



MAGAZINE TEST

ISSUE: AUGUST 2025

Q. No.	Answer	Q. No.	Answer	Q. No.	Answer	Q. No.	Answer
1.	(b)	26.	(b)	51.	(c)	76.	(a)
2.	(a)	27.	(b)	52.	(c)	77.	(d)
3.	(b)	28.	(d)	53.	(b)	78.	(c)
4.	(a)	29.	(c)	54.	(c)	79.	(b)
5.	(b)	30.	(c)	55.	(b)	80.	(b)
6.	(b)	31.	(a)	56.	(d)	81.	(c)
7.	(a)	32.	(b)	57.	(d)	82.	(a)
8.	(b)	33.	(a)	58.	(c)	83.	(c)
9.	(a)	34.	(c)	59.	(c)	84.	(b)
10.	(b)	35.	(b)	60.	(c)	85.	(c)
11.	(c)	36.	(c)	61.	(b)	86.	(b)
12.	(b)	37.	(c)	62.	(a)	87.	(d)
13.	(b)	38.	(c)	63.	(c)	88.	(b)
14.	(b)	39.	(a)	64.	(c)	89.	(a)
15.	(a)	40.	(c)	65.	(d)	90.	(b)
16.	(a)	41.	(c)	66.	(c)	91.	(b)
17.	(b)	42.	(a)	67.	(c)	92.	(a)
18.	(c)	43.	(a)	68.	(c)	93.	(c)
19.	(a)	44.	(d)	69.	(a)	94.	(b)
20.	(a)	45.	(b)	70.	(c)	95.	(c)
21.	(b)	46.	(c)	71.	(b)	96.	(b)
22.	(d)	47.	(c)	72.	(b)	97.	(c)
23.	(b)	48.	(d)	73.	(d)	98.	(c)
24.	(a)	49.	(b)	74.	(c)	99.	(c)
25.	(b)	50.	(d)	75.	(b)	100.	(c)

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EXPLANATION

DRISHTI CURRENT AFFAIRS TODAY

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1. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** guarantees a minimum price for 22 crops such as wheat, rice, pulses, and oilseeds, but does not include sugarcane. Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is guaranteed for sugarcane. These crops are procured by agencies such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and NAFED. Hence, statement I is NOT correct.
- The **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** schemes aim to provide direct cash assistance to farmers. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Telangana government's Rythu Bandhu Yojana and Odisha's KALIA Yojana are prime examples of this, which help in providing financial stability to farmers. Hence, statement II is correct.

2. (a)

Explanation:

- India has important strategic and economic relations with both Israel and Iran. This conflict poses a direct threat to India's energy security, as India imports a large part of its oil requirements from the Gulf region, which passes through important routes like the Strait of Hormuz.
- In addition, there are millions of Indian expatriates in West Asia, whose security is a major concern for India. This conflict also disrupts India's important connectivity projects, such as the Chabahar port and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), forcing India to maintain a complex balance in its foreign policy.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

3. (b)

Explanation:

- As per the new FCRA rules, NGOs involved in publishing activities are now required to certify from the Registrar of Newspapers of India that they comply with media regulations. Hence, pair I is correctly matched.
- Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, the limit of foreign contribution that NGOs can use for administrative expenses has been reduced from 50% to 20%. Hence, pair II is correctly matched.
- 2020 amendment has completely banned the transfer of foreign contributions. This means that an NGO cannot give a sub-grant of foreign money received to another person or organisation, even if that other organisation is also FCRA-registered. Hence, pair III is NOT correctly matched.

4. (a)

Explanation:

- Veer Savarkar indeed had a complex personality—he was simultaneously a fierce nationalist and a social reformer. His life and works show contributions in both political struggle and social reform, making this statement a correct summary.
- In London, Savarkar established the Free India Society to organize Indian students against British rule. He also authored '*The History of the First War of Indian Independence (1857)*', interpreting the revolt as India's First War of Independence, a nationalist assertion against colonial interpretations.

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- In Ratnagiri, Savarkar built the **Patit Pavan Mandir**, a temple open to **all Hindus irrespective of caste**. He promoted **inter-caste dining and marriages**, actively challenging caste-based discrimination.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

5. (b)

Explanation:

- The main objective of '**NAMASTE**' (National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) is to **eliminate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning practices**. It focuses on mechanization, skill development and providing alternative livelihoods to ensure the safety and dignity of sanitation workers, thereby achieving the goal of zero deaths in sanitation works. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The '**SHRESHTA**' (Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas) scheme aims to **provide quality education to meritorious Scheduled Caste students from classes 9 to 12** in the best private residential schools in the country and not for foreign education. There is a 'National Overseas Scholarship Scheme' for studying abroad. Hence, statement II is NOT correct.
- The **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955**, punishes the practice of untouchability. Offences under this Act are **cognizable (the police can arrest without a warrant) and non-compoundable (the case cannot be withdrawn by the complainant)**. Hence, statement III is correct.

6. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Nagar Van Scheme** aims to **increase green cover in urban areas through people's participation**. It aims to establish **1000 city forests and city gardens by 2027** and is funded by the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** fund. Hence, statement I is correct.
- **Target 12 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** explicitly addresses urban biodiversity. It aims to significantly increase the area, quality and access to green and blue spaces (e.g. parks, lakes) in urban areas by 2030. Hence, statement II is correct.
- The **Miyawaki method** is a Japanese technique for rapidly creating dense forests, but it emphasizes the

use of native plant species, not exotic species, to create a self-sustaining and local ecosystem. Hence, statement III is NOT correct.

- The **Singapore Index** is not a mandatory ranking system but a self-assessment tool for cities to monitor their biodiversity conservation efforts. It was developed in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), not by the World Economic Forum. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

7. (a)

Explanation:

- **Urban flooding incidents** in India have been **increasing in both frequency and intensity**. While extreme rainfall due to climate change plays a role, **anthropogenic factors** like unplanned urbanization, poor drainage systems, and encroachments are the main drivers.
- **Encroachment of natural drainage channels** prevents free flow of excess water. **Inadequate maintenance of stormwater drains** leads to clogging and waterlogging. **Loss of green spaces** reduces infiltration and increases surface runoff. All these directly reduce the **natural absorptive capacity** of cities.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

8. (b)

Explanation:

- Recently, **Khichan and Menar of Rajasthan** have **been included in the list of Ramsar sites**, which is a significant step towards wetland conservation. Hence, statement I is correct.
- With the addition of these two sites (and three others from Karnataka), the total number of **Ramsar sites in India** has gone up to 80. Hence, statement II is correct.
- The **Ramsar Convention** is an international treaty signed in 1971, which aims to promote the conservation and **sustainable use of all wetlands, not just migratory birds**. Hence, statement III is NOT correct.
- **Khichan** village is particularly known for **migratory Demoiselle Cranes**, while **Menar** has gained fame as '**Pakshi Gram**' (Bird Village). Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

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9. (a)

Explanation:

- The Emergency of 1975 was declared on the ground of “internal disturbance”. The term “armed rebellion” was substituted for “internal disturbance” by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978. Hence, statement I is NOT correct.
- The 42nd Amendment, which came into force during the Emergency, extended the term of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies from five to six years. Hence, statement II is correct.
- This was the first national emergency declared on internal grounds; previous emergencies (1962 and 1971) were based on external aggression. Hence, statement III is correct.
- The 44th Amendment ensured that fundamental rights under Articles 20 and 21 cannot be suspended during an emergency. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.
- The Emergency of 1975 was declared on the advice of the Prime Minister and not on the written recommendation of the Cabinet, which was later made mandatory by the 44th Amendment. Hence, statement V is NOT correct.

10. (b)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court judgment in the case of ‘Babita Punia vs Union of India’ (2020) was a landmark move, paving the way for permanent commission (PC) for women officers in the Army.
- Short Service Commission (SSC) is a limited period (10+4 years) service, while Permanent Commission (PC) provides a permanent career till the age of retirement. After the intervention of the Supreme Court, women were allowed to appear for the National Defence Academy (NDA) exam, opening another route for them to join the armed forces as officers. Hence, statement I is NOT correct.
- Women have been given Permanent Commission in several branches (Army, Navy, Air Force), and are inducted in combat roles like fighter pilots in the IAF and commanding roles in Army units. However, women are not yet inducted in all combat roles across services (e.g., no entry yet in infantry, armoured corps, and artillery in Army). Hence, statement II is NOT correct.

- In January 2023, Captain Shiva Chauhan of the Indian Army’s Corps of Engineers became the first woman officer operationally deployed at Siachen Glacier, the world’s highest battlefield. Hence, statement III is correct.
- The Government of India has approved admission of girls to all Sainik Schools across the country, with gradual implementation since 2021. Hence, statement IV is correct.

11. (c)

Explanation:

- Sagarmatha Dialogue is a biennial global forum initiated by the Government of Nepal to discuss important global issues such as climate change and mountain ecosystems. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The Dialogue is not limited to biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism. Its scope is much broader, covering climate change, mountain ecology, environmental sustainability, peace, and regional/global cooperation. Hence, statement II is NOT correct.
- India proposed a five-point action plan to protect mountain ecosystems at this forum. It includes enhancing scientific cooperation, building climate-resilient infrastructure (such as early warning systems for GLOF), empowering local communities and ensuring green financing. Hence, statement III is correct.

12. (b)

Explanation:

- Sant Kabir was a 15th-century mystic poet and a prominent saint of the Nirguna Bhakti movement. The Bijak is regarded as the most authentic compilation of Kabir’s dohas (couplets) and verses, preserved mainly in the Kabirpanthi tradition. Hence, pair I is correctly matched.
- Kabir was a strong advocate of Nirgun Bhakti (devotion to a formless God). His teachings criticized caste hierarchy, idol worship, and ritualism, focusing instead on inner purity and direct devotion. Hence, pair II is correctly matched.
- Kabir’s verses were composed in Sadhukkadi, a literary lingua franca that drew elements mainly from local dialects of Hindi, Avadhi, Bhojpuri, Braj, and some Persian/Arabic words, but not Sanskrit in dominant form. Hence, pair III is NOT correctly matched.

**13. (b)****Explanation:**

- The **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** brings online gaming platforms under its ambit for **KYC norms, record-keeping, and reporting of suspicious transactions**, but it does **not designate them as self-regulatory bodies**. Hence, pair I is **NOT correctly matched**.
- IT Rules, 2021 regulate online gaming in terms of **due diligence, grievance redressal, and self-regulatory bodies**, but **KYC and suspicious transaction reporting obligations** are under **PMLA**, not IT Rules. Hence, pair II is **NOT correctly matched**.
- Loot boxes are mechanisms in online games where players spend real money to get **randomized virtual rewards**. These are often criticized as **dark patterns resembling gambling**. Hence, pair III is **correctly matched**.
- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** provides **global recommendations on risks of money laundering and terror financing**, including those related to **virtual digital assets and gaming platforms**. Hence, pair IV is **correctly matched**.

14. (b)**Explanation:**

- The main objective of the 'Ulgulan' (great rebellion), led by Birsa Munda, was to end the exploitative system of British colonial rule, feudal landlords and moneylenders. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- It was **not just a social or religious reform movement**, but it also had a clear political goal.
- Birsa Munda called for the **establishment of 'Munda Raj'**, which symbolized an autonomous tribal rule free from external powers.

15. (a)**Explanation:**

- The main objective of the **Jan Vishwas Act, 2023**, is to promote '**ease of doing business**' and '**ease of living**'. The Act achieves this goal **by decriminalizing minor and non-malicious violations**, thereby improving governance.
- Under the Act, **183 provisions of 42 different central laws have been amended, where imprisonment for technical or procedural lapses has been replaced by financial penalties**. This change reduces the atmosphere of fear and harassment, especially for

micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and also reduces the burden on the judiciary, which directly contributes to governance improvement.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

16. (a)**Explanation:**

- A key pillar of the **Pandemic Treaty** is the '**Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing**' (PABS) system. Under this, **pharmaceutical companies will be given access to samples and data of pathogens** with pandemic potential. In return, **they will have to make 10% of the relevant vaccines, treatments and diagnostics available to the WHO free of cost** and the other 10% at affordable prices. This provision is important for developing countries to ensure equitable access to lifesaving measures. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The treaty explicitly respects the sovereignty of member countries. **There is no provision in it that gives WHO the right to override national laws or impose measures such as lockdowns, travel restrictions or vaccination mandates**. Member countries retain full control over their public health policies. Hence, statement II is **NOT correct**.

17. (b)**Explanation:**

- The government has decided to revise the base year of GDP from 2011-12 to 2022-23. This revision is necessary as it will better reflect the structural changes in the economy, such as the rise of the digital economy and the development of new industries. Hence, statement I is correct.
- India currently uses the single-deflation method to calculate GDP. Although the double-deflation method is considered more accurate, it has not yet been officially adopted. Hence, statement II is **NOT correct**.
- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** is the nodal agency for this important task. Hence, statement III is correct.

18. (c)**Explanation:**

- The '**Team India Hub**' in NITI Aayog has been set up to establish effective coordination between the Centre and the States and to promote the spirit of cooperative federalism. Hence, statement I is correct.



- The **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** is a **hybrid of both competitive and cooperative federalism**. While it promotes healthy competition among districts through ranking, it also relies on cooperation among the Centre, states and districts. **Hence, statement II is NOT correct.**
- **NITI Aayog provides technical assistance and guidance to states in setting up their own policy think-tanks called State Institutes for Transformation (SITs)** for better governance and policy implementation. **Hence, statement III is correct.**
- The **Governing Council of NITI Aayog is chaired by the Prime Minister of India and comprises the Chief Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories**. It usually meets annually. **Hence, statement IV is correct.**

19. (a)

Explanation:

- **Northeast India shares borders with five countries – Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and China (Tibet), not four.** Hence, statement I is NOT correct.
- The **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** aims to connect Kolkata port to Sittwe port in Myanmar, opening an alternate sea route for the Northeast region and facilitating trade with Southeast Asia. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **PM-DIVINE (Pradhan Mantri Development Initiative for Northeastern Region)** is a holistic scheme that focuses not only on roads but also on development of various sectors such as health, education, livelihoods and other socio-economic infrastructure. **Hence, statement III is NOT correct.**

20. (a)

Explanation:

- **Dark patterns are deceptive user interface (UI/UX) design techniques used on websites and apps that lead users to make unintended decisions.** To prevent these unfair trade practices, the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** has issued specific guidelines under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019 in the year 2023**. These guidelines empower the CCPA to take action against e-commerce platforms indulging in such practices, thereby protecting consumer autonomy and transparency. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- The term '**dark pattern**' was coined in 2010 by User Experience (UX) expert **Harry Brignull** and not by the **Department of Consumer Affairs**. The Department and the CCPA use the term to classify and regulate these deceptive designs as an unfair trade practice. **Hence, statement II is NOT correct.**

21. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Press Council of India (PCI)** was set up on the recommendations of the **First Press Commission** to preserve freedom of the press and improve standards of newspapers. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- It is a **statutory body** established under the **Press Council Act, 1978**. It has **quasi-judicial powers** under which it can investigate, but it functions as an autonomous body, independent of the government or any other authority. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- PCI has limited punitive powers. **It can warn or censure a newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist for misconduct, but it does not have the power to impose fines or imprisonment.** Hence, statement III is NOT correct.

22. (d)

Explanation:

- **OPEC+ was formed in 2016 as an alliance between OPEC and 10 non-OPEC countries** such as Russia to counter growing competition from US shale oil.
- **Saudi Arabia, with its huge spare production capacity, plays the role of a 'swing producer'** and can adjust output to influence prices and maintain market share. Together, the **two groups control about 60% of global oil production.**
- **Although global oil demand is witnessing a slowdown, OPEC+ has recently decided to gradually increase production rather than cut it.** This strategy signals a shift towards ending voluntary production cuts introduced in 2023 and refocusing on market share rather than price support. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

23. (b)

Explanation:

- The **UN Security Council (UNSC)** often fails to act due to the **veto power** of its five permanent members (P5), as seen in the **Ukraine and Gaza conflicts**. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

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- The **World Food Programme (WFP)** is a key **UN agency** that plays a key role in global food security and emergency aid. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- The **UNFCCC** and **Paris Agreement** deal with emissions reporting, but **military emissions are not mandatorily reported** due to opposition from major powers. **Hence, statement III is NOT correct.**
- The rise of **minilateral forums such as the Quad and BRICS weakens**, rather than strengthens, the inclusive framework of the UN. **Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.**
- The **permanent members of the Security Council are only China, France, Russia, the UK and the US;** India and Brazil are not permanent members. **Hence, statement V is NOT correct.**

24. (a)

Explanation:

- The **OCI card provides several important benefits to overseas citizens of Indian origin. This includes a lifetime multiple-entry, multi-purpose visa to visit India.** Additionally, they are also exempted from the requirement to register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for any period of stay in India, thereby greatly facilitating their travel and stay. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- OCI is not dual citizenship. **Cardholders are not citizens of India and hence do not enjoy any political rights. They cannot vote in elections in India, contest for public office like Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha, nor hold constitutional posts like President or Supreme Court Judge. Hence, statement II is NOT correct.**

25. (b)

Explanation:

- According to the **RBI's annual report, real GDP growth is projected at 7.2% for FY 2024-25,** indicating a strong economic outlook. **Hence, pair I is correctly matched.**
- The **report also estimates that headline inflation will decline to 4.5%,** supported by monetary policy and easing supply-side pressures. **Hence, pair II is correctly matched.**
- The **RBI has approved a surplus transfer of ₹2.11 lakh crore to the central government for the accounting year 2023-24,** not ₹1.76 lakh crore. This surplus is an important non-tax revenue source for the government, which aids in fiscal consolidation. **Hence, pair III is NOT correctly matched.**

26. (b)

Explanation:

- **New Caledonia is a French overseas territory located in the southwest Pacific Ocean,** not a sovereign nation.
- The region is known for having about **one-third of the world's nickel reserves.**
- Recently, **it has witnessed serious unrest due to electoral reforms proposed by the French government.** These reforms were to give voting rights to French residents, which was opposed by the indigenous Kanak community.
- The **Kanak community, which is running a strong independence movement, fears that these reforms will weaken their political power** and marginalize their demands for independence. Its strategic location makes it an important geopolitical entity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

27. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the establishment of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** for the administration of tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram,** which enjoy legislative and judicial autonomy. **Hence, pair I is correctly matched.**
- Although **Article 240 empowers the President to make rules for the peace, progress and good governance** of certain Union Territories, including Ladakh, **it does not grant direct legislative powers to the ADCs.** Hence, pair II is NOT correctly matched.
- Recently, **the government has amended the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Act, 1997** to provide for **one-third reservation for women** in the councils of Leh and Kargil. **Hence, pair III is correctly matched.**

28. (d)

Explanation:

- The rule of the Pandya dynasty was not uninterrupted. **After the Sangam era, they lost power to the Kalabhras and later to the Cholas in the 9th century,** after which they re-emerged as the Later Pandyas in the 12th century. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- Pandyas had trade relations with the **Roman Empire, the Greeks and the Egyptians.**

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- The 13th century Italian traveller Marco Polo visited their kingdom and praised it.
- The recently discovered 800-year-old Shiva temple belongs to the reign of the later Pandya ruler Maravarman Sundara Pandya.

29. (c)

Explanation:

- Epigenetics refers to hereditary changes in gene expression that occur without changes in the DNA sequence. Hence, statement I is correct.
- This provides a new scientific validity to the Lamarckian theory of inheritance, which proposes that traits acquired by an organism during its lifetime can be inherited by its next generation. Hence, statement II is correct.
- A recent study found that rice plants exposed to cold temperatures underwent epigenetic changes that led to cold tolerance and this trait was inherited for up to five generations. Hence, statement III is correct.
- Epigenetic changes are a universal biological process that occurs in both plants and animals. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

30. (c)

Explanation:

- Nomadic Elephant is an annual joint military exercise between India and Mongolia. Its purpose is to train troops for counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under the mandate of the United Nations and to enhance interoperability. Hence, pair I is correctly matched.
- PASSEX is a passage exercise, which the Indian Navy regularly conducts with the navies of friendly countries. Recently this exercise was conducted between the Indian and Indonesian navies in the Sunda Strait. Hence, pair II is correctly matched.
- Surya Kiran is an annual joint military exercise between India and Nepal, which is held alternately in both the countries. Its purpose is to strengthen interoperability and friendly relations between the two armies. Hence, pair III is correctly matched.
- Malabar is a multilateral naval exercise, involving India, Japan, Australia and the United States (Quad countries). Hence, pair IV is NOT correctly matched.

31. (a)

Explanation:

- Daojali Hading, located in Dima Hasao district of Assam, is an important Neolithic archaeological site in Northeast India. It represents a major culture of the region.
- The pottery, especially cord-marked ware and polished stone tools (such as axes and chisels) recovered from here highlight its cultural links with the Neolithic cultures of Southeast Asia (Statement II).
- Moreover, these evidences indicate a transition from hunting-gathering to a permanent and settled lifestyle based on agriculture (possibly Jhum cultivation).

Hence, option (a) is correct

32. (b)

Explanation:

- Burning of crop residues releases greenhouse gases such as methane (CH₄), carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) as well as harmful particulate matter that contribute to air pollution and climate change. Hence, statement I is correct.
- Production of bioethanol and bio-CNG is an ex-situ management technique in which crop residues are collected and used for energy production. Hence, statement II is NOT correct.
- Mulching is an in-situ management technique. In this, crop residues are spread on the field surface to retain soil moisture and reduce erosion. Hence, statement III is NOT correct.
- Pusa Decomposer developed by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is a fungus-based capsule that accelerates the process of in-situ decomposition of stubble, helping it to convert into manure. Hence, statement IV is correct.

33. (a)

Explanation:

- 'Operation Sindoor' is a major counter-terrorism operation of India, the main objective of which is to target and neutralize terrorist infrastructure located in Pakistan.
- In the recent meeting of NITI Aayog, this operation received unanimous support from all states and union territories, which reflects an integrated approach to national security.

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- This operation underlines **India's zero-tolerance policy towards cross-border terrorism** and its commitment to take proactive steps for its security.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

34. (c)

Explanation:

- Due to increasing migration of men to urban areas, **rural women are leading agricultural operations**, which is called 'feminization of Indian agriculture'. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- One of the objectives of **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)** is to **empower women farmers by providing them financial assistance** (grants) for the purchase of agricultural machinery. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- Despite women's important role in agriculture, gender inequality in land ownership is rampant. According to official data, **women own only 14% of agricultural land, down from 15%**. Hence, **statement III is correct**.
- The **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)** allocates **30% of its budget to support women farmers**, not half (50%). Hence, **statement IV is NOT correct**.

35. (b)

Explanation:

- **Charaka Samhita is a fundamental text of Ayurveda, but it focuses primarily on internal medicine (kaya chikitsa) and not surgery**. The major ancient text on surgery is Sushruta Samhita. Hence, **statement I is NOT correct**.
- **Sushruta is widely regarded as the "father of surgery"**. His Sushruta Samhita contains detailed descriptions of plastic surgery, cataract and other complex procedures. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- The **teachings of both scholars are based on a holistic health approach**. He laid equal emphasis not only on the treatment of diseases but also on maintaining health through balanced diet, lifestyle and preventive measures. Hence, **statement III is correct**.

36. (c)

Explanation:

- It has recently been suggested that **if agricultural subsidies are transferred directly to farmers'**

accounts instead of indirect assistance, their income can increase significantly. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

- Due to excessive subsidy on urea, **the consumption ratio of NPK in India (6.7:2.4:1) has become very distorted from the ideal ratio (4:2:1)**, negatively impacting soil health and productivity. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- The **Shanta Kumar Committee (2015) report highlighted that the benefit of MSP reaches only 6% of the farmers in the country**, which is mainly restricted to a few states. Hence, **statement III is correct**.
- **India is often accused by developed countries in the WTO of violating the 10% limit on trade-distorting domestic support through subsidies given to crops like rice**. Hence, **statement IV is correct**.

37. (c)

Explanation:

- **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education aimed at involving higher educational institutions (HEIs) in transforming rural development processes**.
- Under this programme, **HEIs use their knowledge and expertise to address development challenges of rural communities**.
- **IIT Delhi has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute for this programme**.
- Under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, **each participating higher educational institution is encouraged to adopt at least five villages, not ten**. The aim is to build a collaborative relationship between the institutions and local communities to find solutions for sustainable development. Hence, **option (c) is correct**.

38. (c)

Explanation:

- These **gallantry awards were announced by the President of India** on the eve of the 76th Republic Day, 2025. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- These **awards are given to armed forces and police personnel for their indomitable courage, unparalleled bravery and outstanding acts of self-sacrifice**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- **Ashoka Chakra is India's highest military decoration awarded for gallantry, courage or self-sacrifice during peacetime**. Hence, **statement III is correct**.

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- **Param Vir Chakra (PVC)** is India's highest military decoration awarded for gallantry displayed in the face of the enemy during wartime, not for peacetime. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

39. (a)

Explanation:

- **V. D. Savarkar**, along with his brother **Ganesh Damodar Savarkar**, founded the '**Abhinav Bharat Society**' in the year **1904**. It was a secret organisation whose aim was to overthrow the British rule through armed rebellion. Hence, statement I is correct.
- During his stay in London, **Savarkar** was highly inspired by the ideas of Italian nationalist **Giuseppe Mazzini** and founded the '**Free India Society**', which propagated nationalist ideas among Indian students. Hence, statement II is correct.
- **Savarkar** was not convicted in the **Alipore Bomb Case (1908)**; the main accused in that case were **Aurobindo Ghosh** and his brother **Barin Ghosh**. Savarkar was convicted on the charge of conspiracy to murder Collector Jackson of Nasik (Nashik Conspiracy Case). Hence, statement III is NOT correct.

40. (c)

Explanation:

- **Nehru**, along with **Tito** of Yugoslavia and **Nasser** of Egypt, was one of the chief architects of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, which provided a platform for newly independent nations during the Cold War. Hence, statement I is correct.
- He was greatly influenced by the **Soviet model** and set up the **Planning Commission in 1950** to oversee centralised five-year plans for India's economic and social development. Hence, statement II is correct.
- He wrote his famous book '**The Discovery of India**' during his imprisonment in the **Ahmednagar Fort** between 1942 and 1945. Hence, statement III is correct.
- The **Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly** was headed by **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**. Nehru chaired other important committees such as the **Union Powers Committee** and the **Union Constitution Committee**. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

41. (c)

Explanation:

- Gallantry awards are classified into two categories. **Param Vir Chakra (PVC)** and **Mahavir Chakra (MVC)**

are the highest awards given for exceptional gallantry 'in the face of the enemy'. Hence, statement I is correct.

- **Ashoka Chakra**, **Kirti Chakra** and **Shaurya Chakra** are the gallantry awards given for gallantry and self-sacrifice displayed in circumstances other than 'in the face of the enemy'. Hence, statement II is correct.
- According to the order of precedence established by the Government of India, **Mahavir Chakra** ranks higher than **Kirti Chakra**. The established order of precedence is as follows: **Param Vir Chakra**, **Ashoka Chakra**, **Mahavir Chakra**, **Kirti Chakra**, **Vir Chakra** and **Shaurya Chakra**. Hence, statement III is correct.
- These gallantry awards are announced **twice a year—first on the occasion of Republic Day** and **second on the occasion of Independence Day**. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

42. (a)

Explanation:

- The main objective of the **Central Government's 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment' (SASCI)** scheme is to promote capital expenditure by the states as it has a high multiplier effect on the economy.
- To achieve this goal, the scheme provides financial assistance to the states in the form of a **50-year interest-free loan**. This financial incentive motivates the states to invest in long-term projects such as health, education and infrastructure without the burden of debt-servicing.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

43. (a)

Explanation:

- The **National Emergency** imposed in 1975 was declared on the ground of '**internal disturbance**', which was considered a vague and broad ground. Following this experience, several safeguards were introduced to prevent the misuse of Article 352 in future.
- These safeguards were implemented through the **44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978**. Its most important provision was to replace the term '**internal disturbance**' with the more specific and severe term '**armed rebellion**'.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

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44. (d)

Explanation:

- Sikkim was given the status of an 'Associate State' through the 35th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1974, for which a new Article 2A and a new Tenth Schedule were added to the Constitution. Hence, statement I is correct.
- After a referendum held in 1975, the 36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975 established Sikkim as the 22nd full-fledged state of India. This amendment repealed Article 2A and the Tenth Schedule. Hence, statement II is correct.
- Article 371F contains special provisions for the state of Sikkim. According to its clause (f), the number of members in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim shall not be less than thirty, which is an exception to the general minimum limit (60 members) for other states. Hence, statement III is correct.

45. (b)

Explanation:

- The Northeast region is central to India's 'Act East' policy, making it a strategic gateway to Southeast Asia. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The region contains about 40% of India's hydropower potential, not more than 50%. Hence, statement II is NOT correct.
- The Siliguri Corridor, also known as the 'Chicken Neck', is an important strategic and economic link connecting the Northeast to the rest of India. Hence, statement III is correct.

46. (c)

Explanation:

- Recently the Supreme Court has directed the Central Government to reconsider the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act to explore the possibility of providing benefits for the third child as well. Hence, statement I is correct.
- Under the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017, 26 weeks of paid leave is available only for the first two children. The benefit is limited for women having more than two children. Hence, statement II is correct.
- The court's direction takes into account the socio-economic realities of women who are often forced by circumstances to have more than two children, especially in the unorganised sector. Hence, statement III is correct.

- The Act applies primarily to the organised sector, i.e. establishments employing 10 or more workers. It excludes a large population of the unorganised sector from its purview, which is a major limitation. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

47. (c)

Explanation:

- Birsa Munda led the 'Ulgulan' or the great rebellion in 1899-1900, which was an armed struggle against the feudal system, zamindari system and British rule. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The rebellion put pressure on the colonial government, resulting in the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908. This law prohibited the transfer of tribal land to non-tribals. Hence, statement II is correct.
- Birsa Munda founded a new religion called 'Birsait'. It was a monotheistic belief system that opposed superstition, practices like animal sacrifice and emphasized moral conduct. Hence, statement III is correct.
- Though Birsa Munda was influenced by the 'Sardari' movement, which was a peaceful movement, his own 'Ulgulan' movement was an armed rebellion, using strategies like guerrilla warfare. Hence, he did not adopt completely peaceful methods. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

48. (d)

Explanation:

- The recently launched Naphthromycin (Midcaf) is the first indigenous antibiotic developed in India in 30 years, which is a significant step towards tackling AMR. Hence, statement I is correct.
- India is one of the top antibiotic consumers in livestock, where about 70% is used to promote growth in livestock, agriculture and aquaculture, contributing to the spread of resistance. Hence, statement II is correct.
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global threat and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified it as one of the top 10 global health risks. Hence, statement III is correct.
- The aim of the 'Red Line Campaign' is to alert consumers about medicines marked with a red line and discourage them from using them without a prescription. Hence, statement IV is correct.

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49. (b)

Explanation:

- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has recognised urban flooding as a distinct type of disaster in view of its increasing frequency and specific challenges and has issued guidelines for its management. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The concept of 'sponge city' aims not to maximise surface runoff of rainwater but to minimise it by absorbing and storing it naturally. The aim is to increase permeable surfaces. **Hence, statement II is NOT correct.**
- One of the major objectives of the **AMRUT Mission** is to improve water supply as well as sewage networks and drainage systems in urban areas to prevent flood-like situations. **Hence, statement III is correct.**
- **Urban flooding** is a complex phenomenon that is a combined result of both man-made factors (e.g. unplanned urbanisation, encroachment on water bodies) and natural factors (e.g. excessive rainfall, cloudburst). It cannot be considered the result of only one type of factor.

50. (d)

Explanation:

- Scientists have recently created the country's first cloned and gene-edited sheep 'Ganga'. A new, efficient and low-cost 'hand-guided cloning' technique has been used for this. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- This cloned lamb has incorporated a special gene called 'Fit-1', which aims to increase meat production in sheep. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- In hand-guided cloning technique, **hand-held instruments are used in place of conventional microscopes**, which makes it more efficient and less expensive. **Hence, statement III is correct.**

51. (c)

Explanation:

- The **Supreme Court** in a landmark judgement granted permanent commission to women officers, making them eligible to hold command positions. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Following the Supreme Court's direction, the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** has started recruiting women cadets, a major development for women in the armed forces. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

- The **Indian Navy** has opened all its branches to women, including allowing them to serve as sailors on warships, a major step towards gender equality. **Hence, statement III is correct.**
- Under the **Agneepath** scheme, women are being recruited as 'Agniveers', a rank below officer ranks. Hence, recruitment is not restricted to officer ranks only. **Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.**

52. (c)

Explanation:

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** is a Central Public Sector Undertaking with 'Navratna' status. **Hence, pair I is correctly matched.**
- It was established in the year 1987 as a non-banking financial institution (NBFI) with the objective of promoting green financing. **Hence, pair II is correctly matched.**
- **IREDA** functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and not the Ministry of Finance. **Hence, pair III is NOT correctly matched.**
- **IREDA** has been given 'Excellent' rating in the performance evaluation conducted by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). **Hence, pair IV is correctly matched.**

53. (b)

Explanation:

- 'Dark patterns' are manipulative design techniques used on websites and apps designed to deceive consumers or pressure them into doing things they do not want to do. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- These are considered as an 'unfair trade practice' and the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** has issued guidelines to curb them under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- The guidelines to curb these have been issued by the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** and not by the Niti Aayog. **Hence, statement III is NOT correct.**

54. (c)

Explanation:

- **Establishment of India's first 3nm chip design centre** is an important strategic step towards making the country's semiconductor ecosystem self-reliant and promoting it. **Hence, pair I is correctly matched.**

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- A new blind fish species has been discovered in the caves of Meghalaya, highlighting the unique and rich biodiversity of the region and is important for ecological studies. Hence, pair II is correctly matched.
- Goa becoming a fully functional literate state is a remarkable achievement in the field of social development, which is a big step towards the goal of 100% literacy. Hence, pair III is correctly matched.

55. (b)

Explanation:

- Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, online gaming platforms are designated as 'reporting entities'. They have to report suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND). Hence, pair I is correctly matched.
- The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) receives, analyses and disseminates information on suspicious transactions from reporting entities. It does not directly set KYC standards; these standards are usually set by regulators such as the RBI. Hence, pair II is NOT correctly matched.
- The proposed Digital India Act has suggested making a 'gaming code of conduct' mandatory for gaming platforms to ensure user safety and ethical practices. Hence, pair III is correctly matched.

56. (d)

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has announced the revision of the base year of GDP from 2011-12 to 2022-23. Hence, pair I is correctly matched.
- The most recent revision before this was done on January 30, 2015, when the base year was changed from 2004-05 to 2011-12. Hence, pair II is correctly matched.
- MoSPI has constituted an Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics, headed by Biswanath Goldar, to advise on the determination of the base year. Hence, pair III is correctly matched.
- The plan to revise the base year to 2017-18 was postponed due to major economic disruptions like demonetisation (2016) and GST implementation (2017). Hence, pair IV is correctly matched.

57. (d)

Explanation:

- According to RBI's annual report, the bank achieved a record surplus of Rs 2.68 lakh crore, up 27.37% from Rs 2.11 lakh crore last year. Hence, statement I is correct.
- RBI's balance sheet grew by 8.2% annually till March 2025, reflecting its growing income and assets. Hence, statement II is correct.
- According to the report, foreign assets (including gold and loans) accounted for 74.27% of RBI's total assets, underlining the importance of its foreign exchange reserves. Hence, statement III is correct.
- RBI's gold reserves increased by 57.48 metric tonnes, taking the total gold holding to 879.58 metric tonnes. Hence, statement IV is correct.

58. (c)

Explanation:

- India is not a member of the G7 group, yet it has been invited as an 'outreach country' for the last six years in a row and for the twelfth time overall. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The G7 is an informal group with no formal constitution or permanent secretariat. Its decisions are based on consensus and are not legally binding. Hence, statement II is NOT correct.
- One of the major outcomes of this summit was the 'Kananaskis Wildfire Charter', which aims to promote science-based solutions to tackle the threat of forest fires. Hence, statement III is correct.

59. (c)

Explanation:

- The 51st G7 summit was held in Kananaskis, Canada, to which India was invited as an 'outreach country'. Hence, pair I is correctly matched.
- Sittwe Port is located in Myanmar and is an important part of the 'Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project' under India's 'Act East' policy. Hence, pair II is correctly matched.
- New Caledonia, a French overseas territory in the Pacific Ocean, has recently been in the news for severe unrest and independence movement due to electoral reforms proposed by France. Hence, pair III is correctly matched.
- Al-Udeid, a US military base located in Qatar, was targeted with missiles by Iran, not Israel, during the recent conflict. Hence, pair IV is NOT correctly matched.

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60. (c)

Explanation:

- India is among the top ten agricultural product exporters in the world, reflecting its huge agricultural production base. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The Agricultural Export Policy, 2018 aimed to increase India's agricultural exports to over \$60 billion by the year 2022. Hence, statement II is correct.
- Indian agricultural exports, especially basmati rice and spices, often face rejection in markets such as the European Union due to high levels of pesticides. Hence, statement III is correct.
- Despite its huge potential, India's share in global agricultural exports is only 2.4%, less than 2.5%. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

61. (b)

Explanation:

- The Hindu Kush Himalayan region (HKH) is considered one of the most climate-sensitive regions in the world. Problems such as rapid melting of glaciers, instability in weather patterns, floods, landslides and loss of biodiversity are being caused by climate change. Many scientific reports and international organizations (such as ICIMOD) have documented the serious ecological, economic and social crisis in the region.
- Sagarmatha Dialogue is a regional initiative launched to address these shared ecological challenges. Sagarmatha Dialogue is a multilateral platform launched by the Government of Nepal, named after Mount Everest (Sagarmatha). It aims to promote regional cooperation on climate change, mountain ecology, sustainable development, and ecological crises in the Himalayan region.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

62. (a)

Explanation:

- The Birch Glacier is actually a large glacier located in Victoria Land of Antarctica. Hence, pair I is correctly matched.
- Mount Etna is the highest and most active volcano in Europe located on the island of Sicily in Italy. Hence, pair II is NOT correctly matched.
- Mount Denali (earlier known as Mount McKinley) is the highest mountain in North America, not the third highest mountain in the world. Hence, pair III is NOT correctly matched.

- Mount Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world located in the Himalayas. Hence, pair IV is NOT correctly matched.

63. (c)

Explanation:

- The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) scheme was introduced in 2005 through an amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The OCI scheme allows holders to live, work and travel in India, but it does not confer dual citizenship. Hence, statement II is NOT correct.
- The eligibility for the OCI scheme clearly states that foreign nationals from Pakistan and Bangladesh are not eligible. Hence, statement III is correct.
- To simplify administrative procedures, the Person of Indian Origin (PIO) and OCI card schemes were integrated in 2015. Hence, statement IV is correct.

64. (c)

Explanation:

- The Indian government aims for the country to become the world's largest air passenger market by 2047, reflecting its growing economic influence. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The number of airports in operation is set to increase from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024, a more than double increase. Hence, statement II is correct.
- The sector, including tourism-related industries, supports around 7.7 million jobs, underscoring its enormous socio-economic impact. Hence, statement III is correct.
- The total contribution of the aviation sector (including tourism) to GDP is about 1.5%, less than 5%. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

65. (d)

Explanation:

- This recently discovered Shiva temple in Tamil Nadu is 800 years old and belongs to the later Pandya period, which lasted from 1216 to 1345 AD. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The inscriptions and Shilpa Shastras found in the temple confirm that the temple was dedicated to Lord Shiva and was named 'Thennavanishvaram'. Hence, statement I is correct.
- It was constructed during the reign of Pandya ruler Maravarman Sundara Pandya during 1217-1218 AD. Hence, statement III is correct.

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- The inscriptions found in the temple also mention the sale of a reservoir called 'Nagankudi' for 64 kasu (coins of the time). Hence, statement IV is correct.

66. (c)

Explanation:

- Interpol officially approved the 'Silver Notice' in its 93rd General Assembly, which is a new step towards combating financial crimes. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The primary purpose of this notice is to assist member countries in tracing, seizing and freezing illegal assets acquired by criminals. Hence, statement II is correct.
- This notice is not limited to money laundering but is also designed to combat the proceeds of corruption and other financial crimes. Hence, statement III is correct.
- It will serve as an important tool for international recovery of criminal assets, thereby enhancing cooperation among member countries. Hence, statement IV is correct.

67. (c)

Explanation:

- The third United Nations Ocean Conference is to be co-hosted by France and Costa Rica in 2025, with the aim of accelerating global action on ocean conservation. Hence, statement I is correct.
- Sustainable Development Goal-14 (SDG-14) focuses specifically on the conservation and sustainable use of "life below water". Hence, statement II is correct.
- The High Seas Treaty, also called the 'Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction' (BBNJ) Treaty, aims to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, not within it. Hence, statement III is NOT correct.
- The Nice Declaration is a major expected outcome of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference, containing new commitments to protect the oceans. Hence, statement IV is correct.

68. (c)

Explanation:

- The Act imposes strict and no-fault liability on the operator of a nuclear plant in case of a nuclear accident, which means that negligence does not need to be proved for liability. Hence, statement I is correct.

- Section 17(b) of the Act is specific as it gives the operator the right to claim compensation from suppliers in case of an accident, which is a unique provision. Hence, statement II is correct.
- The Act provides for the establishment of a Nuclear Damage Claims Commission to expedite settlement of claims and ensure equitable compensation to the victims. Hence, statement III is correct.
- India ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 2016. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.

69. (a)

Explanation:

- World Environment Day 2025 is scheduled for 5th June 2025, and the host nation is the Republic of Korea (South Korea). The official theme for the year is "Beat Plastic Pollution". Hence, statement I is correct.
- As part of India's commitment to environmental conservation, the Prime Minister will plant a Banyan sapling under the Aravalli Green Wall Project within the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign. Hence, statement II is correct.
- World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the UN General Assembly during the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment, not at the Rio Earth Summit. Hence, statement III is NOT correct.

70. (c)

Explanation:

- In the Global Gender Gap Report 2025, India ranked 131st out of 148 countries, slipping from 129th in 2024. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The report is released annually by the World Economic Forum (WEF), which started publishing it in 2006. Hence, statement II is correct.
- Iceland has consistently topped the index since its inception and continued to do so for the 16th consecutive year in 2025, followed by Finland and Norway. Hence, statement III is correct.
- The index is based on four dimensions, namely: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment. Hence, statement IV is NOT correct.



71. (b)

Explanation:

- The UNFPA's State of World Population 2025 Report, titled "The Real Fertility Crisis", states that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined to 1.9, which is below the replacement level of 2.1.
- The report confirms that 68% of India's population is in the working-age group (15–64 years) — not 58%. This demographic group represents India's strong potential for economic growth, often referred to as a "demographic dividend." Hence, option (b) is correct.
- States like Bihar (TFR 3.0), Meghalaya (2.9), and Uttar Pradesh (2.7) are highlighted in the report as having TFRs above the replacement level. These states remain outliers while 31 States/UTs have fertility levels below 2.1.
- The report projects that India's population will peak at approximately 170 crores in the early 2060s. This projection is based on declining fertility rates and demographic modeling.

72. (b)

Explanation:

- 'Suggi' is the term used locally in Rayalaseema, a semi-arid region of Andhra Pradesh, to describe the seasonal migration of thousands of rural families during the summer months. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- The primary cause of this migration is acute water scarcity — due to the complete reliance on monsoon rains, drying of borewells, and the lack of irrigation infrastructure, which prevent cultivation of a second crop.

73. (d)

Explanation:

- Mizoram was the first Indian state to achieve 100% functional literacy under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, a flagship component of the New India Literacy Programme (NILP) launched in 2022 by the Ministry of Education. Hence, option (d) is correct.
- The programme is targeted at adults aged 15 years and above who missed the opportunity for formal schooling.
 - Unlike traditional literacy programs, ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in

Society) emphasizes functional literacy, which includes not just reading and writing, but also numeracy, digital skills, financial literacy, civic awareness, and the ability to apply knowledge to everyday life.

- The programme's goal is to cover 5 crore learners by 2027, promoting lifelong learning and aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Following Mizoram, Goa and Ladakh have also joined the list of states/UTs to attain 100% functional literacy, demonstrating the growing momentum toward universal adult education.

74. (c)

Explanation:

- The Ghatampur Thermal Power Project, with a total installed capacity of 1,980 MW, was recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Kanpur Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Hence, option (c) is correct.
- This mega infrastructure initiative marks a major leap in India's pursuit of energy security, particularly benefiting power-deficient regions of northern India.
- Developed under a joint venture called Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd, the project is a collaborative effort between NLC India Ltd (a central PSU) and U.P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (a state PSU).

75. (b)

Explanation:

- India's largest automobile cargo terminal was recently inaugurated at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant in Haryana. Hence, option (b) is correct.
- The terminal is connected to Patli railway station via a 10 km rail spur and is part of the 121.7 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor.
- It was developed jointly by Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (HRIDC) and Maruti Suzuki, with a total cost of ₹800 crore.
- The terminal has a capacity of handling 4.5 lakh vehicles annually, enhancing India's multi-modal logistics and boosting railway-based car transport.

76. (a)

Explanation:

- World Turtle Day is celebrated annually on 23rd May to raise awareness about turtle and tortoise conservation. Initiated by the American Tortoise



Rescue in 2000, this day highlights the ecological significance of turtles and promotes actions to protect them globally.

- **World Milk Day**, established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** in 2001, is observed on **1st June** every year. The theme for 2025 is **"Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy."**
- Recognized by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 2019, **World Food Safety Day** is marked annually on **7th June**. The 2025 theme was **"Food Safety: Science in Action."**
- **World Accreditation Day** is observed every year on **9th June**, globally coordinated by bodies like the **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)** and **International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)**. In India, it is marked by the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**. In 2025, the theme was **"Accreditation: Empowering SMEs."**

Hence, option (a) is correct.

77. (d)

Explanation:

- The **1st United Nations International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation** was hosted by Tajikistan in **Dushanbe** in 2025. Hence, option (d) is correct.
- It was organized in collaboration with **UNESCO** and the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**.
- The event led to the adoption of the **Dushanbe Glaciers Declaration** and marked the declaration of 2025 as the **International Year of Glaciers' Preservation**, along with a **Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034)**.

78. (c)

Explanation:

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** officially declared **22nd May** as the **International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)** in the year **2000**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- This date commemorates the **adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** during the Earth Summit in **Rio de Janeiro in 1992**.
- The CBD is a **legally binding international treaty** with the objectives of conserving biodiversity, using its components sustainably, and sharing its benefits fairly.
- The **theme for 2025** was **"Harmony with nature and sustainable development"**, focusing on integrating ecological concerns with urban growth. Hence, **statement 2 is NOT correct**.

- The term **"biodiversity"** was coined by **Walter G. Rosen in 1985**, not by E.O. Wilson and not in 1992. Hence, **statement 3 is NOT correct**.

79. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** was introduced by the **Reserve Bank of India in 2004** to facilitate resident individuals in remitting funds abroad for permissible purposes.
- **LRS does not permit opening foreign currency accounts within India**. It only allows remittances abroad, and such accounts, if any, must be opened overseas in compliance with regulations. Hence, **option (b) is correct**.
- **LRS is applicable only to resident individuals**. Entities like **corporates, HUFs, trusts, and partnership firms** are **not eligible** to use the scheme.
- The scheme **prohibits** remittances for purposes like **lottery ticket purchases, gambling, betting, etc.**

80. (b)

Explanation:

- **Recently, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry amended the SEZ Rules, 2006** to boost investment in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.
- The minimum land requirement was **reduced from 50 hectares to 10 hectares** for semiconductor and electronics SEZs. This move is intended to **ease entry barriers** for capital- and import-intensive sectors.
- The amendment specifically **includes free-of-cost goods** in NFE calculations. This change helps SEZ units show **improved export performance**, as such goods were previously excluded from NFE computation. Hence, **option (b) is correct**.
- SEZ units are permitted to **sell in the DTA** (Domestic Tariff Area), provided they **pay applicable customs duties**. This encourages greater **market access** and reduces over-dependence on exports.
- The **Board of Approval** can now **relax the encumbrance-free land condition** in cases where land is **leased or mortgaged to a government agency**, facilitating faster project approvals.

81. (c)

Explanation:

- **Operation Sindhu** was recently launched by India to evacuate its nationals from **Iran** amid rising tensions related to potential Israeli-American strikes. Hence, **option (c) is correct**.

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- Armenia was used as the primary corridor due to its **44-km land border** with Iran and the viable **Nurduz–Agarak crossing**, which connects to Tehran via a 730 km highway.

82. (a)

Explanation:

- The **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** was established in **1961** to promote productivity and sustainable socio-economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. Its **headquarters is in Tokyo, Japan**, not Jakarta. Hence, **statement I is NOT correct.**
- India is a **founding member** of the APO since 1961. India is represented through the **National Productivity Council (NPC)**, which is an autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. Hence, **statement II is correct.**
- Membership of the APO is open only to **Asia-Pacific countries that are also members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**. Hence, **statement III is NOT correct.**
- Recently, India has officially assumed the **Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** for the 2025–26 term.

83. (c)

Explanation:

- Dholes are **not solitary** and **do not inhabit arid grasslands or deserts**. They are **social carnivores** found in **forests, shrublands, and mountainous regions**. They live and hunt in **packs**, often numbering between 2 to 25 individuals. Hence, **statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- They are called **“whistling dogs”** because of the unique high-pitched sounds they use to communicate with each other. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Dholes are classified as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List** and are listed in **Appendix II of CITES**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- **World Dhole Day is observed on 28th May** every year to promote the conservation of this species. Hence, **statement 4 is correct.**

84. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Bharat Forecast System (BFS)** is **India’s first indigenous high-resolution weather forecasting model**. BFS was developed by the **Indian Institute of**

Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, not by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). Hence, **statement I is NOT correct.**

- BFS improves accuracy in forecasting **cyclones, flash floods, and cloudbursts** by refining spatial prediction. BFS provides a **6 km × 6 km** resolution, better than the **12 km × 12 km** used previously, thereby **reducing the analysis area from 144 sq km to 36 sq km**. Hence, **statement II is correct.**

85. (c)

Explanation:

- **Miniratna (Category-I)** status is granted **only to profit-making CPSEs**. The enterprise must have earned **profit continuously for the last three years**. Hence, **statement I is correct.**
- To qualify, the CPSE must have a **positive net worth**, and earned a **pre-tax profit of at least ₹30 crore in one of those three years**. Hence, **statement II is correct.**
- Recently, **Munitions India Ltd (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (AVNL), and India Optel Ltd (IOL)** were granted **Miniratna-I** status by the Ministry of Defence.

86. (b)

Explanation:

- The **PM-PRANAM (Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth)** scheme was **launched in June 2023**. Hence, **statement I is NOT correct.**
- The **primary objective** of PM-PRANAM is to **promote the balanced use of fertilizers** by encouraging the adoption of **bio-fertilizers and organic nutrients**. Hence, **statement II is correct.**
- It provides **financial incentives to states** that successfully reduce their use of **urea and other chemical fertilizers**.
- The scheme also utilizes the **Integrated Fertiliser Management System (iFMS)** to monitor usage trends and promote **soil health and sustainability**.

87. (d)

Explanation:

- **Flipkart** recently became the **first Indian e-commerce platform** to receive a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** licence from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. Hence, **option (d) is correct.**

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- This move allows Flipkart to **directly offer credit** to both its **customers and sellers**, marking a significant step into the **digital lending** and **embedded finance** space.
- It strengthens Flipkart's capabilities in providing **buy-now-pay-later**, **seller financing**, and other **credit-based solutions** on its platform.
- To qualify as an NBFC the entity must be **incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 or 2013**. It must maintain a **minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of ₹10 crore**.
- NBFCs **cannot accept demand deposits**. They **do not issue cheques** drawn on themselves.

88. (b)

Explanation:

- **Jarosite** is a mineral that is **rich in potassium (K), iron (Fe), and sulphate (SO₄)**.
 - It forms in **acidic, arid, and saline environments** and is commonly found in **acid mine drainage sites and volcanic zones** on Earth.
 - On **Mars**, jarosite has been detected by NASA's **Opportunity** and **Curiosity** rovers, providing insights into the planet's past **aqueous and acidic conditions**.
- Hence, option (b) is correct.

89. (a)

Explanation:

- **Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI)** involves injecting **sulfate aerosols** or other reflective particles into the **stratosphere** (10–50 km altitude).
- These aerosols **reflect a portion of incoming solar radiation**, thereby **increasing Earth's albedo** (reflectivity) and **cooling the planet**—mimicking the effect of large volcanic eruptions like **Mount Pinatubo (1991)**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- **SAI does not remove or reduce CO₂** from the atmosphere. It only **masks** the warming effect of greenhouse gases by reducing the amount of solar radiation reaching Earth's surface. Hence, **statement II is NOT correct**.

90. (b)

Explanation:

- **BharatGen LLM** is the **first indigenous, government-funded multimodal LLM** developed in India designed to handle **text, speech, and image** inputs, making it capable of serving diverse real-world applications across sectors like **healthcare, education, governance, and agriculture**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

- One of the key aims of **BharatGen** is to ensure **linguistic inclusivity**, so it supports **22 Indian languages** (same as the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution). This makes it highly relevant for governance, education, agriculture, and rural outreach. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- **Bharat Gen** was launched under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**, which is backed by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** — not **MeitY**. Hence, **statement III is NOT correct**.

91. (b)

Explanation:

- The **UN Security Council (UNSC)** has **15 members** in total; **5 permanent members**: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States and **10 non-permanent members** elected for **two-year terms** by the **UN General Assembly**. Hence, **statement I is NOT correct**.
- The UNSC is the **only UN organ** whose decisions are **legally binding** on all member states under the **UN Charter**, especially under **Chapter VII** for peace and security. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- In **June 2025**, the **United Nations General Assembly** elected **five new non-permanent members** to the **UN Security Council** for the term **2026–27**. The elected countries are; **Bahrain, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Latvia and Liberia**.

92. (a)

Explanation:

- The **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** in its recent **State of the World's Animal Health Report** has warned that **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** poses a severe global threat. If left unaddressed, it could impact **up to 2 billion people** and result in **economic losses up to USD 100 trillion by 2050**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- **WOAH**, formerly known as the **OIE**, is headquartered in **Paris, not Brussels**. Moreover, it has **183 member countries**, not just "over 100". Hence, **statement II is NOT correct**.

93. (c)

Explanation:

- **Tardigrades** are tiny, about **0.5 mm in size**, with **eight legs** and **claws**. They are commonly called "**water**

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bears" or **"moss piglets"** because they live in moist environments like moss, lichens, and soils. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- Tardigrades can survive **extreme temperatures** (from nearly absolute zero -272.95°C up to 150°C). They can withstand **high pressure (40,000 kPa)**, intense **UV radiation**, and even the **vacuum of space**. They are also capable of reviving after being frozen for **around 30 years**. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Tardigrades have existed for **about 600 million years**, long before dinosaurs. They have survived all **five mass extinction events** in Earth's history due to their **cryptobiosis and anhydrobiosis** survival strategies. **Hence, statement III is correct.**

94. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino (KATRIN)** experiment is a large-scale physics experiment designed to measure the **absolute mass of neutrinos** by studying the beta decay of tritium.
- It is located at the **Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)**, Germany. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

95. (c)

Explanation:

- **Photons** (particles of light) **are the most abundant** in the universe. **Neutrinos come next** – trillions of them pass through every human body each second, mostly from the Sun and other cosmic sources. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Since photons are not matter but **force carriers**, **neutrinos become the most abundant matter particles**. Their immense abundance means they play a significant role in cosmology, structure formation, and energy balance of the universe. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Neutrinos have no electric charge** and interact only through the **weak nuclear force** and gravity. Hence, they are not influenced by electromagnetic forces, including magnetic fields. **Hence, statement III is correct.**

96. (b)

Explanation:

- A black box is not a single device but a combination of two: **DFDR**: Records hundreds of flight parameters such as altitude, airspeed, engine thrust, and flight

control positions. Data is stored for at least **25 hours**.

CVR: Records cockpit conversations, alarms, background noise, and radio communications for at least **2 hours**. Together, these devices are crucial for reconstructing events leading to an accident. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- Despite the name, black boxes are painted **bright orange** (sometimes called "international orange") **with reflective tape**. The color helps investigators locate them easily in wreckage or underwater. The name "black box" is historical and refers more to it being a sealed, rugged device rather than its color. **Hence, statement II is NOT correct.**
- Black boxes are generally installed in the **tail end**, as this part of the plane usually suffers the least damage in a crash. Locating them in the tail increases the chances of recovery after an accident. **Hence, statement III is correct.**

97. (c)

Explanation:

- The **President of India** conferred the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025** to **15 nursing professionals**. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- These awards honor exceptional service in **clinical care, public health, nursing education, and administration**.
- The awards were **instituted in 1973** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Awardees receive a **Certificate of Merit, Rs. 1,00,000**, and a **medal**.

98. (c)

Explanation:

- **India** proposed the idea of an International Day of Yoga at the **69th UN General Assembly (2014)**. The proposal was supported by **177 countries**, a record in UN history. The **first International Yoga Day was observed on 21st June 2015**. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- In **2016**, **UNESCO** included **Yoga** in its **Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**. This recognition highlighted Yoga's global cultural and spiritual importance. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- The theme of the **11th International Yoga Day (2025)** was **"Yoga for One Earth, One Health,"** emphasizing both **holistic well-being** and **ecological harmony**. **Hence, statement III is correct.**



99. (c)

Explanation:

- The **World Hydrogen Summit 2025** was hosted in **Rotterdam, Netherlands**. India used the platform to highlight its **green hydrogen roadmap**, global collaborations, and investment opportunities. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Hydrogen is the **lightest and most abundant element** in the universe. In its natural state, it is **colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-toxic**, but also **highly flammable**, making storage and transport a challenge. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Launched in **2023**, the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aims to establish a **5 million tonnes per year (MTPA) production capacity by 2030**. It also aims to reduce fossil fuel imports, create jobs, and position India as a **global hub** for green hydrogen. **Hence, statement III is correct.**

100.(c)

Explanation:

- The **International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)** was founded in **1930** and its headquarters is in **Brussels, Belgium**. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- India joined IIAS in **1998**, with representation led by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- IIAS is an **independent global non-profit organization**, not a UN body. **Hence, statement III is NOT correct.**
- **India** created history by being elected **President of IIAS (2025–2028)**, securing **61.7% votes** in the **first-ever ballot-based election** of the organization. **Hence, statement III is correct.**



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