these issues.
- Hence, option D is correct.

60. (C)

Exp:

- **Bhagat Singh** belonged to a transitional generation between the **Extremist phase (Lal-Bal-Pal)** and the Gandhian phase of India's national movement.
- In 1924, he joined the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**, started by **Sachindranath Sanyal**, where he became closely associated with Chandra Shekhar Azad and adopted revolutionary ideals.
- Later, in 1925, he **founded Naujawan Bharat Sabha**, a militant youth organization in Lahore, aiming to mobilize young Indians against British rule.
- In 1926, he **connected with Sohan Singh Josh** and **joined the editorial board of Kirti**, the publication of the Kirti Kisan Party, deepening his commitment to socialist ideals.
- Over time, he became a prominent figure in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) and played a leading role in the **Lahore Conspiracy Case (1929)** and the **Central Legislative Assembly bombing (1929)**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

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61. (B)

Exp:

Lapis lazuli:

- **Lapis lazuli**, a **metamorphic rock and semi-precious gemstone** known for its deep blue color symbolizes wealth, power, and status across ancient civilizations.
- The intense blue color comes from **lazurite** (25-40%), influenced by sulphur content.
  - ◆ The presence of **calcite** reduces blueness, while **pyrites** add a golden shimmer.
- Though found in multiple countries like Chile, Russia, and the US, but the finest lapis lazuli comes from **Afghanistan's Badakhshan province**, where it has been mined for over 6,000 years.
- Traders in India imported lapis lazuli from Badakhshan as early as **1000 BC**, with ornamental pieces found in **Indus Valley sites** like **Mohenjo-daro and Harappa**.
- Ancient Egyptians used it for jewelry and cosmetics, while **Renaissance artists** ground it into ultramarine pigment for paintings.
- Hence, option B is correct.

62. (C)

Exp:

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

- IORA is an **intergovernmental organisation** established to promote economic cooperation and regional integration among countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- IORA's apex body is the **Council of Foreign Ministers (COM)** which meets annually. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **All sovereign States** of the Indian Ocean Rim are eligible for membership of the Association. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

63. (C)

Exp:

- **Article 222** of Indian Constitution empowers the President, based on the recommendation of the CJI, to transfer a judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to another. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Consent of the judge is not required**, whether it is the first or a subsequent transfer. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** initiates the transfer proposal and his opinion is determinative. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

64. (C)

Exp:

- The **UNCED**, also known as the '**Earth Summit**', was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992.
  - ◆ This global conference was held on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Human Environment Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972.

- The primary objective of the Rio 'Earth Summit' was to produce a broad agenda and a new blueprint for international action on environmental and development issues.
- The results of the Conference were the following documents:
  - ◆ The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - ◆ The Convention on Biological Diversity
  - ◆ The Statement on Forest Principles
  - ◆ The Rio Declaration
  - ◆ Agenda 21
- Therefore all three, **The Convention on Biological Diversity (1), The Statement on Forest Principles (2) and Agenda 21 (2) were the part of Earth Summit 1992**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

65. (B)

Exp:

- India's rich biodiversity is under constant threat, with several species facing the risk of extinction.
- Of the species listed, **Hangul (1) and Malabar Civet (4)** are classified as **Critically Endangered (CR)** under the IUCN Red List, **while the Brow-Antlered Deer (2) and Arabian Sea Humpback Whale (3)** are categorized as **Endangered (EN)**.
- The Species Recovery Programme, under the Development of Wildlife Habitat component, focuses on conserving both keystone and lesser-known species, including critically endangered ones like the Great Indian Bustard, Jerdon's Courser, Hangul, Malabar Civet.
- Hence, option B is correct.

66. (B)

Exp:

Equalisation Levy (Digital services tax):

- **Equalisation Levy**, introduced in **2016**, is a **direct tax** imposed on **foreign digital service providers** to tax income generated from **digital transactions** in India.
- It aims to ensure **fair taxation** of **digital businesses** that do **not have a physical presence in India**, aligning with the **BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) Action Plan** to curb tax avoidance.
- It is deducted at the time of payment by the **service recipient** if:
  - ◆ The **payment** is made to a **non-resident** service provider.
  - ◆ The **annual payment** to a single provider **exceeds Rs. 1,00,000** in a financial year.

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- The **Equalisation Levy** initially applied to **online ads (6%)** and was expanded in **2020** to cover **digital services and e-commerce (2%)**, with the latter **abolished in August 2024**.
- It does not apply if the **non-resident has a permanent office in India**, **payments are below Rs 1 lakh**, or the income is **covered under Section 10(50)** to prevent double taxation.
  - ◆ Income taxed as **royalties or fees for technical services** is excluded.
- The **Union Government** has proposed **abolishing the Equalisation Levy** which will benefit advertisers on digital platforms like Google, X (formerly Twitter), and Meta by **reducing tax burdens**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

67. (C)

Exp:

- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was celebrated as the **first World Day for Glaciers**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- World Water Development (WWD) Report 2025 was released by the **United Nations (UN)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- As per the WWD Report, 2025:
  - ◆ Mountain glaciers worldwide could lose **26-41%** of their total mass by **2100**, affecting **1.1 billion people** in high-altitude regions.
  - ◆ **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)** are **increasing**, causing **flash floods and landslides**.
    - They have **caused over 12,000 deaths globally in the past 200 years**, and the risk of **GLOFs may triple by 2100**.
- The UN has declared **2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (IYGP)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
  - ◆ It will also mark the beginning of the **Decade of Action on Cryospheric Science (2025–2034)**, aimed at strengthening glacier conservation efforts.

68. (A)

Exp:

**Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):**

- **GFCF**: Also known as "**investment**," GFCF refers to the net increase in an **economy's fixed capital assets (investment minus disposals)** over a specific period. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ It includes investments in infrastructure, machinery, equipment, and other durable assets that contribute to long-term economic growth.

- ◆ It is a key part of **Gross Capital Formation (GCF)**, which also includes **Change in Stocks (Inventories)** and **Net Acquisition of Valuables** (items like gold, gems, and precious stones etc.).
- **Significance**: It constitutes around **30% of India's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, making it the second-largest component after private final consumption expenditure. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
  - ◆ GFCF is crucial for economic growth as it **directly boosts GDP**, enhances productivity, and improves living standards.
    - It promotes **self-reliance by creating capital assets** and supporting innovation.
  - ◆ GFCF as an indicator of **business confidence**, especially in the private sector, reflects future economic potential and overall output capacity.

69. (B)

Exp:

- The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** was created in **1974** by member countries of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** to help industrialized countries respond to the major 1973-1974 oil crisis. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
  - ◆ Since then, its work has expanded to cover energy security, economic development, and clean energy.
- The IEA has four main areas of focus: energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide.
- The IEA family is made up of 31 member countries, 13 association countries including India, and 4 accession countries.
  - ◆ A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- World Energy Outlook report, India Energy Outlook Report and **World Energy Investment Report** are its **key publications**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

70. (C)

Exp:

- **Southwest Monsoon (June-September)**, also known as "advancing monsoon", brings moisture-laden winds from the Indian Ocean.
- **Factors Affecting Indian Monsoon**:
  - ◆ The **Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)** shifts **northward in summer**, creating low pressure over India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- ◆ The **Tibetan Plateau** heats up intensely, generating the **Tropical Easterly Jet**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - These combined factors pull in moisture-laden winds from the Indian Ocean, triggering the Southwest Monsoon.
- ◆ Subtropical westerly jet streams (associated with the northeast monsoon) also regulate monsoon intensity. Additionally, the **Somali Jet** that blows diagonally across the Indian Ocean, parallel to the coasts of **Oman**, strengthens the southwest monsoon winds. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- ◆ The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is a temperature anomaly between the western and eastern Indian Ocean; a positive IOD (warmer west) enhances monsoon and negative IOD weakens it.

71. (B)

Exp:

**Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- Named after the Bhadra River, it is also known as **Muthodi Wildlife Sanctuary**.

- ◆ It is a **Project Tiger** reserve, and hosts diverse forests, including Southern Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests, Dry Deciduous Forests, and **Shola Forests**.
  - It also houses the **Jagara Giant**, Karnataka's largest **400-year-old teak tree**.
- ◆ BWS hosts diverse fauna, including tigers, leopards, dholes, gaurs, deer, and elephants. It shelters 250+ bird species like Hornbills, Malabar Trogon, and Hill Myna, many endemic to the **Western Ghats**.
- ◆ The sanctuary currently hosts around 450 elephants, forest officials estimate it can accommodate 200 more elephants.
- **Karnataka** has proposed a "**soft-release**" strategy to manage the escalating **human-elephant conflict** in **Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu** districts by gradually rehabilitating captured elephants into the **Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS)**.
- **Soft-Release Strategy:** Elephants will stay in a 20 sq. km enclosure for **acclimatization and health checks** before their phased release at four designated sites in BWS.



- Hence, option B is correct.

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72. (A)

Exp:

Sahyog Portal:

- The **Sahyog Portal** has been launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to **enhance collaboration** between **government agencies and social media intermediaries** for **easy compliance** and **safer cyberspace**.
  - ◆ It **streamlines the reporting and removal of unlawful content** and facilitates data requests from law enforcement under the **IT Act, 2000**.
  - ◆ It integrates **authorized agencies (like police) and intermediaries** on a single platform, ensuring **swift action** against illegal digital activities.
- **X Corp (formerly Twitter)** has filed a lawsuit in the **High Court** against the Indian government, challenging alleged **censorship and content regulation** through **Section 79 of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000**, and the newly introduced **Sahyog portal**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

73. (B)

Exp:

- The **Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme** was introduced in **November 2015** with the aim of **decreasing the demand for physical gold and redirecting a portion of domestic savings**, which would otherwise be used to buy gold, into financial savings.
- The **Sovereign Gold Bonds** are issued as **Government of India Stock** under the **Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006**.
- These bonds are **issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on behalf of the Government of India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- They are available for **purchase through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks, Payment Banks and Regional Rural Banks)**, **Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited**, designated post offices and **National Stock Exchange of India Limited** and **Bombay Stock Exchange Limited**, either directly or through agents. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The bonds are available for purchase by resident individuals, **Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs)**, trusts, universities, and charitable institutions.
- Gold bonds have a **maturity period of 8 years**, with the option to exit the investment after the first five years. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

74. (C)

Exp:

- **Lead poisoning**, also known as **Plumbism** and **Saturism**, occurs when **lead accumulates in the body over time**, leading to severe health effects.

- According to a **2020 UNICEF-Pure Earth report**, nearly **half of India's children have dangerously high blood lead levels (BLL)**, with 275 million children globally exceeding the WHO's safe limit of 5 µg/dL.
- Lead exposure comes from contaminated water, industrial emissions, battery recycling, and adulterated spices.
  - ◆ Symptoms include fatigue, nausea, anemia, abdominal pain, muscle weakness, and a dark gum line, making it a serious public health issue.
- Hence, option C is correct.

75. (D)

Exp:

Contempt Power of Courts in India:

- **Contempt of court** is a **legal mechanism to protect the judiciary from attacks or unwarranted criticism**, and to **punish those who undermine its authority**.
- **Types of Contempt:**
  - ◆ There are also 2 types of contempt: **Civil contempt** (disobedience of court orders), **Criminal contempt** (scandalizing the court, obstructing justice).
    - In case of India, **contempt proceedings can be initiated** either by the **court itself (*suo moto*)** or **by the individual's petition** with the prior permission of the **Attorney General (AG)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Legal Provisions:**
  - ◆ **Article 129** empowers the **Supreme Court** to punish contempt of itself, while **Article 215** grants the same power to **High Courts**, which also hold the authority to punish contempt of subordinate courts. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
    - The **Contempt of Courts Act (1971)** empowers courts to enforce orders through **contempt proceedings and decrees**.
    - **Exception:** A person is **not guilty of contempt** for publishing a fair comment on the merits of a case that has been **heard and finally decided**.

76. (B)

Exp:

Inner Line Permit (ILP):

- It is an **obligatory official travel document** issued by the concerned State Government to **allow the inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ILP aims to **regulate movement** to certain areas located near the international border of India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It is currently in place in **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Manipur**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

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- Pressure groups are demanding the implementation of the ILP regime in Meghalaya **to regulate the influx of outsiders**, as the **indigenous tribal population** fears marginalization.
  - The **Garo** population is approximately 10 lakh, while the **Khasi** population ranges between 13-14 lakh.



77. (C)

Exp:

**Priority Sector Lending (PSL):**

- PSL is an **RBI-mandated requirement** for banks to allocate a **set portion of their loans to key priority sectors** that face credit shortages but are crucial for economic development. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- PSL was formalized in 1972 based on the **RBI's Informal Study Group's report (1971)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - Initially, no targets were set, but in **1974**, banks were advised to raise PSL to **33.3% by 1979**.
  - Krishnaswamy Committee (1980)** recommended a **40% PSL target by 1985**, with sub-targets for **agriculture and weaker sections**.
  - Usha Thorat Committee (2009)** endorsed the continuation of the LBS for its role in the expansion of PSL.
- PSL Targets for Banks:**

Bank Category	Target
Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) & Foreign Banks (20+ branches)	40% of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher
Foreign Banks (less than 20 branches)	40% of ANBC or CEOBE (with sub-limits for exports and other priority sectors)
Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) & Small Finance Banks (SFBs)	75% of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher

- Consequences for Banks Missing Targets:** Banks failing to meet PSL targets must contribute to the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** and other designated funds at fixed interest rates, ensuring funds still reach priority sectors. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

78. (D)

Exp:

**SEBI Doubles FPI Disclosure Limit:**

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has increased the **disclosure threshold for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** from **₹25,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore**. Thus, FPIs exceeding this limit must now reveal beneficial ownership and other key investment details. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

**Rise in Granular Threshold for FPIs:**

- Objective:** To align regulations with market growth as **equity trading volumes nearly doubled since FY 2022-23**.
  - It is also aimed at **increasing capital inflows easing compliance for mid-sized and small FPIs**, facilitating ease of doing business.
- FPIs are entities that **invest in securities and financial assets** such as **stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)** in foreign markets to diversify their portfolio and **earn returns**.
  - FPIs in India are governed by SEBI under **SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2019**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

79. (C)

Exp:

**National Judicial Appointments Commission:**

- About:** NJAC was a proposed **constitutional body** to replace the **collegium system** for appointing judges to the SC and HCs. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - The **99<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014**, and the **NJAC Act, 2014**, were passed to establish a new system for judicial appointments. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Composition:** The NJAC would consist of:
  - Chief Justice of India (CJI)** as ex-officio **chairperson**.
  - Two senior-most Supreme Court judges** as ex-officio members.
  - Union Law Minister** as ex-officio member.
  - Two eminent persons from civil society**, selected by a committee of the **CJI, PM, and Leader of Opposition** (with one from SC/ST/OBC/minorities/women).
- Key Features:**
  - Veto Power:** Any two members could **block a recommendation** if they disagreed.
  - Appointment Criteria:** Included **seniority, regional representation**, etc.

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- **Supreme Court's Ruling in 2015:** A 5-judge bench struck down the NJAC by a **4:1 majority**, declaring it **unconstitutional**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ◆ **Majority Opinion:** The NJAC **violated the basic structure of the Constitution** by undermining **judicial independence**.

- **Primacy of judiciary in appointments** is part of the basic structure, and the NJAC diluted this by giving the **executive (Law Minister)** and **non-judicial members veto power**.
- The **risk of executive interference** in judicial appointments was a **major concern**.

- ◆ **Dissent (Justice Chelameswar):** Supported the NJAC, arguing that the collegium system lacked transparency.

**80. (B)**

**Exp:**

**Pala Dynasty**

- The Pala dynasty, **founded by Gopala**, ruled Bihar and Bengal from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century CE. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ◆ "Pala" is a **Sanskrit word which means "protector"**. It was added to the names of the emperors, giving rise to the name "Pala" to the empire.
- Gopala's reign was **marked by a tripartite struggle** between the **Palas, the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas** for the control of Kanauj and North India.
- A **distinctive Pala art style developed under their patronage**, known for exquisite stone and metal sculptures.
  - ◆ Pala art style was transmitted **chiefly by means of bronze sculptures and palm-leaf paintings**, celebrating the Buddha and other divinities. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The Palas were **devout patrons of Mahayana Buddhism**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

**81. (D)**

**Exp:**

- In **nuclear fission**, the **mass of the products is less than the mass of the reactants**.
  - ◆ This **difference in mass is converted into energy**, as described by Einstein's equation,  $E=mc^2$ , where E is energy, m is mass, and c is the speed of light. This released energy is in the form of heat, which is harnessed in nuclear reactors. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **chain reaction in a fission process can be controlled by using control rods** made of materials like **boron or cadmium**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ These materials are neutron-absorbing, and when inserted into the reactor core, they absorb excess neutrons, thereby reducing the number of neutrons available to sustain the chain reaction. This helps to regulate or stop the fission process.

- Nuclear reactions **do not follow the Law of Conservation of Matter**. They follow the **Law of Conservation of Mass-Energy**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- ◆ While mass and energy are conserved overall, the **mass of the products is not equal to the mass of the reactants** because a **small amount of mass is converted into energy**.

- ◆ The law of conservation of mass applies to chemical reactions, but in nuclear reactions, mass is converted into energy, so **mass-energy conservation** is the relevant principle.

**82. (C)**

**Exp:**

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was established under the Food Corporation Act, 1964, as a statutory body to manage the procurement, storage, and distribution of food grains in India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **economic cost of food grains acquired by the FCI** includes the **procurement price (the price at which FCI buys grains)**, **procurement costs (expenses incurred in the process of acquisition)**, and **distribution expenses (costs related to freight, handling, storage, and losses during transportation)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

**83. (B)**

**Exp:**

- **Agenda 21 was adopted in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro** as a comprehensive plan for sustainable development in the 21st century.
- The **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**, derived from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, were **introduced in September 2000**.
- Subsequently, in 2015, the **United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** at the UN Summit in New York as a broader and more integrated framework for global development up to 2030.
  - ◆ Thus, the correct chronological order is **Agenda 21 (3) → MDGs(1) → SDGs(2)**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

**84. (A)**

**Exp:**

- **Exercise Garuda Shakti** is a bilateral joint special forces exercise between **India and Indonesia**, designed to enhance military cooperation, interoperability, and mutual

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understanding while strengthening defense ties between the two nations. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- **Ekuverin**, meaning “friends” in **Dhivehi**, is a bilateral military exercise between the **Indian Army** and the **Maldives** National Defence Force (MNDF), aimed at improving coordination in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Hand-in-Hand** is a joint military exercise between **India and China**, conducted under a UN mandate, focusing on counter-terrorism operations and enhancing interoperability between their armies. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

**85. (A)**

**Exp:**

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**
  - ◆ It was established in **1957** for **promoting the peaceful** use of nuclear energy and preventing its military use, including nuclear weapons. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is headquartered in **Vienna, Austria** and was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.**
  - ◆ It **functions as an autonomous organization** and reports to both the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** and the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



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Prelims  
Test Series  
2025



IAS Prelims  
CSAT  
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IAS Current  
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Drishti  
Learning  
App

