



## Current Affairs Quiz (March 2024) Part-II

Current Affairs Quiz (March 2024) Part-II (Date : 08-04-2024)

### Question 1:

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Hepatitis is the inflammation of the liver, characterised by irritation or swelling of the liver cells.

**Statement-II:** Hepatitis is typically caused by hepatotropic viruses, including A, B, C, D, and E, although other viruses like the varicella virus can also lead to the disease.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

- **Hepatitis** is the **inflammation of the liver**, characterised by irritation or swelling of the liver cells. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Hepatitis is typically caused by **hepatotropic viruses**, including **A, B, C, D, and E**, although other viruses like the **varicella virus** can also lead to the disease. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct, because both statement-I and statement-II are correct and statement-II is the correct explanation of statement-I.**

**Question 2:**

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative under its Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).

**Statement-II:** Initiative aims to boost sustainable growth by showcasing indigenous products through 'Aakanksha' in which indigenous local products from 500 Aspirational Blocks have been mapped and consolidated.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 1**

**Explanation**

- The **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)** launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative under its **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**.
- Initiative aims to boost **sustainable growth** by showcasing indigenous products through 'Aakanksha.' A dedicated window on the **GeM portal facilitates e-commerce for local products.**
- **Statement I and II both** are correct. Statement I is talking about **Vocal for Local initiative** being the part of the **Aspirational Block Programme (ABP)** and **statement II** is talking about how local products from **500 aspirational blocks** mapped and consolidated under **Aakanksha** to boost the sustainable growth of local products. In this way we can say that **statement II** is defining **statement I.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

### Question 3:

Consider the following statements about Great Barrier Reef (GBR):

1. It is the world's largest coral reef system, located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
2. It's also home to endangered species such as the dugong and the large green turtle.
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and was inscribed in 1981.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

- The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is the **world's largest coral reef system**. It's located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland, Australia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The GBR stretches across 2,300 km and is made up of around 3,000 individual reefs and 900 islands.
- The GBR is home to 400 types of coral, and 1,500 species of fish. It's also home to endangered species such as the **dugong** and the large green turtle. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **GBR is a UNESCO World Heritage site** and was inscribed in 1981. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - In 2023, the UNESCO Heritage Committee **refrained from listing Australia's Great Barrier Reef as a site "in danger"** but warned that the world's biggest coral reef ecosystem remained under "**serious threat**" from pollution and the warming of oceans.
- Widespread mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef was first seen in 1998 and happened again in 2002, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and now in 2024.

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### Question 4:

Consider the following statements about Fifth-generation Fighter Jets:

1. These jets have stealth capabilities and can cruise at supersonic speeds without engaging

afterburners.

2. It stands out from fourth-generation (4G) peers due to its multi-spectral low-observable design, self-protection, radar jamming capabilities, and integrated avionics.
3. 5G jets are possessed by Russia (Sukhoi Su-57), China (Chengdu J-20), and the US (F-35).

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- **Fifth-generation (5G) fighters** are aircraft capable of operating in **heavily contested combat zones**, characterised by the presence of the most advanced air and ground threats, both current and anticipated.
- 5G fighter jets have **stealth capabilities** and can **cruise at supersonic speeds** without engaging afterburners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It stands out from fourth-generation (4G) peers due to its **multi-spectral low-observable design**, self-protection, radar jamming capabilities, and integrated avionics. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **5G jets** are possessed by **Russia (Sukhoi Su-57), China (Chengdu J-20), and the US (F-35)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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### Question 5:

Consider the following statements about Snakebites Envenoming (SE):

1. It is classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a High-Priority Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD).
2. The WHO has launched an Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming in countries where it is prevalent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

- Snakebite Envenoming (SE) is classified by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** as a **High-Priority Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- SE is a potentially life-threatening disease that typically results **from the injection of a mixture of different toxins** (venom) following the bite of a Venomous Snake.
- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a **group of infections** that are most **common among marginalized communities** in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and the Americas.
- They are caused by a variety of **pathogens** such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has launched a **National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE)**, under the 'One Health' approach. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The NAP-SE provides a broad framework for **management, prevention and control of Snakebite** envenoming in India.

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### **Question 6:**

Consider the following statements about Mahatari Vandana Yojana:

1. It was recently launched by the Prime Minister in Chhattisgarh.
2. All married women above the age of 21 as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, including widows, divorced, and deserted women, are eligible to benefit from this scheme.
3. The beneficiaries will receive financial aid of Rs 5000 per month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three

4. None

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

- The Prime Minister recently launched the Mahatari Vandana Yojana in Chhattisgarh.
- The scheme aims to ensure the **economic empowerment of women, provide them with financial security**, promote gender equality, and strengthen their decisive role within families. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- All married women above the **age of 21 as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024**, including widows, divorced, and deserted women, are eligible to benefit from this scheme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Eligible married women in Chhattisgarh will receive financial aid of **Rs 1000 per month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Approximately **70 lakh women are expected to benefit** from the Mahatari Vandana Yojana in Chhattisgarh, contributing to their socio-economic upliftment.
- The other initiatives aimed at enhancing women's well-being are the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Lakhpati Didi, Jan Dhan Accounts, Mudra Loans, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Ujjwala.**

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### Question 7:

Consider the following statements about CSpace:

1. It is the first Indian OTT platform launched by the Kerala government.
2. The platform will only stream films already released in theatres to avoid harming the interests of producers and exhibitors.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

- Kerala has launched India's first government-owned OTT platform called CSpace, aimed at promoting quality films with artistic and cultural value. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CSpace, emphasised its role in promoting Malayalam cinema and culture.
  - The platform will only stream films already released in theatres to avoid harming the interests of producers and exhibitors. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CSpace will be managed by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC), with transparency in profit-sharing and viewer statistics.
- A 60-member curator panel, will select content based on its artistic, cultural, and infotainment merit.

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### Question 8:

Consider the following statements:

1. A neuron consists of a cell body containing the nucleus, dendrites for receiving input, and an axon for sending messages.
2. Neurons communicate through synapses, where dendrites receive chemical signals, convert them to electrical impulses, and transmit them through axons to other neurons.
3. A neuron is sometimes enveloped by a myelin sheath for faster signal transmission.

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

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

- The human brain, comprising billions of **neurons**, forms a complex network vital for our existence and cognition. Understanding this intricate network, known as the **connectome**, offers profound insights into brain function and neurological disorders.
- A neuron consists of a **cell body containing the nucleus, dendrites for receiving input, and an axon for sending messages. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A neuron is sometimes enveloped by a **myelin sheath** for faster signal transmission. **Hence,**

**statement 3 is correct.**

- Neurons communicate through synapses, where dendrites **receive chemical signals, convert them to electrical impulses**, and transmit them through axons to other neurons. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 9:

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Prasar Bharati is India's largest public broadcasting agency and a statutory autonomous body set up by the Prasar Bharati Act, 1997.

**Statement-II:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting launched the Prasar Bharti - Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD), a news-sharing service from Prasar Bharati, aimed at transforming news dissemination in India.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

- Prasar Bharati is India's largest public broadcasting agency. It is a **statutory autonomous body set up by the Prasar Bharati Act, 1997. Hence, Statement I is correct.**
- The Prasar Bharati Corporation's main objective is to provide autonomy to Doordarshan and Akashvani to "educate and entertain the public."
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting launched the **Prasar Bharti - Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD)**, a news-sharing service from **Prasar Bharati**, aimed at transforming news dissemination in India. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
  - PB-SHABD will serve as a single-point source of news content for smaller news organisations lacking extensive networks.
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**



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**Question 10:**

Consider the following statements about Climate Finance:

1. The UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) established a Loss and Damage Fund for climate disaster recovery in developing nations during COP27.
2. The New Collective Quantitative Goal (NCQG) is a new annual financial target that developed countries must meet from 2025 onward to provide climate finance to developing countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

**Explanation**

- The UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 27) convened in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt established a Loss and Damage Fund for climate disaster recovery in developing nations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As preparations for COP29 in Baku intensify, attention now turns to finance discussions, particularly the New Collective Quantitative Goal (NCQG).
- The NCQG is a new annual financial target that developed countries must meet from 2025 onward to provide climate finance to developing countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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**Question 11:**

Consider the following statements about the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):

1. It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.

2. According to SIPRI's latest data, India emerged as the leading arms importer globally during the period from 2019 to 2023.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

According to the latest data on international arms transfers from the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, India emerged as the **leading arms importer globally during the period from 2019 to 2023. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

▪ **About SIPRI:**

- It was established in 1966 in Stockholm (Sweden).
- **It is an independent international institute** dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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### Question 12:

With reference to the Bone Grafting, consider the following statements:

1. Bone grafting involves a surgical technique where transplanted bone is utilized to repair and reconstruct bones affected by disease or injury.
2. Nano Hydroxyapatite-based Porous Composite Scaffolds are biodegradable and have osteoinductive and osteopromotive properties for bone repairing.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only

3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

- **Bone grafting** involves a **surgical technique** where transplanted bone is utilized to repair and reconstruct bones affected by disease or injury. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The primary objective of the invention is to overcome the **drawbacks of the existing remedies.**
  - Other alternatives have been associated with **infection** and **immune** related complications.
- **Nano Hydroxyapatite-based Porous Composite Scaffolds** are **biodegradable** and have **osteoinductive** and **osteopromotive** properties for **bone repairing.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 13:

Regarding the key unemployment indicators, consider the following statements:

1. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is defined as the percentage of labour force in the population.
3. Unemployment Rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed in the total population.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Activity Status- Usual Status:** The activity status of a person is determined based on the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period.
  - When the activity status is determined based on the reference period of the last 365 days preceding the date of the survey, it is known as the usual activity status of the person.
- **Activity Status- Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined based on a reference period of the last 7 days preceding the date of the survey is known as the CWS of the person.

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### Question 14:

Consider the following statements:

1. The World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Global Risks Perception Survey, ranks misinformation and disinformation among the top 10 risks.
2. Microtargeting is a marketing strategy that uses recent technological developments to reach out to specific segments of a larger audience based on detailed demographic, psychographic, behavioral, or other data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

- The **World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Global Risks Perception Survey**, ranks

misinformation and disinformation among the top 10 risks, with easy-to-use interfaces of large-scale AI models enabling a boom in false information and “synthetic” content - from sophisticated voice cloning to fake websites. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Microtargeting is a marketing strategy that uses recent technological developments and reaching out to specific segments of a larger audience based on **detailed demographic, psychographic, behavioral, or other data. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - AI can be used to inundate voters with highly personalised propaganda on a scale that could make the Cambridge Analytica scandal appear microscopic, as the persuasive ability of AI models would be far superior to the bots and automated social media accounts that are now baseline tools for spreading disinformation.
  - The risks are compounded by social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter significantly cutting their fact-checking and election integrity teams.

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### Question 15:

Consider the following statements regarding the Environment Protection Charge (EPC):

1. It is a fund used by the Central Board of Pollution Control (CPCB) to provide scientific inputs for improving air quality in Delhi NCR.
2. It is received as per an order of the Supreme Court in M.C. Mehta Vs Union of India Case, 1985.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- The Environment Protection Charge (EPC) is a fund used by the **Central Board of Pollution Control (CPCB)** to provide scientific inputs for improving air quality in **Delhi NCR. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The CPCB works with other institutions like IIT and NEERI under the EPC fund.
- The EPC is received as per an order of the **Supreme Court (M.C. Mehta Vs Union of India Case, 1985), and for air quality improvement** and related work in Delhi-NCR. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The CPCB also receives 25% of the environmental compensation collected by state pollution control boards. It also collects environmental penalties directly from polluters/defaulters in various

matters.

- In 2016, the **SC (Supreme Court)** imposed an **EPC of 1% on the sale of 2000cc** and above diesel, cars in Delhi and NCR.

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### Question 16:

Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

1. It was introduced by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in 2016.
2. It provides a financial support of Rs.1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.
3. It aims to reduce the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel which emits more black carbon.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, introduced the '**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**' (PMUY) in 2016 as a flagship scheme with the objective of making clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as well as on the environment due to huge emission of particulate matter and black carbon.
- It aims to **reduce the number of deaths in India** due to unclean cooking fuel which emits more **black carbon. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - It also aims to set up infrastructure to accompany LPG connections, which includes providing complimentary gas stoves, deposits for LPG cylinders, and establishing a distribution network.
- The scheme provides a financial support of **Rs 1600 for each LPG** connection to the BPL households. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 17:

Regarding H5N1 Bird Flu, consider the following statements:

1. California condors have been severely affected.
2. India experienced its first outbreak in the State of Maharashtra and Gujarat in 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- **Avian influenza A(H5N1) or H5B1 Bird Flu** is a highly pathogenic virus that primarily circulates among birds but can infect mammals.
- H5N1 originated from a virus outbreak in **China** in 1996 and rapidly evolved into a highly pathogenic strain.
- Since 2020, it has spread across **Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, South America, and even mainland Antarctica.**
- Wild birds, including endangered species like **California condors**, have been severely affected by H5N1. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Mammals like **foxes, pumas, bears** in North America, and farmed minks in Spain and Finland, have also been infected.
- India experienced the first H5N1 outbreak in the State of Maharashtra and Gujarat in 2015. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 18:

Consider the following statements regarding International Labor Organisation (ILO):

1. It is the only tripartite United Nations (UN) agency which brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 Member States.

2. It was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations and became the first affiliated specialised agency of the UN in 1946.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

- International Labor Organisation (ILO) is the **only tripartite United Nations (UN) agency. It brings together governments, employers and workers** of 187 Member States (India is a member), to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
- It was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations and became the first affiliated specialised agency of the UN in 1946. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

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### Question 19:

Consider the following statements:

1. Deep-sea mining involves extracting valuable mineral deposits from the ocean floor at depths ranging from 200 to 6,500 meters below the surface.
2. A baseline refers to a line, often along the coastline, serving as a reference point for measuring the outer boundaries of a state's territorial sea and other maritime zones, such as its exclusive economic zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only



2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### **Explanation**

- **Deep-sea mining** involves extracting valuable mineral deposits from the ocean floor at depths ranging from **200 to 6,500 meters** below the surface. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - These mineral deposits include materials such as **copper, cobalt, nickel, zinc, silver, gold, and rare earth elements.**
- A baseline refers to a line, often along the coastline, serving as a reference point for measuring the outer boundaries of a state's territorial sea and other maritime zones, such as its exclusive economic zone. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Typically, this baseline mirrors the low-water mark of the coastal state. In cases where the coastline is deeply indented, contains islands close to the shore, or exhibits significant instability, straight baselines may be established instead.

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### **Question 20:**

Consider the following statements:

1. Gulaal Gota is a small ball made of lac, filled with dry gulaal, and weighs around 20 grams when filled.
2. Lac, the primary raw material for Gulaal Gota, is sourced from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

## Explanation

- Gulaal Gota is a **small ball made of lac**, filled with dry gulaal, and weighs around 20 grams when filled. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Lac is a resinous substance that is secreted by certain insects. The female scale insect is one of the sources of lac.
    - To produce 1 kg of lac resin, around 300,000 insects are killed. The lac insects also yield resin, lac dye and lac wax.
  - It is used in various applications, including the production of lac bangles.
- The process of making Gulaal Gotas involves **boiling lac in water** to make it flexible, shaping it, adding colour, heating it, and then blowing it into a spherical shape with the help of a blower called "phunkni".
- Lac, the primary raw material for Gulaal Gota, is sourced from Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - Gulaal Gotas are made by Muslim lac makers, known as **Manihaars**, in Jaipur, who learned lac-making from Hindu lac makers in Bagru, a town near Jaipur.

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### Question 21:

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) gives information on crop yields, production, drought situation, cropping patterns, relevant trends, outliers, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

**Statement-II:** The ICCC allows visualisation of GIS-based soil carbon mapping and soil health card data, enabling the generation of customised advisories for farmers.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 2**

## Explanation

- The Krishi ICCS is a state-of-the-art tech-based solution housed in the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**, designed to aid in making informed decisions using multiple IT applications and platforms such as weather data from the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**; sowing data from **Digital Crop Survey**; farmer-and farm-related data from **Krishi Mapper** (an application for geo-fencing and geo-tagging of land); market intelligence information from the **Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg)**; and yield estimation data from the **General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES)**.
- The ICCS gives information on crop yields, production, drought situation, cropping patterns, relevant trends, outliers, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). **Hence, Statement I is correct.**
- The ICCS allows visualisation of GIS-based **soil carbon mapping** and **soil health card data**, enabling the generation of customised advisories for farmers regarding suitable crops and their water and fertiliser requirements. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

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### Question 22:

Regarding the Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), consider the following statements:

1. SCD causes White Blood Cells (WBCs) to assume a sickle or crescent shape rather than their normal round shape.
2. India holds the top position globally in terms of the incidence of SCD births.

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

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD):**
  - **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)** is an inherited haemoglobin disorder characterised by a genetic mutation that causes **red blood cells (RBCs)** to assume a sickle or crescent shape rather than their normal round shape. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - This abnormality in RBCs results in increased rigidity, impairing their ability to circulate effectively throughout the body. Consequently, individuals with SCD often experience

complications such as anaemia, organ damage, recurrent and severe pain episodes, and a shortened lifespan.

- **India ranks third globally** in terms of the **number of SCD births**, following Nigeria and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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### Question 23:

Regarding the Order of the Druk Gyalpo, consider the following statements:

1. It is the Bhutan's highest civilian award.
2. The Prime Minister of India is the first foreign Head of Government to receive the honor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

#### Order of the Druk Gyalpo:

- The Order of the Druk Gyalpo stands as Bhutan's **most esteemed civilian accolade**, reserved for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional contributions to society, embodying values of service, integrity, and leadership.
  - It is the Bhutan's highest civilian award. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Prime Minister of India is the **first foreign Head** of Government to receive the honor. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 24:

Consider the following statements:

1. A wildfire requires three essential elements to sustain combustion like Fuel, Oxygen, and a Heat source.
2. Zombie fires usually spread entirely underground may continue to burn for months and destroy the vegetative cover of the soil.
3. Crown fires occur when fire spreads through the upper canopy of trees, often fueled by high winds and dry conditions.

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

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 3**

### **Explanation**

- Wildfire or Vegetation fire, can be described as any uncontrolled combustion or burning of plants in a natural setting such as a forest, grassland, brushland or tundra, which consumes the natural fuels and spreads based on environmental conditions (e.g., wind, topography). A wildfire requires **three essential elements to sustain combustion like** Fuel, Oxygen, and a Heat source. **Hence ,Statement 1 is correct**
- **Underground Fire/Zombie Fire:** The fires of low intensity, consuming the organic matter beneath and the surface litter of the forest floor are sub-grouped as underground fires. In most of the dense forests, **a thick mantle of organic matter is found on top of the mineral soil.**
  - These fires usually **spread entirely underground** and burn for some meters below the surface.
  - This fire spreads very slowly and in most cases it becomes **very hard to detect and control** such types of fires.
  - They may continue to **burn for months** and destroy the vegetative cover of the soil. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Canopy or Crown Fires:** These occur when **fire spreads through the upper canopy of trees,** often fueled by high winds and dry conditions. They can be particularly intense and difficult to control. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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### **Question 25:**

Consider the following statements about Cholesterol:

1. Cholesterol is a waxy substance made by the liver that plays a vital role in the human digestive system.
2. High-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, sometimes called "Good" cholesterol, absorbs cholesterol in the blood and carries it back to the liver.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### **Explanation**

- Cholesterol is a waxy substance made by the liver. It plays an important role in creating cells, and hormones, and in the production of Vitamin D and bile acids, which play a vital role in the human digestive system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Cholesterol in our bloodstream is transported by lipoproteins known as High-density lipoprotein (HDL) and Low-density lipoprotein (LDL).
- HDL cholesterol (Good Cholesterol) absorbs cholesterol in the blood and carries it back to the liver. The liver then flushes it from the body. High levels of HDL cholesterol can lower the risk of heart disease and stroke. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### **Question 26:**

Consider the following statements:

1. The Dardanelles strait connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.
2. The Kerch Strait connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov.
3. Ukraine, Moldova, and Russia are among the bordering countries of the Black Sea.

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

1. Only one
2. Only two

3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

- The **Black Sea is linked to the Sea of Marmara through the Bosphorus Strait** and then to the Aegean Sea (an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea) through the Dardanelles Strait. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Black Sea is also connected to the **Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine to the north and northwest, Russia and Georgia to the east, Türkiye to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.
- Also, The bordering countries of the Black Sea can be remembered as **BURGeR-T**: Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Romania and Türkiye).Moldova does not have a border with the Black Sea. It only has access through the Danube River. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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### **Question 27:**

Consider the following statements regarding Hyperloop Technology:

1. Hyperloop is a transportation concept developed by Google in 2023 that would use pressurised tubes and capsules to connect mobility hubs in large cities.
2. The capsules, called pods, would float at high speeds using contactless levitation and electromagnetic propulsion systems.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

## Explanation

- Hyperloop is a transportation concept developed by **Elon Musk** in 2013 that would use **pressurised tubes and capsules** to connect mobility hubs in large cities. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The capsules, called **Pods**, would float at high speeds using contactless levitation and **electromagnetic propulsion systems**, along with low **aerodynamic drag** (the force which is faced by the vehicle as it moves through the air). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Hyperloop would be a green way to travel that could reduce the need for driving or flying and could also free up traditional train lines.
  - Hyperloop technology faces several challenges, including the **high cost of building and maintaining the infrastructure**, the technical complexity of maintaining a vacuum in the tubes, and the safety concerns associated with operating a high-speed transportation system.

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### Question 28:

Consider the following statements:

1. As per the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, India's total forest and tree cover was 180.9 million hectares, which accounted for 34.62% of the geographical area of the country.
2. Arunachal Pradesh had the largest forest cover, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

- The United Nations Forum on Forests, the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**, and other relevant organisations collaborate with governments to organise these efforts.
- As per the latest **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021**, India's total forest and tree cover was **80.9 million hectares**, which accounted for **24.62% of the geographical area of the**



country. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- Madhya Pradesh had the largest forest cover, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- India's National Forest Policy, 1988 aims for at least 33% of the total geographical area to be under forest to maintain ecological stability.

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### Question 29:

Consider the following statements regarding Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs):

1. SROs are entities formed within specific industries or sectors to regulate themselves, often in collaboration with government regulators.
2. While regulators maintain ultimate authority, they rely on SROs to monitor and enforce compliance within their respective industries.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

- Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) are entities formed within specific industries or sectors to regulate themselves, often in collaboration with government regulators. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SROs operate under the supervision of government regulators, who delegate certain regulatory functions to these organisations. While regulators maintain ultimate authority, they rely on SROs to monitor and enforce compliance within their respective industries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - SROs aim to promote best practices and ethical conduct within their industries. They often provide guidance, training, and educational resources to help members understand and comply with regulatory requirements.
  - These organisations develop and enforce industry-specific rules, standards, and codes of conduct aimed at ensuring compliance and ethical behaviour among their members.
  - SROs operate with transparency and accountability to ensure that their regulatory activities are conducted in the public interest.

**Question 30:**

Consider the following statements:

1. International Corporate Governance Society (ICGS) Samudra Paheredar is equipped with specialised marine pollution control equipment and also a Chetak Helicopter in Pollution Response configuration.
2. Samudra Paheredar is stationed on the East Coast of India in Visakhapatnam and has successfully conducted Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Surveillance in the region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

**Explanation**

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship Samudra Paheredar** embarked on a significant overseas deployment to **ASEAN countries**, reaffirming India's commitment to combating marine **pollution and strengthening bilateral cooperation in the region.**

- The visit of specialised **Pollution Control Vessels like Samudra Paheredar** aims to showcase **India's Marine Pollution Response capabilities** and shared concern towards Marine Pollution in the ASEAN region.
  - The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relationships with key maritime agencies in the **Philippines, Vietnam, and Brunei.**
- Samudra Paheredar is equipped with specialised **marine pollution control equipment** and a Chetak Helicopter in Pollution Response configuration to contain and recover spilled oil. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ICGS Samudra Paheredar, stationed on the **East Coast of India in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, It has successfully undertaken various Coast Guard operations, including Pollution Response, **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) /Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Surveillance**, counter-transnational crimes, and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

### Question 31:

Regarding India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) landscape, consider the following statements:

1. India experienced a nearly 31% rise in net FDI inflows during the fiscal year 2023-24.
2. The Netherlands, Singapore, Japan, the USA, and Mauritius account for approximately 70% of the total FDI equity inflows into India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

The Finance Ministry has released a comprehensive review shedding light on **India's foreign direct investment (FDI)** landscape, revealing both declines and hopeful prospects.

- India's **net FDI inflows dropped by almost 31% to USD 25.5 billion** over the first ten months of 2023-24. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Around 65% of India's FDI equity inflows were observed in services, drugs and pharmaceuticals, construction (infrastructure activities), and non-conventional energy sectors.
- The **Netherlands, Singapore, Japan, the USA, and Mauritius** accounted for approximately **70% of the total FDI equity inflows into India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 32:

Consider the following statements regarding Black Carbon (BC):

1. BC is a short-lived pollutant that is the second-largest contributor to warming the planet behind carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).
2. Unlike other greenhouse gas emissions, BC is quickly washed out and can be eliminated from the atmosphere if emissions stop.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

- **Black carbon (BC)** is the **dark, sooty material** emitted alongside other pollutants when **biomass** and **fossil fuels** are not fully combusted.
- BC is a short-lived pollutant that is the second-largest contributor to warming the planet behind **carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unlike other **greenhouse gas emissions**, BC is quickly washed out and can be eliminated from the atmosphere if emissions stop. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
  - Unlike historical carbon emissions it is also a localised source with greater local impact.
  - Black carbon is a kind of an aerosol.

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### Question 33:

Consider the following statements about Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund of COP28:

1. This fund is aimed at compensating countries grappling with climate change impacts.
2. The World Bank will be the "interim host" of the fund for four years, aligning with UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

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

1. Only 1
2. Only 2 Both 1 and 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

## **Explanation**

- The **28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP28)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** was held in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**.
- COP28, member countries reached an agreement to operationalize the **Loss and Damage (L&D) fund** aimed at compensating countries grappling with climate change impacts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The **World Bank** will be the "interim host" of the fund for four years, aligning with UNFCCC and the **Paris Agreement**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- All developing countries are eligible to apply, and every country is "invited" to contribute voluntarily.
  - A specific percentage is earmarked for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

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### **Question 34:**

Consider the following statements about National Green Tribunal (NGT):

1. It was established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
2. New Delhi serves as the principal place of sitting of NGT, with Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai designated as the other four places of sitting for the Tribunal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

## **Explanation**

**National Green Tribunal:**

- **Foundation:** The NGT was **established in October, 2010**, under the **National Green Tribunal Act 2010**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Its primary focus is to facilitate the **swift and efficient resolution of cases related to environmental protection, conservation of forests, and preservation of natural resources.**
  - Currently, **New Delhi** serves as the principal place of sitting of NGT, with Bhopal, **Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai** designated as the other four places of sitting for the Tribunal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Structure:**
  - The Tribunal is headed by the Chairperson who sits in the Principal Bench and has at least 10 but not more than 20 judicial members and expert members.
  - The Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
  - A Selection Committee shall be formed by the central government to appoint the Judicial Members and Expert Members.

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### Question 35:

Regarding Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024, consider the following statements:

1. It defines biodegradable plastics as materials that can be broken down by biological processes in certain environments, such as soil and landfills, without producing microplastics.
2. The rules specify which chemical tests can establish the absence of microplastics or the extent to which microplastics must be reduced for elimination.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

#### Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024:

- **Biodegradable plastics** are materials that can be broken down by biological processes in certain environments, such as soil and landfills, without producing microplastics. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The rules **do not specify** which chemical tests can establish the absence of microplastics or the extent to which microplastics must be reduced for elimination. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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### Question 36:

Consider the following statements about International Organisation for Migration (IOM):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations, originated due to the displacement of migrants from 1948 Arab-Israeli War.
2. India is the member state of IOM.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

- The **International Organization for Migration** originated in 1951 as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) after **World War II's** chaos. Also, the UN has only 16 specialized agencies and IOM is not one of them. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **International Organization for Migration** currently has 175 Member States and 8 states with Observer status. **India** became an IOM Member State on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 37:

Consider the following statements:

**Statement I:** Neutrino is an elementary particle also known as Nature's Ghost Particle.

**Statement II:** A neutrino is a fermion (an elementary particle with spin of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) that rarely interacts with matter.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

- Neutrinos travel through space and pass unimpeded through matter like stars, planets and even people. This is why they're called "**Ghost particles**". **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- A neutrino is a **fermion** (an elementary particle with spin of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) that **interacts only via weak interaction and gravity**. **Neutrinos** are light elementary particles that very rarely interact with matter. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**
- **Hence, Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.**

### Question 38:

Consider the following statements regarding Ethanol 100:

1. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched 'ETHANOL 100' at select retail outlets covering all the States and UTs of the country.
2. The initiative aligns with the vision to achieve 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26, reducing import dependency and boosting the agriculture sector.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only



3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched '**ETHANOL 100**' at select 183 retail outlets in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, and Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ETHANOL 100 is a revolutionary automotive fuel that **consists of 100% ethanol.**
  - It is a biofuel produced from **renewable sources such as corn, sugarcane, or other plant materials.**
- ETHANOL 100 is aimed at reducing **dependence on fossil fuels**, promoting sustainability, and contributing to a cleaner environment by lowering green house gas **emissions** compared to traditional gasoline.
- The initiative aligns with the vision to achieve **20% ethanol blending by 2025-26**, reducing import dependency and boosting the agriculture sector. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - The move towards ETHANOL 100 reflects a shift towards **sustainable technologies and decarbonization.**

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### **Question 39:**

Consider the following statements:

1. The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) was launched in 2016 as a public-private initiative.
2. PHFI has established fifteen institutes across India to promote multidisciplinary education and research, aiming to inform and assist policies for public health protection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

In the inaugural rankings for schools of public health, the **Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)** has secured the **2<sup>nd</sup> position globally**, following the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

- The rankings are part of a report titled '**A New Model for Ranking Schools of Public Health: The Public Health Academic Ranking**,' published in the International Journal of Public Health.
  - The project aimed to create an international bibliometric university ranking system for academic public health.
- The PHFI was launched by the former Prime Minister of India, **Manmohan Singh**, in 2006. It is a **public-private initiative** involving Indian and international academia, governments, agencies, and civil society groups. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It aims to **enhance institutional capacity in India for public health** training, research, and policy development. Focused on promotive, preventive, and therapeutic services, PHFI's approach addresses Indian conditions and similar challenges globally.
- PHFI has established six institutes across India to promote multidisciplinary education and research, aiming to inform and assist policies for public health protection. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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### Question 40:

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Human eyes can detect only wavelengths of light in the ultraviolet range (between 10 and 400 nanometres (nm)).

**Statement-II:** Animals have evolved to develop highly sensitive photoreceptors that can detect light of ultraviolet and infrared wavelengths.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

- The specialised cells that respond to the light, called **photoreceptors**, are unique to each animal. For example, while **human eyes can detect only wavelengths of light in the visible range** (between 380 and 700 nanometres (nm)), **honey bees and many birds can also perceive ultraviolet light** (10-400 nm). **Hence, Statement I is not correct.**
- Animals use colours to intimidate their predators, entice mates or conceal themselves. Detecting variations in colours is thus essential to an animal's survival.
- Animals have evolved to develop highly sensitive photoreceptors that can detect light of ultraviolet and infrared wavelengths. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.**

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### Question 41:

Consider the following statements:

1. Pandavula Gutta is rich in terms of rock shelters, and habitation from the Mesolithic period (about 10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.) to mediaeval times.
2. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is headquartered in Kolkata and is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- Pandavula Konda (Pandavula Gutta) is a geological marvel situated in the **Jayashankar Bhupalpally district of Telangana**.
- Pandavula Gutta is rich in terms of rock shelters, and habitation from **the Mesolithic period (about 10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.) to mediaeval times. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Pandavula Gutta boasts **Palaeolithic (500,000 BCE-10,000 BCE)** cave paintings offering a glimpse into prehistoric life.
- **The Geological Survey of India (GSI)** declares geo-heritage sites/**national geological**

**monuments** for protection and maintenance.

- GSI is a scientific agency that was founded in 1851 to find **coal deposits for the Railways**. The GSI is **headquartered in Kolkata**, and is an attached office to the **Ministry of Mines**. Its main functions include creating and updating national geoscientific information, and assessing mineral resources. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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#### Question 42:

Consider the following statements regarding HbA1c Test:

1. The test provides a 2-3 month average of blood glucose levels by measuring sugar-coated red blood cells, offering comprehensive long-term control assessment.
2. A level below 5.7% is deemed normal, while a range of 5.7% to 6.4% indicates a pre-diabetic condition.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

#### Explanation

- India faces a significant health challenge with a large population suffering from diabetes and related conditions. The **HbA1C test** plays a crucial role in the **early detection and management of diabetes**.
- The HbA1C test provides a **2-3 month average of blood glucose levels** by measuring **sugar-coated red blood cells**, offering comprehensive long-term control assessment.
  - Unlike **fasting and post-meal tests**, it remains **unaffected by recent meals, ensuring reliability**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An Hb1A1C **below 5.7% is considered normal**; between 5.7 and 6.4% may indicate you are **pre-diabetic**; and **6.5% or higher can indicate diabetes**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 43:

Consider the following statements:

1. The '2+2' dialogue involves the participation of the defence and foreign ministers of two countries, along with their respective counterparts, to discuss strategic issues.
2. India conducts '2+2' dialogues with three key strategic partners only, namely the US, Australia and Japan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

**India and Brazil** conducted their **first-ever '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue**, discussing cooperation in key areas.

- The talks focused on expanding cooperation in various areas, including energy, **critical minerals**, technology, and **counter-terrorism**.
- The '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue involves the participation of the **defence and foreign ministers of two countries**, along with their respective counterparts, to discuss strategic and security-related issues, as well as diplomatic matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India conducts '2+2' dialogues with key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia. The US holds the oldest and most significant '2+2' talks partnership with India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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### Question 44:

Which of the following exercises involve both India and the US?

1. Yudh Abhyas
2. Vajra Prahar
3. Nomadic Elephant

#### 4. Tiger Triumph

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1, 2 and 3 only
2. 1, 2 and 4 only
3. 2, 3 and 4 only
4. All of the above

**Correct Answer : 2**

#### **Explanation**

- Recently, the joint India-U.S. tri-service **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** Exercise, **Tiger Triumph**, commenced on the Eastern seaboard. .
- Other Exercises Between India and US are-
  - **Yudh Abhyas**
  - **Vajra Prahar**
  - **Cope India**
- Nomadic Elephant Exercise is a joint military training exercise between the Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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#### **Question 45:**

Consider the following statements:

1. India is a part of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. Project Tiger is a Central Sector Scheme, launched in 1973.
3. Project Elephant was launched in 1972 for the protection of elephants, their habitats, and corridors.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two

3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 1**

## **Explanation**

### **The Government Measures to Tackle Human-Animal Conflict:**

- **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** The act provides the legal framework for the activities, Prohibition of hunting, Protection and management of wildlife habitats, establishment of protected areas, etc.
- **The Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** India is a part of the **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity**. It ensures that the Biological Diversity Act complements rather than contradicts existing laws concerning forests and wildlife. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Project Tiger:** Project Tiger is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, launched in 1973. It provides havens for tigers in the country's national parks. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Project Elephant:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme and was launched in February **1992** for the protection of elephants, their habitats, and corridors. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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### **Question 46:**

Consider the following statements:

1. Fission is a process in which the nucleus of an atom splits into two or more smaller nuclei and some byproducts.
2. Fusion is defined as the combining of several small nuclei into one large nucleus with the subsequent release of huge amounts of energy.
3. Harnessing nuclear fission, the same process that fuels the Sun, could offer an endless, environmentally friendly energy supply.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

1. Only One
2. Only Two
3. All Three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 2**

## Explanation

- Fission is a process in which the nucleus of an atom splits into two or more smaller nuclei and some byproducts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Fusion is defined as the combining of several small nuclei into one large nucleus with the subsequent release of huge amounts of energy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Utilizing fusion, the mechanism fueling the Sun, could offer an inexhaustible and eco-friendly energy solution. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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## Question 47:

Regarding the New Electric Vehicle Policy, consider the following statements:

1. The policy slashes the customs duty rate to 35% for EVs valued at USD 35,000 or more for 5 years.
2. The policy caps the number of imported EVs at 10,000 per year.
3. To promote local manufacturing, companies must set up operational facilities within 5 years.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

### Centre's New Electric Vehicle Policy:

- **Highlights of the Policy:**
  - **Duty Reduction for EV Imports:**
    - The policy slashes **customs duty rate to 15%** (applicable to Completely Knocked Down - CKD units) will be imposed on EVs with a minimum CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) value of USD 35,000 or above for a total period of 5 years. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - **Import Cap and Investment Prerequisites:**



- While allowing reduced-duty imports, the policy **caps the number of imported EVs at 8,000 per year. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Manufacturers must invest a minimum of Rs 4,150 crore (~USD 500 Mn) to avail duty concessions.
  - There's no ceiling on the maximum investment, incentivising substantial capital infusion into the sector.
- **Manufacturing and Value Addition Requirements:**
  - To promote local manufacturing, companies must set up operational facilities **within 3 years** and achieve a **minimum domestic value addition (DVA) of 25% within the same period**, escalating to **50% within 5 years** from the date of issuance of approval letter by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
    - DVA is a percentage share of value that represents the value an economy adds to goods and services produced for export.

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#### Question 48:

Regarding Snakes, consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Certain particular snake species like cobras, kraits and Black mambas are used for medicinal and intoxication purposes.

**Statement-II:** Snake venom is a complex mixture of enzymes, peptides and proteins of low molecular mass with specific chemical and biological activities.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
3. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
4. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Correct Answer : 1**

#### Explanation

**Snakes:**

- Certain particular snake species like **cobras, kraits and Black mambas** are used for medicinal

and intoxication purposes. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**

- Snake venom is a **complex mixture** of enzymes, peptides and proteins of low molecular mass with specific chemical and biological activities. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**

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

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#### Question 49:

World Air Quality Report 2023 is released by which of the following:

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
2. Swiss organisation IQAir
3. Global Footprint Network
4. Greenpeace

**Correct Answer : 2**

#### Explanation

##### World Air Quality Report 2023:

- India has been identified as the world's third most polluted country, as per the World Air Quality Report 2023 by Swiss organisation IQAir.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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#### Question 50:

Consider the following statements regarding the Gender Inequality Index (GII),2022:

1. It has been released by the World Economic Forum.
2. India stands at rank 108th out of 193 countries.
3. A low GII value indicates low inequality between women and men.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 2**

### **Explanation**

#### **About Gender Inequality Index (GII):**

- Recently, the **Gender Inequality Index (GII), 2022** has been released by **UNDP** in their **Human Development Report 2023-24**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- In **GII**, India stands at rank **108<sup>th</sup>** out of **193** countries, with a score of **0.437**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **GII** is a composite metric of gender inequality using three dimensions: **reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market**.
  - It reflects the gap in human development potential due to inequality between female and male achievements in these areas.
  - **GII** values range from **0 (equality) to 1 (extreme inequality)**.
    - A low **GII** value indicates low inequality between women and men, and vice-versa. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

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#### **Question 51:**

Regarding the President's Rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. As per Article 356, President's Rule can be imposed when a state fails to comply with directions from the Union government.
2. For the imposition of the President's Rule, Parliamentary approval is necessary in both Houses of Parliament within two months through a special majority.
3. The President's Rule can be extended for up to three years with parliamentary approval every six months.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

▪ **Article 356:**

- According to Article 356, the President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the **failure of the constitutional machinery. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- President's Rule can be imposed in two situations: when the President receives a report from the state's Governor or is otherwise convinced that the state government cannot function according to the Constitution (**Article 356**), and when a state fails to comply with directions from the Union government (**Article 365**).
- **Parliamentary approval is necessary** for imposing the President's Rule, and it should be approved in both Houses of Parliament within two months through a **simple majority. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Initially, the President's Rule is for six months and can be **extended for up to three years with parliamentary approval every six months. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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### **Question 52:**

Consider the following statements about Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA):

1. DIANA is a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) established organization to accelerate dual-use innovation capacity across the Alliance.
2. It recently approved a proposal to establish an accelerator and two test centres in Finland to foster technology, innovation, and business development for both civil and defence purposes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2

4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- DIANA is a **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** established organization to **accelerate dual-use innovation capacity** across the Alliance. It provides companies with resources, networks, and guidance to develop deep technologies for critical defence and security challenges. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, the **Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)** initiative board approved a proposal to **establish an accelerator and two test centres in Finland**, with a mission to foster technology, innovation, and business development for both civil and defence purposes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - All **NATO nations are members of DIANA.** The DIANA Board of Directors is responsible for governance and comprises representatives from every Allied country.

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### Question 53:

Regarding forest fires, consider the following statements:

1. Dry deciduous forests experience severe fires compared to evergreen, semi-evergreen, and montane temperate forests.
2. The forests of Northeast India, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand are the most vulnerable to fires during the November to June period.

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

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

### Forest fires:

- Severe fires break out in **dry deciduous forests** (34.80%), while evergreen, semi-evergreen, and montane temperate forests are comparatively less prone to fires. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The forests of Northeast India, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand are the most vulnerable to fires during the **November to June period. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - In 2021, a series of forest fires broke out in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland-Manipur border, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, including in wildlife sanctuaries.

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### Question 54:

Regarding Astronomical cycles, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to periodic variations in the Earth's orbit and orientation towards the Sun that impact the amount of solar radiation received by our planet over long periods.
2. These cycles are caused by the gravitational forces between the Earth, Sun, and other planets in the solar system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

#### Astronomical cycles:

- It refers to **periodic variations** in the Earth's orbit and orientation towards the Sun that impact the amount of solar radiation received by our planet over long periods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These cycles are caused by the **gravitational forces** between the Earth, Sun, and other planets in the solar system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- These cycles were first theorized by Serbian scientist Milutin Milankovitch in the 1920s to explain the cyclical patterns of ice ages on Earth also called Milankovitch cycles, or Milankovitch

oscillations.

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### Question 55:

Regarding the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements:

1. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate-related policies.
3. Since 1988, the IPCC has delivered eleven Assessment Reports.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):**
  - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the **international** body for assessing the science related to climate change.
  - It was **set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - IPCC assessments provide a **scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate-related policies**, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **IPCC Assessment Report:**
  - Since 1988, the IPCC has **had six assessment cycles and delivered six Assessment Reports**, the most comprehensive scientific reports about climate change produced worldwide. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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### Question 56:

Regarding Exercise Bharat Shakti, consider the following statements :

1. It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka.
2. It included successful test firing of the long-range AGNI missile with advanced MIRV technology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer :** 1

### Explanation

▪ **Exercise Bharat Shakti :**

- A **Tri-Services Live Fire and Manoeuvre Exercise** named "**Bharat Shakti**" is being conducted in Pokhran, Rajasthan, demonstrating India's indigenous defence capabilities. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It included successful test firing of the long-range **AGNI missile** with advanced **MIRV technology**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Key equipment and weapons systems featured in the exercise include **T-90 (IM) Tanks**, Dhanush and Sarang Gun Systems, **Akash Weapons Systems**, Logistics Drones, Robotic Mules, Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH), Naval Anti-Ship Missiles, **Light Combat Aircraft Tejas**, Light Utility Helicopters, and Advanced Light Helicopters.

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### Question 57:

Regarding the Simultaneous elections in India, consider the following statements:

1. Recently, the High-level Committee headed by Justice G Rohini has recommended simultaneous elections across India.
2. Simultaneous elections in India were practiced during the initial years after independence.
3. In 2019, only eight states had their assembly elections, along with the Lok Sabha.



How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

- In a significant move towards electoral reform, the High-level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, constituted under the chairmanship of **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, former President of India, has proposed simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, and local bodies in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Simultaneous elections in India, where both the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are elected together, were practised during the initial years after independence in 1952, 1957, and 1962. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, due to various factors such as political instability, early dissolution of State Assemblies, and the need for separate elections to address regional issues, the practice of simultaneous elections gradually faded.
- In 2019, only four States (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim) had their assembly elections, along with the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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### **Question 58:**

Regarding the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

1. The MCC is operational from the polling date until the announcement of results.
2. The MCC does not have any statutory backing.
3. Gujarat was the first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two

3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

▪ **Model Code of Conduct (MCC):**

- The MCC is a **consensus document**. The political parties have themselves agreed to keep their conduct during elections in check and to work within the Code.
- The MCC is operational from the date on **which the election schedule is announced until the date of the result announcement. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The government **cannot announce any financial grants**, promise construction of roads or other facilities, and make any ad hoc appointments in government or public undertaking during the time the Code is in force.
- Though the **MCC does not have any statutory backing**, it has come to acquire strength in the past decade because of its strict enforcement by the EC. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced by invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the **Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, and Representation of Peoples's Act (RPA) 1951.**
- **Kerala** was the **first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections**. In 1960, before the Assembly elections in the state, the administration prepared a draft code covering important aspects of electioneering such as processions, political rallies, and speeches. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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### **Question 59:**

Regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), consider the following statements:

1. It is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest country in Africa and the 11<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.
2. Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, sits on the Congo River, the only African river that twice intersects the equator.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2

4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

### Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

- It is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest country in Africa and the 11<sup>th</sup> largest in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, sits on the Congo River, the only African river that twice intersects the equator. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 60:

Regarding the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI), 2024, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme's total cost is Rs.10,037 crore, covering a 10-year period with an additional 8 years for committed liabilities.
2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will implement the scheme in collaboration with the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

## Explanation

The Union Cabinet has approved the **Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI), 2024** to foster industrial growth and employment generation in the **northeastern region**.

▪ **Objective of the Scheme:**

- It is aimed at **developing industries and generating employment** in the Northeast region. It focuses on **attracting new investments**, nurturing existing ones, and promoting industries like **renewable energy and Electric Vehicle charging stations** while restricting environmentally harmful sectors such as cement and plastic.
- The scheme's total cost is **Rs. 10,037 crore**, covering a 10-year period with an additional 8 years for committed liabilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** will implement the scheme in collaboration with states, overseen by national and state-level committees. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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**Question 61:**

Regarding the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The SHG model was introduced in India in 1994, inspired by Verghese Kurien.
2. The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) was initiated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1989.
3. Lakhpati Didi is a government initiative that aims to empower women in SHGs to earn at least Rs 3,00,000 per year through sustainable livelihood practices.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 1**

**Explanation**

▪ **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):**

- Self-help groups (SHGs) are informal associations of individuals with similar socio-economic backgrounds, aiming to collectively address common issues such as poverty, illiteracy, and lack of skills.
- These groups promote self-governance and peer support, fostering self-employment and poverty alleviation within marginalised communities.
- The SHG model was introduced in India in 1984, inspired by **Prof. Yunus's Grameen Bank model. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Kudumbashree in Kerala, Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal in Maharashtra, and Looms of

Ladakh are a few examples of success stories from SHGs.

- Looms of Ladakh, a Pashmina brand with 427 women SHG members, recorded sales of Rs 34 lakh in FY 2022-23 and Rs 42 lakh in the first 10 months of 2023-24, showcasing exponential growth.

▪ **SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP):**

- The SHG-BLP, initiated by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** in 1989, evolved from an action research to a pilot project by 1992. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This collaborative effort between SHGs, banks, and NGOs, with support from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD**, aimed to provide financial services to underserved poor households.
- Over time, it has transformed into the **largest microfinance program globally**, covering approximately **16.19 crore households**, predominantly women groups, thus empowering women across the country.
- NABARD's efforts include policy advocacy, training programs, and capacity building for all stakeholders, contributing to the success of this savings-led microfinance model.

▪ **Rise of SHGs and Lakhpati Didis:**

- The SHGs in India, numbering **approximately 8.5 million with approximately 92.1 million members**, are spearheading a transformative revolution.
  - A notable outcome of this movement is the rising proportion of **Lakhpati Didis**.
    - Lakhpati Didi is a government initiative that aims to empower **women in SHGs to earn at least Rs 1,00,000 per year** through sustainable livelihood practices. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**
    - The program was launched in 2023 with an initial target of 2 crore women, but the target has been increased to 3 crore in 2024-25.

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**Question 62:**

Human Development Report is released by which of the following:

1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
2. World Bank
3. International Monetary Fund
4. World Health Organisation

**Correct Answer : 1**

**Explanation**

**Human Development Report:**

- According to the 2023-24 **Human Development Report (HDR)**, titled 'Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarised World,' **India ranks 134** on the global Human Development Index (HDI). Switzerland has been ranked number one.
- The report has been released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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### Question 63:

Regarding the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), consider the following statements:

1. The EFTA comprises Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, all of which are also part of the European Union.
2. Established in 1960 by the Stockholm Convention, it seeks to enhance free trade and economic integration for the benefit of its four Member States and global trading partners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

#### European Free Trade Association (EFTA):

- EFTA comprises Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, all non-EU members. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Established in 1960 by the Stockholm Convention, it seeks to enhance free trade and economic integration for the benefit of its four Member States and global trading partners. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) recently signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

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### Question 64:

Regarding Bhutan, consider the following statements:

1. Bhutan, a landlocked country, is situated between India and China.
2. The longest river in Bhutan is the Manas River.
3. India is Bhutan's largest trading partner, accounting for over 80% of Bhutan's total imports and exports.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

1. Only One
2. Only Two
3. All Three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

#### Bhutan:

- Bhutan, a **landlocked country**, is situated between India and China. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The longest river in Bhutan is the **Manas River**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India is Bhutan's **largest trading partner**, accounting for over 80% of Bhutan's total imports and exports. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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### Question 65:

Consider the following statements:

1. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
2. CDSCO holds that new drugs can be manufactured for sale now, without approval from the Central License Approving Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** has issued a cautionary statement regarding the manufacture and sale of unapproved drugs, particularly emphasising the category of "**New Drugs.**"

- Notably, drugs like **Meropenem**, an antibacterial agent, and **Disodium EDTA**, used to treat calcium overload, were highlighted as examples of such unapproved medications.
- CDSCO emphasised that no new drug should be manufactured for sale without approval from the licensing authority. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- CDSCO is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Major functions of CDSCO include regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials, and approval of certain licences as Central License Approving Authority.

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### **Question 66:**

Consider the following statements regarding Jan Aushadhi Kendras:

1. It operates under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) scheme of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. It offers generic medicines at significantly lower prices compared to branded drugs, ensuring reduced out-of-pocket expenses for healthcare.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2



**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

- Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) is a government initiative launched to provide affordable and quality medicines to the public.
  - They operate under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) scheme** of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The **Jan Aushadhi Scheme**, revamped as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY)** in September 2015, aimed to make quality medicines available at affordable prices, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged.
  - In November 2016, the scheme underwent further enhancement and was renamed as **PMBJP** to strengthen its impact.
  - PMBJP, focuses on providing **generic drugs** through exclusive outlets known as **Jan Aushadhi Kendras**.
  - These stores offer generic medicines at significantly lower prices compared to branded drugs, ensuring reduced out-of-pocket expenses for healthcare. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 67:

Consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in FY2023.
2. Stainless steel is a type of steel alloy that contains a minimum of 10.5% chromium by mass.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

- India is the **world's second-largest producer of crude steel**, with an output of 125.32 million tonnes (MT) of crude steel and 121.29 MT of finished steel production in FY23.
  - India is also a net exporter of steel witnessing an export of 6.72 MT of finished steel against the import of 6.02 MT in 2022-23. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Stainless steel is a type of steel alloy that contains a minimum of 10.5% chromium by mass. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - It is known for its exceptional corrosion resistance, making it highly suitable for various applications where durability and resistance to rust and staining are essential.

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### Question 68:

Regarding the Narcotics Control Bureau, consider the following statements:

- It was constituted by the Government of India under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.
- It comes under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on Article 47 of the Indian Constitution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

#### Narcotics Control Bureau :

- It was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on Article 47 of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the

consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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### Question 69:

Regarding the Rheumatic Disease, consider the following statements:

1. Rheumatic disease is a broad term encompassing various conditions that impact not only the lungs but also other parts of the respiratory system.
2. Therapeutic options for Rheumatic disease include steroids and disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

#### About Rheumatic Disease:

- Rheumatic disease is an umbrella term that refers to **arthritis** and several other conditions that affect the joints, tendons, muscles, ligaments, bones, and muscles. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The most prevalent paediatric rheumatic disorder, **Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)** encompasses various inflammatory arthritis subtypes, posing a significant health challenge among children worldwide.
- JIA's global prevalence ranges from **0.07 to 4 per 1,000 children**, with varying distribution patterns across different regions. Children with JIA commonly experience joint pain, swelling, and functional limitations, particularly noticeable in the morning or after periods of rest.
- Therapeutic options for **JIA which is a sub type of Rheumatic Disease** include steroids, **disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)**, and newer biologic drugs, aimed at modulating the immune system and managing symptoms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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**Question 70:**

Consider the following diseases:

1. Diphtheria
2. Measles
3. Rubella

How many of the above are covered under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None of the above

**Correct Answer : 3**

**Explanation**

**Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):**

- The program provides free immunization against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Nationally Against 9 Diseases:** Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Haemophilus influenza type B.
- **Sub-nationally Against 3 Diseases:** Rotavirus diarrhoea, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Japanese Encephalitis
- **Hence, Option C is correct.**

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**Question 71:**

The term " Rhodamine B" often heard in the news corresponds to which of the following?

1. Vitamins

2. Virus
3. A Colouring Agent
4. Vaccine

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- **Rhodamine B** is a colouring agent commonly used in textile, paper, and leather industries. The colourant is **low-cost and is sometimes used to give vibrant hues** to popular street food items such as gobi manchurian and cotton candy.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

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### Question 72:

Regarding the patent system in India, consider the following statements:

1. The patent system in India is governed by the Copyright Act, 1957.
2. The term of every patent granted is 15 years from the date of filing of the application.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

- **About Patent :**
  - A Patent is a statutory right for an invention granted for a limited period to the patentee by

the Government, in exchange of full disclosure of his invention for excluding others, from making, using, selling, importing the patented product or process for producing that product for those purposes without his consent.

- The patent system in India is governed by the **Patents Act, 1970** which was amended in 2003 and 2005. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Patent Rules are regularly amended in consonance with the changing environment, the most recent being Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024.

▪ **Term of a Patent:**

- The term of every patent granted is **20 years** from the date of filing of the application. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- However, for applications filed under the national phase of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the accorded term will be 20 years from the international filing date.
  - PCT is an international treaty with more than 150 contracting states, making it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in each of a large number of countries by filing an international patent application.

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**Question 73:**

Regarding Ganga, consider the following statements:

1. It originates as Bhagirathi from Gangotri Glacier, Uttarakhand.
2. At Devprayag, where Alaknanda joins Pindar, the river acquires the name Ganga.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

**Explanation**

**Ganga:**

- The Ganga originates as **Bhagirathi** from Gangotri Glacier, Uttarakhand at an elevation of 3, 892 m. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Many small streams comprise the headwaters of the Ganga. The important among these are Alaknanda, Dhauliganga, Pindar, Mandakini and Bhilangana.
- At Devprayag, where Alaknanda joins **Bhagirathi**, the river acquires the name Ganga. **Hence,**

**statement 2 is not correct.**

- It traverses 2525 km before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

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**Question 74:**

Regarding the Shipra (Khipra) River, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tributary of the Chambal River in Madhya Pradesh and flows across the Malwa Plateau.
2. It originates in the Vindhya Range from a hill called Kakri-Tekdi.
3. Khan and Gambhir are its major tributaries.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

1. Only One
2. Only Two
3. All Three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 3**

**Explanation**

**Shipra (Khipra) River:**

- It is a tributary of the Chambal River in Madhya Pradesh and flows across the Malwa Plateau. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It originates in the Vindhya Range from a hill called Kakri-Tekdi. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Khan and Gambhir are its major tributaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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**Question 75:**

Consider the following statements regarding the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001:

1. Breeders don't have exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import, or export protected varieties.
2. Researchers can utilize registered varieties for experimentation or research purposes.
3. Farmers are exempt from paying fees in proceedings under the Act before relevant authorities or courts.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 2**

### **Explanation**

- **Rights under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001:**
  - **Breeders' Rights:**
    - Breeders are granted exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import, or export protected varieties. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
    - Breeder's rights include the ability to appoint agents or licensees and seek civil remedies for infringement.
  - **Researchers' Rights:**
    - Researchers can utilise registered varieties for experimentation or research purposes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - Initial use of a variety for developing another variety is permitted, but repeated use requires prior permission from the registered breeder.
  - **Farmers' Rights:**
    - Farmers who have evolved or developed new varieties are entitled to registration and protection similar to breeders.
    - Farmers can save, use, exchange, share, or sell farm produce, including protected varieties, subject to certain conditions.
    - Recognition and rewards are provided for farmers' conservation efforts related to plant genetic resources.
    - Compensation provisions exist for farmers in cases of non-performance of protected varieties.
    - Farmers are exempt from paying fees in proceedings under the Act before relevant authorities or courts. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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**Question 76:**



Regarding the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Purification Method, consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** A typical RO system consists of a semi-permeable membrane, with pores 1 to 10 microns in size.

**Statement II:** The membrane allows water molecules to pass through while blocking larger molecules and ions.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

▪ **About Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Purification Method:**

- RO is a water purification process that **removes contaminants from water by utilising a semi-permeable membrane.**
  - A typical RO system consists of a semi-permeable membrane, **with pores 0.0001 to 0.001 microns in size. Hence, Statement-I is not correct.**
- In this method, **water is forced through the membrane under pressure**, while contaminants such as **dissolved solids, chemicals, microorganisms**, and other impurities are left behind.
- The membrane **allows water molecules to pass through** while blocking larger molecules and ions. **Hence, Statement-II is correct.**
- The RO process effectively removes a wide range of impurities, including salts, heavy metals, bacteria, viruses, and organic compounds, producing clean and purified water.

▪ **Hence, Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.**

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### Question 77:

Fair Share for Health and Care Report was released by which of the following?

1. World Health Organization (WHO)
2. World Bank
3. NITI Aayog
4. None of the Above

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

#### **Fair Share for Health and Care Report:**

- Recently, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** released a new report titled- **Fair Share for Health and Care report**, addressing the gender gap in global healthcare.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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#### **Question 78:**

Regarding Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, consider the following statements:

1. Time-lines for film certification processing have been reduced, with the adoption of complete digital processes to eliminate all transactional delays.
2. Movies and feature films must incorporate accessibility features for certification, making them inclusive for disabled persons as per the stipulated guidelines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

### Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024:

- Time-lines for film certification processing have been **reduced**, with the adoption of complete **digital processes** to eliminate all transactional delays. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Movies and feature films must incorporate accessibility features for certification, making them **inclusive for disabled persons** as per the stipulated guidelines. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 79:

The Black Sea is bordered by which of the following?

1. Ukraine
2. Russia
3. Georgia
4. Türkiye
5. Bulgaria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Answer : 4**

## Explanation

### Black Sea:

- The Black Sea is **bordered by** Ukraine to the north and northwest, Russia and Georgia to the east, Türkiye to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**



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**Question 80:**

Consider the following initiatives:

1. Aspirational Districts Programme
2. Composite Water Management Index
3. SDG India Index

How many of the above are led by NITI Aayog?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None of the above

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

### NITI Aayog's Initiatives Driving Development Across States :

- **Development Support Services for States (DSSS):** NITI Aayog assists with project planning, financing, and implementation to ensure successful infrastructure creation.
  - It also aims to establish Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as governance tools supporting larger development agenda.
- **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP):** It aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts across the country.
  - NITI Aayog works with them to improve core metrics in education, health, nutrition, and basic infrastructure.
- **Composite Water Management Index (CWMI):** It provides an annual snapshot of the water sector status and water management performance of the states and union territories (UTs) in India.
- **SDG India Index:** This index tracks India's progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - It provides valuable data for states to identify areas needing greater focus and promotes collaborative action.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** It aims to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- **Hence, Option C is correct.**

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### Question 81:

Consider the following statements regarding the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024:

1. The suitability of both the current and prospective habitats must be verified by an authorized veterinarian.
2. The Chief Wildlife Warden has the authority to approve or reject the transfer of elephants at their discretion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

## Explanation

### About the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024 :

- **Circumstances for Transfer of Captive Elephants:** Transfer may occur when:
  - The **owner is no longer capable** of adequately maintaining the elephant's welfare.
  - If it's determined that the **elephant will receive better care in the new circumstances** compared to its current situation.
  - The **Chief Wildlife Warden may deem it necessary** for the elephant's better upkeep based on the specific circumstances of the case.
- **Procedure Within the State:**
  - Before a transfer within a state, the **elephant's health must be confirmed** by a veterinarian.
  - The suitability of both the current and prospective habitats must be verified by the **Deputy Conservator of Forests. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Approval or rejection of the transfer is at the discretion of the **Chief Wildlife Warden** based on these assessments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- **Procedure Outside the State:**
  - Similar conditions apply for transferring elephants outside a state.
  - Additionally, the **elephant's genetic profile must be registered** with the MoEF&CC before the transfer.

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### Question 82:

“ Global E-waste Monitor, 2024” has been released by which of the following?

1. Greenpeace International
2. International Union for Conservation of Nature
3. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research
4. The United Nations Environment Programme

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

- The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** has released the **Global E-waste Monitor 2024**, which states that the world's generation of electronic waste is rising five times faster than documented **e-waste recycling**.
- **Hence, Option C is correct.**

**Question 83:**

Consider the following statements regarding 'Global Methane Pledge':

1. It was launched at UNFCCC COP26 in 2021 to catalyse action to reduce methane emissions.
2. It aims for a 50% reduction in global methane emissions from 2020 levels by 2050.

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

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

**Explanation**

- The Global Methane Pledge was launched at **UNFCCC COP26 in November 2021** to catalyse action to reduce methane emissions. Led by the US and the EU, the Pledge now has 111 country participants who together are responsible for **45% of global human-caused methane emissions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims for a 30% reduction in global methane emissions from 2020 levels by 2030. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
  - India has **opted not to sign** the Global Methane Pledge.
- Methane is the simplest hydrocarbon, consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms (CH<sub>4</sub>).
  - It is the primary component of natural gas, possessing key characteristics:
    - **Odourless, colourless, and tasteless gas.**
    - Lighter than air.
    - Burns with a **blue flame in complete combustion**, yielding carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O) in the presence of oxygen.

**Question 84:**

Consider the following statements:

1. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, regulates drug advertisements but does not ban promotions of magic remedies.
2. The Act defines "magic remedy" to include talismans, mantras, kavachas (amulets), and any other similar items that claim supernatural or magical properties for curing ailments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

### **Explanation**

The **Supreme Court in India** has warned Patanjali Ayurved, a popular Ayurvedic products company, against making false claims in their **advertisements** about curing diseases.

- The **Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954**, regulates drug advertisements and bans promotions of certain magic remedies. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It prohibits ads that **falsely represent a drug's nature or effectiveness** and those promoting drugs for specific diseases listed in the Act.
- Additionally, it prohibits advertising magic remedies claiming to treat the same diseases.
  - The Act defines "magic remedy" to include **talismans, mantras, kavachas (amulets)**, and any other similar items that claim supernatural or magical properties for curing ailments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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### **Question 85:**

Consider the following statements about NBFC :

1. NBFCs provide diverse financial services like personal loans, home loans, vehicle loans, gold loans, microfinance, etc.
2. They are part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheques drawn on themselves.
3. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.

How many of the statements given above are correct?



1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 2**

### **Explanation**

- NBFCs provide diverse financial services like personal loans, home loans, vehicle loans, gold loans, microfinance, insurance, and investment management. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- NBFCs **do not form part of the payment and settlement system** and **cannot** issue cheques drawn on themselves. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- They can accept public deposits for a minimum of **12 months and a maximum of 60 months**. However, NBFCs **cannot accept demand deposits**. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

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### **Question 86:**

Consider the following statements:

**Statement I:** While the majority of the world's oceans are experiencing warming, relatively small regions, such as the subpolar North Atlantic Ocean, are experiencing cooling.

**Statement II:** The slowdown of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), a system of ocean currents, results in the cooling of the ocean.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 1**

## **Explanation**

- Findings of the **State of the Global Climate 2023** report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO):
- **Contrasting Heating and Cooling Patterns in the North Atlantic:**
  - While the majority of the world's oceans are experiencing warming, relatively small regions, **such as the subpolar North Atlantic Ocean**, are experiencing cooling. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
  - This cooling is linked to the slowdown of the **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)**, a system of ocean currents.
    - AMOC is a system of **ocean currents that circulates water within the Atlantic Ocean**, bringing warm water **north** and cold water **south**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**Hence, Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.**

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## **Question 87:**

Consider the following statements about Palm Oil :

1. India is one of the largest importer of edible oil globally, importing approx 96% of its palm oil requirement.
2. Indonesia and Malaysia are among the largest global palm oil producers nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 3**

## **Explanation**

- India is the second-largest consumer of edible oil globally and **one of its largest importers**. India currently struggles with achieving self-sufficiency in **edible oils**, importing **96% of its required palm oil**, which makes up 67% of the country's edible oil import bill. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Indonesia and Malaysia** are the main global palm oil producers, followed by **Thailand, Colombia, and Nigeria**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

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### Question 88:

Consider the following statements about 'State of the Global Climate 2023' report:

1. It is released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
2. Global average sea-surface temperatures (SST) were at a record high in 2023, with several months breaking previous records by significant margins.
3. Ocean acidification has increased due to the absorption of carbon dioxide by the oceans.

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

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released its **State of the Global Climate 2023** report, which highlights that the heat content of the world's oceans reached a record high in 2023. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Global average sea-surface temperatures (SST)** were at a **record high in 2023**, with several months breaking previous records by significant margins. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The global ocean experienced an average daily Marine Heatwave coverage of 32%, well above the previous record of 23% in 2016. These heat waves have negative repercussions for marine ecosystems and coral reefs. Additionally, **ocean acidification** has increased due to the absorption of carbon dioxide by the oceans. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

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### Question 89:

Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The 1500 HP engine possesses cutting-edge features such as a high power-to-weight ratio, and operability in extreme conditions, including high altitudes.

**Statement-II:** India has many Main Battle Tanks (MBTs), including the T-90M Bhishma, ARJUN MBT, and K-9 Vajra.

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

1. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
2. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
3. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
4. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

Recently, the Defence Secretary presided over the maiden **test-firing of the country's first indigenously-made 1500 Horsepower (HP) engine for Main Battle Tanks** at BEML Limited's (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited) Engine division in Mysuru complex.

- The 1500 HP engine represents a paradigm shift in **military propulsion systems**, possessing cutting-edge features such as a **high power-to-weight ratio**, and operability in **extreme conditions**, including high altitudes, sub-zero temperatures and desert environments. **Hence, Statement-I is correct.**
- India has many **main battle tanks (MBTs)**, including the **T-90M Bhishma, ARJUN MBT, and K-9 Vajra. Hence, statement-II is correct.**

**Hence, both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

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### Question 90:

Consider the following statements:

1. Article 23 of the Constitution provides that no child below the age fourteen years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
2. Article 24 prohibits trafficking in human beings, including trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, slavery, or exploitation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

▪ **Article 23:**

- It prohibits **trafficking in human beings**, including trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, slavery, or exploitation.
- It recognizes the **inherent dignity and rights of individuals**, ensuring **protection against such practices. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

▪ **Article 24 of the Constitution:**

- No child below the age fourteen years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in **any other hazardous employment. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

▪ **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976:**

- The Act extends to the whole of India but is implemented by respective state governments. It provides for an institutional mechanism at the district level in the form of Vigilance Committees.
  - Vigilance committees advise District Magistrate (DM) to ensure the provisions of this act are properly implemented.
- The State Governments/UTs may confer, on an Executive Magistrate, the powers of a Judicial Magistrate of the first class or second class for the trial of offences under this Act.

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