



drishti

**December 2024
(Part-I)**

**Current
Affairs
MCQ
(Consolidation)**

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Practice Question

1. Consider the following cities:

1. Srinagar
2. Jaipur
3. Mysore

How many of the above have been recognized as "World Craft Cities" ?

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

2. Consider the following statements related to Interpreting the Places of Worship Act, 1991:

1. It mandates that the religious identity of a place of worship must remain unchanged from its status on 26th January 1950.
2. Any place of worship recognized as an ancient monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 is exempted from the act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following characteristics:

1. He formed the Executive Board of India in Japan in 1940 during the Second World War.
2. He launched the World Federation in Berlin in 1929.
3. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1932 as a "editor of the World Federation," and "unofficial envoy of Afghanistan"

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

- A. Subhas Chandra Bose
- B. Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh
- C. Lala Lajpat Rai
- D. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

4. With reference to the Border Security Force (BSF), consider the following statements:

1. The BSF was established in 1965 in the aftermath of the India-Pakistan war to strengthen border security.
2. The BSF operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.
3. It is responsible for securing both the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders and undertakes specialized operations in areas like Sir Creek and the Sundarbans.
4. The BSF actively participates in UN peacekeeping missions by deploying trained personnel annually.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hornbill Festival:

1. The Hornbill Festival is organized to promote inter-tribal interaction and tourism in Nagaland.
2. It is celebrated in the first week of November to commemorate the grandeur of the hornbill bird.
3. The hornbill bird, after which the festival is named, holds significant cultural importance in Naga tribal dances, songs, and folklores.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. India is a member of which of the following treaties/conventions?

1. Budapest Treaty, 2001
2. Paris Convention 1998
3. Berne Convention, 1928
4. Patent Cooperation Treaty, 1998

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Plastics are polymers made up of repeating units called monomers.
2. Plastic can take anywhere from 20 to 500 years to decompose, leading to a massive accumulation of plastic waste in landfills and natural habitats.
3. Chemicals in plastics, such as bisphenol A (BPA), can disrupt the endocrine system, which regulates hormones in the body.
4. South America is the largest producer of plastic, accounting for nearly half of global production.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

8. With reference to the initiatives to curb child labour in India , consider the following statements:

1. Article 39 of the Constitution states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work.
2. Article 24 of the Constitution directs that “the health and strength of workers and the tender age of children should not be abused”.
3. The PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) portal was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following features:

1. It is believed to be built on the site of a former Gallo-Roman temple dedicated to Jupiter.
2. Its construction began in 1160 under Bishop Maurice de Sully.
3. It is renowned for its architectural features like rib vaulting and flying buttresses.

Which of the following sites is best described by above features?

- A. St. Peter’s Basilica
- B. Notre-Dame Cathedral
- C. Westminster Abbey
- D. Chartres Cathedral

10. Kessler Syndrome and Project NETRA, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Cybersecurity and data protection
- B. Eyesight and vision-related issues
- C. Space debris and satellite tracking
- D. Climate change and disaster resilience

11. Regarding the state of road safety in India, consider the following statements:

1. India records the lowest number of road accident fatalities globally.
2. Maharashtra has the highest number of road accident fatalities among all states in India.
3. India is a signatory to the Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

12. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian marriages:

1. Sororate is a custom where the brother of a deceased man can marry to his brother’s widow.
2. Levirate marriage is the custom of a man marrying his wife’s sister if his wife dies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements related to One Rank One Pension Scheme(OROP):

1. Pensions are determined by rank and length of service.
2. Includes provisions for family pensioners, war widows, and disabled pensioners.
3. Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have the highest number of OROP beneficiaries.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements related to Rashtriya Gokul Mission:

1. Enhances genetic merit through bull production via progeny testing.
2. Promotes establishment of Multi purpose artificial insemination technicians in urban areas.
3. Recognizes exemplary management of indigenous cattle and herds through Kamdhenu Award.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Navy:

1. The Indian Navy adopted the motto “Sam no Varunah,” which is a Vedic invocation to Lord Varuna, meaning “Be auspicious unto us, O Varuna.”
2. Since 1972, Navy Day has been celebrated on 21st October to honor the naval operations during the 1971 war.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Regarding the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4), consider the following statements:

1. It is a private spaceflight to the International Space Station (ISS), operated by Axiom Space using the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.
2. Axiom-4 focuses on enabling commercial activities like space tourism in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding Ashtamudi Lake:

1. It is situated in Kerala, designated as a Ramsar site, and is often referred to as the gateway to Kerala's backwaters.
2. The lake, characterized by its unique eight-armed shape, is drained by the Periyar River into the Arabian Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements:

1. Namibia, home to the world's largest cheetah population, contributed to the Cheetah Reintroduction Project by translocating cheetahs to India from both Namibia and South Africa.
2. International Cheetah Day is observed annually on 4th December to promote awareness and conservation of cheetahs worldwide.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following features:

1. They are ray-finned fish that can grow up to a meter long.
2. They are anadromous.
3. They are found in the North Atlantic Ocean basin.

Which of the following species is best described by above features?

- A. Salmo Salar
- B. Rainbow Trout
- C. Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
- D. European Eel

20. Consider the following statements related to Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) platform:

1. It facilitates message-based instructions for fund transfers but settles money itself.
2. It is controlled by the central banks of the G20 countries.
3. Iran and North Korea are out of the SWIFT platform.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. Consider the following pairs:

Religious Sites	Location
1. Akal Takht	Himachal Pradesh
2. Takht Sri Keshgarh SahibBihar	
3. Takhat Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib	Punjab

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only two pairs
- C. All three pairs
- D. None of the pairs

22. Consider the following statements:

1. He founded the Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha in 1923 to empower outcast communities.
2. He established the newspaper Mooknayaka to challenge societal inequalities.
3. He played a pivotal role in negotiating the Poona Pact, 1932.

Which of the following personalities are associated with the above statements?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. B.R. Ambedkar
- C. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- D. Rajendra Prasad

23. Consider the following statements related to Mauryan Art and Architecture:

1. Chandragupta's palace was inspired by Greco-Bactrian architecture.
2. Ashokan pillars feature animal capitals like lions and bulls.
3. Stupas are found at Rajagriha, Vaishali, and Kapilavastu.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

24. Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?
- National Parks in Canada
 - Great Lakes of North America
 - Major rivers in the Mexico
 - UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Africa
25. Consider the following statements related to Government Debt Instruments:
- Government securities are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.
 - The Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds, while State Governments issue only bonds.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- Only 1
 - Only 2
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
26. Regarding Ratapani Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:
- It is located in the Vindhya hills and is Madhya Pradesh's first designated tiger reserve.
 - It also hosts more than 150 bird species, making it a haven for birdwatchers.
 - It houses the Bhimbetka rock shelters, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and several historical landmarks, adding cultural value to the region.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None
27. Consider the following:
- He was influenced by Gandhi's views on caste and untouchability and led a simple life.
 - He gave up his legal career to join the independence movement in 1920 and was imprisoned during the Salt Satyagraha in 1931.
 - Presided over the Bombay session of the Indian National Congress in 1934 and became Congress President after Subhash Chandra Bose's resignation in 1939.
 - He was appointed President of the Constituent Assembly in 1946.
- Which of the following Personalities best matches the above description?
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - Jawahar Lal Nehru
 - Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad
 - None of the above
28. Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE):
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs. 6,600 crore for the 4-year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, covering the remaining years of the 15th Finance Commission period.
 - The North Eastern Council (NEC) will oversee project selection, approval, and monitoring in consultation with State Governments.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
29. The China+1 Strategy is sometimes seen in news as related to:
- A military alliance formed to counter China's influence.
 - A global economic strategy for companies diversifying supply chains.
 - A political alliance by China to promote Chinese leadership in global affairs.
 - A digital policy to enhance China's internet infrastructure.
30. Consider the following statements regarding earthquakes:
- P-waves are compressional waves that travel faster and can pass through both solid and liquid layers.
 - The Benioff Zone is a region of seismic activity that occurs along a subduction zone where one tectonic plate is being forced beneath another into the Earth's mantle.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
31. CubeSat Standard which is often seen in the news is related to:
- Cryptocurrency
 - Space Economy
 - Monetary Policy
 - None of the above
32. Consider the following statements:
- For a monument or site to be protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, it must be at least 100 years old and of national importance.
 - National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) is administered by the Ministry of Culture and executed under the guidance of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Regarding the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 consider the following statements:

1. Only the Union government can issue notifications declaring certain areas as “disturbed,” granting the armed forces authority under AFSPA.
2. For the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issues periodic “disturbed area” notifications.
3. An area declared as disturbed remains under this status for three months continuously under the Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976.

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

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

34. With reference to the Official Development Assistance (ODA), consider the following statements:

1. ODA refers to financial aid provided by donor countries exclusively for emergency relief during natural disasters in poorer nations.
2. The International Development Association (IDA), a part of the World Bank, is a key multilateral institution within the ODA framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements regarding Research & Development(R&D) in India :

1. India ranks among the lowest-performing countries in the Global Innovation Index 2024.
2. India allocates approximately 2% of its GDP to research and development (R&D).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. Consider the following statements regarding euthanasia policies in various countries:

1. Netherlands allow both euthanasia and assisted suicide for those with “unbearable suffering” with no chance of improvement.

2. Switzerland prohibits euthanasia but permits assisted dying with a doctor’s presence.

3. In India, individuals cannot choose euthanasia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding World Diabetes Day:

1. It is observed annually on 14th November to promote global awareness about diabetes and its management.
2. Diabetes is a communicable disease caused by a deficiency of insulin production in the pancreas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements regarding the PRAGATI platform:

1. PRAGATI is a multi-modal ICT platform launched under the Digital India program to enhance e-transparency and e-accountability in governance.
2. The platform uses a digital dashboard and video-conference reviews chaired by the Prime Minister to monitor government projects and resolve public grievances.
3. PRAGATI supports both central and state government projects and encourages the adoption of sustainable practices in infrastructure development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. Consider the following statements regarding the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016:

1. The rules include vaccination camps and blood donation camps within their ambit.
2. The rules mandate the use of color-coded bins for different types of biomedical waste.
3. The rules mandate the use of barcoding and global positioning system (GPS) for tracking biomedical waste.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Pardoning Powers of the President of India?
1. The President can grant pardons in cases involving capital punishment and court-martial sentences.
 2. The power to grant pardons is independent of the advice of the Council of Ministers.
 3. The President can grant a pardon to individuals convicted under state laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 only
D. 1, 2 and 3
41. Regarding the nebular Hypothesis, consider the following statements:
1. It was given by Immanuel Kant and revised by Laplace.
 2. It considered that the planets were formed out of a cloud of material associated with a youthful sun, which was slowly rotating.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
B. 2 Only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2
42. Angami, Rengma and Konyak tribes are associated with which of the following states?
- A. Odisha
B. Nagaland
C. Chattisgarh
D. Gujarat

43. Consider the following pairs related to Water Harvesting Systems in India:

System	State
Panam Keni	Kerala
Kuhls	Himachal Pradesh
Zabo	Rajasthan

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

- A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None
44. Consider the following statements:
1. The Western Ghats is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity in the world.
 2. Amphibian populations in the Western Ghats are primarily threatened by habitat destruction, diseases like chytridiomycosis, and pollution.
 3. Lateritic plateaus of the Western Ghats are rich in organic carbon.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding the Ninetyeast Ridge:

1. The Ninetyeast Ridge is an aseismic ridge aligned along the 90th meridian east, dividing the Indian Ocean into western and eastern parts.
2. The ridge was formed as the Indo-Australian Plate moved over the Kerguelen hotspot.
3. The ridge is primarily composed of Ocean Island Tholeiites, a type of sub-alkaline basalt rock.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. Regarding the Indian star tortoise, consider the following statement:

1. It is native to the Indian subcontinent and is found in northwestern India, South India, and Sri Lanka in arid grasslands and savannahs.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. Consider the following statement:

1. Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10th December highlighting the importance of human rights as a foundation for justice, peace, and equality.
2. The UN Human Rights Council, established in 2006, promotes global human rights protection through its 47 member states.
3. India is not a member of the UN Human Rights Council.

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

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

48. With reference to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), consider the following statements:

1. The Quad, formed in response to a natural disaster in the Indian Ocean Region, was revived in 2017 after a decade of dormancy.
2. The Quad has a formalised organisational structure and a permanent decision-making body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. Project NAMAN and SAMBANDH, recently in the news, are associated with which of the following?

- A. Digital literacy programs for rural youth
- B. Renewable energy projects in defense establishments
- C. Welfare of Indian armed forces veterans and their families
- D. Rehabilitation of disaster-affected regions

50. Consider the following statements related to Capital Punishment and Mercy Petition:

1. The Constitution of India does not explicitly declare capital punishment as unconstitutional.
2. A convict can present a mercy petition to the President of India under Article 70 of the Constitution of India.
3. The President has the power to grant pardons in all cases where the sentence is by a Court Martial.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements regarding the laws governing charitable organisations in India:

1. The Income Tax Act, 1961 provides tax exemptions for charitable donations and defines "charitable purposes."
2. The Indian Trusts Act, 1882 governs charitable trusts, including both public and private trusts.
3. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 mandates registration for charitable organisations receiving foreign funds to ensure their use for legitimate, non-political purposes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

52. Consider the following statements regarding Glacial Lakes:

1. Glacial Lake Ooutbrust Floods are caused by rapid glacier melting due to rising temperatures.
2. The Hindu Kush Himalayas are witnessing an increase in glacial lakes due to climate change-induced glacial retreat.
3. The South Lhonak Lake, a glacial lake located at an altitude of 17,000 feet in the Sikkim's northwest, experienced a rupture as a result of continuous rainfall.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. Consider the following statements regarding the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG):

1. It provides training to civil servants from both India and several other countries regarding governance reforms, Digital India, and SDGs.
2. The 6th edition of the Capacity Building Program for Sri Lankan Civil Servants was hosted at the NCGG in New Delhi.

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

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

54. Consider the following pairs:

Fluorochemical	Ozone Depleting Potential	Global Warming Potential
Chlorofluorocarbons	High	High
Hydrofluorocarbons	High	High
HydrofluoroOlefin	Zero	Very Low

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

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

55. Consider the following statements related to ecDNA:

1. It forms when portions of DNA break away from chromosomes.
2. It is commonly found in cancer cells.
3. It can carry multiple copies of oncogenes.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

56. Consider the following characteristics:

1. In 1930, during the Dandi March, he led the Salt March in the Madras Province from Tiruchi to Vedaranyam.
2. He was the first Indian Governor-General of independent India in 1947.
3. He wrote a Tamil translation of the Ramayana, titled *Chakravarthi Thirumagan*.

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

- A. C. Rajagopalachari
- B. V. O. Chidambaram Pillai
- C. P. Subbarayan
- D. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

57. Consider the following statement related to INS Tushil:

- 1. It is a Krivak III-class frigate from the France-designed Project 1135.6.
- 2. It is equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles
- 3. It is built for blue-water operations across air, surface, subsurface, and electromagnetic domains.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

58. Regarding cess, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a form of tax that is levied for a specific purpose and the revenue is earmarked for a particular use.
- 2. It is typically charged for a specific time period, or until the government has gathered enough funds for the designated purpose.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

59. Regarding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), consider the following statements:

- 1. Section 7 of the RBI Act, 1934 provides the government with the power to issue directions to RBI in public interest from time to time after consulting the RBI governor.
- 2. RBI earns income from bonds but cannot retain any surplus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Laysan albatross, a large seabird, is known for its dynamic soaring ability and has an average lifespan of 68 years.
- 2. The Snowy Albatross, also known as the Wandering Albatross, is the largest flying seabird in terms of wingspan and is classified as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List.

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

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

61. Consider the following statements regarding Special Leave Petitions (SLP) in India:

- 1. SLP can be filed against any judgment, decree, or order of any court or tribunal in India, including those related to Armed Forces.
- 2. The Supreme Court has discretionary power to grant or deny special leave to appeal under Article 136 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. Consider the following statements regarding gene therapy:

- 1. Gene therapy aims to treat diseases by modifying the genetic material of a patient's cells.
- 2. Gene replacement therapy involves inhibiting the expression of a faulty gene to prevent disease progression.
- 3. Gene editing techniques like CRISPR-Cas9 allow precise modifications of genetic material.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. Consider the following statements about International Mountain Day:

- 1. International Mountain Day was established by the United Nations in 2003 to emphasize the significance of sustainable development and biodiversity in mountain regions.
- 2. The theme for 2024 is Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

64. Consider the following features:

- 1. It lies between Asia and Europe, east of the Caucasus Mountains
- 2. It was a part of a prehistoric sea known as the Paratethys.
- 3. It is landlocked without a direct outlet to the ocean.

Which of the following water bodies is best described by above features:

- A. Mediterranean Sea
- B. Black Sea
- C. Caspian Sea
- D. Aral Sea

65. Consider the following pairs:

Mountain Type	Mountain
Volcanic Mountains	Himalayas
Fold Mountains	Andes
Block Mountains	Sierra Nevada

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

66. Regarding the DHARINI 3D Foetal Brain Atlas, consider the following statements:

1. DHARINI is the world's largest and most detailed high-resolution 3D foetal brain atlas.
2. It can help identify brain disorders such as autism and provide insights into conditions like cerebral palsy and mental health issues like depression and bipolar disorder.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. Consider the following statements regarding Google's new quantum computer and its advancements:

1. Google's quantum computer with the Willow chip achieved "quantum supremacy" by solving a problem in minutes that would take supercomputers over 10 septillion years.
2. The achievement has immediate practical applications in fields like drug discovery and artificial intelligence.
3. Surpassing the "error correction threshold" marks a crucial step toward reducing computational errors and achieving practical applications of quantum computing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

68. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)?

1. The UNCCD, established in 1994, is the only legally binding international treaty focused on linking environmental and developmental goals for sustainable land management in drylands.

2. The UNCCD collaborates exclusively with the two Rio Conventions to address the interconnected issues of land, climate, and biodiversity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):

1. NAM was founded in 1961, and its first conference was held in Belgrade under the leadership of five prominent leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru of India.
2. The Havana Declaration of 1979 outlined the purpose of NAM as ensuring sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of member states while opposing imperialism, colonialism, and racism.

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

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

70. With reference to the Small Finance Banks (SFBs), consider the following statements:

1. It was announced in the Union Budget 2014–15, based on the recommendations of the Nachiket Mor Committee.
2. To set up an SFB bank, the minimum capital required is Rs 200 crores.
3. SFBs must allocate 80% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to priority sectors, including agriculture, MSMEs, and weaker sections.

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

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

71. With reference to the impeachment process for judges in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution and refers to the formal process by which a judge can be removed from office by Parliament.
2. Article 124(4) outlines the removal process for Supreme Court judges, which, as per Article 218, is also applicable to High Court judges.

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

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

72. Consider the following statements regarding the Ayush Visa initiative:

1. The Ayush Visa allows foreign nationals to receive treatment through Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, only in NABH-accredited hospitals.
2. Ayush visa was introduced in 2023 with four sub-categories: Ayush Visa (AY-1), Ayush Attendant Visa (AY-2), e-Ayush Visa, and e-Ayush Attendant Visa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. Consider the following statements regarding malaria vaccines:

1. RTS,S/AS01 and R21/Matrix-M are WHO-recommended malaria vaccines.
2. Late-arresting genetically modified parasites offer better protection compared to early-arresting parasites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. Consider the following statements regarding sustainable soil management practices.

1. Minimum tillage helps in reducing soil erosion and preserving soil structure.
2. Monocropping improves soil fertility and helps in pest management.

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

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Core Industries (ICI) in India:

1. It measures the combined performance of eight key industries accounting for over 40% of industrial production.
2. The base year for the current ICI series is 2014-15.
3. Fertilizers have the lowest weightage among the core sectors in the Index of Core Industries (ICI).

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

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

Answers

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

Explanations

1. (C)

Exp:

- The “World Craft City” initiative, launched in 2014 by the World Crafts Council AISBL (WCC-International) under the WCC-World Craft City Programme, recognizes cities for their contributions to cultural, economic, and social development through crafts.
 - ◆ The WCC AISBL, established in 1964 as a **non-profit organization**, aims to enhance the status of crafts in cultural and economic life and promote fellowship among crafts persons through support and guidance.
 - ◆ **Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu) and Mysore (Karnataka)**

have been recognized as **World Craft Cities** by WCC. Hence, option C is correct.

2. (B)

Exp:

- The **Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991**, aims to preserve the religious status of places of worship as of **15th August 1947**, prohibiting conversions between or within religious denominations to maintain communal harmony. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It terminates all legal proceedings related to conversions predating this date and prevents new cases.
- The Act exempts the Ayodhya dispute (Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi) and any place of worship that is an **ancient**

historical monument or an archaeological site protected under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- Violations attract penalties, including imprisonment of up to three years and fines.

3. (B)

Exp:

- **Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh (1886–1979)** was a freedom fighter, revolutionary, and social reformer.
- He formed the **Executive Board of India in Japan in 1940 during the Second World War**.
- In 1915, he proclaimed the first Provisional Government of India in Kabul and sought international support for India's independence.
- He launched the **World Federation in 1929**, influencing the creation of the UN, and later promoted Panchayati Raj as an MP.
- Nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1932**, he was recognized as a "Hindu patriot" "**editor of the World Federation**," and "**unofficial envoy of Afghanistan**."
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

4. (B)

Exp:

Border Security Force (BSF):

- BSF was established in 1965 following the **India-Pakistan war** to enhance border security. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The BSF has an **air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units**.
 - ◆ It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The BSF, comprising approximately **2.6 lakh personnel**, is deployed on the **Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, Line of Control (LoC)** along with the Indian Army and in **Anti-Naxal Operations** regions.
- The BSF plays a crucial role in safeguarding areas such as **Sir Creek in the Arabian Sea and the Sundarbans delta** in the Bay of Bengal, utilizing a modern fleet of watercraft. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ Additionally, it contributes to the **UN peacekeeping Mission** by deploying trained personnel to various global locations each year. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

5. (B)

Exp:

- **Hornbill Festival** is celebrated in **Nagaland** to encourage inter-tribal interaction. It is one of the largest **indigenous festival** organised by the **state government of Nagaland** to promote tourism in the state. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- The festival is celebrated **annually** in the **first week of December** in order to preserve, protect and revive the uniqueness and richness of the Naga heritage. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The festival is considered the "**Festival of Festivals**" in Nagaland.
- The festival is named after the bird – **Hornbill** which is the most **revered and admired** bird for the Nagas.
 - ◆ The festival is a tribute to this bird, known for its qualities of grandeur and alertness.
 - ◆ The bird is also closely identified with the social and cultural life of the Nagas, as reflected in various tribal dances, songs and folklores. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hornbill festival exposes the **culture and tradition of the tribal people** and reinforces the identity of the Nagaland.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

6. (D)

Exp:

- **India** is a member of the following important **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, administered International Treaties and Conventions relating to IPRs:
 - ◆ **Budapest Treaty, 2001**, on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure
 - ◆ **Paris Convention 1998**, for the Protection of Industrial Property
 - ◆ **Berne Convention, 1928**, for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
 - ◆ Patent Cooperation Treaty, 1998
 - ◆ Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, 2013
- Hence, **option D is correct**.

7. (C)

Exp:

Plastics:

- **Plastics** are polymers made up of repeating units called monomers. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ A polymer is a large molecule formed by chemically linking many smaller monomers together.
- Plastic can take anywhere from 20 to 500 years to decompose, leading to a massive accumulation of plastic waste in landfills and natural habitats. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Chemicals in plastics, such as **bisphenol A (BPA)**, can disrupt the endocrine system, which regulates hormones in the body. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Asia** is the largest producer of plastic, accounting for nearly half of global production. North America and Europe follow, with 19% and 15%, respectively. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.

8. (A)

Exp:

Initiatives to Curb Child Labour in India:

- **Child Labour: Constitutional And Legal Provisions:**
 - ◆ **Article 24** states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 39** directs that “the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children should not be abused”. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Right to Education Act (2009)
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (1986)
- The Factories Act (1948)
- National Policy on Child Labour (1987)
- The **PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)** portal was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the **Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

9. (B)

Exp:

- **Notre-Dame Cathedral**, a medieval Catholic cathedral located on an island in the Seine River in Paris, France, is consecrated to the Virgin Mary and is one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture.
- A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is believed to **have been built on the site of a former Gallo-Roman temple dedicated to Jupiter**, with construction beginning in 1160 under **Bishop Maurice de Sully** and largely completed by 1260.
- Renowned for its **rib vaulting, flying buttresses, and stained-glass windows**, it houses the Holy Crown of Thorns, a piece of the cross, and one of the nails from Jesus' crucifixion as its most revered relics.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

10. (C)

Exp:

- **Project NETRA** is an initiative by India to establish an **early-warning system to monitor and detect space debris** and other potential threats in orbit, thereby ensuring the safety of Indian satellites from collisions.
 - ◆ This system reflects India's growing focus on space situational awareness (SSA).
- **Kessler Syndrome**, on the other hand, is a **theoretical scenario where the accumulation of space debris reaches a critical threshold**, leading to a cascade of collisions.
 - ◆ Each collision generates more debris, exponentially increasing the likelihood of further collisions and potentially rendering low Earth orbit unusable.
 - ◆ A notable example occurred in **2009 when a defunct Russian satellite collided with an active American**

weather satellite, creating thousands of debris fragments that continue to pose a threat to operational satellites.

- Thus, **both terms are intrinsically linked to the challenges posed by space debris** and highlight the importance of global and national efforts like Project NETRA to mitigate such risks.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

11. (A)

Exp :

Current State of Road Accidents in India

- **Total Accidents and Fatalities:**
 - ◆ India records the **highest number of road accident fatalities globally** with a reported **road death rate of 250 per 10,000 km**, higher than the rates in the United States (57), China (119) and Australia (11). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In 2023, India recorded over **4.80 lakh road accidents** which resulted in over **1.72 lakh deaths**, marking a **2.6% increase** compared to 1.68 lakh fatalities in 2022.
- **Regional Disparities:**
 - ◆ **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has the **highest number of road accident deaths in India**.
 - In 2023, UP saw 44,000 accidents resulting in 23,650 fatalities, including 1,800 minors, 10,000 pedestrians, and two-wheeler users. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Global Initiatives For Road Safety:**
 - ◆ **Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015):** This declaration aims to achieve **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.6**, which targets a **50% reduction in global deaths and injuries** from road traffic accidents **by 2030**.
 - It was **signed by India in 2015**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

12. (D)

Exp:

Recently, during **DNA profiling** for an **organ transplant**, it was discovered that a father was not the biological parent of his son, revealing a case of **levirate marriage**.

- **Levirate:** Levirate marriage is a custom where the **brother of a deceased (or physically incapacitated) man** can marry to **his brother's widow**, ensuring the continuation of the family line. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It has been practiced in India by several tribes, including the **Santhal** and **Munda**.
- ◆ During **Vedic times**, **niyoga**, the practice of a younger brother or kinsman marrying the **widow of an elder brother**, was practiced but **later disallowed** during the **Gupta** and earlier periods.
- **Sororate** is the custom of a man marrying his wife's sister if his wife dies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

13. (C)

Exp:

- **One Rank One Pension Scheme (OROP)** ensures that all armed forces personnel retiring at the same rank receive the same pension, regardless of their retirement date. Eg, a General who retired in the year 1980 will be receiving the same pension as a General who retired in the year 2015.
- **Pensions are determined by rank and length of service**, ensuring fairness among retirees, while also protecting those already receiving above-average amounts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The estimated cost for implementing OROP revisions is approximately Rs 8,450 crore annually.
- Over 25.13 lakh armed forces pensioners and their families will benefit from this scheme.
 - ◆ Includes provisions for family pensioners, war widows, and disabled pensioners. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The pension will be re-fixed every five years to account for changes in salaries and pensions of serving personnel. The first revision took place on 1st July 2019.
- **Uttar Pradesh and Punjab** have the highest number of OROP beneficiaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

14. (B)

Exp:

- The **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)**, launched in 2014 and continuing under the Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojna (2021-2026) with a budget of Rs. 2400 crore, aims to conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds, which are climate-resilient and produce high-quality milk.
- The mission focuses on **enhancing genetic merit through bull production via progeny testing**, Pedigree Selection and genomic selection, and germplasm import. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Promotes establishment of **Multi Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Key initiatives include Gokul Grams, farmer awards, the National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre, e-market portals like E-Pashu Haat, and the National Bovine Genomic Center for genetic improvement.
- Gopal Ratna Award and **Kamdhenu Award** to recognize exemplary management of indigenous cattle and herds. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

15. (A)

Exp:

Indian Navy:

- On **1st May 1830**, the **East India Company** came under the British Crown and gained combatant status, becoming the Indian Navy. In 1858, it was renamed Her Majesty's Indian Navy.
 - ◆ The Indian Navy adopted the Vedic invocation to Lord Varuna, "**Sam no Varunah**," as its emblem motto, meaning "**Be auspicious unto us, O Varuna**." **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- On **21st October 1944**, Navy Day was celebrated for the first time. **Since 1972**, Navy Day has been celebrated on **4th December** to honor the successful **1971 naval operations** in the **Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal**, and the Karachi harbor missile attack, and to pay tribute to war martyrs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

16. (C)

Exp:

- **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)** is a **private spaceflight to the ISS** operated by **Axiom Space** (a US-based space-infrastructure development company), using the **SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The **SpaceX Crew Dragon** is a reusable spacecraft that carries astronauts to and from the ISS.
 - ◆ It is the **fourth flight in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**, following **Axiom Missions 1, 2, and 3**.
- **Commercial Space Initiatives:** Axiom-4 focuses on enabling commercial activities like **space tourism in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It aims to demonstrate the feasibility of commercial space stations as platforms for business and research.

17. (A)

Exp:

- **Ashtamudi Lake:**
 - ◆ A designated **Ramsar site**, located in **Kollam district, Kerala**, is a vital part of the **backwater ecosystem** and is often referred to as the gateway to Kerala's backwaters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Covering 170 square kilometers, it has a unique eight-armed shape and is fed by the **Kallada River**, eventually draining into the **Arabian Sea**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Historically, it has been an important trade center and is known for its traditional coir industry.

18. (C)

Exp:

- Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) are part of the **felidae family** and are among the **oldest big cat species**, with their ancestry dating back over **5 million years** to the **Miocene era** (geological period from 23.03 to 5.333 million years ago).
 - ◆ Cheetahs are the **world's fastest land mammals**, found in parts of **Africa and Asia**.
- They have vanished from over **75% of their historic range in Africa**, with their population declining by more than 30% in the past two decades.
 - ◆ **Namibia** has the **world's largest population** of cheetahs. Under the **Cheetah Reintroduction Project**, cheetahs were **translocated to India** from **Namibia and South Africa** in 2022 and 2023. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Every year **4th December** is marked as **International Cheetah Day** since **2010**. The day is dedicated to emphasizing global efforts to prevent the cheetah's extinction and **promote its conservation**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

19. (A)

Exp:

- The **Atlantic salmon** (*Salmo salar*), a **ray-finned fish** that can grow up to a **meter long**.
- It is an **anadromous species** that migrates between freshwater and saltwater.
- They are found in the **North Atlantic Ocean** basin. Between 2006 and 2020, their population experienced a 23% decline, leading to their status shifting from **"Least Concern"** to **"Near Threatened,"** highlighting growing conservation concerns.
- Hence, option A is correct.

20. (A)

Exp:

- **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)** is a trusted messaging system for banks and other financial institutions around the world.
 - ◆ It was established in 1973 and is based in Belgium.
- It just provides instruction messages for just how to give and receive specific funds and **doesn't settle any money itself**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It is controlled by the **central banks of the G10 countries**, the European Central Bank, and the National Bank of Belgium. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Prior to SWIFT, the only reliable means of message confirmation for international funds transfer was Telex.
- **Iran and North Korea** are out of the SWIFT platform. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

21. (D)

Exp:

Sikh Takhts in India :

- **Akal Takht** : It is located in the Golden Temple complex, Amritsar, Punjab. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- **Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib**: Located in the Siwalik foothills, Himachal Pradesh, it is a historical site linked to Guru Gobind Singh and the foundation of the Khalsa. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- **Takht Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib**: Located in Patna, Bihar, it is the birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh.
- **Takht Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib**: Located in Nanded, Maharashtra, it is the site of Guru Gobind Singh's cremation in 1708. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
- **Takht Sri Damdama Sahib**: Located in Talwandi Sabo, Punjab, it was recognized as the place where Guru Gobind Singh finalized the Sikh scriptures (Guru Granth Sahib).
- None of the pairs are correctly matched. Hence, option D is correct.

22. (B)

Exp:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Advocacy for Social Justice :

- **Champion of the Oppressed**: Dr. Ambedkar emerged as a beacon of hope for **Dalits, women, and laborers**, dedicating his life to eradicating **caste-based discrimination** and ensuring **social equality**.

- ◆ His advocacy extended to dismantling systemic barriers and empowering the marginalized.

- **Empowerment Initiatives**: Dr. Ambedkar advocated for **affirmative action** to uplift marginalized groups through **policies** like reservations in **education, employment, and politics** to address historical injustices faced by marginalized groups.

- ◆ Reservation, under **Articles 15(4), 16(4), and 334**, ensures representation for marginalized groups in education, public employment, legislative bodies and elections.

- ◆ Founded the **Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)** to promote education, improve socio-economic conditions, and empower outcast communities.

- **Voice for the Downtrodden**: Established the newspaper **Mooknayaka** (Leader of the Silent) to provide a platform for the oppressed and challenge societal inequalities.

- **Pioneering Movements**: Spearheaded landmark movements, including the **Mahad Satyagraha (1927)**, advocating for equal access to public water resources.

- ◆ Led the **Kalaram Temple entry movement 1930 (Nashik Satyagraha)** to break **caste-based restrictions** in places of worship, symbolising a broader fight against untouchability.

- **Poona Pact (1932)**: Played a pivotal role in negotiating the **Poona Pact**, which replaced **separate electorates for Dalits** with reserved seats, paving the way for their political representation.

- ◆ Hence, option B is correct.

23. (B)

Exp:

- **Mauryan art and architecture** reflect a blend of indigenous styles and Achaemenid influences.
- **Chandragupta's palace**, praised by Megasthenes and Fa Hien, was primarily wooden and inspired by **Achaemenid palaces like Persepolis** (and not Greco-Bactrian architecture). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **Ashokan pillars**, made of polished sandstone from Chunar, are monolithic, rock-cut, and **feature animal capitals such as lions and bulls**, symbolizing state power and disseminating Buddhist teachings. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Stupas, with elements like the **anda (dome)** and **chhatra (umbrella)**, were core to Buddhist architecture, with notable examples being Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh) and Piprahwa (Uttar Pradesh), along with post-Buddha stupas at **Rajagriha, Vaishali, and Kapilavastu**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

24. (B)

Exp:

Great Lakes of North America

- The **Great Lakes of North America—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario**—are a vital freshwater ecosystem shared by the United States and Canada.

- Except for Lake Michigan, they form a natural border between the two nations. Connected to the **Atlantic Ocean via the Saint Lawrence River** and to the Mississippi River basin through the Illinois Waterway, these lakes hold **21% of the Earth's surface freshwater**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

25. (C)

Exp:

- **Government securities** are often referred to as “**risk-free gilt-edged instruments**” because they are backed by the government's credit, which makes them highly reliable with minimal risk of default. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ These instruments are considered safe investments for both individual and institutional investors.
- The Central Government issues two primary types of government securities: **treasury bills and bonds**.
 - ◆ On the other hand, **State Governments in India are allowed to issue only bonds** and not treasury bills to meet their financial requirements. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Treasury bills issued by the Centre have short maturities, while bonds have longer maturities.

26. (B)

Exp:

Ratapani Tiger Reserve:

- Recently, the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, **located in the Vindhya hills** has been officially declared a tiger reserve, becoming the 8th such reserve in Madhya Pradesh and the 57th tiger reserve in India. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It also hosts more than 150 bird species, making it a haven for birdwatchers. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It houses the Bhimbetka rock shelters, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and several historical landmarks, adding cultural value to the region. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

27. (A)

Exp:

Dr. Rajendra Prasad:

- He was born on 3rd December 1884, in Zeradei, Siwan, Bihar.
- He was influenced by Gandhi's views on **caste and untouchability** and led a simple life.
- He **gave up his legal career** to join the independence movement in 1920 and was imprisoned during the **Salt Satyagraha** in 1931 and the **Quit India movement** in 1942.
- He presided over the **Bombay session** of the Indian National Congress in 1934 and became Congress President after Subhash Chandra Bose's resignation in 1939.
- He was **appointed President** of the Constituent Assembly in 1946.
- Hence, option A is correct.

28. (A)

Exp:

- The scheme has an outlay of Rs. 6,600 crore for the 4-year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, covering the remaining years of the 15th Finance Commission period. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** will oversee project selection, approval, and monitoring in consultation with State Governments, North Eastern Council (NEC), and relevant Central Ministries, with implementation through NEC or Central agencies. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

29. (B)

Exp:

- The **China+1 Strategy** refers to a global economic strategy for companies diversifying supply chains adopted by many multinational companies in response to the over-reliance on China for manufacturing, production, and supply chain management.
- This strategy aims to diversify sourcing and manufacturing operations by adding another country (hence, the “+1”) to reduce dependency on China, particularly in light of geopolitical tensions, trade wars, and disruptions like the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

30. (C)

Exp:

- **P-waves** are compressional waves that travel faster and can pass through both solid and liquid layers, whereas S-waves are shear waves that propagate slower and cannot travel through liquids. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Benioff Zone** (or **Wadati-Benioff Zone**) is a region of seismic activity that occurs along a **subduction zone** where one tectonic plate is being forced beneath another into the Earth's mantle. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

31. (B)

Exp:

CubeSat Standard:

- Recently, India adopted the **global CubeSat standard**, marking a significant step in its ambition to enhance its footprint in the **global space economy**.
 - ◆ **CubeSat standards** define a modular satellite framework (**1 unit (U) = 10 cm³, ≤1.33 kg**) compatible with standard deployers, requiring uniform dimensions, low-outgassing materials, kill switches, and rigorous testing.
 - The standard CubeSat size uses a “one unit” or “1U” measuring **10x10x10 cms** and is extendable to larger sizes like **1.5, 2, 3, 6, and even 12U**.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards** (an arm of the **Department of Consumer Affairs**), helps educational and research organisations **develop CubeSats with commercial components**, offering a cost-effective satellite alternative.
- Hence, option B is correct.

32. (C)

Exp:

- For a monument or site to be protected under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958**, it must be at least 100 years old and of national importance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)** is administered by the Ministry of Culture and executed under the guidance of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

33. (B)

Exp:

Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958:

- A “**disturbed area**” is designated by a notification under **Section 3 of the Act**, which is invoked where the deployment of armed forces in aid of civil power is deemed necessary.
 - ◆ The Act was **amended in 1972** to allow both the Central government and State governments to declare an area as “disturbed.”
 - ◆ Such a designation can be based on conflicts or disputes between different religious, racial, linguistic, regional, or caste communities.
- **Both the state and Union governments** can now issue notifications declaring certain areas as “disturbed”, granting the armed forces the authority under AFSPA. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- For the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** issues periodic “disturbed area” notifications. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Once declared, the area remains under this status for a **continuous period of 3 months**, as per the Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

34. (B)

Exp:

- **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** refers to the financial aid provided by donor countries to support the development of poorer nations. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **International Development Association (IDA)**, a part of the **World Bank**, is a **key multilateral institution within the ODA framework**. It offers **concessional loans and grants with favorable terms to the world’s poorest countries**, thus playing a crucial role in supporting development efforts in these nations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment**, launched in 2020 and endorsed by the G20 in collaboration with the **Paris Club**, aims to provide structural support to **Low-Income Countries (LICs)** grappling with unsustainable debt levels.
 - ◆ The framework offers a **coordinated and comprehensive approach** to address the severe debt challenges faced by LICs, which have been exacerbated by the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

35. (D)

Exp:

Current Scenario of Research & Development(R&D) in India :

- **Global Innovation Index (GII):** India’s secured rank of 39th in the **GII 2024** among 133 economies underscores the country’s increasing focus on R&D across sectors like biotechnology, space exploration, quantum technology, and renewable energy. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI):** According to the **WIPI 2024**, India holds the **6th position** in patents filed, demonstrating progress in innovation.
- **Low Budget Allocation:** India spends **less than 1% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on R&D**, far below global averages like the US (2.8%), and China (2.1%). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

36. (A)

Exp:

Recently, the **UK House of Commons** voted in favour of the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**, allowing terminally ill patients to request assistance to end their own lives.

Euthanasia Policies in Different Countries

- **Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium:** Allow both euthanasia and assisted suicide for those with “unbearable suffering” with no chance of improvement. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Switzerland:** Prohibits euthanasia but permits assisted dying with a doctor’s presence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **United States:** Euthanasia laws vary by state, with allowances in states like Washington, Oregon, and Montana.
- **France:** Adults with French citizenship or residency, **suffering from a severe illness** and unbearable pain, can request lethal medication if they can express their wishes. Assistance is permitted if they cannot self-administer.

Provisions of Living Will and Passive Euthanasia in India:

- **Passive Euthanasia:** **Passive euthanasia** involves withholding or withdrawing medical treatment to allow a person to die.
 - ◆ In contrast, active euthanasia involves actively ending a person’s life through substances or external force, like a lethal injection.
- **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018):**
 - ◆ The Supreme Court of India in a landmark judgement **recognised a person’s right to die with dignity**, saying that a **terminally ill person can opt for passive euthanasia and execute a living will** to refuse medical treatment. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

37. (A)

Exp :

- **World Diabetes Day** was celebrated on **14th November** to raise awareness about diabetes, which affects millions globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **2024 theme, “Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps,”** highlights the need for inclusive healthcare and equitable access to diabetes management.

● **Diabetes:**

- ◆ Diabetes is a **Non-communicable disease (NCD)** that occurs either when the **pancreas does not produce enough insulin** (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the **body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to severe health complications, including **heart disease, kidney failure, and vision loss**.

38. (D)

Exp :

- PRAGATI is a **multi-purpose and multi-modal Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform** launched in **2015** under the **Digital India program**.
 - ◆ It aims at bringing **e-transparency and e-accountability** with **real-time presence** and **exchange among the key stakeholders**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Key Features:**
 - ◆ It uses a **digital dashboard and video-conference reviews chaired by the PM** to **streamline decision-making**, **cut red tapeism**, and **reduce project timelines**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ It aimed at **addressing common man's grievances**, and simultaneously **monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects** of the **Government of India** as well as projects flagged by **State Government**
 - ◆ The platform emphasizes **green technologies** and **sustainable practices**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Notable Projects Accelerated by PRAGATI:
 - ◆ **Chenab Bridge (Jammu & Kashmir)**
 - ◆ **Bogibeel Bridge (Assam)**

39. (A)

Explanation:

- The ambit of the rules has been expanded to include vaccination camps, blood donation camps, surgical camps or any other healthcare activity. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Bio-medical waste has been classified into 4 categories to improve the segregation of waste at source. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandate the use of barcoding and global positioning system (GPS) for tracking biomedical waste. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

40. (C)

Explanation:

- Under Article 72, the President of India can grant pardons, commute sentences, or reprieve for offenses, especially those from Court Martial or involving the death penalty. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The President cannot exercise this power independently. Decisions must align with the advice of the Council of Ministers. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

The President cannot grant pardons for offenses under state laws, as this power is reserved for Governors under Article 161. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

41. (C)

Exp:

Theories Related to the Origin of Earth:

- The nebular Hypothesis was given by **Immanuel Kant** and revised by Laplace. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It considered that the planets were formed out of a cloud of material associated with a youthful sun, which was slowly rotating. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- In 1950, Otto Schmidt in Russia and Carl Weizsacker in Germany revised the nebular hypothesis.
 - ◆ They considered that the sun was surrounded by a **solar nebula** containing mostly hydrogen, helium, and dust.
 - ◆ The friction and collision of particles led to the formation of a disk-shaped cloud and the planets were formed through the process of accretion.

42. (B)

Exp:

- The **Angami, Rengma, and Konyak tribes** are indigenous to **Nagaland**, a state in Northeast India.
- Nagaland is home to **17 major tribes**, each with its distinct culture, language, and customs.
- Nagaland, which became the 16th state of India in 1963, is known for its diverse ethnic groups and has gained recognition for products like **Naga Mircha (chili)** and **Naga tree tomato**, which are protected under **Geographical Indication (GI) status**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

43. (B)

Exp:

- India boasts a rich legacy of ancient water harvesting systems, reflecting the ingenuity and sustainability of its traditional practices tailored to diverse geographical conditions.
- **Panam Keni** is a traditional water harvesting system from **Kerala**, involving cylindrical wells made from toddy palm stems, often considered sacred. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.
- **Kuhls** are surface water channels in **Himachal Pradesh**, used to transport glacial meltwater to fields for irrigation. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.
- However, **Zabo**, a system integrating water conservation with agriculture and animal care, is practiced in **Nagaland**, not **Rajasthan**. Hence, **pair 3 is not correctly matched**.

44. (A)

Exp :

- The **Western Ghats** is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the eight "**hottest hotspots**" of **biological diversity** in the world. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It is home to around **252 amphibian species**, including 226 frogs.
- However, globally, **40.7%** of amphibian species (8,011 species) are **threatened** due to **habitat destruction, pollution, climate change**, and diseases like **chytridiomycosis**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Western Ghats**, made up of **lateritic plateaus** (flat-topped landscapes rich in **iron and aluminum**) were formed millions of years ago through **volcanic activity**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

45. (D)

Exp :

Ninetyeast Ridge:

- **About:** The Ninetyeast Ridge is a **linear aseismic ridge**. It is named for its near-parallel alignment with the **90th meridian east**. It divides the Indian Ocean into the **West Indian Ocean and the eastern Indian Ocean**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ This underwater mountain range stretches approximately **5,000 kilometers** from the **Bay of Bengal** in the north to the **Southeast Indian Ridge (SEIR)** in the south.
 - ◆ The northern segment of the Ninetyeast Ridge has **massive volcanoes**, the southern part is tall and continuous, and the middle section includes **small seamounts and straight segments**.
- **Formation of the Ninety East Ridge:** The most widely accepted theory is the **hotspot theory**, with some geologists attributing the **ridge's formation to the Kerguelen hotspot**.
 - ◆ As the **Indo-Australian plate** moved north, it passed over **Kerguelen hotspot**, forming the ridge. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ The formation process ceased due to a **reorganization in the tectonic plate** boundaries, and further research ongoing to confirm this theory.
- **Composition:** The ridge is primarily made of **Ocean Island Tholeiites (OIT)**, a type of **sub-alkaline basalt rock**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ Rocks in the southern part of Ninetyeast Ridge are younger (43.2 million years) compared to the northern part (81.8 million years).

46. (C)

Exp:

Indian star tortoise (Geochelone elegans):

- **Habitat:** It is native to the Indian subcontinent and is found in northwestern India, South India, and Sri Lanka in arid grasslands and savannahs. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Conservation Status:** It is listed as **Vulnerable** under the IUCN Red List, Appendix I of CITES. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Threat:** According to the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**, 90% of the trade of Star Tortoise occurs as part of the international pet market.

47. (B)

Exp:

- Human Rights Day, observed every year on 10th December highlights the importance of human rights as a foundation for justice, peace, and equality. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The UN Human Rights Council, established in 2006, promotes global human rights protection through its 47 member States (including India) and works on addressing violations and emergencies. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- India is a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

48. (A)

Exp:

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad):

- **About:** The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** is a strategic forum focused on promoting regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
 - ◆ The Quad **aims to strengthen** regional security, counter China's assertiveness, promote economic growth, and improve maritime security.
- **Origins:** The Quad originated after the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami**, where the US, Japan, India, and Australia provided humanitarian aid.
 - ◆ It was formally established in **2007 by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe but went dormant in 2008**. The group was revived in **2017** amid changing regional attitudes toward China's influence, culminating in its **first formal summit in 2021**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Functions:** It functions through summits, joint military drills, and economic initiatives.
 - ◆ However, it is **not structured like a typical multilateral organisation**, and lacks a secretariat and any permanent decision-making body (like the EU or UN). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

49. (C)

Exp:

- **Project NAMAN and SAMBANDH** are initiatives focused on the **welfare and support of Indian Armed Forces veterans and their families**:
 - ◆ **Project NAMAN:** Simplifies pension services for veterans by ensuring easy access to services like life certificate submissions and pension disbursements.
 - ◆ **SAMBANDH:** A WhatsApp-based chatbot designed to address grievances of veterans. It has resolved over 1,700 cases within a year, demonstrating its efficiency.
- These programs aim to enhance the quality of life for **ex-servicemen, war-disabled soldiers, and Veer Naris (war widows)**, showcasing the government's commitment to their well-being.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

50. (B)

Exp:

- **Capital Punishment in India** is governed by various provisions in the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS, 2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS, 2023) and other special laws.
- The **Constitution of India does not explicitly declare capital punishment as unconstitutional**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ However, the Supreme Court, as outlined in *Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab* (1980) identified 5 categories for such cases, including brutal murder, depraved motives, and crimes of significant magnitude where capital punishment is awarded.

- Mercy Petition is a formal request made by someone who has been sentenced to death or imprisonment seeking mercy from the President or the Governor, as the case may be.
 - ◆ As per the Constitutional framework in India, a mercy petition to the President is the last constitutional resort a convict can take when he is sentenced by a court of law.
- A convict can present a **mercy petition to the President of India under Article 72** of the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **President** has the authority to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment. This includes suspending, remitting, or commuting sentences of individuals convicted of any offense.
 - ◆ The power extends to **all cases involving sentences imposed by a court-martial**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

51. (C)

Exp:

Laws Governing Charitable Organisations in India:

- **Income Tax Act, 1961:** Provides tax exemptions for charitable donations and defines "charitable purposes." **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Constitution of India (Article 19(1)(c)):** Citizens have the freedom to form social, cultural, economic, or political associations or unions.
- **Indian Trusts Act, 1882:** Governs private charitable trusts. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Societies Registration Act, 1860:** Regulates charitable societies.
- **Companies Act, 1956 (Section 25):** Allows **non-profit companies** to operate as charities.
- **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010:** Charitable organizations can receive foreign funds, but they must be registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA) to ensure that donations are used for legitimate, non-political purposes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

52. (D)

Exp:

- A **glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)** occurs when a glacial lake's dam fails, releasing large volumes of water, often due to rapid glacier melting or heavy precipitation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These floods can be triggered by glacier volume changes, lake water level fluctuations, and earthquakes.
 - ◆ According to the **National Disaster Management Authority**, climate change-induced glacial retreat in the **Hindu Kush Himalayas** has created many new glacial lakes, leading to GLOFs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Cases of GLOF in India**
 - ◆ In June 2013, Uttarakhand had received an unusual amount of rainfall leading to the melting of the Chorabari glacier and the eruption of the Mandakini river.

- ◆ In August 2014, a glacial lake outburst flood hit the village of Gya in Ladakh.
- ◆ In October 2023, the South Lhonak Lake, a glacial lake located at an altitude of 17,000 feet in the state's northwest, experienced a rupture as a result of continuous rainfall. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

53. (D)

Exp :

- **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** was established in **2014** by the Government of India as an **autonomous institution** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions**.
 - ◆ It evolved from the **National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR)**, founded in **1995** by the **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)**.
 - ◆ NIAR was later integrated and renamed as NCGG, which focuses on training civil servants from India and **over 20 countries**, covering diverse topics like governance reforms, **Digital India, SVAMITVA, SDGs**, and **Ayushman Bharat**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **6th edition of the Capacity Building Program for Sri Lankan Civil Servants** commenced at the **NCGG in Mussoorie**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The program hosted 40 mid-career civil servants from Sri Lanka, focusing on **governance, policy frameworks, AI in governance**, and India's successful models in **public administration**.

54. (B)

Exp:

- **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)** were introduced in the 1990s as **substitutes for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)** due to the latter's high ozone-depleting potential, which contributed significantly to the ozone hole phenomenon over Antarctica.
 - **Chlorofluorocarbons have both high ozone-depleting potential and high global warming potential**. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - **Hydrofluorocarbons have a zero ozone-depleting potential** but still contribute significantly to global warming. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - **Hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs)**, on the other hand, represent a newer class of fluorochemicals with **zero ozone-depleting potential and very low global warming potential**, aligning better with environmental goals. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

55. (C)

Exp:

- **Extrachromosomal DNA (ecDNA)** forms when **segments of DNA break away from chromosomes**, often due to chromothripsis (chromosomal shattering and rearrangement) or errors in DNA replication. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Unlike traditional chromosomal DNA, ecDNA exists independently within the nucleus and can cluster genes in circular structures.
- **It is commonly found in cancer cells**, where it plays a critical role in tumor growth, adaptability, and resistance to treatments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- One of its unique features is its **ability to carry multiple copies of oncogenes**, genes that promote cancer growth, **leading to their overexpression. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ These attributes make ecDNA a major contributor to the genetic diversity and resilience of cancer cells. Therefore, all three statements are correct.

56. (A)

Exp:

- **C. Rajagopalachari** was a prominent leader in India's freedom struggle and a key figure in the post-independence era.
 - He played an active role in the Indian National Congress, **leading the Salt March in Madras Province during the 1930 Dandi March.**
 - ◆ His arrest during the Vedaranyam Satyagraha gained him national recognition.
 - Rajagopalachari was the **first Indian Governor-General of Independent India** and later served as the Governor of West Bengal.
 - He was instrumental in implementing social reforms, promoting Khadi, and advocating for social equity.
 - He also translated the **Ramayana into Tamil, titled Chakravarthi Thirumagan.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

57. (B)

Exp:

- **INS Tushil**, a Krivak III-class frigate from the **Russian-designed Project 1135.6**, is equipped with advanced weaponry. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is equipped with **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles**, Shtil Surface-to-Air Missiles, anti-submarine torpedoes, and electronic warfare systems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Designed for **blue-water operations**, it is capable of operating across **air, surface, subsurface, and electromagnetic domains. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ This versatility ensures its alignment with India's SAGAR initiative, aimed at promoting security and stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

58. (C)

Exp:

Cess:

- A cess is a form of tax that is levied for a **specific purpose** and the revenue is earmarked for a particular use. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Cesses are typically charged for a specific time period, or until the government has gathered enough funds for the designated purpose. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Cesses are recognized in the Constitution under **Article 277 and Article 270** (which outlines the revenue-sharing framework between the Union and States).

- ◆ **Examples:** Education Cess (for financing primary education), Swachh Bharat Cess (for cleanliness initiatives), and Fuel Cess (for road development).

59. (A)

Exp:

Reserve Bank of India(RBI):

- **Section 7 of the RBI Act, 1934** provides the government with the power to issue directions to RBI in public interest from time to time after consulting the RBI governor. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- RBI earns income from bonds and **retains part of the surplus** for buffers like the Contingency Fund and Asset Reserve. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

60. (D)

Exp:

- **Laysan albatross** is a large, abundant seabird whose breeding range is centered in Hawai'.
- Like all albatrosses, they are accomplished fliers using dynamic soaring to cover great distances. They mainly feed at night and often far from breeding colonies. According to the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, the average lifespan of a Laysan albatross is typically **around 68 years. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Snowy Albatross** or **Wandering Albatross** (*Diomedea exulans*) is the largest flying seabird in terms of wingspan. **Conservation Status** in the **IUCN Red list** is **Vulnerable. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

61. (B)

Exp:

- A **Special Leave Petition (SLP)** is a legal mechanism under **Article 136** of the Indian Constitution that allows the **Supreme Court of India** to grant special permission to an aggrieved party to appeal against a decision of a lower court, tribunal, or any other judicial or quasi-judicial authority.
- SLPs can be filed against any judgment, decree, or order of any court or tribunal in India, **except those relating to Armed Forces. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Supreme Court has discretionary power to grant or deny special leave to appeal under Article 136 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

62. (A)

Exp:

- Gene therapy is a medical treatment that aims to treat or cure diseases by modifying a patient's genetic material. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Gene replacement therapy involves **replacing a faulty gene with a healthy copy** of the gene, **not inhibiting its expression**, to prevent disease progression by correcting the underlying genetic defect. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Gene editing techniques like CRISPR-Cas9 allow precise modifications of genetic material. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

63. (C)

Exp:

International Mountain Day

- **History:** International Mountain Day, observed on 11th **December**, was established by the **United Nations** in **2003** to raise awareness about sustainable development in mountains and their vital importance to life. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** plays a key role in coordinating this observance.
- **Theme 2024: Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Importance of Mountains:** Mountains cover about **one-fifth of the Earth's surface** and are home to **15% of the world's population** and host half of the world's biodiversity hotspots.
 - ◆ They provide essential freshwater for half of humanity acting as **"water towers"**, supporting agriculture, **clean energy**, and health sectors.
 - ◆ Mountains are ecological treasures that need protection. Without them, many countries would face dry, barren land. Their preservation is key to sustainable development.

64. (C)

Exp:

- The **Caspian Sea**, located between **Asia and Europe**, lies east of the **Caucasus** Mountains and west of the Central Asian steppe, bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan.
- Once part of the **prehistoric Paratethys Sea**, tectonic shifts and a drop in sea levels transformed it into a landlocked body of water over 5 million years ago, making it the world's largest inland water body.
 - ◆ It is technically a lake, as **it is landlocked without a direct outlet to the ocean.**
- It receives water from three major rivers, the Volga, Ural, Terek and is rich in natural resources, particularly oil and natural gas reserves in both offshore and onshore fields
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

65. (B)

Exp:

- **Volcanic Mountains** are formed by the eruption of magma from the Earth's crust, creating peaks like those in Hawaii and Fiji.
- The **Himalayas are not Volcanic Mountains but Fold Mountains**, created by the collision and folding of tectonic plates, such as the Indian and Eurasian plates. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Fold Mountains like the Andes** are indeed formed by the collision and folding of tectonic plates, such as the subduction of the Nazca Plate under the South American Plate. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- **Block Mountains**, such as the **Sierra Nevada**, are formed by faulting and the movement of large blocks of the Earth's crust, leading to raised or dropped sections. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

66. (C)

Exp:

DHARINI 3D Foetal Brain Atlas:

- Researchers at the Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed a revolutionary tool known as **DHARINI**, a **detailed 3D map of the foetal** (unborn offspring that develops in the uterus of a mammal) **brain**, that holds significant implications for understanding brain disorders.
- DHARINI is the **world's largest and most detailed** high-resolution 3D foetal brain atlas, mapping over 5,000 brain sections and 500 brain regions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The atlas focuses on brains from the **second trimester** (at 14, 17, 21, 22, and 24 weeks of pregnancy), a key period for rapid growth and development.
- The tool can help identify brain disorders such as **autism** and provide insights into conditions like **cerebral palsy** and mental health issues like depression and **bipolar disorder**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

67. (B)

Exp:

Google's Quantum Computing Breakthrough:

- Google's quantum computer achieved **"quantum supremacy"** by solving a complex problem in minutes, far exceeding the capabilities of supercomputers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ These tasks, such as generating random numbers, are **primarily theoretical** and lack immediate practical applications like drug discovery. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Surpassing the **"error correction threshold"** marks a crucial step toward reducing computational errors and achieving practical applications of quantum computing. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

68. (C)

Exp:

- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
 - ◆ Established in **1994**, it is the **only legally binding international treaty** that connects environmental and developmental goals to **sustainable land management**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It focuses on **arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid regions**, known as drylands, which contain some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and communities.
 - ◆ The Convention's **197 member countries** work together to improve living conditions in drylands, restore land and soil productivity, and mitigate drought impacts.

- ◆ The UNCCD **collaborates** with the other **two Rio Conventions** to address the interconnected issues of land, climate, and biodiversity:
 - The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
 - The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
 - Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

69. (D)

Exp:

- The **Non-Aligned Movement** was **formed during the Cold War** as an organization of **States that did not seek to formally align** themselves with either **the United States or the Soviet Union**, but sought to remain independent or neutral.
- The **Non-Aligned Movement** was founded and **held its first conference (the Belgrade Conference) in 1961** under the leadership of **Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Sukarno of Indonesia**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The purpose of the organization was enumerated in the **Havana Declaration of 1979** to ensure **“the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries”** in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign subjugation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ During the cold war era the **NAM played a vital role in stabilizing the world order and preserving peace and security**. Non alignment of NAM doesn't mean the neutrality of the state on global issues, it was always a peaceful intervention in world politics.

70. (B)

Exp:

Small Finance Banks (SFBs):

- **About:** SFBs are specialized financial institutions regulated by RBI under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
 - ◆ It was announced in the **Union Budget 2014-15** to enhance **credit supply** using high-technology and low-cost operations. It was set up based on the recommendations of the **Nachiket Mor Committee**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Registrations:** SFBs are registered as a **public limited company** under the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Objective:** Its primary objective is to promote **financial inclusion in underserved and unserved sections** of society.
 - ◆ It caters to small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries, and other **unorganized sector** entities.
- **Capital Requirement:** To set up an SFB bank, the minimum capital required is **Rs 200 crores**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- **SFB's Mandate:** They must allocate **75% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)** to priority sectors, including agriculture, MSMEs, and weaker sections. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ At least 25% of SFB branches must be located in unbanked rural areas to improve rural banking access.

71. (A)

Exp:

Impeachment Process for Judges in India:

- **About:**
 - ◆ **Impeachment**, though **not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution**, refers colloquially to the process by which a judge can be removed from office by Parliament. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The impeachment process for judges in India serves as a crucial mechanism to uphold **judicial accountability** while preserving the independence of the judiciary.
- **Constitutional Safeguards and Grounds for Impeachment:**
 - ◆ **Article 124(4):** The article outlines the removal process for Supreme Court judges, which is applicable to High Court judges as per **Article 218**. The grounds for impeachment are explicitly limited to **“proved misbehaviour”** and **“incapacity”**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Proved Misbehavior:** Actions or conduct by a judge that breaches the ethical and professional standards of the judiciary.
 - **Incapacity:** A judge's inability to perform judicial duties due to **physical or mental infirmity**.
- **Instances of Impeachment Attempts:**
 - ◆ India has witnessed a few attempts at impeachment, with notable cases like those of **Justice V. Ramaswami (1993)** and **Justice Soumitra Sen (2011)**.
 - While none have resulted in a complete removal, these instances highlight the process's rigor and its role in upholding accountability.

72. (B)

Exp:

- The Ayush Visa, introduced in 2023, facilitates foreigners seeking therapeutic care and wellness treatments.
- Treatment is available at facilities accredited by government authorities, NABH, NCH, or NCISM for Ayush services. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- Ayush visa was introduced in 2023 with four sub-categories: Ayush Visa (AY-1), Ayush Attendant Visa (AY-2), e-Ayush Visa, and e-Ayush Attendant Visa. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

73. (C)

Exp:

- **RTS,S/AS01 (Mosquirix)** and **R21/Matrix-M** are WHO-approved vaccines targeting *Plasmodium falciparum*. RTS,S reduces severe malaria cases by 30%, while R21, with 75% efficacy, offers improved protection. Both boost immunity during the parasite's liver stage and

complement existing malaria control measures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Late-arresting genetically modified parasites generally provide significantly better protection against diseases like malaria compared to early-arresting parasites, as they allow for a longer period of immune system priming by exposing it to more antigens before the parasite is completely neutralized, leading to a stronger immune response. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

74. (B)

Exp:

- Minimum tillage systems offer numerous advantages over conventional tillage practices, such as lower fuel usage, less soil erosion, improved water penetration, and enhanced soil health. It preserves soil health, promotes conservation, and helps farmers achieve high crop yields. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Monocropping is not but Crop Rotation improves soil fertility and helps in pest management. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

75. (B)

Exp:

Index of Core Industries (ICI):

- The Index of Core Industries (ICI) is a monthly indicator measuring the combined production performance of eight key industries, Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity, reflecting the industrial sector's overall health.
- It accounts for over 40% of industrial production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The base year for the current ICI series is 2011-12. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The current weightage of the eight core industries is: Petroleum Refinery Products (28.04%), Electricity (19.85%), Steel (17.92%), Coal (10.33%), Crude Oil (8.98%), Natural Gas (6.88%), Cement (5.37%), and Fertiliser (2.63%).
- Fertilizers have the lowest weightage among the core sectors in the Index of Core Industries (ICI). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

