



drishti

**December 2024  
(Part-II)**

**Current  
Affairs  
MCQ  
(Consolidation)**

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## Practice Question

1. Consider the following statements related to Arctic Council:
  1. It was set up in 1996 by the Reykjavik Declaration.
  2. Denmark represents Greenland and the Faroe Islands in the Council.
  3. India has held observer status in the Council since 2013.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements related to India's performance in Chess Championships:

1. Gukesh is the third Indian Grandmaster to win the FIDE World Chess Championship.
2. Harika Dronavalli won the Women's Grand Prix series in 2019-2020.
3. Viswanathan Anand won the World Rapid Chess Championship in 2003 and 2017.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The summoning of Parliament is specified in Article 85 of the Constitution.
2. India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar.
3. The maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding "Disease X":

1. Disease X refers to a specific zoonotic virus identified during the 2014–2016 West African Ebola epidemic.
2. Strengthened global surveillance and frameworks like the Pandemic Treaty are essential for mitigating risks associated with Disease X.

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Paris Agreement:

1. The Paris Agreement replaced the Kyoto Protocol and requires countries to submit updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every five years.
2. The primary goal of the Paris Agreement is to achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050.

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

6. Consider the following statements:

1. It has completed firing trials at an altitude of over 4,200m.
2. It was jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
3. It was successfully airlifted by the Indian Air Force, enabling rapid deployment to remote and inaccessible areas.

Which of the following best matches the above description?

- A. Zorawar( Indian Light Tank (ILT)
- B. MK-45 Naval Guns
- C. K9 Vajra
- D. None of the above

7. Consider the following statements regarding wetlands:

1. The Convention on Wetlands, adopted in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that is part of the United Nations or UNESCO's system of environmental conventions and agreements.
2. In India, Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Loktak Lake (Manipur), and Chilika Lake (Odisha) are currently in the Montreux Record.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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8. Consider the following statements:

1. The biography titled Munis al-Arwah was written by Jahanara about Shaikh Muinuddin Chishti.
2. The fourteenth-century Siyar-ul-Auliya written by Mir Khwurd Kirmani was the first Sufi tazkira written in India, primarily focusing on the Chishti saints.
3. The Chishtis not only adopted local languages in sama' but also conversed in Hindavi, the language of the people, in Delhi.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements related to Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis:

1. It causes the air sacs in the lungs
2. IPF is more common in men and typically affects adults over the age 50.

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

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

10. Franklin Fire and Santa Ana winds, recently in the news, are associated with which of the following regions?

- A. Cape Town
- B. Malibu
- C. Athens
- D. Sydney

11. Consider the following statements related to Vice President of India:

1. Article 66 outlines the qualifications for Vice President, requiring Indian citizenship, a minimum age of 30, and eligibility for Lok Sabha election.
2. Article 67(b) states that the Vice President can be removed if an effective majority of all the then members of Rajya Sabha members passes a resolution.
3. The Constitution does not specify emoluments for the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who receives a salary in his capacity as the Vice-President.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding the Aspirational Districts Programme:

1. Launched by NITI Aayog, the Aspirational Districts Programme aims to transform 112 districts across India, focusing on five key themes, with progress measured on 81 development indicators.
2. NITI Aayog launched Sampoonata Abhiyan, a 3-month campaign to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts.

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 regarding the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act):

1. The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) must be constituted by employers at workplaces with 20 or more employees which have the powers of civil courts.
2. In organizations with no Internal Committee, a Local Committee (LC) is formed by the District Officer to handle complaints.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following features:

1. It is a landlocked country bordering Ukraine and Romania.
2. It is in the northeastern corner of the Balkan Peninsula.
3. The majority of the country is located between the winding Prut and Dniester rivers.

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

- A. Moldova
- B. Bulgaria
- C. Serbia
- D. Hungary

15. Consider the following statements:

**Statement I:** MFN (Most Favoured Nation) refers to a trade status granted by one country to another, ensuring non-discriminatory trade between them.

**Statement II:** MFN status means preferential treatment, offering the recipient country advantages over other trade partners.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

16. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Foreign investments of 10% or more in an Indian listed company are FDI; those below 10% must reach 10% within a year to qualify as FDI, or else they are portfolio investments.
- 2. FDI in India is governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999, and is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- 3. Under the FDI by Automatic Route, the non-resident or Indian company does not require any approval from the Government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements in reference to the appointment/transfer of High Court judges:

- 1. The Chief Justice of India must consult a collegium of two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court for appointments to the High Court.
- 2. High Court judges are transferred under Article 222 of the Constitution of India following the procedure of consultation, with the Chief Justice of India consulting the four senior-most puisne Supreme 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

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Brahmaputra River:

- 1. The Brahmaputra River originates in Tibet, near the Chemayungdung glacier, close to the sources of the Indus and the Satluj.
- 2. The Brahmaputra is a radial river system which branches out like spokes from a center.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following features:

- 1. It originates from the lower Shivalik ranges.
- 2. The river's major tributaries include Kali and Krishni.
- 3. In 2015, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) declared this as a "dead river".

Which of the following rivers is best described from above features?

- A. Hindan
- B. Subarnarekha
- C. Ghaggar
- D. Beas

20. Consider the following characteristics:

- 1. It belongs to the molossus bat family.
- 2. It roosts in caves or dark and damp places.
- 3. It is primarily found in the Western Ghats with a single known breeding colony.

Which of the following species is best described from above characteristics?

- A. Indian flying fox
- B. Wroughton's free-tailed bat
- C. Great fruit bat
- D. Short-nosed fruit bat

21. Regarding the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was established under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.
- 2. Its objective is to protect consumer interests, regulate petroleum-related activities, and promote competitive markets.
- 3. The PNGRB authorizes City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks, and natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, sets tariffs, and establishes technical and safety standards.

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

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

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22. Consider the following statements:

1. The Economic Union is a common market where member countries coordinate macroeconomic and exchange rate policies.
2. A Common Market is a customs union where the movement of factors of production is relatively free amongst member countries
3. Custom Union is a free-trade agreement in which members apply a common external tariff (CET) schedule to imports from non-members.

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

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

23. Consider the following statements:

1. They are black-and-white seabirds that somewhat resemble penguins in appearance, and are among the most plentiful seabirds in Alaska.
2. They are the deepest diving bird in the northern hemisphere diving up to 600 feet deep.
3. Their IUCN Status is Least Concern.

Which of the following birds best matches the above description?

- A. Common Murres
- B. Hummingbirds
- C. Columbidae
- D. Finches

24. Consider the following statements regarding the MGNREGA Scheme:

1. Financial assistance shall be provided by Central and State Governments in the ratio of 90:10 respectively.
2. The Government of India notifies the wage rate under MGNREGA using Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL).
3. Dr. Nagesh Singh Committee recommended indexing MGNREGA wages to Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Rural as opposed to CPI-Agricultural Labour.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements regarding Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement):

1. The SPS Agreement, effective from 1995, focuses on the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations.
2. It encourages governments to align their national measures with international standards, guidelines, and recommendations, a process known as standardization.
3. The WTO creates these standards, and facilitates their implementation through participation in other international bodies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following pairs:

Category of Drugs	Representative Substance
Hallucinogens	Psilocybin
Opioids	Opium
Cannabis	Hashish

How many of the above pairs is/are **incorrectly** matched?

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

27. Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg, renowned historical landmarks, are associated with which of the following?

- A. Ancient Trade Routes
- B. Naval Ships
- C. Coastal Forts
- D. Rock-Cut Caves

28. Consider the following statements about the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Food Processing:

1. It is constituted under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
2. It consists of 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha.
3. Recently, it declined to provide a legal guarantee for the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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29. Regarding the India's Defence Exports, consider the following statements:

1. In 2023-24, India's top three defense export destinations were the USA, France, and Armenia.
2. India exported the first set of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Vietnam.

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

30. Consider the following statements about pangolins:

1. All species of pangolins are found exclusively in Asia.
2. In India, both the Indian pangolin and the Chinese pangolin are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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

31. Consider the following statements:

1. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.
2. India has provided development assistance to Sri Lanka by extending Lines of Credit (LOCs) under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).

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

32. Consider the following statements regarding the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009:

1. The RTE Act mandates free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years.
2. The Act mandates the establishment of School Management Committees (SMCs) in every school, with significant representation from parents.
3. The RTE Act explicitly prohibits corporal punishment and mental harassment of children in schools.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding Asian elephants:

1. India has the largest population of Asian elephants in Asia.
2. The Asian Elephant has been given the highest level of protection in India by its inclusion in Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. Consider the following statements regarding green deposits:

1. A green deposit is a type of bank deposit where at least 50% of the deposited funds are allocated to environmentally sustainable projects.
2. Deposits raised under the RBI's Green Deposits Framework are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

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:

1. The first Session of the Indian National Congress (INC) was presided over by W.C. Banerjee.
2. The 1924 Belgaum session was the only INC session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi.

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. Regarding Quantum Satellite, consider the following statements:

1. A quantum satellite is a communications satellite that employs quantum physics to secure its signals, making it highly resistant to interception.
2. It utilizes quantum cryptography particularly Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), to protect data by detecting eavesdropping during transmission.

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

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

37. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 217 of the Constitution states that the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
2. The Collegium System of judicial appointments originated from the Second Judges Case in 1993.

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:

1. It is the world's largest island, located in the North Atlantic Ocean, and a territory of Denmark.
2. It features major mountain ranges like the Watkins Range and Stauning Alps, and rivers such as Borglum, and Majorqaq.
3. It has been a mining nation since the late 1700s, extracting coal and later mining gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, graphite, and marble.

Which of the following islands best matches the above description?

- A. Greenland
- B. Baffin Island
- C. Iceland
- D. New Guinea

39. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana:

1. The scheme targets unorganised workers aged 18 to 40, with a monthly income up to Rs 21,000.
2. Workers are required to make monthly contributions (premium) ranging from Rs 55 to Rs 200.
3. Under this scheme, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) acts as the Pension Fund Manager.

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

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

40. Consider the following:

1. He gave the Laws of Motion.
2. He discovered the existence of gravity.
3. He created the reflecting telescope.

Which of the following Scientists best matches the above description?

- A. Albert Einstein
- B. Isaac Newton
- C. Galileo Galilei
- D. Johannes Kepler

41. Consider the following features:

1. It is a specialized hunter of rodents in the Afroalpine ecosystem.
2. It thrives in high-altitude "sky islands" above the tropical forests.
3. It feeds on the nectar of red hot poker flowers.

Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Mountain Zebra
- B. Ethiopian Wolf
- C. Gelada Baboon
- D. Walia Ibex

42. Consider the following statements regarding Tax Buoyancy:

1. It measures the responsiveness of tax revenue to changes in Gross Domestic Product.
2. When a tax is buoyant, its revenue increases without increasing the tax rate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

43. Consider the following characteristics:

1. He proposed the Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill (1938).
2. 23rd December is marked as Kisan Diwas in his honour.
3. He is the author of '*Abolition of Zamindari*' and '*Co-operative Farming X-rayed*'.

The initiatives mentioned above correctly describe which of the following personalities?

- A. Chaudhary Charan Singh
- B. V. V. Giri
- C. C. Subramaniam
- D. Rajendra Prasad

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44. Consider the following statements:

1. GDP is the sum of all final goods and services produced in an economy in a given period.
2. GDP at market price is derived by subtracting subsidies from the GVA and adding taxes earned by the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements:

1. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is an autonomous body promoted by the Ministry of Cooperation.
2. SFAC promotes development of small agribusiness through its Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) Scheme for value added processing and marketing linkages.

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

46. Quantum entanglement, sometimes seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. A technique used in classical computing to encrypt data using advanced algorithms.
- B. A process of nuclear fission where atomic nuclei are split to release large amounts of energy.
- C. A phenomenon where two particles remain connected such that the state of one affects the other, regardless of the distance between them.
- D. A thermodynamic principle describing the conversion of heat energy into mechanical work.

47. Consider the following features:

1. They build their nests primarily in forested regions, often within underground cavities.
2. They are native to Asia.
3. Commonly referred to as the "murder hornet" due to their aggressive nature and impact on other species.

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

- A. European Hornet
- B. Asian Giant Hornet
- C. Bald-Faced Hornet
- D. Northern Giant Hornet

48. Consider the following statements regarding optical fibers:

1. Total Internal Reflection is the principle that enables the confinement of light within optical fibers.
2. Information is encoded into optical signals as fast, blinking light pulses, usually representing binary digits.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the International Solar Alliance (ISA):

1. It was launched jointly by India and the US during COP21.
2. Membership of the ISA is restricted to countries located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime came into force after the Constitutional (122<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament in 2016.
2. The GST Council, established under Article 269A of the Constitution decides on key GST matters like tax rates, exemptions etc.
3. The Union Finance Minister serves as the Chairperson of the GST Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

51. With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:

1. It is established in conformity with the Paris Principles.
2. It is vested with powers equivalent to those of a civil court.
3. Its recommendations are mandatory for the government to implement, as it functions as a statutory body.

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How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

52. Consider the following pairs:

Geothermal Feature	Location
Hot Spring	Gaurikund
Geysers	Yellowstone National Park
Fumaroles	Barren Island

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

53. Consider the following statements regarding Mitochondria:

1. They are membrane-bound organelles responsible for energy production and contain their own DNA, known as mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA).
2. mtDNA is resistant to deletion mutations, which helps prevent significant impairment of mitochondrial function over time.

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

54. Consider the following statements:

1. In the First Judges Case of 1981, the Supreme Court ruled that the President of India has the final authority in judicial appointments and is not required to follow the advice of consulted judges.
2. In the Second Judges Case (1993), the SC stated that the Chief Justice of India (CJI) must consult the two senior-most SC judges for HC appointments.
3. In the Third Judges Case (1998), the SC ruled that the CJI must consult the collegium of four senior-most SC judges for HC judge transfers.

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

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

55. Consider the following statements:

1. Education was originally in Concurrent List under the Government of India Act 1935, but was moved to the state subject through the 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment in 1976.
2. The 89<sup>th</sup> Amendment Constitution Act, 2002 made the Right to Education a fundamental right under Article 21A for children aged 6-14 years.
3. Article 45 of the Directive Principles of State Policy was amended to highlight the state's responsibility for early childhood care and education until the age of 14.

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

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

56. Consider the following statements:

1. He survived the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919.
2. He joined the Ghadar Party in 1924 to mobilize Indians overseas against British rule.
3. He assassinated Michael O'Dwyer and was hanged in 1940, at Pentonville Prison, London.

Which of the following personalities is being identified by the above statements?

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Kartar Singh Sarabha
- C. Sardar Udham Singh
- D. Sohan Singh Bhakna

57. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Pension Scheme administered by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. The scheme targets unorganised workers aged 18 to 40, with a monthly income of up to Rs 15,000.
3. The scheme promises a pension of Rs 10,000 per month after the worker turns 60.

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

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

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58. Consider the following statements regarding Jallikattu:

1. Evidence of Jallikattu has been discovered in both Indus Valley seals and ancient cave paintings near Madurai.
2. This sport involves the Pulikulam and Kangayam breeds of bulls, which are highly prized for their market value and breeding quality.

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. Consider the following statements related to Lion-tailed Macaque:

1. They are endemic to the Himalayan region.
2. They are arboreal and diurnal creatures.
3. Dominant males produce loud, human-like 'whoops' to warn intruders.

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

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

60. The book *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, often in news, was authored by which of the following?

- A. Albert Einstein
- B. Galileo Galilei
- C. Johannes Kepler
- D. Isaac Newton

61. Regarding the Ken-Betwa Link Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first initiative under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for interlinking rivers.
2. It aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh, both of which are tributaries of the Narmada River.

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. Regarding the Biodiversity credits, consider the following statements:

1. They are tradable financial instruments that reward positive biodiversity outcomes through the creation and sale of land or ocean-based units over a fixed period.

2. The World Economic Forum (WEF) launched the Biodiversity Credits Initiative to unlock new financing for measurable positive outcomes for nature.

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

63. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 324(1) gives the Election Commission authority over all elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the President, Vice-President and Rajya Sabha members.
2. Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners serve for five years or until they turn 65, whichever is earlier.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.

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

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

64. Consider the following statements:

1. Block mountains are formed by faulting and the movement of large blocks of the Earth's crust horizontally.
2. Strike-slip faults occur when tectonic plates slide horizontally with minimal vertical movement.
3. Reverse faults, also known as thrust faults, occur when the upper block moves up and over the lower block.

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

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

65. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) is a weighted average of a currency's bilateral exchange rates relative to multiple trading partner currencies.
2. A Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) above 100 signifies undervaluation while a value below 100 suggests overvaluation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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66. Consider the following statements regarding Zika virus:

1. Zika virus is transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes, which bite mostly during the day.
2. It is generally non-fatal, but it can cause microcephaly (reduced head size) in babies born to pregnant women who are infected.

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 Cooperative Sector in India:

1. The right to form cooperative societies is a fundamental right under Article 19 of Constitution introduced by the 97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011.
2. India's cooperative sector accounts for above 50% of the distribution of agricultural loans.

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

68. Consider the following statements related to the Election Commission of India:

1. It is responsible for conducting elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assemblies, and Panchayats.
2. The Constitution explicitly outlines a specific procedure for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioners.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office on grounds of proven misbehavior or incapacity.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

69. With reference to the Lagrange points, consider the following statements:

1. Lagrange point-1 (L1) lies between the Sun-Earth line.
2. The James Webb Space Telescope orbits the Sun near the L2.
3. Objects at L4 and L5 maintain stable positions due to the unique gravitational and centripetal forces acting on them.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

70. Consider the following statements regarding the provisions related to the Governor in India:

1. Under Article 174, the Governor may recommend dissolving the Legislative Assembly if no party can form a government; however, this power is subject to certain conditions.
2. Under Article 176, the Governor addresses the legislature at the first session after general elections and annually, explaining the reasons for summoning the assembly or both Houses.

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

71. Consider the following statements:

1. Zero hour is a formal device mentioned in the Rules of Procedure, allowing Parliament members to raise matters without prior notice.
2. A Dilatory Motion is a motion to adjourn the debate on a bill, motion, or resolution, or to delay the progress of business under consideration in the House.

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

72. Consider the following statements regarding World Trade Organization (WTO):

1. WTO was set up under Marrakesh Treaty (1994) and as an organization aims to improve living standards, generate employment, and expand global trade.
2. The Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM), introduced into GATT in 1989 initially focused on trade in goods only.

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

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

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73. Consider the following statements regarding Jalvahak scheme:

1. It provides reimbursements up to 35% of operating expenses for cargo movement on National Waterways (NW) 1, 2, and 16 via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.
2. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is the nodal agency responsible for implementing the Jalvahak scheme and manages 111 declared National Waterways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. Consider the following statements regarding National Testing Agency (NTA):

1. It was established as an autonomous organization under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
2. The Director General of NTA is appointed by the Ministry of Education.

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra (KMY):

1. The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is organized annually by India through Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathula Pass in Sikkim.
2. Hindus believe Lord Shiva resides at the peak, while Jains regard it as Mount Ashtapada, where Rishabhadeva achieved liberation.

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

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

76. Consider the following statements regarding the Kisan Kavach:

1. It is made using oxime fabric, which chemically breaks down pesticides that come into contact with the cloth during spraying operations.
2. This initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to reduce pesticide poisoning in South Asia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

77. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Zoo Authority (CZA):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and focuses on strengthening conservation efforts for India's biodiversity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

78. Consider the following statements regarding the Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC):

1. The EMC is aligned with India's Maritime Vision 2030, which includes over 150 initiatives aimed at transforming the maritime sector.
2. It reduces the shipping distance between Chennai and Vladivostok to 5,600 nautical miles, significantly cutting transit time.
3. Vladivostok, a key port in the EMC, is the largest Russian port in the Pacific Ocean.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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79. Regarding the Protected Area Regime (PAR), consider the following statements:

1. It is a set of regulations established under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958.
2. It is aimed at regulating foreign visitors to areas that are considered strategically important or vulnerable to external threats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

80. Regarding the Sacred Groves, consider the following statements:

1. They are the tracts of virgin forests that are left untouched by the local inhabitants and are protected by the local people due to their culture and religious beliefs.
2. Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the President to declare any private or community land, as a community reserve, under which sacred groves can be declared as community reserves.

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

81. Regarding the Operation Greens Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Launched in 2018 it is a central sector scheme, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.
2. It aims to stabilize the prices of perishable crops and enhance farmers' earnings by drawing inspiration from "Operation Flood (White Revolution)".
3. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, with funding provided by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

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

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

82. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an extinct flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, which is east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.
2. It belonged to the Columbidae family.

3. It became extinct due to human activity and the introduction of invasive species like pigs, rats, and cats, which preyed on its eggs and chicks.

Which of the following birds best matches the above description?

- A. Dodo
- B. Passenger Pigeon
- C. Great Auk
- D. Moa

83. Consider the following statements regarding Nidhi Companies:

1. It is a company registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. It works on the principle of mutual benefits and is regulated by the Ministry of Finance.
3. They are Non-Banking Financial Company and Reserve Bank of India has powers to issue directives related to their deposit acceptance.

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

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

84. Consider the following statements:

1. Return on Equity measures a business's profitability relative to its total assets.
2. Slippage Ratio measures a bank's ability to absorb losses and ensure stability, protecting depositors.
3. Capital Adequacy Ratio measures new accretions to non-performing assets (NPAs) as a share of standard advances at the beginning of the year.

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

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

85. Consider the following statements regarding the SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment):

1. It is a technology demonstrator mission developed by the ISRO to showcase in-space docking technology.
2. It aims to test technologies like electric power transfer and advanced spacecraft control mechanisms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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86. Deep State which is often seen in the news is best described as:
- A legally constituted administrative body that operates under constitutional mandates.
  - A covert network of powerful individuals or institutions working behind the scenes to influence government policy and decisions, often outside democratic accountability.
  - A political theory that emphasizes the separation of powers in a state.
  - An international organization focusing on global financial stability and cooperation.

87. Consider the following statements:

- Smart Cities Mission (SCM) was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and aims to enhance infrastructure, quality of life, and sustainability in cities.
- The 'SAAR' (Smart Cities and Academia towards Action and Research) platform connects academia and government to document and research urban initiatives under the SCM.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

88. Consider the following statements regarding Most-favoured-nation (MFN):

- MFN requires a country to reduce trade barriers for all trading partners equally, regardless of their economic status.

- The TRIPS Agreement permits exceptions to the non-discrimination principle, known as Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) treatment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

89. Consider the following features:

- It comprises tropical evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests and grasslands
- Indigenous tribes such as the Malayarayans, Mala Pandarams, and Uralis inhabit the area.
- Syzygium periyarensis and Habenaria periyarensis are endemic to this region.

Which of the following tiger reserves is best described by above features?

- Periyar
- Veerangana Durgavati
- Palamau
- Satkosia

90. Consider the following statements related to Sashastra Seema Bal:

- It guards India's border with Nepal and Bhutan.
- It comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence.
- It was awarded the President's Colours for its key role in national security.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

## Answers

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (B)  | 2. (A)  | 3. (C)  | 4. (B)  | 5. (A)  | 6. (A)  | 7. (D)  | 8. (C)  | 9. (D)  | 10. (B) |
| 11. (A) | 12. (C) | 13. (B) | 14. (A) | 15. (C) | 16. (C) | 17. (D) | 18. (A) | 19. (A) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (C) | 22. (D) | 23. (A) | 24. (B) | 25. (A) | 26. (D) | 27. (C) | 28. (A) | 29. (A) | 30. (B) |
| 31. (C) | 32. (D) | 33. (C) | 34. (B) | 35. (C) | 36. (D) | 37. (B) | 38. (A) | 39. (A) | 40. (B) |
| 41. (B) | 42. (C) | 43. (A) | 44. (C) | 45. (B) | 46. (C) | 47. (D) | 48. (A) | 49. (D) | 50. (B) |
| 51. (B) | 52. (C) | 53. (A) | 54. (B) | 55. (D) | 56. (C) | 57. (A) | 58. (C) | 59. (B) | 60. (D) |
| 61. (A) | 62. (C) | 63. (B) | 64. (B) | 65. (A) | 66. (C) | 67. (A) | 68. (A) | 69. (C) | 70. (C) |
| 71. (B) | 72. (D) | 73. (C) | 74. (C) | 75. (D) | 76. (A) | 77. (A) | 78. (D) | 79. (C) | 80. (A) |
| 81. (C) | 82. (A) | 83. (A) | 84. (D) | 85. (C) | 86. (B) | 87. (C) | 88. (C) | 89. (A) | 90. (B) |

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## Explanations

1. (B)

Exp:

- The Arctic Council, established in **1996 by the Ottawa Declaration**, is an intergovernmental body aimed at promoting cooperation among Arctic States, indigenous communities, and inhabitants. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Denmark** represents **Greenland and the Faroe Islands in the Council**, ensuring their participation in Arctic governance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India**, though not a member, has held **observer status in the Council since 2013**, reflecting its commitment to Arctic research and policy initiatives. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

2. (A)

Exp:

- **Gukesh** is the **second Indian Grandmaster** to win the FIDE World Chess Championship. He achieved this milestone after Viswanathan Anand, who won the title multiple times (**2000, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012**). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Koneru Humpy** won the **Women's Grand Prix series in 2019-2020**. She also won the Women's World Rapid Chess Championship in 2019. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Viswanathan Anand**, one of India's most successful chess players, won the **World Rapid Chess Championship in both 2003 and 2017**, further adding to his exceptional achievements. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

3. (C)

Exp:

- The summoning of Parliament is specified in **Article 85** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India **does not** have a fixed parliamentary calendar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ By convention, Parliament meets for **three sessions** in a year.
- The maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than **six months**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

4. (B)

Exp :

About Disease X:

- It is a **hypothetical term by WHO in 2018** for an **unknown pathogen** capable of **triggering a global pandemic**, highlighting the **need for preparedness** against emerging diseases. It emerged after the **2014–2016 West African Ebola epidemic**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- It can originate from **viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi, or prions**. Over 300 emerging diseases since 1940, 70% **zoonotic**.
- Mitigation:
- Strengthened surveillance, healthcare systems, and platforms like **CEPI** are vital for rapid detection and response.
- Global cooperation, equitable access to resources, and frameworks like **WHO's pathogen list, Pandemic Treaty, and Nagoya Protocol** are essential for preparedness. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

5. (A)

Exp :

Paris Agreement

- It is a **legally binding** global agreement under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** that was adopted in 2015 (COP 21).
- It replaced the **Kyoto Protocol** which was an earlier agreement to deal with climate change.
  - ◆ Under the Paris Agreement, each country is required to submit and update their **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)** every 5 years, outlining their plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to **combat climate change** and limit global warming to well below 2° C above pre-industrial levels, with an ambition to limit warming to 1.5° C. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

6. (A)

Exp:

Zorawar:

- The **Indian Light Tank (ILT)**, also known as Zorawar, has successfully completed firing trials at an altitude of over 4,200m.
- It was jointly developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) with contributions from various **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises** for high-altitude warfare and rapid deployment.
- It was successfully airlifted by the **Indian Air Force**, enabling rapid deployment to remote and inaccessible areas.
- It strengthens India's **mountain warfare capabilities** with indigenous innovation, offering air transportability, high-angle firing, and limited artillery roles for enhanced mobility.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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7. (D)

Exp:

- The **Convention on Wetlands**, adopted in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that is **not** part of the **United Nations or UNESCO's** system of environmental conventions and agreements. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ UNESCO serves as Depositary for the Convention.
  - ◆ **Convention on Wetlands(Ramsar Convention)** was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- In India, **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** and **Loktak Lake (Manipur)** are currently in the **Montreux Record**, while **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** was previously included but later removed. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

8. (C)

Exp:

- The biography titled **Munis al-Arwah**(The Confidant of Spirits) was written by **Jahanara** about **Shaikh Muinuddin Chishti**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The fourteenth-century **Siyar-ul-Auliya** written by **Mir Khwurd Kirmani** was the first **Sufi tazkira** (literally, "to mention and memorialise"; biographical accounts of saints) written in India, primarily focusing on the **Chishti saints**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Chishtis not only adopted local languages in **sama** but also conversed in **Hindavi**, the language of the people, in Delhi. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

9. (D)

Exp:

- **Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis** is a chronic lung disease which **causes the air sacs in the lungs to become scarred and fibrous**, disrupting their ability to exchange oxygen efficiently. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The **tissues around alveoli in the lungs become thick and stiff**.
- The exact cause of IPF is unknown, hence the term "idiopathic" which means unexplained.
- **IPF is more common in males** and in current or former smokers. It most commonly affects adults over the age of 50. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Other risk factors include genetic factors, exposures such as cigarette smoking, and viral infections.

10. (B)

Exp:

- The **Franklin Fire**, which recently gained attention, is closely linked to the **Santa Ana winds**, a phenomenon primarily associated with **Southern California, particularly areas like Malibu**.
- These winds, occurring between October and January, are driven by a pressure system where high pressure over the Great Basin and low pressure over the California coast

cause strong winds to sweep from inland deserts toward the Pacific Ocean.

- **Malibu, being a coastal city in California**, is especially vulnerable to such fires due to its dry conditions, the presence of wildland-urban interfaces, and the amplifying effect of the Santa Ana winds.
- While **Cape Town, Athens, and Sydney also face wildfire risks** due to their respective climates, the **Santa Ana winds are a unique and defining factor for California's wildfire behavior**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

11. (A)

Exp:

- **Article 66** outlines the qualifications for Vice President, requiring Indian citizenship, a minimum age of **35**, and eligibility for **Rajya Sabha** election. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 67(b)** states that the Vice President can be removed if an effective majority of all the then members of **Rajya Sabha** members passes a resolution, which must also be approved by the Lok Sabha with 14 days' notice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Constitution does not specify emoluments for the **Vice-President**, who receives a salary in his capacity as the ex-officio **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

12. (C)

Exp:

- Launched in January 2018 by **NITI Aayog**, the **Aspirational Districts Programme** aims to transform 112 districts across India, focusing on five key themes (Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Infrastructure), with progress measured on 81 development indicators. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **NITI Aayog** launched '**Sampoornata Abhiyan**', a 3-month campaign from 4th July to 30th September 2024, to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in **Aspirational Districts and Blocks** across the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

13. (B)

Exp:

- The **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** must be constituted by employers at workplaces with **10 or more employees** to address sexual harassment complaints, and it has the powers of civil courts to gather evidence. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In organizations with fewer than **10 employees** or no **Internal Committee**, a Local Committee (LC) is formed by the **District Officer** to handle complaints. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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**14. (A)****Exp:**

- **Moldova** is a **landlocked country**, bordered by **Ukraine to the east and Romania to the west**.
- It is located in the **northeastern part of the Balkan Peninsula**, with most of its land lying between the **winding Prut and Dniester rivers**.
  - ◆ The Balkan Peninsula is in southeastern Europe, and Moldova is situated to the east of the Carpathian Mountains.
- Moldova's strategic location and its historical ties to the region make it the best match for the given features.

**15. (C)****Exp:**

- Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status refers to a trade arrangement in **which one country grants another country non-discriminatory trade conditions**, ensuring that the recipient country will not face disadvantages compared to other trading partners. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The principle of MFN is central to the World Trade Organization (WTO), where it mandates that if a country offers special trade conditions to one WTO member, those same conditions must be extended to all other WTO members.
- Importantly, **MFN does not imply preferential treatment; rather, it guarantees equal treatment in trade relations. Hence, statement II is not correct.**
- However, there are exceptions to the MFN principle. Countries can enter Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) or Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs), where they offer special trade concessions to members of the agreement, excluding non-members.
- **Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.**

**16. (C)****Exp:**

- Any foreign investment of **10% or more** in an Indian listed company qualifies as FDI, while investments below 10% must reach the 10% threshold within one year to be classified as FDI; otherwise, they are treated as **portfolio investments. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- FDI in India is governed by the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999**, and is administered by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- FDI under sectors is permitted either through the **Automatic route or Government route**. Under the FDI by Automatic Route, the non-resident or Indian company **does not require** any approval from the Government of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ Whereas, under the Government route, approval from the Government of India is required prior to investment.

**17. (D)****Exp:**

- As per the **Third Judges Case (1998)**, the **Chief Justice of India** should consult a collegium of two senior-most judges of the **Supreme Court** for appointments to the High Court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **High Court judges** are transferred under **Article 222** of the Constitution of India, following the procedure outlined in the **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)** established in 1998, based on the Supreme Court's judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) and the advisory opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). According to the current MoP, the **Chief Justice of India** initiates the transfer proposal in consultation with the **four senior-most puisne judges** of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**18. (A)****Exp:**

- The **Brahmaputra River** originates in Tibet, near the **Chemayungdung glacier**, close to the sources of the Indus and the Satluj, in Tibet and known as the **Yarlung Tsangpo**. It flows eastward through Tibet before entering India in Arunachal Pradesh and later into Assam. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Brahmaputra is a **braided river**, meaning it often **splits into multiple channels** and rejoins. This phenomenon is due to the high sediment load carried by the river and its variable flow. This is most prominent in its Assam valley course. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**19. (A)****Exp:**

- The **Hindon River**, originating from the **lower Shivalik ranges in Saharanpur District, Uttar Pradesh**, once played a crucial role in supporting agriculture and fisheries in Western Uttar Pradesh.
  - ◆ Flowing for 400 km through the industrial belt before merging with the **Yamuna in Noida**, it was historically a vital water resource. The river's major tributaries include: **Kali (West) River and Krishni River.**

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- However, rapid industrialization, urbanization, and pollution along its course, especially from untreated industrial waste and sewage, have severely degraded its ecological health.
- This extensive pollution led the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to declare the Hindon River a “dead river” in 2015**, as it became unfit for bathing and could no longer support aquatic life.
  - ◆ The term “dead river” refers to water bodies that have lost their capacity to sustain ecosystems due to severe pollution, highlighting the urgent need for revitalization and effective environmental management to restore the river’s health.
- Hence, option A is correct.

## 20. (B)

Exp:

- **Wroughton’s free-tailed bat (Otomops wroughtoni)**, a rare species from the **molossus bat family**, was recently spotted in Delhi’s Yamuna Biodiversity Park.
- Listed as “Data Deficient” by the IUCN and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, **it is primarily found in the Western Ghats**, with a single breeding colony
  - ◆ Also, It has small colonies in Meghalaya’s Jaintia Hills and a lone sighting in Cambodia.
- Characterized by its large size, prominent ears, bicoloured velvet fur, and powerful flying capabilities, **it roosts in caves or damp, dark warm areas**, aiding insect population control and pollination.
  - ◆ **Delhi hosts 14 bat species, including 4 locally extinct ones**, while the Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram is the only known roosting site for Blyth’s horseshoe bat in the NCR.
- Hence, option B is correct.

## 21. (C)

Exp:

**Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB):**

- The PNGRB was established under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act of 2006. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its objective is to **protect consumer interests**, regulate petroleum-related activities, and promote competitive markets. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The PNGRB authorizes **City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks**, and natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, sets tariffs, and establishes technical and safety standards. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

## 22. (D)

Exp:

- The **Economic Union** is a common market where member countries coordinate macroeconomic and exchange rate policies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A **Common Market** is a customs union where the movement of factors of production is relatively free amongst member countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Custom Union** is a free-trade agreement in which members apply a common external tariff (CET) schedule to imports from non-members. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

## 23. (A)

Exp:

• **Common Murres:**

- ◆ They are **black-and-white seabirds** (often described as “flying penguins”) that somewhat resemble penguins in appearance, and are among the most plentiful seabirds in Alaska.
- ◆ They are the **deepest diving bird** in the northern hemisphere diving up to 600 feet deep.
- ◆ IUCN Status: Least Concern.
- A marine heatwave (MHW) nicknamed “the Blob” killed 4 Million of Alaska’s Common Murre Seabirds between 2014 and 2016.
  - ◆ This was the **largest documented die-off** of a single species of wild bird or mammal.
- Hence, option A is correct.

## 24. B

Exp:

- For schemes requiring substantial resources, financial assistance will be shared between the **Central and State Governments**, with **90% contributed by the Centre and 10% by the State**, ensuring equitable fiscal responsibility and efficient program implementation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Government of India determines and updates MGNREGA wage rates based on **Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL)**, an index tracking price changes in goods and services consumed by agricultural workers, aligning wages with sector-specific inflation patterns. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Dr. Nagesh Singh Committee (2017)** suggested linking MGNREGA wages to the **Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rural**, which better reflects rural household inflation, instead of **CPI-Agricultural Labour**, ensuring wage adjustments align with broader rural cost-of-living changes. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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25. A

Exp:

- **The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the “SPS Agreement”)** entered into force with the establishment of the **World Trade Organization on 1 January 1995**. It concerns the application of **food safety and animal and plant health regulations**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **The SPS Agreement** encourages governments to establish national SPS measures consistent with international standards, guidelines and recommendations. This process is often referred to as **“harmonization”**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- While the **WTO** itself **does not** create these standards, it **facilitates their development** through participation in other international bodies. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
  - ◆ As of the drafting, 132 WTO member governments are involved in this collaborative process, ensuring that trade regulations related to food safety, animal, and plant health are consistent globally.

26. (D)

Exp:

- **Hallucinogens:** These alter perception and emotional states, often causing hallucinations. **Psilocybin**, found in magic mushrooms, is a classic example of a hallucinogen that impacts brain function by altering serotonin levels. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.
- **Opioids:** Known for their pain-relieving and euphoric effects, **opioids like opium are highly addictive** and can lead to significant health and social consequences. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.
- **Cannabis:** Hashish, derived from the Cannabis sativa plant, is a concentrated resinous form that impairs cognitive abilities and has addictive potential. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.
- Each drug type affects the central nervous system differently. Hallucinogens alter perception and cognition, opioids are depressants that alleviate pain, and cannabis, while unique, shares characteristics with both stimulants and depressants.
- Hence, **option D is correct**.

27. (C)

Exp:

- **Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg** are prominent **coastal forts** constructed during the Maratha era, playing a key role in Maratha naval resistance.
- **Sindhudurg, also known as the “Fort of the Sea,”** was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj off the coast of Malvan in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

- ◆ Constructed between 1664 and 1667, the fort was strategically placed on a rocky island to serve as a base for Maratha naval operations and protect the western coastline from foreign threats.
- ◆ Its remarkable engineering features include 32 towers, a hidden entrance, and an underwater passage leading to a nearby village.
- **Vijaydurg**, originally known as **‘Gheria,’** was constructed by the **Shilahar dynasty** in the 12th century and **later seized by Shivaji Maharaj in 1653**.
  - ◆ **Renamed ‘Vijay Durg’ to signify victory**, this fort, located in the village of Girye, became a crucial stronghold for the Marathas in their maritime defense against the Portuguese and other colonial powers.
- Both forts were integral to the Maratha Empire’s naval dominance along the western coast.
- Hence, **option C is correct**

28. (A)

Exp:

**Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing:**

- **About:** PSC on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing assist Parliament in **reviewing and overseeing policies, legislation, and issues** related to agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing industries.
  - ◆ It is constituted under **Rule 331C of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Jurisdiction:** It is mandated with the task of **scrutiny and oversight** of the working of the following Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India:
  - ◆ **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**
    - Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
    - Department of Agricultural Research and Education
  - ◆ **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**
    - Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
    - Department of Fisheries
  - ◆ **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**
  - ◆ **Ministry of Cooperation**
- **Composition:** It has **31 members: 21 from Lok Sabha**, nominated by the Speaker, and **10 from Rajya Sabha**, nominated by the Chairman. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ The **Chairperson** of the Committee is **appointed by the Speaker** from amongst the members of the Committee from Lok Sabha.

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- **Tenure of Members:** The term of office of the members of the Committee **does not exceed one year.**
- Recently, the **Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing** tabled its first report on **demands for grants (2024-25)** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the **18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.**
  - ◆ It recommended providing a **legal guarantee** on **Minimum Support Price (MSP).** Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

29. (A)

Exp:

- Currently, India exports to **over 100 nations**, with the **top three** destinations for defence exports in 2023-24 being the **USA, France, and Armenia.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Key Items in India's Defence Exports:**
  - ◆ **BrahMos Missiles:** India delivered the first batch of **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missiles to the **Philippines**, following a **USD 375-million deal** for three shore-based, anti-ship missile batteries. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
    - **ASEAN** countries and some **Gulf nations** are showing increasing interest in acquiring **BrahMos** missiles.
  - ◆ **Dornier-228 Aircraft:** India exports the **Dornier-228 aircraft**, a versatile and reliable aircraft for defense and civilian applications to various countries.
  - ◆ **Subsidiary Aircraft Parts:** India exports **subsidiary aircraft parts** like **fuselage** and **wings** to defense giants such as **Boeing** and **Lockheed Martin** as part of the global supply chain and offset commitments.
  - ◆ **Software and Electronic Equipment:** India exports **software** and **electronic equipment** for defense applications to **France.**
  - ◆ **155mm Artillery Guns:** India has been exporting **155mm artillery guns** to countries like **Armenia**, highlighting its capabilities in producing advanced artillery systems.
  - ◆ **Akash Missile System:** The **Akash** air defence missile system, including its variant **Akash-1S**, has been a major export, with **Armenia** being the first international customer.
  - ◆ **Pinaka:** **Pinaka** multi-launch rocket systems have been exported, with **Armenia** being a significant buyer

30. (B)

Exp :

- Pangolins are the most trafficked **mammals**, with high demand for their **meat and scales** in Asia and Africa, primarily for use in traditional medicine to treat ailments like rheumatism, arthritis, and skin conditions.
- **Pangolins Species:** There are eight species of pangolins, found across two continents:
  - ◆ **Africa:** **Black-bellied pangolin**, **White-bellied pangolin**, **Giant Ground pangolin** and **Temminck's Ground pangolin.**
  - ◆ **Asia:** **Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*)**, **Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*)**, **Philippine pangolin**, and the **Sunda pangolin.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Conservation Status:** The conservation status of these species ranges from **Vulnerable to Critically Endangered.**
  - ◆ Trade of pangolins is banned under the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species** and they are listed in **Appendix I** of the **IUCN Red List**, indicating they are threatened with extinction.
  - ◆ In India, the **Indian** (endangered on IUCN Red List) and **Chinese pangolins** are listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, prohibiting exploitation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

31. (C)

Exp:

- Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by The Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ This gulf is a large shallow harbor in the Indian Ocean, part of the Laccadive Sea. The Coromandel Coast region is situated between the southeastern tip of India and the west coast of Sri Lanka.
- India has extended Development Assistance to Sri Lanka through **Lines of Credit (LOCs)** under the **Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ India extends concessional LOCs through Exim Bank, supporting over 600 projects worth USD 32 billion in 68 countries.
  - ◆ Key sectors include **infrastructure, agriculture, industry, disaster management, and IT.**

32. (D)

Exp:

- **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** mandates free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

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- The RTE Act, 2009 **mandates School Management Committees (SMCs)** in all schools, comprising parents, teachers, and local representatives, with at least 75% parents and 50% women members. SMCs monitor school functioning, oversee grant utilization, and prepare annual and tri-annual development plans. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The RTE Act explicitly prohibits corporal punishment and mental harassment of children in schools. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

33. (C)

Exp:

- India has the **largest population of Asian elephants in Asia**. It is home to 60% of the global population of Asian elephants, which are found throughout South and Southeast Asia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Asian Elephant **has been given the highest level of protection in India** by its inclusion in Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. They are also included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

34. (B)

Exp:

- **Green Deposits:** These are **interest-bearing deposits** earmarked for funding **green projects**, such as **solar energy, clean transportation**, and sustainable water management.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the Green Deposit Scheme in June 2023 to encourage banks to offer green deposits to customers. The scheme aims to help India's sustainability agenda and increase the flow of credit to green activities.
- **RBI does not specify any criteria of 50% allocation** of customer deposits for green projects. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Deposits raised under the RBI's Green Deposits Framework are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

35. (C)

Exp:

**Indian National Congress Sessions:**

- The first Session of the Indian National Congress was presided over by **W.C. Banerjee**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **1924 Belgaum session** was the only Indian National Congress session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

36. (D)

Exp:

**Quantum Satellite:**

- A quantum satellite is a communications satellite that employs quantum physics to secure its signals, making it highly resistant to interception. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It utilizes quantum cryptography (a method that uses quantum mechanics to encrypt and transmit data), particularly Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), to protect data by detecting eavesdropping during transmission. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

37. (B)

Exp:

- **Article 217** of the Constitution states that the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and the Governor of the State. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **First Judges Case (1981):**
  - ◆ It declared that the "primacy" of the CJI's (Chief Justice of India) recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for "cogent reasons."
  - ◆ The ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.
- **Second Judges Case (1993):**
  - ◆ SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that "consultation" really meant "concurrence". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It added that it was not the CJI's individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.
- **Third Judges Case (1998):**
  - ◆ SC on the President's reference (Article 143) expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.
- **Fourth Judges Case (2015):**
  - ◆ The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act of 2014 has replaced the collegium system of appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts with a new body called the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).
  - ◆ However, in 2015, the Supreme Court declared both the 99th Constitutional Amendment as well as the NJAC Act as unconstitutional and void in the fourth judge case. Consequently, the earlier collegium system became operative again.

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**38. (A)****Exp:**

- **Greenland** is the world's largest island, situated in the **North Atlantic Ocean**, and is an **autonomous territory of Denmark**.
  - ◆ It features prominent mountain ranges like the Watkins Range and the Stauning Alps.
  - ◆ Historically, Greenland has engaged in mining activities since the late 18th century, extracting various minerals and natural resources.
- Hence, option A is correct.

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## 39. (A)

Exp:

- The **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana** targets **unorganised workers** aged **18 to 40**, such as street vendors, domestic workers, construction labourers, and agricultural workers, with a monthly income **up to Rs 15,000**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Workers are required to make monthly contributions (premium) ranging from **Rs 55 to Rs 200**, depending on their entry age, with the government matching their contribution. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It is a **Central Sector Pension Scheme** launched in 2019, administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acts as the Pension Fund Manager. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
  - ◆ **Pension Benefits:** The scheme promises a pension of Rs 3,000 per month after the worker turns 60. However, if the worker dies before 60, there is no lump sum payment to their family.
  - ◆ In case of the subscriber's demise, their spouse will receive 50% of the pension amount as family pension.

## 40. (B)

Exp:

Sir Isaac Newton:

- Sir Isaac Newton, born on **25<sup>th</sup> December 1642**, is one of history's most influential scientists. On his **382<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary**, it is important to reflect on the groundbreaking contributions made to science, which continue to shape the understanding of the world today.
- Contributions of Newton:
  - ◆ Laws of Motion:
    - First Law (Inertia)
    - Second Law (Force and Acceleration)
    - Third Law (Action and Reaction)
  - ◆ Gravity (g) and Gravitation (G):
    - **Gravity:** Sir Isaac Newton discovered the existence of **gravity** in the late 1660s.
      - Gravity is a force by which a planet or other body draws objects toward its center.
  - ◆ **Reflecting Telescope:** To solve the problem of **chromatic aberration** (color distortion) in telescopes that used lenses, **Isaac Newton created the reflecting telescope** in 1668.

- By **substituting the primary lens with a mirror**, he was able to eliminate **chromatic aberration** and enhance **image clarity**.

- Hence, **option B is correct**.

## 41. (B)

Exp:

- The **Ethiopian wolf** is a **specialized rodent hunter native to the Afroalpine ecosystem**, particularly found in the **Ethiopian Highlands**.
  - ◆ These high-altitude regions, often referred to as "**sky islands**," are **isolated mountain areas above tropical forests**, offering a unique and harsh environment at elevations of around 3,200 meters.
- The Ethiopian wolf feeds on a **variety of small rodents**, but it also plays an interesting role in pollination.
  - ◆ It feeds on the **nectar of the Ethiopian red hot poker flower**, a brightly colored red and yellow flower known for its sweet nectar, attracting various pollinators.
- As the wolf feeds, pollen can stick to its muzzle, potentially aiding in the flower's pollination process.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

## 42. (C)

Exp:

- **Tax buoyancy** is defined as the **ratio of the growth rate of tax revenue to the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product**. It measures the responsiveness of tax revenue to changes in the economy's output. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ A buoyancy greater than 1 indicates the tax system is responsive and efficient.
- When a **tax is buoyant**, its **revenue increases without raising the tax rate** because of economic growth, improved compliance, and the elasticity of the tax base.
  - ◆ As GDP grows, **higher incomes, increased consumption, and greater formalization** of the economy lead to a natural rise in tax collections. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

## 43. (A)

Exp:

- **Chaudhary Charan Singh** was a prominent Indian politician and farmer leader, born in 1902 in Uttar Pradesh.
  - ◆ He served as the 5th Prime Minister of India in 1979-80 and was also the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on two occasions.

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- A champion of agricultural reforms, he advocated for the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for farmers and introduced several legislative measures, including the **Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill (1938)**, to strengthen agricultural markets.
- His contributions to rural development included the establishment of NABARD and the elevation of rural development to a full-fledged ministry.
- **Kisan Diwas** is celebrated on **23rd December** to honor farmers and commemorate the birth anniversary of **Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh**.
- He authored influential books like **'Abolition of Zamindari'**, **'Co-operative Farming X-rayed'**, **'India's Poverty and its Solution'**, **'Peasant Proprietorship or Land to the Workers'** and **'Prevention of Division of Holdings Below a Certain Minimum'**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

44. (C)

Exp:

- **GDP** indeed sums up the total value of **final goods and services** produced in an economy in a given time period, which ensures that only goods that are not further processed are included. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **GDP** at market price is calculated by adjusting **GVA** with taxes and subsidies. Specifically, GDP is derived by **adding taxes** and **subtracting subsidies** from the **GVA**. This makes GDP higher than GVA when taxes exceed subsidies. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

45. (B)

Exp:

- Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) was established in 1994 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 as an autonomous body promoted by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- SFAC promotes development of small agribusiness through its Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) Scheme for value added processing and marketing linkages. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ One of VCA Scheme, which focuses on supporting agribusinesses, particularly those related to value-added processing and the development of marketing linkages.

46. (C)

Exp:

- **Quantum entanglement** is a **fundamental concept in quantum physics**, where two or more particles become interconnected in such a way that the state of one particle is directly influenced by the state of the other, even if they are separated by vast distances.
- This phenomenon **challenges classical physics' notion of locality**, as **changes in one particle are reflected instantaneously in its entangled counterpart**, regardless of the distance between them.
- It has significant implications for **quantum computing**, **secure quantum communication**, and understanding the nature of reality itself.
- Recent advancements, such as **quantum teleportation** and **quantum cryptography**, rely heavily on this principle, making it a topic of cutting-edge scientific research.
- Hence, option C is correct.

47. (D)

Exp:

- The **Northern Giant Hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*)** is the **largest hornet in the world**, growing up to 2 inches in length.
  - ◆ This hornet, which belongs to the order **Hymenoptera** (also including bees and ants), is easily recognizable by its large, solid yellow or orange head and black eyes.
- **Native to Asia**, this species was first sighted in Washington state near the Canadian border in 2019.
- It is commonly called the **"murder hornet"** because of its aggressive nature and devastating impact on other species, particularly native pollinators.
  - ◆ A single group of Northern Giant Hornets can **decimate an entire honeybee hive (a bee habitat) in as little as 90 minutes**.
  - ◆ These hornets deliver venom that is **seven times more potent than that of a honeybee**, and they can sting multiple times, posing a severe threat to humans and other animals.
- They **build their nests in forested regions, often in underground cavities**, making their habitats challenging to locate and control.
- Hence, option D is correct.

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48. (A)

Exp:

- **Total Internal Reflection (TIR)** is the principle that enables the confinement of light within optical fibers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ When light passes from a medium with a higher refractive index (like glass) to one with a lower refractive index (such as air) at a certain angle, it may not escape the medium but instead be completely reflected back inside. This process is known as TIR.
- Information is encoded into **optical signals** as fast, blinking light pulses, usually representing binary digits (zeros and ones). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ These optical signals travel through optical fibers over long distances, often several kilometers, with minimal loss of signal quality. Upon reaching the destination, a receiver decodes the information from the transmitted optical signal, reconstructing the original data.

49. (D)

Exp:

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was launched jointly by the Prime Minister of **India** and the President of **France** during COP21 in Paris. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- However, membership is **not restricted** to countries between the Tropics. In 2018, the ISA amended its framework to allow all member states of the United Nations to join. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

50. (B)

Exp:

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** regime came into force after the **Constitutional (122<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) Bill** was passed by both Houses of Parliament in 2016. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The GST Council, established under **Article 279A** of the Constitution, is a joint forum of the Centre and States. It decides on key GST matters like tax rates, exemptions, and revenue sharing, ensuring a cooperative federal approach to taxation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Union Finance Minister serves as the Chairperson of the GST Council. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ The Union Minister of State for Finance is a member of the GST Council representing the Centre.
  - ◆ Each state can nominate a minister in charge of finance, taxation, or any other designated minister to be a member of the GST Council.

51. (B)

Exp:

- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** of India is an autonomous statutory body established to promote and protect human rights in the country.
  - ◆ It was constituted on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993, which was later amended in 2006 and 2019.
- The **NHRC was created in accordance with the Paris Principles**, international standards adopted in 1991 in Paris and **endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993**, which guide the functioning of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) worldwide. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Commission is **vested with powers equivalent to those of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, which includes ordering the discovery and production of documents, receiving evidence through affidavits, requisitioning public records, issuing commissions for witness examinations, and exercising any additional powers prescribed by relevant laws. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The NHRC can only offer recommendations to the government, which are **not legally binding**. **Being a statutory body does not confer any legal authority** to enforce its decisions or ensure compliance, thereby limiting its effectiveness. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

52. (C)

Exp:

- **Hot Springs:** Hot springs are formed when **groundwater is heated by geothermal energy and emerges at the surface**. In volcanic areas, this water comes in contact with hot rocks heated by magma.
  - ◆ In non-volcanic areas, geothermal gradients cause the water to circulate deep enough to contact hot rocks and reach the surface.
  - ◆ **Gaurikund, located in Uttarakhand**, is a well-known example of a hot spring. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Geysers:** Geysers are geothermal features that **periodically erupt hot water and steam due to underground heating**.
  - ◆ In volcanic regions, large amounts of groundwater fill underground cavities, and when heated by nearby magma, the water flashes into steam, causing an eruption.

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- ◆ **Yellowstone National Park in the USA** is home to many famous geysers. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

- **Fumaroles:** Fumaroles are openings in the Earth's crust through which **volcanic gases and steam are released**.

- ◆ These occur when magma interacts with groundwater, producing steam and gases such as hydrogen sulfide.

- ◆ **Barren Island, located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, is an active volcano with fumaroles, making it a fitting example. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

- Hence, option C is correct.

53. (A)

Exp:

- **Mitochondria** are membrane-bound organelles found in the cytoplasm of most **eukaryotic cells**. Unlike most other organelles, mitochondria have their own DNA, known as **mtDNA**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ Often referred to as the **"powerhouses" of the cell**, mitochondria are essential for **producing energy** needed for various cellular processes.

- ◆ Mitochondria are inherited exclusively from the mother through the egg cell.

- **Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA):** mtDNA is **prone to deletion mutations**, where parts of the **DNA are lost**. These mutations can have significant consequences on cellular function. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- ◆ A deletion mutation in mtDNA makes the molecule smaller and less functional. Mutated mtDNA can **outcompete healthy mtDNA** during replication, causing a **gradual decline in mitochondrial function**.

54. (B)

Exp:

- In the **First Judges Case of 1981 (S P Gupta vs Union of India)**, a seven-judge Constitution Bench held that the President of India is the final authority in appointing judges and is not bound to follow the advice of the consulted judges. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- In the **Second Judges case (1993)**, the **Supreme Court** ruled that no appointment of a judge of the high court can be made, unless it is in conformity with the opinion of the chief justice of India.

- In the **Third Judges case (1998)**, the Supreme Court opined that in case of the appointment of high court judges, the chief justice of India should consult a collegium of two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- ◆ In the **Third Judges case**, the Supreme Court also stated that when transferring High Court judges, the Chief Justice of India should consult, along with the collegium of the four senior-most Supreme Court judges, the Chief Justices of both the High Court from which the judge is being transferred and the one receiving the judge. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

55. (D)

Exp:

- Education was originally a **state subject** in India under the Government of India Act 1935. However, during the **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Constitutional Amendment 1976**, education was moved to the Concurrent List. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ◆ Thus now both the central and state governments can legislate on matters concerning education.

- The **86<sup>th</sup> Amendment Constitution Act, 2002** made the Right to Education a fundamental right under Article 21A for children aged 6-14 years. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ◆ It added **Article 21A** under Fundamental Rights, making education a fundamental right for children aged six to fourteen, mandating free and compulsory education.

- In the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), Article 45** was substituted to emphasize the state's responsibility to provide early childhood care and education until the age of 6. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

- ◆ Additionally, Article 51A was amended to include a duty for parents or guardians to ensure educational opportunities for their children or wards between 6 and 14 years.

56. (C)

Exp:

**Sardar Udham Singh:**

- He survived the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919, where **British Brigadier General Reginald Dyer's** troops killed over 400 unarmed civilians.

- He joined the **Ghadar Party** in **1924** to mobilize Indians overseas against British rule.

- On **13<sup>th</sup> March 1940**, Singh assassinated **Michael O'Dwyer** during a meeting at Caxton Hall in London, avenging the massacre and he was hanged on **31<sup>st</sup> July 1940**, at Pentonville Prison, London.

- Hence, option C is correct.

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57. (A)

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana:

- It is a **Central Sector Pension Scheme** launched in 2019, administered by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acts as the Pension Fund Manager. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The scheme targets **unorganised workers aged 18 to 40**, such as street vendors, domestic workers, construction labourers, and agricultural workers, with a monthly income of up to Rs 15,000. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The scheme promises a pension of **Rs 3,000 per month after** the worker turns 60. However, if the worker dies before 60, there is no lump sum payment to the family. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

58. (C)

Exp:

Jallikattu:

- Tracing back over 2,000 years, Jallikattu, a traditional sport of Tamil Nadu was originally held to select a **suitable bridegroom**.
- A seal representing Jallikattu was found at the **Indus Valley site**, preserved in the National Museum, New Delhi. A 1500-year-old cave painting near Madurai also depicts the sport. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The sport is linked to the **Ayars**, an ethnic group in India, and its name derives from "**Jalli**" (coins) and "**Kattu**" (tied).
  - It is celebrated on **Mattu Pongal Day** (3<sup>rd</sup> day of Pongal), where a bull is released, and participants tame a bull to win coins tied to its horn.
  - The sport uses the **Pulikulam or Kangayam breed of bulls**, which are highly valued for breeding and market sales. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

59. (B)

Exp:

- The lion-tailed macaque, a species of Old World monkey endemic to the **Western Ghats of India**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They are **arboreal and diurnal creatures**, meaning it spends most of its life in the trees and is active during the day, resting at night in the high canopy of rainforests. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Known for their striking black fur and light mane around the head and chin, they are often referred to as "beard apes."
- The lion-tailed macaques live in groups, with **dominant males using loud, human-like 'whoops' to alert outsiders** and protect their territory. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- As a species, they are an **important part of the biodiversity in the Western Ghats**, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, and face conservation challenges due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

60. (D)

Exp:

- Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*** is a seminal book authored by Sir Isaac Newton, an English physicist and mathematician, first published in 1687.
- Written in Latin, its title translates to "**Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy**." This work is a cornerstone in the history of science and mathematics, as it established the foundations of classical mechanics and the law of universal gravitation, principles still relevant today.
- Regarded as one of the most influential scientific works, it provided a groundbreaking **mathematical framework for understanding the physical world**, profoundly influencing the **Scientific Revolution of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries** and shaping the future of modern physics.
- Hence, option D is correct.**

61. (A)

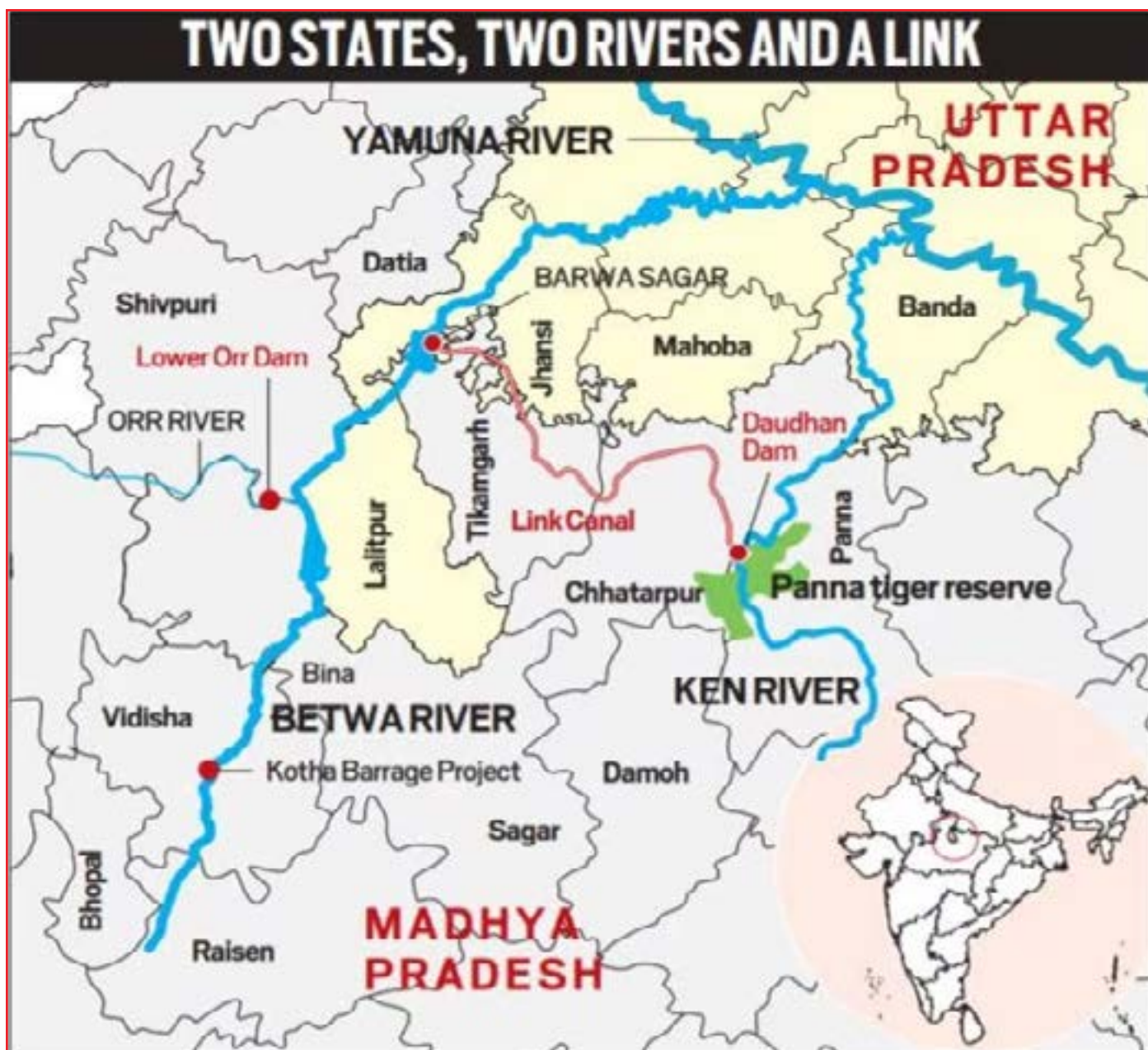
Exp:

Ken-Betwa Link Project:

- It is India's first initiative under the **National Perspective Plan (NPP)** for interlinking rivers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to transfer surplus water from the **Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River** in Uttar Pradesh, both of which are tributaries of the **Yamuna**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Phases of the Project:
  - Phase I:** Construction of the Daudhan Dam complex, low-level and high-level tunnels, Ken-Betwa link canal, and powerhouses.
  - Phase II:** Development of the Lower Orr Dam located across the Orr River (a tributary of the Betwa), Bina Complex Project, and Kotha Barrage.

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62. (C)

Exp:

**Biodiversity Credits:**

- Biodiversity credits are a verifiable, quantifiable, and **tradable financial instrument** that rewards positive nature and biodiversity outcomes (e.g. species, ecosystems, and natural habitats) through the creation and sale of either land or ocean-based biodiversity units over a fixed period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** launched the Biodiversity Credits Initiative to unlock new financing for measurable positive outcomes for nature. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Mechanism:** Biodiversity credits function similarly to **carbon credits**.
  - ◆ When a company or government harms biodiversity, they can offset the damage by paying for conservation efforts elsewhere.
  - ◆ The idea is to balance the overall loss of biodiversity through **compensatory actions** while attracting private funding for conservation.

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63. (B)

Exp:

- **Article 324(1)** of the Constitution stipulates that the superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls, as well as the conduct of all elections to Parliament, the Legislature of every State, and elections to the offices of President and Vice-President shall be vested in a body known as the Election Commission, as referred to in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body. The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of **six years**, or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a judge of the **Supreme Court**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

64. (B)

Exp:

- **Block mountains** are formed by faulting and the movement of large blocks of the Earth's crust **vertically**. They are also known as **fault-block mountains**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **Fault or crack** gives rise to **Block mountains**. E.g., **Satpura and Vindhya mountains**.
- **Strike-slip faults** occur when tectonic plates slide horizontally with minimal vertical movement. An example of this is the Denali Fault. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Reverse faults**, also known as thrust faults, occur when the upper block moves up and over the lower block. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Normal faults** occur when one rock block slides downward, separating from the adjacent block. A good example is the East African Rift Valley.

65. (A)

Exp:

- The **Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER)** is a weighted average of a currency's bilateral **exchange rates** relative to multiple trading partner currencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It reflects nominal currency strength without accounting for **inflation** or price level differences between countries.
- The **Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER)** improves upon NEER by adjusting for **relative price levels (inflation)** between the domestic economy and its trading partners.

- ◆ **REER** is calculated as the **NEER** multiplied by the ratio of domestic price indices to foreign price indices, making it a purchasing **power parity (PPP)**-adjusted measure.
- ◆ **REER** above **100** signifies overvaluation relative to its base year (2015-16), reducing export competitiveness, while a value below 100 suggests undervaluation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

66. (C)

Exp:

- Zika virus is **primarily transmitted through bites of Aedes mosquitoes**, which are most active during the day. While most infected individuals remain asymptomatic, those who develop symptoms experience rash, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache, typically lasting 2–7 days. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Zika virus infection during pregnancy can lead to infants being born with **microcephaly** (reduced head size) and other congenital abnormalities, as well as an increased risk of preterm birth and miscarriage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India reported its first Zika case from Gujarat State in 2016**. Since then, many other States namely Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Karnataka have reported cases subsequently.

67. (A)

Exp:

- A **cooperative society** is a **voluntary association** formed to serve common economic interests through self-help and mutual assistance. India's cooperative movement began during the independence era.
- The **97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011** made the right to form cooperative societies a fundamental right under Article 19, introduced Article 43-B as a Directive Principle to promote cooperatives, and added a new section (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT) dedicated to cooperatives in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's cooperative sector contributes 20% to the distribution of agricultural loans, 35% to fertiliser distribution, 21% to production, 31% to sugar production, 13% to wheat procurement, and 20% to paddy procurement.
- The **dairy sector, driven by the cooperative movement, contributes 4.5% to India's GDP** and accounts for 24% of the agriculture sector's value, amounting to approximately Rs 10 lakh crore, the highest in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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68. (A)

Exp:

- The **Election Commission of India** is responsible for conducting elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assemblies, and Presidential elections **but not Panchayat elections**, which are handled by the respective state election commissions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Constitution of India **does not explicitly outline the detailed procedure for the appointment** of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **Chief Election Commissioner can only be removed from office on the grounds of proven misbehavior or incapacity**, and this requires a resolution passed by a majority in both Houses of Parliament, similar to the process for removing a Supreme Court judge. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

69. (C)

Exp:

- **Lagrange point-1 (L1)** lies between the **Sun and Earth**, approximately 1.5 million kilometers inside Earth's orbit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is a point of gravitational equilibrium where the gravitational forces of the Earth and the Sun, along with the centripetal force of an object, balance each other.
- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** orbits the **Sun near the second Lagrange point (L2)**, which is about 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth in the opposite direction from the Sun. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ This location allows the telescope to observe the universe without interference from Earth's shadow.
- **Objects at Lagrange points L4 and L5 maintain stable positions** due to the unique gravitational and centripetal forces acting on them. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ These points form an equilateral triangle with the two larger bodies, such as the Earth and the Sun, or the Sun and Jupiter.

70. (C)

Exp:

- **Legislature Power of the Governor:**
  - ◆ Under **Article 174**, the Governor may **recommend dissolving the Legislative Assembly** if no party can form a government or upon the **Chief Minister's advice**, but this power is subject to specific conditions and is not entirely discretionary. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ Under **Article 175(2)**, the Governor can call for a floor test to verify government majority and send messages to the legislature for consideration of bills or other matters.
- ◆ Under **Article 176**, the Governor **addresses** the legislature at the **first session** after **general elections** and **annually**, explaining the reasons for summoning the assembly or both Houses. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The Governor, like the President, can delay assent to money bills and make recommendations, but the legislature is not obligated to accept them.

71. (B)

Exp:

- **Zero hour** is an informal device not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure, which allows Parliament members to raise matters without prior notice. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ In other words, the time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour. It is an Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.
- **A Dilatory Motion** is a motion to adjourn the debate on a bill, motion, or resolution, or to delay the progress of business under consideration in the House. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It can be moved by a member at any time after a motion has been made. The debate on a dilatory motion must be restricted to the matter contained in such motion.

72. (D)

Exp:

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) was set up under the **Marrakesh Treaty (1994)** and as an organization aims to improve living standards, generate employment, and expand global trade. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)**, introduced into GATT in 1989 and confirmed as part of the WTO in 1995, initially focused on trade in goods before being expanded to cover broader trade policies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It aims to enhance adherence to trade rules, increase transparency, and improve understanding of the trade policies and practices of WTO members, contributing to a smoother functioning of the multilateral trading system.

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73. (C)

Exp :

Jalvahak Scheme:

- It aims to unlock the trade potential of inland waterways, **reduce logistics costs**, and **alleviate congestion in road and rail networks**.
- Incentives:
  - Provides **reimbursements up to 35%** of operating expenses for cargo movement on **National Waterways 1, 2 and 16** via the **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - It encourages **hiring of vessels owned by private operators**, promoting competition and efficiency.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI):
  - It was established in **1986** to regulate and develop inland waterways.
  - India has **14,500 km** of navigable waterways, including rivers, canals, and backwaters.
  - Under the **National Waterways Act, 2016**, 111 waterways (5 existing and 106 new) have been declared as **National Waterways**.
    - It is the nodal agency responsible for implementing the Jalvahak scheme. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

74. (C)

Exp:

National Testing Agency (NTA):

- NTA was established in **2017** as a **Society** registered under the **Indian Societies Registration Act, of 1860**. It is a **premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained** testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in **higher educational institutions**. E.g., JEE (Main), CMAT, UGC - NET etc. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- NTA is chaired by the Director General appointed by the **Ministry of Education**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - He is assisted by **9 verticals headed by academicians/experts**.

75. (D)

Exp:

- India organizes the **Kailash Manasarovar Yatra (KMY)** annually between **June and September** through the **Lipulekh Pass (since 1981)** in Uttarakhand and the **Nathu La Pass (since 2015)** in Sikkim. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The KMY is revered by Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Bon followers. Hindus believe Lord Shiva resides at the peak,

while Jains regard it as **Mount Ashtapada**, where **Rishabhadeva** achieved liberation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- The Mansarovar Lake, near Mount Kailash is revered for its spiritual power.
- The pilgrimage is managed by **Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam**, in collaboration with **India's Ministry of External Affairs** and the **Government of China**.
- Mount Kailash (elevation 6,638 meters), is a **diamond-shaped peak** made of **black rock** and the source of major rivers in Asia, including the **Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, and Karnali**.

76. (A)

Exp :

- Kisan Kavach is designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of **pesticide exposure**, including **respiratory disorders, vision loss, and even death**.
- It is made of '**oxime fabric**' that can **chemically breakdown** any of the common pesticides that get **sprayed onto cloth or body** during spraying operations. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - The manufacturing process involves **nucleophilic-mediated hydrolysis** on cotton fabric to **deactivate pesticides**.
- It is developed by **BRIC-inStem, Bangalore**, in collaboration with **Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

77. (A)

Exp:

- The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, established in **1992** under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It is **chaired by the Environment Minister** and has 10 members and a member-secretary. Its objective is to complement and strengthen the national effort in conservation of rich biodiversity. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

78. (D)

Exp:

- The **Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)** is a sea link connecting the **east coast of India (Chennai Port)** with **ports in the far-east region of Russia (Vladivostok Port)**.
- It passes through the **Sea of Japan, the South China Sea, and the Malacca Strait**.
- It aligns with India's Maritime Vision 2030, which includes over 150 initiatives aimed at transforming the maritime sector. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- EMC has reduced the shipping distance from 8,675 nautical miles (via the traditional **St Petersburg-Mumbai route** through Europe) to **5,600 nautical miles**, cutting transit time from over 40 days to just **24 days**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Vladivostok is the **largest Russian port in the Pacific Ocean**, and the corridor passes through the **South China Sea** and strengthens India's strategic presence **addressing China's dominance** in the region. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

79. (C)

Exp:

**Protected Area Regime:**

- The PAR is a set of regulations established under the **Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It is aimed at **regulating foreign visitors to areas that are considered strategically important** or vulnerable to external threats, particularly in the **northeastern states** and other border regions of India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

80. (A)

Exp:

**Sacred Groves:**

- They are the tracts of virgin forests that are left untouched by the local inhabitants and are protected by the local people due to their culture and religious beliefs. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** empowers **State governments** to declare any private or community land, as a community reserve, under which sacred groves can be declared as community reserves. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

81. (C)

Exp:

**Operation Greens Scheme:**

- Launched in 2018 it is a **central sector scheme**, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It aims to **stabilize the prices of perishable crops** and enhance farmers' earnings by drawing inspiration from "Operation Flood (White Revolution)". Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, with funding provided by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

82. (A)

Exp:

**Dodo:**

- The **dodo (Raphus cucullatus)** is an extinct (since 1681) flightless bird that was **endemic to the island of Mauritius**, which is east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.
- It belonged to the Columbidae family (doves and pigeons).
- It became extinct due to human activity and the introduction of invasive species like pigs, rats, and cats, which preyed on its eggs and chicks.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

83. (A)

Exp:

- Under **Nidhi Rules, 2014**, **Nidhi** is a company which has been incorporated as a Nidhi with the object of cultivating the habit of thrift and saving amongst its members, receiving deposits from, and lending to, its members only, for their mutual benefit.
- It is a company registered under the **Companies Act, 2013**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It works on the principle of mutual benefits that are regulated by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Nidhi Company** is a class of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has powers to issue directives for them related to their deposit acceptance activities. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

84. (D)

Exp:

- **Return on Assets (RoA)** measures a company's ability to generate profit from its total assets. It reflects how efficiently assets are utilized to produce earnings. A higher RoA indicates better asset utilization, improving profitability and operational efficiency. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
  - ◆ **Return on Equity (RoE)** measures a company's profitability relative to shareholders' equity. It shows how effectively a company uses shareholder funds to generate profits. A higher RoE signifies better returns on investors' equity and efficient capital management within the company.
- **The Slippage Ratio** measures new non-performing assets (NPAs) as a percentage of standard advances at the start of the year. A high ratio signals deteriorating asset quality, while a low ratio indicates better risk management and effective loan performance monitoring. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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- **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR)** assesses a bank's capital relative to its risk-weighted assets. It ensures the bank can absorb potential losses and remain solvent. A higher CRAR indicates stronger financial stability, protecting depositors and promoting overall financial system health. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

85. (C)

Exp:

SpaDeX:

- **About:** SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) is a **technology demonstrator mission** developed by the ISRO to showcase in-space docking technology. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ This mission aims to demonstrate the ability to **rendezvous, dock, and undock two small spacecraft**, marking a significant advancement in India's space capabilities.
- **Objective:** The primary goal of SpaDeX is to develop docking technologies for two small spacecraft, **SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target)**, in **low Earth orbit**.
  - ◆ They will dock autonomously using **advanced sensors and propulsion systems**.
  - ◆ Secondary objectives include **testing electric power transfer and demonstrating spacecraft control**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

86. (B)

Exp:

Deep State:

- The term "**Deep State**" refers to an **alleged shadowy network** of unelected bureaucrats, military officials, and other influential figures operating covertly to exert control over government decisions, bypassing democratic processes.
  - ◆ Foreign governments **selectively pursue promotion of democracy**, human rights, and liberal values in certain countries based on their interests.
- It derives its name from the **Turkish term "derin devlet"**, which literally translates to "deep state" in English. In Turkey, it refers to **non-elected elements** dominating the democratically elected government.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

87. (C)

Exp:

Smart Cities Mission (SCM):

- It was **launched in 2015** by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and aims to enhance infrastructure, quality of life, and sustainability in cities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Components of the SCM:**

◆ **Area-based Development:**

- **Redevelopment:** Renewal of existing urban areas to improve infrastructure and amenities. E.g. Bhandi Bazar, Mumbai.
- **Retrofitting:** Upgrading infrastructure in existing areas to make them more efficient and sustainable. E.g. Local Area Development (Ahmedabad).
- **Greenfield Projects:** Development of new urban areas with a focus on sustainability and smart technologies. E.g. New Town, Kolkotta, Naya Raipur, GIFT City.

◆ **Pan-City Solutions:**

- Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions across various sectors such as e-governance, waste management, water management, energy management, urban mobility, and skill development.

◆ **Governance Structure:**

- To enhance effectiveness, a new governance model was adopted.
- A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) was created under the Companies Act, 2013 led by a bureaucrat or a representative of a multinational corporation (MNC).

- The '**SAAR**' (**Smart Cities and Academia towards Action and Research**) platform, launched in 2022, connects **academia and government** to document and research urban initiatives under the SCM. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ A study by the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, revealed that the **Smart Cities Mission (SCM)** has improved education quality through **smart classrooms**.

- ◆ The IIM Bangalore study shows that **smart classrooms** under the SCM **have increased enrolment by 22% across 19 cities** from 2015-16 to 2023-24.

88. (C)

Exp:

- **Most-favoured-nation (MFN)** means that whenever a country reduces a trade barrier or opens a market, it must do so for the same goods or services from all its trading partners, regardless of their economic status. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement permits exceptions to the non-discrimination principle, known as **Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) treatment**, allowing countries to differentiate between rights holders from different trading partners. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- ◆ However, they must notify the TRIPS Council, which represents the WTO membership.
- ◆ Some **exceptions** are allowed, for example, countries can set up a free trade agreement that applies **only to goods traded** within the group discriminating against goods from outside.
  - Or they can give developing countries special access to their markets.
  - Or a country can raise barriers against products that are considered to be traded unfairly from specific countries and in **services**, countries are allowed, in limited circumstances, to discriminate but the agreements only permit these exceptions under strict conditions.

89. (A)

Exp:

- **Periyar Tiger Reserve** falls in the districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta in Kerala (saddled in the southern region of Western Ghats).
- Declared a Sanctuary during 1950 and declared as Tiger Reserve during 1978. It gets its name from the River Periyar which has its origin deep inside the reserve.
- The sanctuary comprises **tropical evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests and grasslands**.
- The sanctuary is a repository of medicinal plants numbering to about 300.

- ◆ Some are endemic to the region like **Syzygium periyarensis (a tree)**, **Habenaria periyarensis (an orchid)** and **Mucuna pruriense thekkadiensis (a climber)** etc.
- There are six tribal communities nestled inside the reserve such as Mannans, Paliyans, **Malayarayans, Mala Pandarams, Uralis** and Ulladans.
- Hence, option A is correct.

90. (B)

Exp:

- The **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**, a part of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), is responsible for guarding **India's borders with Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km)**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Established in May 1963 as the Special Service Bureau, following the Chinese aggression of 1962, the **SSB operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs (and not Ministry of Defence)**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It is one of the seven paramilitary forces in India, alongside the Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and National Security Guard.
- Notably, the SSB was the first central paramilitary force to include women in its ranks.
- ◆ In recognition of its significant contributions to national security, the **SSB was awarded the President's Colours in March 2004**, the highest honour bestowed upon any military unit. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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