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MCQ CONSOLIDATION

MAY
2025
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Practice Question

Art & Culture

1. Consider the following pairs

Buddhist Site	Country
1. Angkor Wat	Cambodia
2. Bagan	Indonesia
3. Borobudur	Thailand

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

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

History

2. Regarding the Satavahana Dynasty, consider the following statements:

- The Satavahanas are known for their rock-cut architecture, with notable examples like the Karle Chaitya and Nasik Viharas.
- The Amaravati Stupa was constructed during the Satavahana period.
- The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit, and their inscriptions were written in the Brahmi script.

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

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

3. Consider the following statements:

- She took charge of Malwa and became the ruler of Indore in 1767.
- She patronised scholars like Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant, and Shahir Anantaphandi.
- She promoted women's education, widow remarriage, and opposed practices like sati while uplifting Bhil, Gond tribes, and lower castes.
- She made Maheshwar and Indore major trade hubs, promoting the Maheshwari weaving

industry and making Maheshwari sarees renowned across India.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar
- B. Begum Hazrat Mahal
- C. Maharani Tarabai
- D. Rani Channamma

4. Consider the following statements:

- Maharana Udai Singh II was the founder of the city of Udaipur.
- The Battle of Haldighati was fought between Maharana Pratap and Raja Man Singh of Amber.
- Maharana Pratap was succeeded by his son Amar Singh.

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding Buddhism:

- Gautam Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath, which is also known as Mahaparinirvana.
- The Tripitaka, the sacred Buddhist text, was first written down during the reign of Ashoka.
- Mahayana Buddhism introduced the concept of Bodhisattvas and idol worship.

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

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

Geography

6. Which of the following countries borders Uzbekistan?

- 1. Kazakhstan
- 2. Kyrgyzstan
- 3. Tajikistan
- 4. Afghanistan

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

7. With reference to the Caspian Sea, consider the following statements:

1. Caspian Sea, a tectonic lake, is the world's largest inland water body.
2. It is bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan.
3. The Volga, Ural, and Terek are among its major rivers.

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

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

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Sandy Cay Reef lies near Pag-asa Island (Thitu) in the Spratly Islands, South China Sea.
2. Tiexian Reef is a part of Sandy Cay Reef.

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

9. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the fifth-highest peak in the world.
2. It resides in the Mahalangur range of the Nepal Himalayas, straddling the border between Nepal and Tibet.
3. It is renowned for its perfect pyramid shape with four sharp ridges, and the Barun Valley lies at its base.

Which of the following peaks best matches the above description?

- A. Mt. Makalu
- B. Kangchenjunga

- C. Lhotse
- D. Cho Oyu

10. Regarding the Godavari River, consider the following statements:

1. Godavari is India's second-longest river, originating from Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra.
2. The Sabari and Manjira rivers are right-bank tributaries of the Godavari.
3. The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) is the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project on the Godavari River.

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

11. Consider the following pairs:

Tribes	States
1. Kani tribe	Kerala
2. Bishnoi tribe	Karnataka
3. Gonds tribe	Madhya Pradesh
4. Soliga tribe	Rajasthan

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

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

12. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a diamond-shaped black rock peak in Tibet.
2. It remains unclimbed as its ascent is prohibited due to its sacred significance.
3. It is the source of major rivers like the Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, and Karnali.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Mount Kailash
- B. Mount Everest
- C. Mount Shishapangma
- D. Namcha Barwa

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13. Consider the following statements:

1. It is India's second-longest west-flowing river, flowing through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.
2. It drains into the Arabian Sea at the Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat.
3. Purna River is its main left-bank tributary, providing perennial flow.

Which of the following rivers best matches the above description?

- A. Tapti
- B. Narmada
- C. Mahi
- D. Sabarmati

14. Regarding the Wadge Bank, consider the following statements:

1. It is a submarine plateau in the Indian Ocean, located near Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin), lying in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
2. It is one of the world's richest fishing grounds, with high organic productivity, serving as a key feeding and breeding ground for fish.
3. The 1976 India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreement grants India rights over Wadge Bank, excluding exploration of petroleum and minerals.

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

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding Germanium:

1. It is classified as a rare earth element and is abundantly available in India's northeastern states.
2. It is used in fiber-optic cables, infrared devices, and solar cells due to its heat resistance and efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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

16. With reference to the Emden Deep, consider the following statements:

1. It is the second-deepest point in the world after the Challenger Deep.
2. Emden Deep, located in the Pacific Ocean, also known as the Galathea Deep.

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding Sir Creek:

1. Sir Creek is a water strip located in the Rann of Kutch region.
2. It forms part of the disputed boundary between India's Gujarat and Pakistan's Balochistan province.
3. The International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between India and Pakistan in this region has not been demarcated.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan Mountains:

1. The Shiwalik range is the youngest geological formation of the Himalayan system.
2. The Kashmir Himalayas are wider than the Assam Himalayas.
3. The Lesser Himalayas are primarily composed of granitic rocks and glacial moraines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Polity & Governance

19. With reference to Private Members' Bills (PMBs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It can be introduced by non-government Members of Parliament only.
2. It should be drafted and submitted by Members of Parliament with a notice of at least one month.
3. PMBs are typically debated during limited Friday afternoon sessions in Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 40 of the Indian Constitution directs the State to organize village panchayats and to endow them with the necessary powers and authority.
2. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI), launched by the NITI Aayog, is a tool to assess the progress of Gram Panchayats towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. With reference to the Caste Census, consider the following statements:

1. The last national caste data collection was held in 2011 through the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC).
2. The 1941 Census collected caste data but did not publish it due to the onset of World War II.
3. There is no constitutional mandate for caste enumeration in the general Census.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 75 of the Indian Constitution establishes the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers to the Lok Sabha, ensuring executive accountability.
2. Article 113 provides that no expenditure can be incurred by the government without prior approval of Parliament through an Appropriation Bill.

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

23. With reference to the Public Accounts Committee, consider the following statements:

1. It was originally established under the Government of India Act, 1935.
2. It has an equal number of members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
3. The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from among the members of the Lok Sabha.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following subjects:

1. To regulate and develop interstate rivers and river valleys
2. Shipping and navigation on inland waterways
3. Water storage and Hydro power

Which of the above is/are in the Union List?

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

25. Consider the following statements with reference to the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2024:

1. Local bodies must annually assess plastic waste generation for the next five years.

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2. A digital portal registers producers, importers, and manufacturers, with auto-approval after 30 days.
3. Entities introducing plastic packaging are responsible for its collection and disposal.
4. Manufacturers, importers, recyclers and sellers must file a digital report annually.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements:

1. The Public Service Commission was created on the recommendations of the Lee Commission in 1926.
2. The UPSC and SPSC are independent constitutional bodies, governed by Articles 315 to 323 (Part XIV) of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements:

1. The MacLagan Committee (1914) played a key role in establishing the foundation of cooperative banking in colonial India.
2. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act (2011) granted cooperatives constitutional recognition and introduced Article 43B, promoting their development.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is a statutory body responsible for assessment, augmentation, and regulation of groundwater resources of the country.

2. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), under the CGWB, was constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

3. CGWB's National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) program maps and characterizes aquifers to develop region-specific groundwater management plans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Regarding the SVAMITVA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a central sector scheme to provide legal ownership of residential properties in rural areas using drones and GIS technology.
2. It aimed at creating a Record of Rights for rural property owners, focusing on abadi areas (inhabited regions).
3. Launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, India showcased it as a pioneering land governance initiative at the World Bank Land Conference 2025.

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

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

30. Consider the following statements regarding the 2023 amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002:

1. The definition of "proceeds of crime" has been expanded to include properties derived from any criminal activity related to the scheduled offence.
2. Money laundering has now been treated as a stand-alone offence, independent of any predicate offence.
3. Only cash transactions are considered under the PMLA, not digital or asset-based transactions.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

31. Which of the following rights are protected under the provisions of Article 19 of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. Right to freedom of speech and expression.
- 2. Right to form associations and unions.
- 3. Right to protection of life and personal liberty.
- 4. Right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade, or business.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

32. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

- 1. It was launched to provide financial protection to farmers against crop losses due to natural disasters, pests, and diseases.
- 2. It has become the world's largest crop insurance scheme in terms of the number of farmers enrolled and land area covered in 2023–24.
- 3. Under this scheme, all farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.

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 only

33. Consider the following:

- 1. Article 75 of the Indian Constitution provides for individual ministerial accountability to the Parliament.
- 2. Zero Hour is explicitly mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of both Houses of Parliament.

- 3. A Bill returned by the President under Article 111 can be reconsidered by Parliament with or without amendments.

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

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

34. Consider the following statements regarding the Enforcement Directorate (ED):

- 1. The ED functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs and primarily investigates offences related to narcotics and terrorism.
- 2. The ED is empowered to enforce provisions of both the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA), 2018.
- 3. Under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, the ED can investigate contraventions and impose civil penalties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Social Issues

35. Consider the following characteristics:

- 1. They reside in Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills.
- 2. Kovi, Kuttia and Languli are among their key sub-tribes.
- 3. They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group and speak the Kui language.

Which of the following tribe is best described by above characteristics:

- A. Santhal Tribe
- B. Dongria Kondh Tribe
- C. Bhil Tribe
- D. Munda Tribe

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Agriculture & Allied Sector

36. Regarding the Kendu leaf, consider the following statements:

1. It is a nationalised product like bamboo and sal seed.
2. It is covered under Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as per the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
3. Odisha is India's largest kendu leaf producer, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

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

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

37. With reference to 'DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1', consider the following statements:

1. They are India's first genome-edited rice varieties.
2. They have been developed using CRISPR-Cas9 technology without introducing any foreign DNA.
3. DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) is based on Samba Mahsuri, whereas Pusa DST Rice 1 is based on Maruteru 1010.

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

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

Environment & Ecology

38. Consider the following statements:

1. Waste to Wealth initiative under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) repurposes discarded materials into art and utility items.
2. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Mechanism, a waste management policy, holds producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products, including collection, recycling, and disposal.

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

39. With reference to Chlorpyrifos, consider the following statements:

1. Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate insecticide widely used in India for agricultural and public health purposes to control pests.
2. It is classified as highly hazardous by the WHO and is a known carcinogen.

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 Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs):

1. POPs are regulated under the Stockholm Convention, which aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of these hazardous substances globally.
2. Endosulfan, a known POP, is banned in India following its adverse health and environmental impacts.

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

41. Consider the following statements:

1. They are a type of grasshopper belonging to the family Acrididae.
2. They are solitary insects until they undergo a transformation called gregarisation.
3. They are a transboundary pest that travels between Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)
- B. Brown Planthopper (*Nilaparvata lugens*)

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- C. Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)
- D. Red Cotton Bug (*Dysdercus cingulatus*)

42. Consider the following statements regarding Hyenas:

1. Spotted hyenas are both skilled predators and scavengers, often engaging in kleptoparasitism (stealing food from other predators).
2. They play a vital ecological role by controlling herbivore populations as predators, preventing disease as scavengers, and recycling nutrients.

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a nocturnal animal and feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer, and wild boar.
2. It occurs in a wide range in sub-Saharan Africa, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia.
3. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Leopard
- B. Elephant
- C. Asiatic Lion
- D. Dhole

44. Consider the following statements regarding the Red Admiral butterfly:

1. It has been sighted for the first time in India's Dhauladhar mountain range in Himachal Pradesh.
2. Its larvae primarily feed on stinging nettle, which are abundant in parts of the Western Himalayas.

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding the Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle:

1. The Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle has been reintroduced into the Ganga River under the Namami Gange Mission.
2. It is a freshwater turtle belonging to the family Geoemydidae.
3. It is classified as an endangered species by the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. Consider the following statements:

1. Microplastics can act as carriers of toxic chemicals and pathogens in aquatic environments, increasing ecological and health risks.
2. Nanoplastics, which are smaller than microplastics, can penetrate biological membranes and have been detected in human blood and placental tissues.

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

47. With reference to Cloud Seeding, consider the following statements:

1. Cloud seeding enhances precipitation by dispersing chemicals like silver iodide and potassium iodide into clouds.
2. Static cloud seeding is used to stimulate rainfall by enhancing vertical air currents.
3. Hygroscopic cloud seeding uses fine particles of salts to increase cloud droplet size.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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48. Consider the following statements:

1. It spans over the Western Ghats and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in December 2011.
2. It is named after a Fort, built by Shivaji in the 17th century to defend against Portuguese forces.
3. It is known as the only known breeding site of Wroughton's Free-tailed Bat, found in the Barapede Caves.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Bandipur National Park

49. Consider the following statements regarding the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*):

1. It is also known as the "Asian unicorn" and belongs to the bovid genus.
2. It is found in the highland forests of the Himalayas between India and Nepal.
3. It is classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Which of the following statements about locusts is not correct?

- A. It undergoes a transformation called gregarisation, becoming more social and forming large swarms.
- B. Locust swarms are guided by a cognitive decision-making model, not random behavior.
- C. The Locust Warning Organization in India primarily monitors locust activity in the Western and Eastern Ghats.
- D. Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) is the most destructive migratory pest globally.

51. Consider the following statements:

1. AI systems powered by fossil fuels contribute to about 1% of global GHG emissions.

2. The water consumption of AI data centres is minimal and does not contribute significantly to global water scarcity.
3. The production of AI hardware requires rare-earth minerals, leading to deforestation and soil degradation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

52. Consider the following statements regarding Urban Heat Island (UHI):

1. UHI occurs due to impervious surfaces like asphalt and concrete that absorb heat during the day and release it slowly at night, raising urban temperatures.
2. A primary consequence of UHI is a reduction in energy consumption, as higher temperatures reduce the need for cooling in urban areas.
3. The UHI effect is exacerbated by anthropogenic heat from sources like vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and air conditioning systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

53. Consider the following statements regarding the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):

1. The NBA was established as a statutory body under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), under the NBA, are mandated to prepare People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).
3. The NBA works through State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and local BMCs for the regulation of the commercial use of biological resources.

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

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Economy

54. The Global Wind Report 2025 has been released by which of the following organisations?

- A. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- B. Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
- C. International Energy Forum (IEF)
- D. World Resources Institute (WRI)

55. With reference to the Vizhinjam International Seaport (VIS), consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first semi-automated port, equipped with an Indigenous Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS).
2. The port is strategically located along major international shipping routes connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

56. With reference to the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP), consider the following statements:

1. It is the minimum price at which sugar mills are legally required to purchase sugarcane from farmers in India.
2. It is based on the Rangarajan Committee report (2012) on reorganizing the sugarcane industry.
3. Its determination is based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. Consider the following statements regarding the Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs):

1. They were established based on Y.K. Alagh's recommendation in 2008.

2. They can only be registered under the Companies Act, 2013.
3. FPOs primarily aim to increase the participation of large farmers in global markets.

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

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

58. Consider the following statements regarding the Human Development Report (HDR):

1. India has been ranked 130th out of 193 countries in the 2025 Human Development Report published by the UNDP.
2. Indicators for calculating HDR include life expectancy at birth, expected years of schooling, and Gross national income (GNI) per capita.

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

59. With reference to the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI), consider the following statements:

1. The certificate provided under the GHCI is transferable and can be used to claim emission reduction credits.
2. The scheme will be applicable to green hydrogen production from electrolysis or conversion of biomass.
3. Port cities like Kandla, Paradip, and Tuticorin are key green hydrogen export hubs under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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60. The term Insider Trading, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. Trading stocks based on publicly available financial reports.
- B. Buying or selling securities using material non-public information.
- C. Manipulating stock prices through fake news or social media hype.
- D. Evading taxes by hiding investments in offshore accounts.

61. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) report is released by which of the following organizations?

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. World Trade Organization

62. Consider the following statements regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in India:

- 1. The promotion of global protection of intellectual property rights is the responsibility of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- 2. The Patents Act of 1970 governs patents in India, and its administration is handled by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (CGPDTM).
- 3. The National IPR Policy, 2016, focuses only on patent filing and does not address other forms of intellectual property, such as trademarks and copyrights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. Consider the following statements regarding Microfinance Institutions (MFIs):

- 1. MFIs are financial companies that provide small loans and other financial services to people who don't have access to banking facilities.
- 2. NBFC-MFIs in India are regulated by the Ministry of Finance.
- 3. MFIs may offer services beyond credit, such as savings, insurance, and fund transfer facilities.

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

64. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Article 112 mandates the government to present the Annual Financial Statement, clearly distinguishing between revenue and other expenditures.
- 2. Salaries and pensions of government employees are classified as Capital Expenditure.
- 3. Grant given by the government to states or PSUs are treated as Revenue Expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

65. Consider the following statements regarding the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):

- 1. SIDBI is a statutory body established under the SIDBI Act, 1989.
- 2. It is headquartered in Mumbai and functions as the principal financial institution for the MSME sector in India.
- 3. SIDBI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

66. With reference to Bond Forwards, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are regulated forward contracts for buying or selling government bonds at a predetermined price and date.
- 2. They allow physical delivery of bonds, unlike Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) which offer only cash settlement.

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3. The Reserve Bank of India permits Small Finance Banks, Payment Banks, and Regional Rural Banks to participate in bond forward transactions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. Injeti Srinivas Committee, sometimes in news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. Reviewing exchange rate management and currency stabilization
B. Reforming fertilizer subsidy and distribution policies
C. Reforming corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework
D. Streamlining public sector disinvestment strategies

68. Consider the following statements:

- Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are legally binding treaties between countries to reduce or eliminate trade barriers like tariffs, quotas, and restrictions.
- Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) offer comprehensive tariff reductions on all goods traded between participating countries.
- Comprehensive Economic Partnerships/ Cooperation Agreements (CEPAs/CECAs) include provisions on services, investment, and regulatory cooperation, making them broader than FTAs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding the livestock sector in India:

- The livestock sector contributed over 5% to India's Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2022–23 and employed nearly 9% of the population.
- India's average cattle milk productivity is higher than the global average, reflecting high livestock efficiency.
- The National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) aims to control and eradicate major

livestock diseases like Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Brucellosis.

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

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

Defence & Security

70. Regarding the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), consider the following statements:

- It operates under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and works alongside the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC).
- It advises the National Security Council (NSC) on external threats, internal stability, and emerging challenges.
- The NSAB has a flexible composition with no fixed number of members, and appointments are made for a term of two years.

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

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

71. Consider the following statements Stratospheric Airships:

- It operates as a High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS), capable of remaining airborne for extended periods and utilizes helium for buoyancy.
- Like satellites and aircraft, stratospheric airships frequently change their position and cannot maintain prolonged presence over a single area.

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

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72. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a stealth warship, built as part of the 2016 Indo-Russian deal, with two ships built in Russia and two in India.
2. It speeds up to 30 knots and has a range of 3,000 km per mission.
3. It is equipped with torpedoes and rocket systems like the BrahMos missile.
4. It can operate a multi-role helicopter for enhanced surveillance and combat.

Which of the following warships best matches the above description?

- A. INS Imphal
- B. INS Tamal
- C. INS Vikramaditya
- D. INS Vikrant

Science & Tech

73. With reference to the Real-Time Forest Alert System (RTFAS), consider the following statements:

1. Madhya Pradesh is the first state in India to implement an AI-based Real-Time Forest Alert System (RTFAS).
2. It is a cloud-based AI system that uses Google Earth Engine to monitor forests and detect land-use changes through satellite data.

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

74. Consider the following statements:

1. They produce electricity through an electrochemical reaction.
2. They emit only water as a by-product.
3. They generate electricity through the movement of protons and electrons via an external circuit.

How many of the above are not characteristics of hydrogen fuel cells?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. 3 only
- D. None of the above

75. Consider the following statements regarding Semaglutide:

1. Semaglutide is a synthetic insulin analog used to directly replace insulin in type 1 diabetic patients.
2. It has recently shown effectiveness in treating Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH), a progressive form of fatty liver disease.
3. It is the active ingredient in medications such as Ozempic and Rybelsus which are prescribed for diabetes and weight management.

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

76. Consider the following statements regarding semi-cryogenic rocket engines:

1. A semi-cryogenic engine uses liquid oxygen as an oxidizer and refined kerosene as fuel.
2. Compared to cryogenic engines, semi-cryogenic engines offer higher density impulse and greater cost-effectiveness.
3. In a semi-cryogenic engine, both fuel and oxidizer are stored at cryogenic temperatures.

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

77. Consider the following statements:

1. Asteroids are remnants from the early solar system and are mostly found in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter.
2. Trojans are asteroids that share a planet's orbit at Lagrangian points and are found only in the Asteroid Belt.
3. The European Space Agency's Hera Mission and India's NETRA Project focus on monitoring Near-Earth Objects (NEOs) and space debris.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

78. Consider the following pairs:

Space Project	Collaborating Countries
1 NISAR	India & United States
2 LUPEX	India & Japan
3 Megha-Tropiques	India & France

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

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

79. Which of the following best describes the role of RNA silencing in plants?

- A. It acts as a defense mechanism by degrading viral RNA using small RNAs.
- B. It enhances photosynthesis by regulating chlorophyll levels.
- C. It synthesizes new RNA strands to replace damaged ones.
- D. It promotes rapid cell division during viral infection.

80. Consider the following pairs:

Disease	Causative Agent
1. Cholera	Virus
2. Hepatitis-A	Bacterium
3. Giardiasis	Protozoan
4. Typhoid	Fungus

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

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

81. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Semiconductors have conductivity between conductors and insulators, and their conductance varies with voltage or radiation exposure.
- 2. Semiconductor fabrication requires ultra-clean environments and high-precision manufacturing processes.
- 3. Diodes are key semiconductor components that allow current to flow in one direction, commonly used in power supplies and lighting.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

82. Consider the following diseases:

- 1. Thalassemia
- 2. Sickle Cell Anemia
- 3. Hemophilia

Which of the diseases given above are classified as hereditary blood disorders?

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

International Relations and Current Affairs

83. Agent Orange, which was recently seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A military code name for a US airstrike operation in Iraq.
- B. A toxic herbicide mixture used by the US during the Vietnam War.
- C. A type of chemical fertilizer developed for rapid crop growth.
- D. A contagious viral disease that affected Southeast Asia in the 1970s.

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84. Which of the following is/are members of the Arctic Council?

1. Canada
2. Finland
3. Norway
4. Russia
5. United States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

85. Consider the following statements regarding the Haenyeo community:

1. They are traditional women divers of Jeju Island, South Korea who collect marine products without using modern diving equipment.
2. Haenyeo practices have been recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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. (B) | 3. (A) | 4. (D) | 5. (D) | 6. (D) | 7. (D) | 8. (C) | 9. (A) | 10. (C) |
| 11. (B) | 12. (A) | 13. (A) | 14. (A) | 15. (B) | 16. (B) | 17. (B) | 18. (A) | 19. (D) | 20. (A) |
| 21. (D) | 22. (C) | 23. (A) | 24. (C) | 25. (C) | 26. (C) | 27. (C) | 28. (B) | 29. (B) | 30. (A) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (D) | 33. (A) | 34. (B) | 35. (B) | 36. (B) | 37. (C) | 38. (C) | 39. (A) | 40. (C) |
| 41. (A) | 42. (C) | 43. (A) | 44. (C) | 45. (A) | 46. (D) | 47. (B) | 48. (C) | 49. (B) | 50. (C) |
| 51. (C) | 52. (A) | 53. (D) | 54. (B) | 55. (C) | 56. (D) | 57. (A) | 58. (C) | 59. (B) | 60. (B) |
| 61. (C) | 62. (A) | 63. (C) | 64. (C) | 65. (A) | 66. (A) | 67. (C) | 68. (A) | 69. (B) | 70. (C) |
| 71. (B) | 72. (B) | 73. (C) | 74. (D) | 75. (B) | 76. (A) | 77. (C) | 78. (C) | 79. (A) | 80. (C) |
| 81. (D) | 82. (D) | 83. (B) | 84. (D) | 85. (C) | | | | | |

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Explanations

Art & Culture

1. (A)

Exp:

- 💡 **Angkor Wat** in Cambodia is the **largest religious monument in the world** and was built in the 12th century by Khmer King Suryavarman II. Originally dedicated to **Hindu god Vishnu**, it later became a Buddhist temple and was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992**. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- 💡 **Bagan**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in Myanmar**, is home to thousands of Buddhist temples and stupas, showcasing **Theravada Buddhist art** and architecture. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- 💡 **Borobudur**, a massive Buddhist monument in central Java, Indonesia, blends the forms of a stupa, temple mountain (inspired by Mount Meru in Hindu mythology), and mandala (a mystical symbol of the universe). Influenced by Indian Gupta and post-Gupta art, it was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage site in 1991**. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

History

2. (B)

Exp:

Satavahana Dynasty:

- 💡 The Satavahanas (1st century BC to the early 3rd century AD) **succeeded the Mauryas in the Deccan and central India**, with early rule centered in north Maharashtra (upper Godavari valley) and later expanding to Karnataka and Andhra.
 - ✦ They are identified with the Andhras mentioned in the Puranas, though inscriptions do not use this name.
- 💡 The Satavahanas are known for their **rock-cut architecture**, with notable examples like the Karle Chaitya and Nasik Viharas. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The **Amaravati Stupa** was **reconstructed** during the Satavahana period, featuring intricate sculptures of the Buddha's life. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ✦ Amaravati Stupa was **constructed** around 230 BCE to 220 CE.

- 💡 The official language of the Satavahanas was **Prakrit**, and their inscriptions were written in the Brahmi script. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

3. (A)

Exp:

Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar:

- 💡 The Maharashtra Cabinet held its maiden meeting outside Mumbai in Chondi to mark the 300th birth anniversary (31st May 2025) of **Malwa Queen Ahilyabai Holkar** and to honor her legacy.
- 💡 Ahilyabai was born on **31st May 1725** in **Chondi**, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), her father, **Mankoji Rao Shinde**, was the village head.
- 💡 After the death of Malhar Rao Holkar in 1766 and her son Male Rao Holkar in 1767, Ahilyabai Holkar took charge of Malwa and became the ruler of Indore in 1767.
 - ✦ She appointed **Tukoji Rao Holkar** as army commander and made **Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh** the Holkar dynasty's capital.
- 💡 **Social and Economic Contributions:** Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt the Somnath and Kashi Vishwanath temples, restoring key Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. She patronised scholars like **Khushali Ram**, **Marathi poet Moropant**, and **Shahir Anantaphandi**.
 - ✦ She promoted **women's education**, **widow remarriage**, and opposed practices like sati, while uplifting Bhil, Gond tribes, and lower castes.
 - ✦ She made Maheshwar and Indore major trade hubs, promoting the Maheshwari weaving industry and making Maheshwari sarees renowned across India, now registered with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

4. (D)

Exp:

Maharana Pratap Jayanti

The **Prime Minister** paid rich tributes to the valiant warrior, **Maharana Pratap** on the occasion of his Jayanti on **9th May 2025**.

- 💡 **Maharana Pratap**, born on **9th May 1540** in **Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan**, was the **13th King of Mewar** and the **eldest son of Udai Singh II**.

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- ✦ **Maharana Udai Singh II** ruled the kingdom of **Mewar** with his capital at **Chittor** and was also the **founder of the city of Udaipur**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ The **Battle of Haldighati (18th June 1576)** was fought between **Maharana Pratap** and **Raja Man Singh of Amber**, a general of Mughal emperor **Akbar**; though Maharana Pratap fought bravely, he was **defeated by the Mughal forces**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✦ After **1579**, Maharana Pratap **regained Western Mewar** and set up his **new capital at Chavand** near Dungarpur. He died on **19th January 1597** and was succeeded by his son **Amar Singh**, who **submitted to Emperor Jahangir** in 1614. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

5. (D)

Exp:

- ✦ **Gautam Buddha** delivered his **first sermon at Sarnath**, called **Dharmachakra Pravartana** (Turning the Wheel of Dharma). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ✦ **Mahaparinirvana** refers to **Buddha's death**, which took place at **Kushinagar**.
- ✦ **Tripitaka** (Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, and Abhidhamma Pitaka) was **first written down during the 4th Buddhist Council** held in **Sri Lanka** under **King Vattagamani Abhaya** in the **1st century BCE**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ✦ The **Third Buddhist Council** was convened by **Emperor Ashoka** around **250 BCE** at **Pataliputra** (present-day **Patna**) under the **Maurya dynasty**. The council was **presided over by the monk Moggaliputta Tissa**.
- ✦ **Mahayana Buddhism** introduced the **Bodhisattva ideal** (a being who seeks enlightenment not just for oneself but for all beings) and **worship of Buddha in idol form**, which was not a feature of **early Buddhism or Hinayana tradition**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Geography

6. (D)

Exp:

- ✦ **Uzbekistan** is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia, situated between the **Syr Darya** and **Amu Darya** rivers.
 - ✦ It borders **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan**.

- ✦ **Exercise Dustlik** is an **annual bilateral military exercise** conducted alternately between **India and Uzbekistan**.

✦ The **6th edition** of the **Joint Military Exercise Dustlik 2025** between **India and Uzbekistan** concluded in **Pune**. The 2024 edition of the exercise took place in **Termez, Uzbekistan**.

- ✦ Hence, **option D is correct**.

7. (D)

Exp:

Caspian Sea

- ✦ **Caspian Sea** is a **tectonic lake** and the **world's largest inland water body**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ It is bordered by **Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✦ Three major rivers **Volga, Ural, and Terek** empty into the Caspian. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

8. (C)

Exp:

- ✦ The **Sandy Cay reef** dispute between **China and the Philippines** has sparked renewed tensions, with both **claiming sovereignty** amid growing militarization.
 - ✦ Tensions rose as **US and Philippine forces** conducted **Balikatan war drills**, which China has condemned as **provocative**.
- ✦ **Sandy Cay** lies near **Pag-asa Island (Thitu)** in the **Spratly Islands** of the **South China Sea (SCS)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✦ **Tiexian Reef** is a part of **Sandy Cay**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ✦ The reef is claimed by **China, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam**.

9. (A)

Exp:

Mt. Makalu:

- ✦ The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** successfully scaled **Mt. Makalu**, the fifth-highest peak in the world.
- ✦ **Mt. Makalu** resides in the **Mahalangur range of the Nepal Himalayas**, straddling the border between **Nepal and Tibet**, and is **8,485 meters** above sea level.
 - ✦ Located southeast of **Mount Everest**, **Makalu** is renowned for its striking **pyramid shape with four sharp ridges**.
 - ✦ **Mt. Makalu**, located in **Makalu Barun National Park**, overlooks the scenic **Barun Valley**.

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- ✦ Makalu also features two prominent subsidiary peaks, **Makalu I and II**, located about 3 km from the main summit. The Mt. Makalu was first ascended in 1955 by a French expedition led by Jean Franco.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

10. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 Godavari, often called **Dakshin Ganga**, is India's **second-longest river (after Ganga)**, originating from **Trimbakeshwar** in Maharashtra. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 It flows 1,465 km eastward, draining in **Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha**, before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.
- 💡 **Major tributaries include** Purna, Pranhita, Indravati, and Sabari (Left-Bank) and Pravara, Manjira, and Manair (Right Bank). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)** is the **world's largest multi-stage** lift irrigation project on the Godavari River, located in Bhupalpally district, Telangana. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ✦ It spans over 500 km across 13 districts, with a canal network of 1,800 km.
 - ✦ The construction of the project began in June 2019 and it aims to provide 240 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic feet) of water for various uses, with 70% earmarked for irrigation.

11. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Kani tribe**, a traditionally nomadic group, is primarily located in the forests of the Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala, India. The Kani tribe uses traditional knowledge to conserve medicinal plants in the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.
- 💡 The **Bishnoi** are a Hindu sect primarily located in the Thar Desert region of Rajasthan, India. They protect the Khejri tree and wildlife like blackbucks. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched**.
- 💡 The **Gonds** are one of the largest tribal groups in India, with a significant presence in states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Telangana. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

- 💡 The **Soliga tribe** primarily inhabits the forest areas of the Biligiri Rangana Hills and Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Karnataka. Hence, **pair 4 is not correctly matched**.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

12. (A)

Exp:

Mount Kailash:

- 💡 India announced the resumption of the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY)** after a 5-year pause, halted by China in 2020 due to **Covid-19** and **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** tensions. KMY has been operational since 1981.
- 💡 **Mount Kailash**, a **diamond-shaped black rock peak** in **Tibet**, is sacred to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bons, and is the source of major Asian rivers like the **Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, and Karnali**.
 - ✦ It remains unclimbed as **its ascent is prohibited** due to its sacred significance.
- 💡 **KMY** is a **pilgrimage** organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs (India)** to **Mount Kailash (6,638 m)** and **Lake Mansarovar (4,600 m)** in the **Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)** of China.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

13. (A)

Exp:

Tapti River:

- 💡 The Tapti River, India's **second-longest west-flowing river** after the **Narmada**, flows through **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat**.
 - ✦ It is one of the 3 major rivers in India that **flow westward**, along with the **Narmada** and **Mahi**.
 - ✦ It drains into the **Arabian Sea** at the **Gulf of Khambhat** in Gujarat.
- 💡 The Tapi basin, bounded by the **Satpura range (north)**, the **Mahadeo hills (east)**, **Ajanta and Satmala hills (south)**, and the **Arabian Sea (west)**.
 - ✦ It flows between the **Satpura Range** and **Mahadeo Hills**, running **parallel to the Narmada River** to the north, separated by the main part of the Satpura Range.
- 💡 The Tapti has **14 major tributaries: 4 right-bank** (Vaki, Aner, Arunawati, Gomai) and **10 left-bank** (Nesu, Amravati, Buray, Panjhara, Bori, Girna, Waghur, Purna, Mona, Sipna).

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- ✦ Purna River is the main left-bank tributary, providing perennial flow.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

14. (A)

Exp:

Wadge Bank:

- 💡 It is a submarine plateau in the Indian Ocean, located 80 km off Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin), lying in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 It is one of the world's richest fishing grounds, with high organic productivity, serving as a key feeding and breeding ground for fish. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The 1976 India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreement grants India sovereign rights over Wadge Bank, including the right to explore petroleum and minerals, while Sri Lankan fishermen are prohibited from fishing in the area. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

15. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 Germanium is not classified as a rare earth element. It is a metalloid or semi-metal. While it is considered a critical mineral, it does not occur abundantly in India, including the northeastern states. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- ✦ India largely depends on imports, especially from China, which dominates global germanium production.
- 💡 It is widely used in electronics and optics, especially in fiber-optic cables, infrared imaging devices, and fiber-optic preforms, which are crucial for internet infrastructure.
- ✦ It is also used in solar cells due to its heat resistance and higher energy conversion efficiency. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 China is the world's largest producer and exporter of germanium, accounting for 60% of global germanium production.

16. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 Emden Deep in the Philippines Trench is the world's third-deepest point after Challenger Deep (Mariana Trench) and Horizon Deep (Tonga Trench). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ✦ The Emden Deep, also known as the Galathea Deep and later explored by the Danish ship Galathea in 1951, earning its second name.

- 💡 Philippines Trench: The Philippine Trench is a narrow, deep oceanic trench in the western Pacific Ocean, located to the east of the Philippines Sea. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

17. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 Sir Creek is a 96-km water strip located in the Rann of Kutch marshlands, disputed between India and Pakistan. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Sir Creek roughly separates the Kutch region in India and Pakistan's Sindh province and opens into the Arabian Sea. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 The international boundary in the Sir Creek area and the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between India and Pakistan have not been demarcated. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

18. (A)

Exp:

- 💡 The Shiwalik Range, also known as the Outer Himalayas, is the youngest of the three Himalayan ranges (Greater, Lesser, and Shiwalik). It was formed in the Tertiary period (approximately 5 to 10 million years ago) and consists of unconsolidated sediments brought down by rivers from the higher ranges. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The Kashmir Himalayas (western Himalayas) are wider, with well-developed valleys and broader ranges compared to the Assam Himalayas (eastern Himalayas), which are narrower, more rugged, and have higher rainfall and denser vegetation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The Lesser Himalayas (also called Himachal) are primarily composed of metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, such as slate, quartzite, and limestone—not granitic rocks or glacial moraines.
- ✦ Granitic rocks are more common in the Greater Himalayas, while glacial moraines are deposits left by glaciers, not a defining characteristic of the Lesser Himalayas' geological structure. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

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Polity & Governance

19. (D)

Exp:

Private Member's Bills

- 💡 PMBs are legislative proposals introduced by **Members of Parliament (MPs)** who are not Ministers (i.e., not part of the government), enabling them to raise issues and suggest laws or amendments on matters significant to their constituencies. Only non-government MPs can introduce these bills, offering a chance for independent legislative proposals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Drafting and Notice: Members of Parliament (MPs)** draft and submit bills with at least one month's notice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Bills are introduced in Parliament, followed by initial discussions. If selected, bills are debated, typically in limited Friday afternoon sessions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

20. (A)

Exp:

Panchayat:

- 💡 **Article 40** (Directive Principles of State Policy) directs the State to **organize village panchayats** and empower them appropriately. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 PAI, or the **Panchayat Advancement Index**, marks a significant step in localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strengthening grassroots governance.
 - ✦ Launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, this transformative tool aims to assess the progress of more than 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✦ It aligns with the **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)** and the **National Indicator Framework (NIF)** developed by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
 - ✦ It reflects India's commitment to the SDG 2030 Agenda by promoting participatory, **bottom-up governance**, assessing **Gram Panchayats'** development through socio-economic indicators, identifying gaps, and enabling evidence-based planning.

21. (D)

Exp:

- 💡 In 1961, the central government allowed states to conduct surveys and compile state-specific lists of OBCs. The last national caste data collection was in **2011 through the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)**, aimed at assessing households' socio-economic conditions along with caste information. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Caste enumeration was a regular feature of census exercises during British rule from **1881 to 1931**, while the 1941 Census also collected caste information but did not publish it due to the onset of **World War II**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Though **Article 340 permits the identification of backward classes**, there is no constitutional mandate for caste enumeration in the general Census. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 Constitutional Provisions of Parliamentary Oversight:
 - ✦ **Article 75** states that the Council of Ministers is collectively accountable to the Lok Sabha, ensuring executive accountability in a Westminster-style democracy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ **Article 108** allows the President to call a joint sitting of both Houses to resolve legislative deadlocks.
 - ✦ **Article 111** grants the President the power to assent, withhold, or return a Bill (except Money Bills) to Parliament for reconsideration. This power serves as a check on legislative actions.
 - ✦ **Article 113** ensures that the government cannot incur any expenditure unless approved by **Parliament through an Appropriation Bill**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✦ **Article 114** governs the authorization of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund.

23. (A)

Exp:

The Public Accounts Committee:

- 💡 The Public Accounts Committee was originally established in 1921 following the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- ⚡ This Committee is reconstituted every year.
- ⚡ It consists of a maximum of 22 members—15 are elected annually by the Lok Sabha from its own members using the proportional representation system by means of a single transferable vote, while up to 7 members are similarly elected by the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✖ Each member serves a one-year term.
- ⚡ Ministers are disqualified from being elected to the Committee, and if an existing member is appointed as a Minister, their membership automatically ends from the date of such appointment.
- ⚡ The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from among the members of the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

24. (C)

Exp:

Constitutional Provisions Related to Water Management in India:

- ⚡ **Entry 56 of the Union List:** It grants the Union Government authority to **regulate and develop inter-state rivers and river valleys**, as deemed necessary by Parliament for public interest.
- ⚡ **Entry 32 of the Concurrent List:** It is related to **shipping and navigation on inland waterways** as regards **mechanically propelled vessels**, and the rule of the road on such waterways.
- ⚡ **Entry 17 of the State List:** It pertains to **water**, covering aspects such as **water supply, irrigation, canals, drainage, embankments, water storage, and hydro power**.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

25. (C)

Exp:

Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2024:

- ⚡ **Annual Plastic Waste Assessment:** Local bodies must assess plastic waste generation annually, including dump site data, and project estimates for the next five years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ **Reporting by Manufacturers:** Manufacturers of compostable/biodegradable plastic products must report quantities introduced and pre-consumer waste to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- ⚡ **Centralised Online Registration Portal:** A digital portal for registration of Producers, Importers, Brand Owners, and relevant manufacturers, with auto-

registration if approval takes over 30 days. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ⚡ **Ban on Single-Use Plastics (SUP):** Local bodies must enforce the ban on SUPs and report annually on compliance efforts.
- ⚡ **Expanded EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility):** All entities introducing plastic packaging must manage its collection and disposal. Compostable/biodegradable plastic producers are now included under EPR. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ⚡ **Local Body Responsibilities:** Local bodies must build and maintain infrastructure for plastic waste management and assess/report their capacity annually.
- ⚡ **Voluntary Collaboration:** Producers and other stakeholders can voluntarily engage with local bodies in waste management initiatives.
- ⚡ **Online Reporting Mandate:** Manufacturers and importers must submit quarterly digital reports, while recyclers and raw material sellers must report annually. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- ⚡ **Institutional Monitoring Framework:** A mechanism has been established to ensure effective monitoring, transparency, and accountability.

26. (C)

Exp:

- ⚡ The **Government of India Act, 1919** provided for the establishment of a **Public Service Commission** in India to manage recruitment and control of public services.
 - ✖ On the recommendations of **Lee Commission (1924)**, the **Public Service Commission** was created in 1926, with Sir Ross Barker as the first Chairman. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✖ Further, the **Government of India Act, 1935** established a **Public Service Commission** for the Federation and a **Provincial Public Service Commission** for each province or group of provinces.
 - 📎 With the implementation of the Act, the Public Service Commission became the Federal Public Service Commission.
- ⚡ On **26th January 1950**, with the adoption of the Indian Constitution, the Federal Public Service Commission became the **UPSC**.

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✦ The Chairman and Members of the former Commission transitioned to the new body under **Article 378(1) of the Constitution**.

💡 Article 312 of the Indian Constitution allows Parliament to create All India services, with recruitment handled by the UPSC. At the state level, recruitment is managed by **State Public Service Commissions (SPSC)**.

✦ The UPSC and the SPSC are independent constitutional bodies. **Articles 315 to 323** (Part XIV) of the Indian Constitution govern their composition, appointment, removal of members, and their powers and functions. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

27. (C)

Exp:

Cooperative Societies:

💡 A cooperative society is a **voluntary, member-owned organization** designed to meet common economic, social, and cultural needs through self-help, mutual assistance, and community welfare, distinct from profit-driven enterprises.

💡 **Evolution of the Cooperative Movement:**

✦ **MacLagan Committee (1914)** recommended a **three-tier cooperative banking system**, shaping the structural framework for cooperative finance. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

✦ The **97th Constitutional Amendment (2011)** granted constitutional status to cooperatives and introduced **Article 43B as a Directive Principle**, urging the state to promote their development. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ The **Ministry of Cooperation** was established in **2021**, emphasizing the **government's commitment** to enhancing cooperative societies as key contributors to economic progress.

28. (B)

Exp:

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

💡 **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** is the **national apex scientific organization** under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** responsible for the assessment, augmentation, regulation, and management of groundwater resources in India.

✦ While the CGWB plays a **key role in groundwater regulation and policy support**, it is not established by a statute, **hence not a statutory body**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 The **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** was constituted **under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, not under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 The **NAQUIM (National Aquifer Mapping and Management)** program is a major initiative of CGWB aimed at **mapping, characterizing aquifers**, and formulating **region-specific groundwater management plans**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

29. (B)

Exp:

SVAMITVA Scheme (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas):

💡 It is a **central sector scheme** to provide **legal ownership of residential properties in rural areas** using **drones and GIS technology**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 It aimed at creating a **Record of Rights for rural property owners**, focusing on **abadi areas (inhabited regions)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) was launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** in 2020. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

💡 **Gram Manchitra Platform** is a GIS-based platform designed to empower **rural governance** and planning.

✦ It **integrates geospatial data with existing schemes** to provide visual insights for effective decision-making at the grassroots level.

30. (A)

Exp:

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002:

💡 PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act), 2002 is a law enacted by the Indian Parliament to **prevent money laundering and to allow the confiscation of property** derived from criminal activities.

💡 It aims to **combat the process of making illegally obtained money appear legitimate** and targets crimes like **drug trafficking, terrorism financing, corruption, and organized crime**.

💡 **Amendments:**

✦ As per 2023 amendments to the PMLA, the scope of the term **"proceeds of crime"** has been widened. It now includes not only property derived from the **scheduled offence** but also any property obtained from criminal activities that are relatable or similar in nature to the scheduled offence. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- ✦ Originally, money laundering under PMLA was treated as dependent on the **predicate offence** (i.e., a crime listed in the schedule of the Act). However, **recent amendments treat money laundering as a stand-alone offence**, meaning prosecution can proceed independently of conviction in the predicate offence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ✦ PMLA **does not restrict itself to cash transactions**. It covers a wide range of financial transactions, including **digital payments, wire transfers, and asset-based transactions** (like real estate and gold). This is essential to detect and disrupt modern methods of money laundering, especially involving electronic financial systems. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

31. (A)

Exp:

Article 19 of the Indian Constitution

- 💡 **Article 19** of the Indian Constitution guarantees the **Right to Freedom** and includes **6 specific freedoms to citizens**, subject to reasonable restrictions. These freedoms are:

- ✦ Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression
- ✦ Right to Assemble Peaceably and Without Arms
- ✦ Right to Form Associations or Unions
- ✦ Right to Move Freely Throughout the Territory of India
- ✦ Right to Reside and Settle in Any Part of the Territory of India
- ✦ Right to Practice Any Profession, or to Carry on Any Occupation, Trade, or Business

- 💡 **The right to protection of life and personal liberty** is protected under **Article 21** of the Constitution, not Article 19.

- ✦ **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution** guarantees the **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**, which states: **"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."**

- 💡 Hence, option A is correct

32. (D)

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- 💡 It was launched in **2016**, PMFBY is a **Central Sector Scheme** designed to offer **financial protection to farmers** against crop losses caused by natural

disasters, pests, or diseases. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 As of 2023–24, PMFBY became the **world's largest crop insurance scheme** in terms of the number of farmers enrolled and land area covered. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 **All farmers** including **sharecroppers** and **tenant farmers** growing the **notified crops** in the **notified areas** are eligible for coverage. Participation in PMFBY is **voluntary**, with **non-loanee farmers** comprising **55%** of the total beneficiaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

33. (A)

Exp:

Key Mechanisms of Parliamentary Oversight

- 💡 **Article 75** provides for collective accountability of the Council of Ministers to the Lok Sabha, not individual ministerial accountability. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Zero Hour** is an unwritten/conventional practice in the Indian Parliament and is **not explicitly mentioned** in the Rules of Procedure. It allows MPs to raise matters of urgent public importance without prior notice. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Article 111** grants the President the power to assent, withhold, or return a Bill (except Money Bills) to Parliament for reconsideration. This power serves as a check on legislative actions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Other Constitutional Provisions of Parliamentary Oversight:

- ✦ **Article 108** allows the President to call a joint sitting of both Houses to resolve legislative deadlocks.
- ✦ **Article 113** ensures that the government cannot incur any expenditure unless approved by Parliament through an Appropriation Bill.
- ✦ **Article 114** governs the authorization of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund.

34. (B)

Exp:

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- 💡 The ED is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with the **investigation of offences of money laundering** and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- 💡 It functions under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**, not the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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It deals primarily with **financial crimes**, not narcotics or terrorism. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- 💡 ED enforces both the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002** and the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA), 2018**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999**, ED is empowered to investigate violations of foreign exchange laws and impose civil penalties. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Social Issues

35. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Dongria Kondh** are a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** residing in **Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills** and are known for their spiritual bond with nature, and distinct culture.
 - ✦ They worship **Niyam Raja**, the deity of the hills, and follow practices like **Podu** (shifting) cultivation
- 💡 They speak **Kui**, an **ancient Dravidian language**, and pass down ancestral wisdom through oral traditions (no script) of songs and dance.
- 💡 They have a number of sub-tribes, such as the **Kovi, Kuttia, Languli, Penga, and Jharnia** (protector of streams).
- 💡 In the 2000s, the tribe strongly opposed Vedanta's mining operations on their land.
 - ✦ This resistance culminated in a landmark 2013 Supreme Court judgment that upheld the Gram Sabha's constitutional right to reject mining projects in their area.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

Agriculture & Allied Sector

36. (B)

Exp:

Kendu Leaf:

- 💡 It is a nationalised product like bamboo and sal seed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ This means the **government regulates their collection**, trade, and processing, similar to bamboo and sal seed.

- 💡 It is covered under **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** as per the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 Odisha is India's **3rd-largest Kendu leaf producer** after **Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**, contributing around 4.5–5 lakh quintals annually, nearly 20% of the national output. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- ✦ Villages of Odisha are awaiting government **deregulation on kendu (Tendu) leaves** to manage their trade independently under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.

37. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 India has released its **first genome-edited rice varieties** namely '**DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)**' and '**Pusa DST Rice 1**' aimed at enhancing **yields, climate resilience, and resource efficiency** without introducing foreign DNA. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 They have been **developed by ICAR** using advanced **CRISPR-Cas9** genome-editing technology. No foreign DNA is introduced, making them comparable to traditionally bred crops. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)**: It is based on the popular **Samba Mahsuri** variety. Edited using **Site Directed Nuclease 1 (SDN1) technology** targeting the **Cytokinin Oxidase 2 (CKX2) gene (Gn1a)** to improve grain number.
 - ✦ **Pusa DST Rice 1** is based on **Maruteru 1010** variety and enhances drought and salt tolerance. Developed through **SDN1** genome-editing, it targets the drought and salt tolerance (**DST**) gene. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Environment & Ecology

38. (C)

Exp:

Waste Management:

- 💡 **Waste to Wealth** initiative under the **Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)** repurposes discarded materials into art and utility items. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ✦ As of 2024, over 3 lakh citizens have been educated on waste management, and 80 out of 800+ evaluated technologies are already in use.

💡 **The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Mechanism** is a waste management policy that holds producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products, including collection, recycling, and disposal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ✦ In 2022, EPR for plastic packaging, e-waste, battery waste, and used oil was introduced, boosting growth in the waste management sector.

39. (A)

Exp:

Chlorpyrifos

- 💡 Chlorpyrifos is an **organophosphate** (formed by esterifying phosphoric acid with alcohol) insecticide widely **used in India for agricultural and public health purposes** to control pests. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It is classified as **moderately hazardous** by **WHO** and a **possible carcinogen** by **EPA**, its residues are found in produce, **water, blood, and breast milk**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Health Impact:** Exposure (via skin, inhalation, or ingestion) can cause headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle cramps, and in severe cases, paralysis and breathing difficulty.
 - ✦ It **forms a toxic byproduct** (chlorpyrifos oxon) in the body, which causes these effects.
- 💡 **Environmental impact:** It persists in soil for weeks to years, breaks down slowly in acidic conditions, and may contaminate water bodies through erosion.
 - ✦ It is **highly toxic to birds** (e.g., robins, mallards), fish, bees, and earthworms, and can bioaccumulate in the food chain.

40. (c)

Exp:

- 💡 **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** are **toxic, carbon-based chemical substances** that persist in the environment for long periods, resist degradation, and accumulate in living organisms.
- 💡 **Health & Environmental Impacts:** Can cause **cancer, immune suppression**, neurotoxicity, reproductive disorders, and endocrine disruption and its exposure leads to **both acute and chronic effects**, even across generations.

- ✦ **Bioaccumulation:** POPs accumulate in the fatty tissues of living organisms over time.
- ✦ **Biomagnification:** Their concentration increases as they move up the food chain, affecting top predators and humans.

💡 India ratified the **Stockholm Convention in 2006**. To regulate Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the **MoEFCC** notified the '**Regulation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Rules, 2018**' under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Examples:**

- ✦ **Endosulfan:** Banned in many countries; known for **endocrine disruption**.
 - 💡 It was banned in India in 2011 following a Supreme Court directive due to its adverse health and environmental impacts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ✦ **DDT:** Banned for agriculture in India but still used for **vector control** (e.g., **mosquito fumigation in malaria-prone areas**).
 - 💡 Others include **Aldrin, Dieldrin, PCBs, and Toxaphene**.

41. (A)

Exp:

Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*):

- 💡 Locusts are a **type of grasshopper belonging to the family Acrididae**. The Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) is considered the **most destructive migratory pest**.
- 💡 Locusts are solitary insects until they undergo a transformation called **gregarisation**, where they become more social and congregate in large swarms.
 - ✦ A small swarm (1 km²) can contain 80 million locusts, consuming as much food as 35,000 people in one day, while a large swarm can eat up to 1.8 million metric tons of vegetation.
- 💡 Locusts are **migratory pests** capable of flying hundreds of kilometers in swarms. They are a **transboundary pest** that travels between Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.
- 💡 India's Scheduled Desert Area, encompassing the states of **Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana**, covering over 2 lakh square kilometers, is particularly vulnerable to locust invasions, which often originate from regions such as Africa and the Gulf.
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

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42. (C)

Exp:

Hyenas

- Hyenas belong to the family **Hyaenidae**, which are a group of **carnivorous mammals** like dogs.
- Spotted hyenas** are known to be **both skilled hunters and scavengers**. They often engage in **kleptoparasitism**, where they steal food from other predators like lions, cheetahs, and wild dogs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Hyenas have a crucial role in the ecosystem. As predators, they **help control herbivore populations**. As scavengers, they prevent the spread of diseases by **cleaning up carcasses**, and they also help recycle nutrients back into the ecosystem. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

43. (A)

Exp:

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*):

- The leopard is the smallest of the Big Cat family (of genus *Panthera*, namely the Tiger, Lion (*Panthera leo*), Jaguar, Leopard, and Snow Leopard), and is known for its ability to adapt in a variety of habitats.
- A **nocturnal animal**, it feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer, and wild boar.
- It occurs in a wide range in **sub-Saharan Africa**, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia.
- The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.
- It is listed as **Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List** and in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Dhole** is mentioned in **Schedule II of the WLP Act 1972**, and the **habitat of the Asiatic Lion** is restricted to India only.
- Hence, option A is correct.**

44. (C)

Exp:

The **Red Admiral butterfly** (*Vanessa atalanta*) has been sighted for the first time in India's **Dhauladhar mountain range** in Himachal Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Red Admiral resembles the **Indian Red Admiral** (*Vanessa indica*) but can be distinguished by its narrower, deeper crimson discal band and the consistent presence of a diagnostic spot in the upper forewing (a feature absent in the Indian species).

- Male Red Admirals are highly territorial and often chase rivals from their roosting spots.

Its larvae feed on **stinging nettle** (*Urtica dioica*), found abundantly in the Western Himalayas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The species is resilient to climate change due to its diverse host plants, primarily from the **nettle family** (*Urticaceae*), but may face challenges from habitat loss and environmental changes affecting plant populations.

45. (A)

Exp:

Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle

- The **Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle** (*Batagur kachuga*) has been **reintroduced into the Ganga River** after 30-years, marking a major success under the **Namami Gange Mission** and the **Turtle Survival Alliance India** (TSAFI) project.

Turtles were released in the **Haiderpur Wetland**, a **Ramsar site** located near the **Bijnor Ganga Barrage** within the **Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary**, Uttar Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It is a **freshwater turtle** belonging to the family **Geoemydidae**. Also known as **Bengal Roof Turtle**, they are one of the **24 species** endemic to India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Protection Status:** IUCN Red List: **Critically Endangered**; Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972: Schedule I; CITES: Appendix II. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

46. (D)

Exp:

- Microplastics**, defined as plastics less than **five millimetres** in diameter, can be **harmful to oceans and aquatic life**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Solar UV radiation, wind, and ocean currents break down plastics into **microplastics** (<5 mm) and **nanoplastics** (<100 nm).

- Classification:**

- Primary microplastics:** They are tiny particles made for **commercial use**, like **microbeads**, **plastic pellets**, and **microfibers** from clothing.
- Secondary microplastics:** They form when larger plastics like bottles **break down** due to **sunlight** and **ocean currents**.

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⚡ **Concerns:** Microplastics can attach to red blood cells, reducing oxygen transport, and have been found in placentas and fetal organs.

- ✦ Nanoplastics are even smaller than microplastics and can penetrate cellular membranes due to their size.
- ✦ Scientific studies have shown their presence in human placentas, fetal tissues, and bloodstreams. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ✦ Because they can travel through the blood-brain barrier and interact with cellular functions, they raise major health concerns, including oxidative stress, inflammation, and organ damage.

47. (B)

Exp:

Cloud Seeding

⚡ It is a weather modification technique that enhances precipitation by dispersing chemicals like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or dry ice into clouds, serving as nuclei for water droplet formation, leading to rainfall. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ **Types of Cloud Seeding:**

- ✦ **Static cloud seeding**— involves introducing ice nuclei into cold clouds to form ice crystals or snowflakes. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ✦ **Dynamic cloud seeding**— stimulates rainfall by enhancing vertical air currents and promoting rain cloud growth.
- ✦ **Hygroscopic cloud seeding**— uses fine particles of salts to increase cloud droplet size. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ✦ **Glaciogenic cloud seeding**— induces ice formation in supercooled clouds to trigger precipitation. It is used for enhancing snowfall, increasing mountain snowpack, inducing rain in drought-hit areas, and reducing air pollution.

48. (C)

Exp:

Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary:

- ⚡ BWS is located in the Belgaum district, Karnataka, near the Goa border. It spans over the Western Ghats and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in December 2011.
- ⚡ It is named after Bhimgad Fort, built by Shivaji in the 17th century to defend against Portuguese forces.

⚡ It is home to diverse avifauna, including the Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Imperial Pigeon, Emerald Dove, and the rare Malabar Trogon.

✦ It is known as the only known breeding site of Wroughton's Free-tailed Bat, found in the Barapede Caves.

⚡ The sanctuary includes the Vajrapoha Waterfalls and forms part of the Mahadayi River's catchment area.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

49. (B)

Exp:

⚡ Scientists have mapped the genome of the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) to aid conservation and found that the species split into two populations 5,000 to 20,000 years ago, coinciding with habitat changes during and after the Last Glacial Maximum (about 20,000 years ago). Agricultural expansion in Vietnam further isolated the populations.

⚡ **Saola:** Often called the "Asian unicorn," it is the rarest large land mammal and belongs to the bovid genus. It has a dark, antelope-like body, soft fur, white facial markings, and long parallel horns present in both sexes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✦ Its name, "Saola," in Lao means "spinning wheel posts," referencing the shape of its horns.

⚡ **Habitat and Survival Threats:** The saola is found in the misty highland forests of the Annamite mountain range between Vietnam and Laos. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

✦ It is classified as Critically Endangered (IUCN Status) and is primarily threatened by habitat loss, poaching, and indiscriminate snaring. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

50. (C)

Explanation:

⚡ Locusts undergo a transformation called gregarisation, becoming more social and forming large swarms.

⚡ The Locust swarms are guided by a cognitive decision-making model, not random behavior.

⚡ The Locust Warning Organization in India monitors locust activity in the Scheduled Desert Area, which includes Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana, not the Eastern Ghats.

⚡ Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) is the most destructive migratory pest globally.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

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51. (C)

Exp:

Environmental Footprint of AI

- 💡 AI systems, especially those powered by **fossil fuels**, contribute to around **1% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, and this share is **expected to double by 2026**. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✖ This is due to the growing energy demands of AI technologies, particularly in **data centres** where AI models are trained and operated.
- 💡 AI data centres consume significant water for cooling, with training large models like **GPT-3** requiring up to **700,000 litres of water**. This intensifies **global water scarcity**, especially in water-stressed areas. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 AI hardware production involves mining **rare-earth minerals** like **lithium** and **cobalt**, often through environmentally harmful methods, contributing to deforestation and soil degradation. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

52. (A)

Exp:

Urban Heat Island (UHI)

- 💡 An **Urban Heat Island (UHI)** is a phenomenon where a **city experiences significantly higher temperatures** than its surrounding rural areas, **particularly at night**.
- 💡 UHI occurs when urban areas, due to materials like **asphalt and concrete**, absorb heat during the day and release it slowly at night.
 - ✖ These materials have **low albedo**, meaning they do not reflect much heat and instead retain it, causing **urban temperatures to rise** compared to surrounding rural areas. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 UHI actually leads to an **increase in energy consumption** because higher urban temperatures **raise the demand for cooling**, particularly air conditioning, which **strains energy grids**. This is the opposite of reducing energy consumption. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 **Anthropogenic heat** from **vehicular emissions**, **industrial activities**, and **air conditioning** systems significantly contribute to the UHI effect. These sources of heat **raise temperatures** in urban areas, making the UHI effect worse. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

53. (D)

Exp:

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

- 💡 The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** is a **statutory autonomous body** established in **2003** under the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, to **enforce the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✖ This came after India signed the **Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992**.
- 💡 **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)**, which operate at the local level, are responsible for documenting local biodiversity and preparing **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)** that record local biodiversity knowledge, resources, and practices. This helps in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the community level. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The **NBA does not directly regulate the commercial use of biological resources** at the local level. It advises the government and works through State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and local BMCs for the regulation of commercial use.
- 💡 The NBA's role is **more advisory and regulatory at the national level**, while the SBBs and BMCs manage the regulations at the local and state levels. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Economy

54. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Global Wind Report 2025** has been released by the **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)**.
- 💡 It warned that projected wind capacity will only meet **77% of 2030 targets**, jeopardizing **net-zero** and **Paris Agreement** goals to limit warming to **below 2°C** (preferably 1.5°C).
- 💡 India ranks **4th globally** in terms of total installed wind power capacity, trailing only **behind China, the United States, and Germany**.
 - ✖ As of 2025, the top wind energy-producing states in India are **Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

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55. (C)

Exp:

Vizhinjam International Seaport:

- 💡 Vizhinjam is India's first dedicated transshipment port and also the **country's first semi-automated port**.
- ✦ It is equipped with an AI-driven control room and the country's **first Indigenous Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 It is positioned just 10 nautical miles from major international shipping routes connecting **Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East**, enhancing accessibility for large vessels (depth of 18 to 20 meters). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

56. (D)

Exp:

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):

- 💡 The FRP is the **minimum price** at which **sugar mills** are **legally required to purchase sugarcane** from farmers in India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The FRP is based on the **Rangarajan Committee report (2012)** on reorganizing the sugarcane industry. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 Its determination is based on **recommendations** from the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** and after consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

57. (A)

Exp:

Farmers Producer Organisation

- 💡 An FPO is a type of **Producer Organisation (PO)** with **farmers** as its members, and its promotion is supported by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC). The FPOs came into existence in **2008**, inspired by economist **YK Alagh's** recommendation (2002) to amend the **Companies Act, 1956**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 FPOs can be registered under the **Companies Act, 2013**, the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**, or as **Public Trusts** under the **Indian Trusts Act, 1882**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 Indian agriculture is dominated by **small and marginal farmers** (87% owning less than 2 hectares), facing **weather and market risks**, and struggling to get fair prices. FPOs help small farmers by facilitating **bulk input purchases**, improving bargaining power, and

ensuring better price realization with reduced costs.

Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

58. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 India has been ranked **130th out of 193 countries and territories** in the **2025 Human Development Report (HDR)**, titled "*A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI*", released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ HDRs have been **released since 1990** and have explored different themes through the human development approach.
- 💡 UNDP **considers indicators** such as life expectancy at birth, expected years of schooling, mean years of schooling, and GNI per capita for calculating the Human Development Index (HDI). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

59. (B)

Exp:

Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI):

- 💡 The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).
- 💡 It will be verified by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Accredited Carbon Verification (ACV) Agency to ensure compliance. The certificate is transferable, non-tradeable, and **cannot be used to claim emission reduction credits**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 The certification scheme **applies only to green hydrogen** production from electrolysis or conversion of biomass. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 Under this scheme, International port cities like **Kandla, Paradip, and Tuticorin** have been chosen as the main centers for producing green hydrogen for export. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

60. (B)

Exp:

Insider Trading:

- 💡 Insider trading refers to the **illegal practice of buying or selling** a publicly traded **company's stock or securities** based on **material, non-public information (MNPI)** about the company.
- 💡 It gives the trader an **unfair advantage** over other investors and undermines market fairness.

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- ⚡ An insider can include **company executives, directors, employees** with access to confidential data (impacts stock prices), their **relatives or associates**, and professionals such as **lawyers, bankers, or auditors** working with the company.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

61. (C)

Exp:

World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report:

- ⚡ The **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** is a **flagship report** released by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- ⚡ It provides detailed analysis and projections of the **global economy**, including data on **growth, inflation, unemployment, and trade** for both advanced and developing countries.
- ⚡ The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s April **2025 World Economic Outlook (WEO)** projects that India will **surpass Japan** to become the **4th-largest economy** in 2025.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

62. (A)

Exp:

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

- ⚡ **Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)** refer to the **legal protections granted to creators, inventors, and businesses** for their inventions, designs, brands, and creative works. It includes **patents, trademarks, copyrights, designs, geographical indications, and trade secrets**, all of which protect the unique creations of the mind.
- ⚡ The **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** (**Headquarter-Geneva**) is an international body responsible for **promoting the global protection of intellectual property rights**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ✦ It sets international standards and facilitates cooperation among member countries in this regard.
- ⚡ The **Indian Patents Act of 1970** is the primary law governing patents in India. The administration of the Act, including the granting of patents and handling of patent-related matters, is managed by the **Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (CGPDTM)**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ⚡ The **National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy, 2016**, aims to promote **all forms of intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and designs**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

63. (C)

Exp:

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)

- ⚡ MFIs are financial entities that **provide small loans, often called microloans**, to low-income individuals or groups, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. These individuals typically lack access to conventional banking services due to factors such as lack of collateral, credit history, or stable income. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ NBFC-MFIs (Non-Banking Financial Company - Microfinance Institutions) in India are **regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, under the **NBFC-MFI framework (2014)**, which covers client protection, borrower safeguards, privacy, and credit pricing. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ⚡ While the core function of MFIs is to provide credit, many also offer a broader range of financial services such as **savings options, micro-insurance products, and fund transfer facilities**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

64. (C)

Exp:

- ⚡ According to **Article 112** of the Constitution of India, the **Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget)** must **separate the government's revenue expenditures from other types of spending**.
 - ✦ As a result, the Government Budget consists of both the **Revenue Budget** and the **Capital Budget**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ **Salaries and pensions** of government employees are classified as **Revenue Expenditure**, not **Capital Expenditure**. Revenue expenditure refers to daily operational costs that do not result in the creation of assets. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ⚡ Grants provided to State Governments, Union Territories, and other entities are classified as **revenue expenditure**, even if part of these grants is utilized for the creation of assets. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

65. (A)

Exp:

- ⚡ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is a **statutory body** established under the **SIDBI Act, 1989**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

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- 💡 SIDBI, headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, serves as the **principal financial institution for the promotion, financing, and development** of the MSME sector in India. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct.**

- 💡 SIDBI is a **wholly-owned subsidiary of the Government of India.** Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct.**

66. (A)

Exp:

Bond Forwards

- 💡 The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) norms on bond forwards aim to establish a regulated framework for **trading forward contracts in government securities** in India. Forward contracts are **customized agreements** between two parties to **buy or sell an asset at a predetermined price on a specified future date.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The purpose is to help **long-term investors** (like insurance companies) hedge interest rate risk, improve cash flow planning, and deepen the bond derivatives market.

- ✦ Unlike **unregulated FRAs** (Forward Rate Agreements), which **offer only cash settlement**, **bond forwards involve physical delivery of the bond**, aligning **better with the needs of such investors.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 **Participants: Residents and non-residents eligible to invest in government securities** under the Foreign Exchange Management (Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2019, **can participate in bond forward transactions.** Additionally, any entity classified as a **non-retail user is permitted to undertake such transactions as a user.**

- ✦ Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCB), Primary Dealers (as market makers), and institutional investors like insurance companies can participate, while **Small finance banks (SFBs), payment banks, local area banks (LAB), and regional rural banks (RRBs) are excluded.** Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

67. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 The **Injeti Srinivas Committee** was formed to recommend reforms to strengthen the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework** in India.
- 💡 It suggested making **CSR expenditure tax-deductible and allowing companies to carry forward unspent**

funds for 3 to 5 years. The committee advocated for aligning Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to balance local and national priorities.

- ✦ Additionally, the **creation of a CSR exchange portal was recommended** to connect contributors, beneficiaries, and agencies, alongside permitting CSR investments in **social impact bonds** and promoting social impact companies to drive sustainable development.

- 💡 Hence, **option C is correct.**

68. (A)

Exp:

- 💡 **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):** Legally binding treaties aimed at reducing or eliminating trade barriers (tariffs, quotas) and often including provisions on trade facilitation, intellectual property, and investment protection. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 **Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs):** Offer **selective tariff reductions** on specific goods rather than complete elimination, e.g., India-MERCOSUR PTA and India-Chile PTA. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

- 💡 **Comprehensive Economic Partnerships/Cooperation Agreements (CEPAs/CECAs):** These agreements **extend beyond FTAs** by covering areas like investment, services, and regulatory cooperation. Eg: India-South Korea CEPA and India-Singapore CECA. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

69. (B)

Exp:

- 💡 **The livestock sector contributed 5.50% to India's Gross Value Added (GVA)** in 2022–23. It also **provides employment to around 8.8%** of the population, making it a key component of the rural economy and food system. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 India's average annual cattle milk productivity in 2019–20 was 1,777 kg/animal, which is lower than the global average of 2,699 kg/animal (FAO, 2019). This indicates that **livestock productivity in India still lags** behind global standards due to factors like breed quality, feed, and infrastructure gaps. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

- 💡 The **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)** is a flagship initiative aimed at the control and eventual eradication of major livestock diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis through nationwide vaccination and disease surveillance. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

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Defence & Security

70. (C)

Exp:

National Security Advisory Board (NSAB):

- 💡 It operates under the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** and works alongside the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It advises the **National Security Council (NSC)** on external threats, internal stability, and emerging challenges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The NSAB's flexible composition has **no fixed member count**, with members appointed for **two-year terms** to adapt to evolving national security needs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

71. (B)

Exp:

💡 **Stratospheric Airship:**

- ✦ It is an **unmanned airship** designed for **high-altitude** operations in the **stratosphere**, typically between 17 to 22 kilometers above Earth.
- ✦ It operates as a **High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS)**, capable of remaining airborne for extended periods and utilizes **helium** for **buoyancy**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ Unlike satellites or aircraft, it can **stay over a specific area for extended periods**, offering persistent surveillance and communication. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

72. (B)

Exp:

INS Tamal:

- 💡 The **Indian Navy** is set to receive the **advanced stealth warship INS Tamal** from Russia.
- 💡 **Tamal** is a **stealth warship**, built as part of the **2016 Indo-Russian deal**, with two ships built in **Russia** and two in **India**.
 - ✦ INS Tamal is the **2nd Russian-built frigate** in this batch, following **INS Tushil** (commissioned Dec 2024).
 - ✍ Speeds up to **30 knots** and a range of **3,000 km per mission**.
 - ✍ Equipped with **torpedoes** and **rocket systems** like the BrahMos missile.
 - ✍ Can operate a **multi-role helicopter** for enhanced surveillance and combat.

- ✦ **Stealth Design:** Built to **evade radar**, improving **survivability** in modern naval warfare.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

Science & Tech

73. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 **Madhya Pradesh** has become the **first state** in India to implement an **AI-based Real-Time Forest Alert System (RTFAS)** on a pilot basis for active forest management. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 RTFAS is a **cloud-based AI system** that integrates satellite technology, machine learning, and real-time monitoring to combat deforestation.
- 💡 It uses **Google Earth Engine** to analyze **multi-temporal satellite data** and **detect land use changes** through a custom AI model. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

74. (D)

Exp:

Hydrogen Fuel Cells

- 💡 Hydrogen Fuel Cells are devices that **generate electricity by converting the chemical energy of hydrogen into electrical energy** through an **electrochemical reaction**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 They emit **water as the only by-product** making them a clean energy source. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The fuel cell generates electricity through the movement of protons (through the electrolyte) and electrons (through an external circuit). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

75. (B)

Exp:

Semaglutide

- 💡 It is a **GLP-1 receptor agonist**, which works by enhancing insulin secretion in a **glucose-dependent manner**, and **not by directly replacing insulin**. It is primarily used for managing **type 2 diabetes** and **obesity** and is **not** used for insulin replacement in **type 1 diabetes**. Semaglutide is **not a synthetic insulin analog**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Recent studies have shown that semaglutide is effective in treating **Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)**, which is a progressive form of **non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)**.

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✦ This condition, now referred to as MASH, involves liver inflammation and can lead to more severe liver damage over time. Semaglutide has shown promise in reducing liver fat and improving liver function in clinical trials. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Semaglutide is the **active ingredient** in medications like **Ozempic, Rybelsus, and Wegovy**. These medications are prescribed for managing **type 2 diabetes** (Ozempic, Rybelsus) and for **weight management** (Wegovy). They work by mimicking the effects of GLP-1, which helps regulate blood sugar levels and reduce appetite. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

76. (A)

Exp:

Semi-cryogenic Engine

- 💡 A **semi-cryogenic engine** uses **liquid oxygen (LOX)** as the oxidizer and **refined kerosene (RP-1)** as the fuel. This combination is commonly employed in modern rocket propulsion systems due to its high performance and relatively simple handling requirements. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Compared to cryogenic engines (which use LOX and liquid hydrogen), semi-cryogenic engines offer **higher density impulse**, meaning more thrust per unit volume of fuel. Additionally, kerosene is cheaper, denser, and easier to handle than liquid hydrogen, making the engine **more cost-effective and operationally efficient**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 In a **semi-cryogenic engine**, **only the oxidizer (LOX)** is stored at **cryogenic temperatures**. The **fuel (kerosene)** is stored at **ambient temperature**, which simplifies storage and refueling processes. If both propellants were stored at cryogenic temperatures, the engine would be classified as a **cryogenic engine**, not a semi-cryogenic one. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

77. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 Asteroids are **remnants from the early solar system**, primarily located in the **Asteroid Belt** between **Mars and Jupiter**. These objects are considered some of the oldest and most primitive materials from the formation of our solar system, around **4.6 billion years ago**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Trojans** are asteroids that share a planet's orbit at **Lagrangian points** (L4 and L5). However, they are **not restricted to the Asteroid Belt**. While many **Trojan asteroids** are found in Jupiter's orbit, Trojan asteroids can also be associated with other planets, such as Neptune and Mars. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 The **Hera Mission** by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** and **NETRA** by India's **ISRO** focus on **monitoring Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)** and **space debris**. These initiatives are crucial for planetary defense, ensuring early detection and mitigation of any potential impact risks posed by NEOs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

78. (C)

Exp:

💡 **NASA (USA): NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** is a joint project between **NASA and ISRO** that will **map the entire globe every 12 days**, offering consistent data on **ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation, sea level rise, groundwater**, and natural hazards like **earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and landslides**. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

💡 **JAXA (Japan): LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration)** is a joint mission by **ISRO and JAXA** aimed at exploring the **Moon's polar regions**, specifically targeting **permanently shaded areas** to investigate the presence of **water** and assess the potential for a **sustainable long-term lunar station**. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

💡 **CNES (France): Megha-Tropiques (2011)** is a joint **Indo-French joint satellite mission** launched for the study of the **tropical atmosphere and climate** related to aspects such as **monsoons, cyclones, etc.** **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

79. (A)

Exp:

💡 **RNA silencing** is a **natural defense mechanism** in plants that helps them **fight off viruses**.

💡 It is activated when the plant detects **double-stranded RNA (dsRNA)** from the virus, leading to the production of **small interfering RNAs (siRNAs)** that **target and degrade viral RNA**.

💡 These **siRNAs** **guide** the plant's defense system to **recognize and destroy** the **viral RNA**, preventing the infection from spreading.

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

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80. (C)

Exp:

- 💡 Cholera is an acute diarrheal disease caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the **bacterium *Vibrio cholerae***. It leads to rapid dehydration due to severe watery diarrhea. **It is a bacterial disease, not viral. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- 💡 Hepatitis A is a viral liver disease caused by the **Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)**, which spreads primarily through the fecal-oral route, often via contaminated drinking water or food. It is a **virus**, not a bacterium. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- 💡 Giardiasis is caused by the **protozoan parasite *Giardia lamblia***. It spreads through the consumption of water contaminated with feces. Symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, and nausea. It is a **protozoal** infection. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 Typhoid fever is caused by the **bacterium *Salmonella typhi***. It spreads through contaminated food and water, often in areas with poor sanitation. It is **not a fungal** disease. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct**

81. (D)

Exp:

Semiconductors:

- 💡 **Semiconductors** are materials with electrical conductivity between that of conductors and insulators. Eg: Germanium, Silicon etc.
- 💡 Their conductivity can change based on external factors such as voltage, temperature, or exposure to light or radiation, making them essential in modern electronics. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The fabrication of semiconductors (or chips) is **highly complex** and requires extremely **clean environments** known as cleanrooms, with **near-zero dust levels**. It also involves **nanometer-scale precision** and advanced machinery to etch circuits onto silicon wafers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Diodes** are key semiconductor components that allow current to flow in one direction, commonly used in power supplies and lighting. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ✦ Semiconductors have **diverse applications**: **transistors** function as switches or amplifiers,

forming the foundation of digital electronics; **microprocessors** are Integrated Circuits (ICs) that serve as the brain in devices like computers and smartphones; **solar cells** convert sunlight into electricity using materials like silicon; and **LED lights** emit light when current flows, commonly used in lighting.

82. (D)

Exp:

- 💡 **Blood disorders** are medical conditions that affect one or more components of the blood, such as red blood cells (RBCs), white blood cells (WBCs), platelets, plasma, or clotting factors.
- 💡 **Thalassemia** is a **hereditary disorder** affecting hemoglobin production. It is caused by mutations in the genes responsible for forming globin chains, leading to anemia and requiring blood transfusions in severe cases.
- 💡 **Sickle Cell Anemia** is also a **genetic blood disorder**, caused by a mutation in the hemoglobin gene (HBB gene). It leads to the production of abnormally shaped red blood cells that block blood flow and reduce oxygen delivery.
- 💡 **Hemophilia** is an **X-linked hereditary disorder**, typically affecting males. It impairs the blood's ability to clot due to the deficiency of clotting factors (Factor VIII or IX).
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

International Relations and Current Affairs

83. (B)

Exp:

Agent Orange:

- 💡 30th April 2025 marked the **50th anniversary of the Vietnam War's end (1954–75)**. However, millions of Vietnamese still suffer the **lasting effects of Agent Orange**, a toxic chemical **used by the US during the war**.
- 💡 **Agent Orange** is a Blend of herbicides **used to defoliate trees and shrubs**, depriving enemy troops of cover.
- ✦ It was composed of two herbicides (**2,4-D and 2,4,5-T**), mixed with the **highly toxic contaminant dioxin**.

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- ✦ Dioxin has a **half-life of up to 20 years in the human body** and can persist in soil and water for up to 100 years, **causing long-term contamination**.

💡 In radioactivity, **half-life is the time it takes for half of the atoms in a radioactive sample to decay**.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

84. (D)

Exp:

Arctic Council:

- 💡 The Arctic is a region **located above the Arctic Circle**, north of latitude 66° 34' N, encompassing the Arctic Ocean and surrounding lands, with the **North Pole at its center**.
- ✦ This region includes **territories of eight Arctic states**: Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the US, which together form the Arctic Council.
- 💡 The Arctic is home to nearly 4 million inhabitants, with approximately one-tenth being indigenous peoples.

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

85. (C)

Exp:

Haenyeo community of South Korea

- 💡 Haenyeo are women divers of **Jeju Island, South Korea**, who dive up to 10 meters deep **without oxygen tanks**, using traditional techniques to harvest shellfish like abalone and sea urchins. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ Research shows that Haenyeo have developed **bradycardia (slowed heart rate during diving)**, improved cold tolerance, and enhanced blood pressure regulation, which are attributed to **both physiological changes and genetic adaptation** over generations.
- 💡 In **2016**, UNESCO recognized Haenyeo culture as an **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** for its unique combination of ecological wisdom, matriarchal tradition, and sustainable harvesting practices. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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