



drishti

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(Part-I)**

**Current  
Affairs  
MCQ  
(Consolidation)**

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## Practice Question

1. Consider the following statements:

1. A mule account is a bank account used to facilitate illegal activities.
2. A money mule is someone who transfers or moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else.
3. Transnational cybercriminals use accounts of shell companies and individuals as mule accounts, exploiting the bulk payout facility provided by banks.

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

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is designated as an International Bird Area for hosting several bird species like Malabar parakeet and Rufous babbler.
2. The Netravati River passes through the sanctuary.

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding powers of the Supreme Court:

1. Article 32 grants the Supreme Court original jurisdiction to enforce Fundamental Rights.
2. Articles 129 and 142 empower the Court to punish for contempt, including contempt of itself.

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

4. Consider the following statements about the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS):

1. BAS is India's proposed indigenous space station which will orbit around the Moon.
2. The BAS will be used for microgravity experiments, and for Moon observation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding Similipal National Park:

1. It has been part of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves list since 2009 and was designated as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger.
2. Similipal is home to the Gharials in its rivers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statement:

1. He was head of the Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas in the constituent assembly.
2. He served as the first Indian municipal commissioner of Ahmedabad and was its elected municipal president.
3. He chaired the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Congress.

The above statements are linked to which of the following personalities?

- A. Benegal Narsing Rau
- B. B.R. Ambedkar
- C. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- D. Rajendra Prasad

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is the UN's principal organ focused on atmospheric sciences, weather, climate, and water resources.
2. The WMO comprises the World Meteorological Congress, serving as the highest decision-making body.

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

8. With reference to sanctions, consider the following statements:

1. Economic sanctions are defined as the withdrawal of customary trade and financial relations for foreign and security policy purposes.
2. Sanctions can be imposed by individual countries or international bodies like the United Nations.

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding Unpaid Work:

1. Unpaid work refers to activities that individuals, particularly women, engage in without receiving monetary compensation.
2. Subsistence production, such as farming for personal use, is not considered part of unpaid work.
3. Sustainable Development Goal 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower women, with Target 5.4 focusing on recognizing and valuing unpaid care.

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

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

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI) is a Solar Radiation Management method that injects reflective sulfate aerosols into the stratosphere to scatter solar radiation.
2. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) involves technologies that capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the emission sources.

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

11. Consider the following statements:

1. This is located at the northern edges of the Satpura mountain ranges.
2. It is primarily known as the white tiger country.
3. The Tala Range is the only area where tourists are allowed to visit within this park.

The above statements are linked to which of the following national parks?

- A. Kanha National Park
- B. Bandhavgarh National Park
- C. Sanjay National Park
- D. Satpura National Park

12. With reference to the recent guidelines set by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) regarding the import of cosmetics, consider the following statements:

1. Cosmetics imported into India must have an expiry date of at least six months from the date of import.
2. The use of hexachlorophene in cosmetics is permitted under strict regulatory conditions.
3. The Cosmetic Rules, 2020 prohibit any false or misleading claims on cosmetic products.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Navy's MAHASAGAR initiative:

1. MAHASAGAR stands for Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region, aimed at enhancing maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
2. It was launched in 2023 and is organized on an annual basis.

3. The theme of the 3rd edition Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements regarding the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and its World Solar Report Series.

1. The World Solar Report Series was first introduced by ISA in 2022 offers a concise overview of global solar technology advancements.
2. Global energy investments to rise from USD 2.4 trillion in 2018 to USD 3.1 trillion by 2024, with clean energy investments nearly doubling that of fossil fuels.
3. The Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment in the 2023 World Solar Report Series identifies four Asian countries as leaders in developing a green hydrogen economy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding PM Vishwakarma Yojana.

1. PM Vishwakarma Yojana provides a grant of Rs. 15,000 for modern tools to traditional artisans.
2. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is the nodal ministry for this scheme.
3. Beneficiaries under this scheme can avail collateral-free credit support up to Rs 5 lakh in two tranches.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding Greenhouse Gas.

1. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.
2. Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is released mainly from livestock farming and landfill waste.
3. Industrial Fluorinated Gases have a significantly lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) than Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

17. With reference to the “Nabhmitra” application, recently in the news, consider the following statements:

1. Nabhmitra enables real-time tracking of fishing vessels and provides two-way communication beyond mobile coverage areas.
2. It is developed by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
3. The application uses Very High Frequency (VHF) Radio Waves to communicate with fishing vessels in distant waters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements about National Unity Day and the Statue of Unity:

1. National Unity Day commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role in unifying India and promotes the values of unity, integrity, and inclusiveness.
2. The Statue of Unity, inaugurated in 2018, is the tallest statue in the world and is located near the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat.
3. The Statue of Unity is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites included in the list of eight wonders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements related to Sovereign Gold Bonds:

1. They are issued under Government Securities Act, 2006.
2. They are issued by the SEBI on behalf of the Government of India.
3. They have a maturity period of 5 years.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements related to Ayurveda:

1. It is legally recognised as a traditional medicine system in 24 countries.
2. The World Health Organisation has included Ayurveda in the ICD-11 TM Module 2.
3. The Government of India has been observing Ayurveda Day every year on 2nd November.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. Regarding Unpaid work, consider the following statements:

1. Unpaid work refers to activities that individuals, particularly women, engage in without receiving monetary compensation.
2. Unpaid work contributes significantly to the economy, often accounting for a substantial percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), especially in developing countries.
3. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24 90.7% of females and 89.4% of the workforce engage in unpaid work within household enterprises.

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

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):

1. The minimum amount of default required for initiating the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) is Rs 1 lakh.
2. The committee of creditors is required to pass a resolution, with 66% of the total voting share, to extend the CIRP.

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

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

23. 30 by 30 target sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Reducing carbon emissions by 30% by 2030.
- B. Increasing the number of electric vehicles on roads by 30% by 2030.
- C. Protecting 30% of the earth's land and oceans by 2030.
- D. Achieving 30% renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

24. Diffraction Limit, sometimes in news, is best defined by?

- A. The minimum light intensity required for microscopes to function effectively.
- B. The physical boundary limiting an optical instrument's ability to distinguish between two close objects.
- C. The point where electromagnetic waves stop behaving like waves in optical devices.
- D. The upper limit of magnification possible in digital imaging systems.

25. Consider the following statements related to Asian Development Bank (ADB):

1. It was founded in 1966 and headquartered in Singapore.
2. India, a founding member of ADB, is fourth largest shareholder and top borrower of it since 2010.
3. It has a climate change action plan that promotes a just transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient future.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements about India's workplace culture:

1. India ranks among the most overworked countries, with workers averaging 46.7 hours per week.
2. Corporate initiatives like codes of conduct and work-life balance policies have effectively addressed workplace toxicity in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Regarding Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD), consider the following statements:

1. It refers to a recommended standard set by the World Health Organization (WHO) for children aged 6-23 months.
2. MDD is part of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, which are assessed by a suite of indicators developed by the WHO and UNICEF.

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

28. Consider the following statements regarding Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018:

1. A fugitive economic offender is someone with an arrest warrant for an offense worth at least Rs. 100 crore under the Act.
2. A special court designated under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, may declare an individual as a fugitive economic offender.

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

29. The Balfour Declaration, recently in the news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. The establishment of an independent Arab state in the Arabian Peninsula.
- B. A British promise of self-governance for India after World War I.
- C. The British government's support for a Jewish national home in Palestine.
- D. A secret agreement between Britain and France to divide Ottoman territories in the Middle East.

30. Consider the following pairs related to intrusive features of a volcano:

Feature	Description
<b>Batholith</b>	Central core of a volcanic mountain
<b>Sill</b>	Tabular intrusions along sedimentary bedding.
<b>Laccolith</b>	Vertical intrusion that cuts across rock layers.

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

31. Which of the following statements about the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is correct?

- A. The IOA is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation under the Societies Registration Act, 186).
- B. The IOA primarily governs India's participation only in the Olympic Games, with separate organisations handling other multi-sport events.
- C. The IOA operates directly under the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as a subsidiary.
- D. None of the above

32. Cryptobiosis, recently in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. A process where organisms use light to generate energy in the absence of nutrients.
- B. A new type of blockchain technology for secure transactions of living modified organisms.
- C. A method used by plants to increase resistance to pests through genetic modification.
- D. A metabolic state allowing survival in extreme conditions.

33. Consider the following pairs:

Buddhist Council	Patron	Venue
First	Ajatashatru	Rajgriha
Second	Kalashoka	Vaishali
Third	Kanishka	Kundalban

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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



34. Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a scientific department under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. Central Ground Water Authority has been constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

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 Sun exhibits differential rotation, with its poles rotating every 25 days, while its equator takes about 35 days to complete one rotation.
2. The chromosphere is a thin plasma layer located between the Sun's visible surface and its outer atmosphere.

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 the World Solar Report series, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual flagship report of the International Energy Agency (IEA).
2. It is a concise overview of global solar technology advancements, key challenges, and investment trends, providing valuable insights into the industry's growth.

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

37. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Vidyalaxmi scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to provide collateral-free, guarantor-free loans to students.
2. Students who are enrolled in IITs and IIMs are only eligible to avail the benefit of the scheme.

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. Reduce risk from pesticides by at least 50% by 2030.
2. Tackle climate change through nature-based solutions.
3. Restore 30% degraded ecosystems globally by 2030.

How many of the above is/are key goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

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

39. Consider the following statements related to PM Vishwakarma Yojana:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is its nodal ministry.
3. It aims to provide collateral free credit support of up to Rs 3 lakhs.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following pairs:

**Case**

Sankari Prasad Case

Bella Banerjee Case

Vidya Devi Case

**Supreme Court Ruling**

Upheld Parliament's authority to amend the Constitution under Article 368, including fundamental rights.

Government must pay just compensation in compulsory property acquisition cases.

Struck down the expansion of Article 31C to cover all Directive Principles.

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

41. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to formalize the unorganized fisheries sector by introducing work-based digital identities through the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP).
2. It promotes institutional financing for micro and small enterprises engaged in aquaculture.
3. It seeks to reduce risks in aquaculture by encouraging insurance adoption and improving supply chain traceability.
4. It includes provisions for enhancing marine exports to global markets.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

42. Consider the following statements:

1. Transfer RNA (tRNA) carries the genetic information from DNA to the ribosome for protein synthesis.
2. Messenger RNA (mRNA) reads the genetic code and brings amino acids to the ribosome during translation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. The Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) initiative, introduced at COP21 in Paris, aims to assist Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in achieving sustainable development.
2. The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) was established with support from United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme in 2022.

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

44. Consider the following statements:

1. The tailless Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India.
2. Western hoolock gibbon, which inhabits all the states of the north-east, is listed as Endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):

1. It is the centrally sector programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for promoting poverty reduction.
2. Each rural poor household has one member included in the Self Help Group (SHG) network.

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. Regarding Rakhine, consider the following statements:

1. Rakhine, the westernmost state in Myanmar, is one of the poorest regions, facing ongoing conflict, displacement, and poverty.
2. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has warned that Rakhine state is on the brink of an acute famine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. The State of Food and Agriculture 2024 report was recently released by which of the following:

- A. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- B. World Bank
- C. World Health Organisation
- D. None of the Above

48. According to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2024, which of the following statements are correct regarding India's progress and global TB trends?

1. India achieved a 17.7% decline in TB incidence from 2015 to 2023, surpassing the global average decline of 8.3%.
2. India recorded 27 lakh TB cases in 2023, with treatment coverage increasing to 89% from 72% in 2015.
3. India, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, and Pakistan account for 56% of the global TB burden.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

49. Consider the following statements regarding wind energy in India?

1. India has an estimated wind power potential of over 1,163.86 GW at 150 metres above ground level.
2. The majority of India's wind energy potential is being utilized at the national level.
3. India ranks 4th globally in wind power capacity as of 2024.
4. Tamil Nadu leads India in installed wind energy capacity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 3rd edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND?

1. Exercise AUSTRAHIND is conducted biennially and aims to enhance military cooperation and joint operations between India and Australia.
2. The exercise includes training on counterterrorism, tactical drills, and coordination in semi-urban and semi-desert terrains.
3. Other joint exercises between India and Australia include AUSINDEX and PITCHBLACK.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

51. Consider the following statements regarding gluten and its impact on health:

1. Gluten is a protein complex primarily found in wheat, barley, and rye and is known to cause gluten-related disorders such as coeliac disease.
2. Protease, also known as peptidase or proteinase, is an enzyme responsible for completely breaking down gluten in the digestive system.
3. Coeliac disease is an autoimmune condition triggered by gluten that damages the small intestine and leads to the production of antibodies that attack the body's own proteins.
4. Currently, the only effective treatment for coeliac disease is maintaining a diet very low in gluten.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

52. With regard to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings: Asia 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The QS World University Rankings assess universities on six indicators including research reputation, teaching environment, research impact, and internationalisation.
2. As per the 2025 Asia rankings, India has two institutions in the top 50 and seven in the top 100.
3. QS Rankings are published by a Paris-based education analytics firm.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

53. Consider the following statements:

1. Lightning is caused by the buildup of static electricity in the atmosphere due to the interaction of ice crystals within clouds.
2. A lightning rod works by ionising the surrounding air, creating a controlled path for lightning to discharge safely into the ground.
3. The increased frequency of lightning strikes worldwide is primarily attributed to solar flares and atmospheric pressure changes.

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

54. With reference to the Article 142 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the Supreme Court to pass decrees and orders necessary for complete justice in any case.
2. It allows the Supreme Court to issue binding orders that are enforceable as stipulated by law or directed by the President.

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

55. With reference to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), consider the following statements:

1. India has been a member of the OECD since 2007, alongside countries such as Brazil, China, Indonesia, and South Africa.
2. The OECD also maintains a "blacklist" of uncooperative tax havens and has working relationships with non-member economies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

56. Regarding Konark temple, consider the following statements:

1. The 13th-century Konark Sun Temple in Odisha was built by King Narasimhadeva I (1238–1264 AD).
2. Konark temple was declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

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

57. Regarding Acharya Jiwantram Bhagwandas Kripalani consider the following statements:

1. He served as a member of the Constituent Assembly and Chairman of the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee.
2. He strongly supported decentralised industrialization, the development of rural areas, and employment in small and cottage industries.



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

58. Consider the following statements:

1. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) operates under the Ministry of Home affairs.
2. Under the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021, the Enforcement Director's tenure comprises an initial appointment of 5 years.

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:

1. FDI is primarily governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and is subject to both sectoral caps and the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).
2. The current account encompasses various financial flows, with foreign direct investment (FDI) being a key component of Balance of Payment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. Consider the following characteristics:

1. He started a weekly journal called Al-Hilal.
2. In 1923, he was elected as the president of the Indian National Congress.
3. He became the first education minister of free India.

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

- A. Syed Ahmad Khan
- B. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- C. Chittranjan Das
- D. Liaquat Ali Khan

61. Regarding the Indian Space Sector, consider the following statements:

1. IN-SPACe is a wholly-owned Government of India company that serves as the commercial arm of ISRO.
2. New Space India Limited (NSIL) is an autonomous agency that regulates non-governmental space activities.
3. Satcom Reforms 2022 was introduced by the Department of Space (DOS) to streamline the satellite-based communication network application process.

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

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

62. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:

1. The act identifies 21 types of disabilities including mental illness and hemophilia.
2. It ensures that children with benchmark disabilities, aged 6 to 14, have the right to free 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

63. Consider the following statements:

1. The Universal Immunization Programme(UIP) offers free life-saving vaccines to all children against 12 diseases such as Diphtheria, Pertussis, Hepatitis A, and Measles.
2. Under UIP, a child is considered fully immunized after receiving all vaccinations as per the national schedule within the first year of life.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

64. Consider the following statements related to H5N1 Bird Flu:

1. It was first identified in Geese in China.
2. India experienced the first H5N1 outbreak in Maharashtra and Gujarat in 2015.
3. California condors are severely affected by this virus.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

65. Consider the following statements related to Millets:

1. De-branning makes millets softer and reduces shelf life.
2. They contain bioactive flavonoids.
3. India is the largest producer and exporter of millets.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

66. Regarding the Nature Conservation Index (NCI), consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. The index highlights high pesticide use and warns about soil pollution.
3. India is among the top-performing countries in the 2024 Global Nature Conservation Index.

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

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

67. Karman Line, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?

- A. The boundary between the mesosphere and the exosphere, crucial for satellite orbit stability
- B. The boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space.
- C. The altitude where atmospheric particles no longer influence spacecraft velocity
- D. The point beyond which electromagnetic waves propagate without atmospheric interference.

68. Consider the following statements related to Foreign Portfolio Investment:

1. Its asset type includes financial assets like Exchange-Traded Fund.
2. It is not permitted in gambling and betting.
3. Entry and exit are easy due to liquidity.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

69. Consider the following statements:

1. The Inter-State Council (ISC) is a permanent body, and it was formed based on the recommendations of the Rajmanner Commission.
2. The constitution defines the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organization and procedure.

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

70. Consider the following statements:

1. Glasgow climate pact aims to reduce methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.
2. Unconditional and conditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2030 are estimated to reduce global emissions by 2 % and 9% respectively.

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 regarding human trafficking:

1. Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 addresses human trafficking for physical and sexual exploitation.
2. Mission Vatsalya supports child victims of trafficking.
3. The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) clearly defines "organised crime," including activities like sex trafficking.

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

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

72. Consider the following statements:

1. Slavery was abolished across the British Indian Empire during Lord William Bentinck's tenure as Governor-General.
2. Article 17 of the Indian Constitution prohibits human trafficking and forced labor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. Consider the following statements regarding Anti-Dumping duty:

1. The Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 governs the application of anti-dumping measures by members of the WTO.
2. Anti-Dumping measures are bilateral actions taken by a member of WTO.

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 characteristics:

1. Its underground corm stores energy, supporting its 10-year bloom cycle and 6-month fruiting period.
2. It mimics the stench of rotting flesh to attract its pollinators.
3. It blossoms on limestone hills in the rainforests of Western Sumatra.

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

- A. Ghost Orchid
- B. Balsamroot
- C. Titan Arum
- D. New England aster

75. With respect to the NISAR Satellite, consider the following statements:

1. It was built in collaboration with the United States.
2. It will be launched into high earth orbit using ISRO's GSLV-Mark III.
3. It is the first satellite equipped with both L-band and S-band radar systems.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

76. Regarding the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) Program, consider the following statements:

1. It is the new flagship program launched by the NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to enhance university research by using a hub-and-spoke model, pairing top-tier universities (hubs) with emerging institutions (spokes) for mentorship and collaboration.

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

77. Consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest tea producer and exporter.
2. 70% of tea plantations are near forests, resulting in frequent conflicts with wildlife, such as elephants, causing damage to crops and plantations.

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

78. Consider the following statements:

1. UNESCO Global Geoparks are unified geographical areas designated for a period of four years, after which they undergo revalidation.
2. Geo heritage sites can include volcanic formations, fossil-rich areas, caves, mountain ranges, glacial features, and mineral-rich regions.

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

79. Consider the following statements related to recently discovered *Dicliptera Polymorpha*:

1. It is fire-resistant, able to withstand summer droughts.
2. It has inflorescence flower structures that are uncommon in Indian species.
3. It thrives on open grassland slopes in the Western Ghats.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

80. Consider the following characteristics:

1. Launched the Ulgulan Movement in 1899.
2. Arrested by British authorities in 1900 along with his guerrilla group in the Jamkopai forest.
3. The state of Jharkhand was established on his birth anniversary in 2000.

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

- A. Sidhu Murmu
- B. Birsa Munda
- C. Laxman Naik
- D. Tirot Sing

## Answers

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

## Explanations

1. (C)

Exp:

**Mule Account:**

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an alert about **illegal payment gateways** like PeacePay, RTX Pay, etc set up by transnational cybercriminals using mule bank accounts for money laundering.
  - ◆ A **mule account** is a bank account used to facilitate illegal activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ A **money mule** is someone who transfers or moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Transnational cybercriminals use accounts of shell companies and individuals as mule accounts, exploiting the bulk payout facility provided by banks. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

2. (A)

Exp:

**Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- Located in the Northern part of Goa, **Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary** is designated as an **International Bird Area** for hosting several bird species like Malabar parakeet and Rufous babbler. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Mhadei River**, a lifeline of Goa, originates in Karnataka, passes through the sanctuary, and meets the Arabian Sea at Panaji. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

3. (C)

Exp:

- **Article 32** of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court for enforcement of Fundamental Rights. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari to enforce them.
- Under **Articles 129 and 142 of the Constitution**, the Supreme Court has been vested with power to punish for contempt of Court including the power to punish for contempt of itself. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

4. (D)

Exp:

- BAS is India's proposed indigenous space station for scientific research. The BAS will orbit the Earth at a height of around 400–450 kilometres. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The BAS will be used for scientific research, including microgravity experiments, earth observation, and fostering innovation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

5. A

Exp:

- In 2009, UNESCO included Simlipal National Park in its list of Biosphere Reserve. It was designated as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1973. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Similipal is home to the Mugger crocodiles not Gharials. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Similipal tiger reserve and national park is located in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district.

6. (C)

Exp:

**Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:**

- **The Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas**, led by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, focused on addressing the needs and rights of marginalized communities in India.
  - He served as the **first Indian municipal commissioner of Ahmedabad** and was its elected municipal president from 1924 to 1928.
  - He chaired the **46th session of the Congress** in 1931.
    - ◆ He is known as the '**Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants**' as he established the modern all-India services system.
    - ◆ He worked extensively against alcohol consumption, untouchability, caste discrimination and for women emancipation in Gujarat and outside.
- Hence, option C is correct.**

7. (A)

Exp:

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is the **UN's specialized agency** and leading authority on atmospheric sciences, focusing on Earth's atmosphere, weather, climate, water resources, and their interactions with land and oceans. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ It has a membership of 193 Member States and Territories. India is a member of WMO.
  - ◆ WMO is structured with the World Meteorological Congress, the Executive Council, regional associations, technical commissions, and the Secretariat.
- **World Meteorological Congress: Highest decision-making body** and is responsible for setting overall policies and directions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Executive Council:** Implements the decisions of the Congress.
  - ◆ **Regional Associations:** 6 regional associations that coordinate meteorological, hydrological, and related activities within their specific regions.

8. (D)

Exp:

- Sanctions restrict or terminate economic relations and can include trade bans, asset freezes, and denial of access to financial systems. Types of sanctions include comprehensive (e.g., US embargo on Cuba) or targeted (specific individuals or companies). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sanctions can be imposed by individual countries or international bodies like the United Nations, although enforcement is carried out by member states. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



9. (B)

Exp:

- Unpaid work refers to the labour or services provided by individuals without receiving monetary compensation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Subsistence production, like farming for personal use, is considered a form of unpaid work because it involves labour that isn't directly compensated with money. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The SDG 5 aims for gender equality, with Target 5.4 focusing on recognizing unpaid care work and promoting supportive policies and shared responsibilities by 2030. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

10. (D)

Exp:

- **Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI)** is a **Solar Radiation Management (SRM)** method injects reflective sulfate aerosols into the stratosphere to scatter solar radiation and mimic the cooling effects of volcanoes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Other Methods of Solar Radiation Management (SRM):
  - ◆ **Marine Cloud Brightening (MCB):** Involves spraying sea water droplets into marine clouds to enhance their reflectivity and persistence, thereby increasing cooling. It is more localized and reversible but technically challenging.
  - ◆ **Space Sunshades:** Entails placing mirrors in orbit to block some solar radiation, reducing energy reaching Earth. They are controllable but expensive and complex to maintain.
- **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** involves technologies that capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from emission sources, such as fossil fuel power generation and industrial processes like steel and cement production. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

11. (B)

Exp:

**Bandhavgarh National Park:**

- **Bandhavgarh National Park** resides on the extreme north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the **northern edges of the Satpura mountain ranges.**
  - **Bandhavgarh National Park** is famously known as the **white tiger country**, where a diverse range of tiger species can be found, historically observed in the former state of Rewa for many years.
    - ◆ The last white tiger captured in the region was taken by Maharaja Martand Singh in 1951, and today, the white tiger named Mohun is showcased in the Maharaja of Rewa's palace.
  - Although **Bandhavgarh National Park** spans an area of 1161 sq km, tourists are limited to a section of 105 sq km known as the **Tala Range.**
    - ◆ This area is rich in biodiversity and offers excellent opportunities for tiger sightings in the core zone. The core zone itself comprises four additional zones: **Magdhi, Kallwah, Khitauli, and Panpatha.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

12. (B)

Exp:

- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** established **new guidelines** to enhance the safety, quality, and regulatory compliance of imported cosmetics in India.
- Cosmetics can only be imported if their expiry date is at least **six months from the date of import.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Cosmetics containing **hexachlorophene** or those tested on **animals** after post-November 2014 are banned from being imported. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **Cosmetic Rules, 2020** state that no cosmetic should convey any false or misleading information to the user. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

13. (A)

Exp:

- **MAHASAGAR** stands for **Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was started in **2023** and is conducted **bi-annually.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Theme – **“Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)”.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of MAHASAGAR was attended by IOR Littorals viz. **Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.**

14. (A)

Exp:

- The World Solar Report series, launched by the International Solar Alliance in 2022, offers a concise overview of global solar technology advancements, key challenges, and investment trends, providing valuable insights into the industry's growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Global energy investments to rise from USD 2.4 trillion in 2018 to USD 3.1 trillion by 2024, with clean energy investments nearly doubling that of fossil fuels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The World Solar Report Series identifies Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, and South Africa as potential leaders for developing a green hydrogen economy due to their renewable energy resources. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

15. (B)

Exp:

**PM Vishwakarma Yojana**

- Stipend of Rs 500 for skill training per day and Rs 15,000 grant for the purchase of modern tools to traditional artisans. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Nodal Ministry for the scheme is Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Beneficiaries are eligible for collateral-free credit support of up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a low interest rate. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**



**16. (B)****Exp:**

- Water Vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O) is the most abundant GHG in atmosphere. It exists in the atmosphere for only a few days. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Human activities like cattle farming, landfill waste, rice farming, and fossil fuel extraction have increased methane levels in the atmosphere. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Industrial Fluorinated Gases like hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) having high Global Warming Potential (GWP). SF<sub>6</sub> has a GWP 23,000 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>, making these gases extremely potent contributors to global warming. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**17. (A)****Exp:**

- Nabhmitra allows real-time tracking and two-way communication beyond mobile coverage areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Nabhmitra application was developed by ISRO in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nabhmitra does not use Very High Frequency Radio Waves; instead, it uses indigenous transponder technology that surpasses the limitations of VHF. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

- National Unity Day celebrates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role in unifying India and emphasizes unity, integrity, and inclusiveness. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Statue of Unity is the tallest statue in the world and is located near the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Statue of Unity is included in the list of eight wonders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), it is not a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

- The **Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme** was introduced in **November 2015** with the aim of decreasing the demand for physical gold and redirecting a portion of domestic savings, which would otherwise be used to buy gold, into financial savings.
  - ◆ They are issued as **Government of India Stock under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are available for purchase through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks, Payment Banks and Regional Rural Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, Clearing Corporation of India Limited, designated post offices and National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited, either directly or through agents.

- These bonds are issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ The price of gold bonds is linked to the price of gold of 999 purity (24 carats) as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), Mumbai.

- They have a **maturity period of 8 years**, with the option to exit the investment after the first five years. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**20. (B)****Exp:**

- **Ayurveda** focuses on achieving balance in the body, mind and spirit to promote holistic wellbeing.
  - ◆ The term Ayurveda is derived from two Sanskrit words: **"ayu", meaning life, and "veda", meaning knowledge.**
- Ayurveda is now legally recognised as a **traditional medicine system in 24 countries**, with over 100 countries importing Ayurvedic products. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- By the 19th-20th centuries, India formalized Ayurveda education, creating structured programs and a thriving industry that supports public and private healthcare.
- The **World Health Organisation (WHO) included Ayurveda in the ICD-11 TM Module 2**, allowing accurate documentation of Ayurvedic health interventions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ WHO also set benchmarks for Ayurveda practice and training, raising global quality standards.
- Since **2016**, the Government of India has been observing Ayurveda Day every year on **29th October (Dhanawantari Jayanti)** to raise awareness about Ayurvedic principles, medicinal herbs, and lifestyle practices. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The knowledge of Ayurveda is attributed to Dhanawantari, the divine physician who received this knowledge from the Lord Brahma.

**21. (B)****Exp:****Unpaid Work:**

- Unpaid work refers to activities that individuals, particularly women, engage in without receiving monetary compensation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unpaid work **contributes significantly to the economy**, often accounting for a substantial percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), especially in developing countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24 36.7% of females and 19.4% of the workforce** engage in unpaid work within household enterprises. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**22. (B)****Exp:**

- The minimum amount of default for initiating **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)** was Rs 1 lakh. The Government vide notification dated 24th March, 2020, has increased the minimum amount of default to **Rs 1 crore**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The committee of creditors is required to pass a resolution, with **66%** of the total voting share, to extend the CIRP. Thereafter, the resolution professional needs to file an application to the **Adjudicating Authority** seeking approval for such extension. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ As per section 12(1) of the Code, the CIRP shall be completed within a period of 180 days from the date of admission of the application to initiate such process.
  - ◆ The **Adjudicating Authority** may grant a one-time extension of 90 days. The maximum time within which CIRP has to be mandatorily completed, including any extension or litigation period, is 330 days.

**23. (C)****Exp:**

- The **30 by 30 target** is a global initiative to protect at least 30% of the **earth's land and ocean** as protected areas by 2030.
    - ◆ It's also known as Target 3 of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, which was adopted by over 190 countries in December 2022.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

**24. (B)****Exp:**

- The diffraction limit is a fundamental **physical boundary that restricts the ability of optical instruments, such as microscopes, to resolve two closely spaced objects**.
  - This limit arises due to the wave nature of light, which causes it to spread out when passing through small apertures or around edges, leading to the blurring of images.
  - As a result, while traditional light microscopes can visualize larger structures, such as cells, **they struggle to resolve finer details like proteins or viruses** due to this diffraction limit.
    - ◆ In contrast, super-resolution microscopy techniques have been developed to overcome these limitations.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

**25. (B)****Exp:**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank founded in **1966** to promote economic growth and reduce poverty in Asia. It is headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ADB has 69 shareholding members including 49 from the Asia and Pacific region. **India, a founding member of ADB, is now ADB's fourth largest shareholder and its top borrower since 2010**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- It is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ADB's work includes a **Climate Change Action Plan** that promotes a **just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

**26. (A)****Exp:**

- According to a recent study by the **International Labour Organisation**, India ranks among the most overworked countries globally, with workers averaging 46.7 hours per week. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Corporate initiatives like **codes of conduct** and work-life balance policies have not effectively addressed workplace toxicity, as they often lack depth. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

**27. (C)****Exp:****Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD):**

- It refers to a recommended standard set by the World Health Organization (WHO) for children aged 6-23 months. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It suggests that during 24 hours, children should consume foods and beverages from at least **five of the eight defined food groups**.
  - ◆ Breast milk, **grains, legumes, dairy products**, flesh foods, eggs, and fruits and vegetables.
- MDD is part of the **Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)** practices, which are assessed by a suite of indicators developed by the WHO and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

**28. (A)****Exp:**

- A fugitive economic offender is a person for whom an arrest warrant has been issued for committing an offense specified in the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, with the value of the offense amounting to at least **Rs. 100 crore**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- A special court designated under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**, may declare an individual as a fugitive economic offender after hearing the application. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

**29. (C)****Exp:**

- The **Balfour Declaration**, issued on **2nd November, 1917**, was a public statement by the **British government supporting the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine**, then an Ottoman-controlled region with a small Jewish population.
- Named after British Foreign Secretary **Arthur James Balfour**, this declaration aimed to address Jewish safety concerns due to rising persecution in Europe.
- It conflicted with Britain's earlier commitment in the **McMahon-Hussein Correspondence (1915-1916)**, which had promised support for an independent Arab state in exchange for Arab assistance against the Ottoman Empire. Hence, **option C is correct**.

## 30. (B)

Exp:

- A **Volcano** is an opening or fissure in the Earth's crust through which lava (molten rock), ash, gases, and rock fragments erupt from a magma chamber beneath the surface.
- **Intrusive Features:**
  - ◆ **Batholith:** The central core of a volcanic mountain. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
  - ◆ **Sill:** A tabular intrusion along sedimentary bedding planes. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
  - ◆ **Laccolith:** Magma injected between horizontal sedimentary layers, causing an upward bulge. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
  - ◆ **Dyke:** A vertical intrusion that cuts across rock layers.

Hence, option B is correct.

## 31. (A)

Exp:

- **Indian Olympic Association (IOA):**
  - ◆ IOA is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**. It is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
    - It governs the **Olympic Movement** and Commonwealth Games in India; oversees athletes' participation in **Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games**, and related multi-sport events.
  - ◆ The IOA **operates independently but is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** as the National Olympic Committee (NOC) for India.
    - **IOC** is a **non-governmental international organisation based in Lausanne, Switzerland** that came into existence in 1894.

Hence, option A is correct.

## 32. (D)

Exp:

- **Cryptobiosis** is a unique biological phenomenon in which an organism enters a **reversible, dormant metabolic state**, allowing it to survive extreme environmental conditions such as **dehydration, freezing, high radiation**.
- During cryptobiosis, all biological activity comes to a halt, effectively suspending life processes until favorable conditions return.
- This ability is seen in certain organisms, like **tardigrades**, which can resume normal metabolic function once the harsh conditions have subsided.

Hence, option D is correct.

## 33. (B)

Exp:

- The **First Buddhist Council** was convened by **King Ajatashatru in Rajgriha**, with Mahakashyapa as the Chairman. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

- The **Second Buddhist Council** was convened by **King Kalashoka in Vaishali**, with **Sabbakami** as the Chairman. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- The **Third Buddhist Council** was **not convened by King Kanishka** in Kundalban (Kashmir).
  - ◆ It was actually convened by **Emperor Ashoka in Patliputra (modern-day Patna)**, with Mogaliputra Tissa as the Chairman. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.

Hence, option B is correct.

## 34. (A)

Exp:

- The **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)**, a scientific department under the **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, is tasked with the sustainable development, management, and monitoring of India's groundwater resources. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Central Ground Water Authority** has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to regulate and control development and management of groundwater resources in the country. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

## 35. (B)

Exp:

- The Sun exhibits **differential rotation**, with its **equator** rotating every 25 days, while its **poles** take about 35 days to complete one rotation. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - ◆ The Sun's equator rotates at 13.98 degrees per day, while at 80 degrees latitude, the rotation rate slows to 10.5 degrees per day.
- The **chromosphere** is a thin plasma layer located between the **Sun's visible surface (photosphere)** and its **outer atmosphere (corona)**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

## 36. (B)

Exp:

World Solar Report Series:

- The World Solar Report series was launched by the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in 2022. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - ◆ Recently, at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the 3rd edition of the World Solar Report Series was released.
  - ◆ This year's series **comprises four key reports:** the World Solar Market Report, the World Investment Report, the World Technology Report, and the Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries.
- It **offers a concise overview** of global solar technology advancements, key challenges, and investment trends, providing valuable insights into the industry's growth. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**37. (A)****Exp:****Pradhan Mantri Vidyalaxmi Scheme:**

- It aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and aims to provide collateral-free, guarantor-free loans to students. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Students enrolled in institutions ranked within the **top 100 by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**, and those in the 101-200 range from state government and all central government-governed institutions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - It can benefit over 22 lakh students, with the list updated annually based on the latest NIRF rankings.

**38. (C)****Exp:**

- The first part of COP 15 took place in **Kunming, China** and reinforced the commitment to address the biodiversity crisis and the Kunming Declaration was adopted by over 100 countries.
- Key Targets of the GBF:**
  - Reduce risk from pesticides by at least 50% by 2030. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Stop the extinction of known species, and by 2050 reduce tenfold the extinction risk and rate of all species (including unknown)
  - Tackle climate change through nature-based solutions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Reduce pollution risks and negative impacts of pollution from all sources by 2030 to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions
  - Restore **30% degraded ecosystems globally** (on land and sea) **by 2030. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**39. (A)****Exp:**

- PM Vishwakarma Yojana** aims to uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople by enhancing the quality and market accessibility of their products and integrate them in both domestic and global value chains.
- Category: Central Sector Scheme. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Lending Mechanism:** Beneficiaries are eligible for collateral-free credit support of up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a low interest rate.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It aims to provide **collateral-free credit support of up to Rs 3 lakhs @ interest rate of 5%. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**40. (B)****Exp:**

- Sankari Prasad Case (1951):** The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the **First Amendment of 1951**, which amended **Article 368** to assert that Parliament had the power to amend the Constitution, including fundamental rights.

- The court ruled that Article 13(2) did not limit Parliament's power to amend fundamental rights. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- Bella Banerjee Case (1954):** In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that the **government must provide just compensation when it acquires property through the exercise of eminent domain** (compulsory acquisition). **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- Vidya Devi Case (2020):** The case **primarily dealt with issues around the forcible acquisition of private property under the constitutional framework**, but it did not specifically address the expansion of Article 31C. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

- The striking down of the expansion of Article 31C happened in the **Minerva Mills Case (1980)**, where the Supreme Court limited the scope of Article 31C, ruling that it could not override fundamental rights.

**Hence, option B is correct.****41. (C)****Exp:****Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)**

- About:**
  - The Government approved the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)**, a Central Sector Sub-scheme in February 2024 for a period of four years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27.
- Objectives:**
  - Gradual formalization of the unorganized fisheries sector by creation of work based digital identities under the **National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)** for improved service delivery. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Facilitating **greater access to institutional finance** for fish farmers & micro and small enterprises. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Promotes insurance adoption for aquaculture**, reducing risks while integrating traceability for quality assurance in supply chains. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - Facilitates **access to financial resources, empowering fish farmers** with funding and sustainability options. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

**Hence, option C is correct.****42. (D)****Exp:**

- Messenger RNA (mRNA):** Messenger RNA (mRNA) carries the genetic information from DNA to the ribosome for protein synthesis. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - mRNA serves as the intermediary between DNA and proteins. It is synthesized in a process called **transcription**, where an enzyme called RNA polymerase reads the DNA sequence of a gene and constructs an mRNA strand with a complementary sequence.



- **Transfer RNA (tRNA):** Transfer RNA (tRNA) reads the genetic code and brings amino acids to the ribosome during translation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ tRNA's primary job is to **read** the codons on the mRNA and **bring the appropriate amino acid** to the ribosome during the process of translation.

43. (A)

Exp:

- **Infrastructure For Resilient Island States (IRIS)** was jointly launched at the World Leaders Summit at **COP26 in Glasgow, UK**, by the Prime Ministers of India, UK, Australia, Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius.
  - ◆ IRIS is a dedicated initiative that aims to support **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** in achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable, and inclusive infrastructure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)** and the CDRI Multi-Partner Trust Fund were launched on November 9, 2022, at the India Pavilion during COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
  - ◆ Established with support from **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**, IRAF is managed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN MPTFO) in New York. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
    - The fund aims to enhance global disaster resilience in infrastructure systems, with a focus on developing countries and **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**.

44. (C)

Exp:

- The tailless Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Western hoolock gibbon** inhabits all the states of the north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra river and east of the Dibang river. And outside India, it is found in eastern Bangladesh and north-west Myanmar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is listed as **Endangered** under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- **Eastern hoolock gibbon** inhabits specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India, and in southern China and north-east Myanmar outside India.
  - ◆ It is listed as **Vulnerable** under the IUCN Redlist.

45. (B)

Exp:

- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** is the **centrally sponsored programme** under **Ministry of Rural Development** for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutions for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Each rural poor household has one member (preferably a woman) included in the Self Help Group (SHG) network, with women-led SHGs establishing bank-linkage arrangements. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

46. (C)

Exp:

Rakhine:

- Rakhine, the westernmost state in Myanmar, is one of the **poorest regions**, facing ongoing conflict, displacement, and poverty. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** has warned that Myanmar's Rakhine state, home to the **Rohingya minority**, is on the brink of an acute famine due to a combination of internal conflicts, economic collapse, and natural disasters. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ UNDP was established in 1965 by the United Nations and **aims to eliminate poverty** and promote sustainable development, democratic governance, and climate resilience.

47. (A)

Exp:

**State of Food and Agriculture Report, 2024:**

- The State of Food and Agriculture 2024 report by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations has revealed staggering global agrifood hidden costs of approximately USD 12 trillion annually, primarily driven by unhealthy dietary patterns and environmental degradation.
- Hence, option A is correct.

48. (D)

Exp:

- India recorded an estimated **27 lakh Tuberculosis (TB) cases in 2023**, of which **25.1 lakh individuals** were diagnosed and began treatment.
- TB incidence in India dropped from **237 cases per lakh population** in 2015 to **195 per lakh in 2023**, reflecting a **17.7% decline** over the period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Treatment coverage increased to **89% in 2023**, up from **72% in 2015**, significantly reducing the gap of undiagnosed or untreated cases. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India (26%), Indonesia (10%), China (6.8%), the Philippines (6.8%), and Pakistan (6.3%)** contribute 56% of the global TB burden. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

49. (A)

Exp:

**Key Facts About Wind Energy in India:**

- ◆ India has a wind power potential of **1,163.86 GW at 150 metres** above ground level while at a **120-metre** turbine height, it is **695.51 GW**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Only about **6.5%** of India's wind **potential** is **used** at the national level and **nearly 15% in Tamil Nadu**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ India has been **ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in wind power capacity** and **fourth in renewable energy installed capacity**, as of **2024**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ **Windy States:** Major wind energy states are **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan**, and **Andhra Pradesh**, which together contribute **93.37%** of the country's installed wind energy capacity.
  - **Tamil Nadu** has the **second largest** installed wind energy capacity with **10,603.5 MW after Gujarat**. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**



50. (B)

Exp:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of **Exercise AUSTRALIND** commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Maharashtra, in November 2024.
- The exercise, conducted **annually**, alternates **between India and Australia**, aiming to enhance military cooperation and interoperability in joint operations. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The exercise supports joint planning and sub-conventional operations in semi-urban, semi-desert terrain, focusing on counterterrorism, physical fitness, tactical drills, and high-level coordination as mentioned under **Chapter VII of the UN mandate**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The exercise will be conducted in two phases, **combat conditioning and tactical training phase** and **validation phase**.
- The Exercise reflects growing defense cooperation under the **India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2020)**.
- Other Exercises between India and Australia are **AUSINDEX**, and **PITCHBLACK**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Defence Cooperation between India and Australia:
  - ◆ Mutual Logistics Support Agreement
  - ◆ Both are members of the **Quad, Commonwealth, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Pacific Partnership on Climate and Clean Development**, and have participated in the **East Asia Summits**.

51. (D)

Exp:

- **Gluten**, a **protein complex** primarily found in **wheat, barley, and rye**, is celebrated for its utility in the food industry but is infamous for causing gluten-related disorders like **coeliac disease**, a condition affecting **around 2%** of the population. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Gluten is composed of proteins, mainly gliadins and glutenins, formed when water is added to certain cereal flours.
  - ◆ It **provides elasticity to dough**, allowing it to rise and imparting chewiness to baked products.
  - ◆ Naturally found, it can be extracted, concentrated, and incorporated into food and other products to enhance protein content, texture, and flavor.
- Gluten resists complete digestion due to the **enzyme protease** being inefficient in breaking it down. Undigested **gluten may lead to gastrointestinal disorders**.
  - ◆ A **protease**, also called a **peptidase, proteinase, or proteolytic enzyme**, is an enzyme that degrades proteins into smaller **polypeptides or amino acids**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Coeliac Disease** is an **autoimmune condition** triggered by gluten that damages the small intestine, prompting the immune system to produce a large number of antibodies that attack the body's own proteins. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Maintaining a diet very low in gluten is the only effective way to treat coeliac disease at present. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

52. (B)

Exp:

- The **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings: Asia 2025** assesses universities based on **six indicators** looking at four broad categories: research reputation, the learning and teaching environment, research impact, and internationalisation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It highlights India's growth in higher education, with **2 institutions in the top 50** and **7 in the top 100**. This reflects the growing competition of Indian institutions across Asia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** is a London-based global higher education analyst best known for its widely recognized **QS World University Rankings**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

53. (A)

Exp:

- Lightning is a **natural electrical discharge** that occurs during **storms** due to a buildup of **static electricity** in the atmosphere.
  - ◆ This buildup happens when **water droplets in clouds freeze into ice crystals**, which **rub against each other**, generating a static charge that ultimately results in lightning strikes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A **lightning rod** is a **conductive object** installed at the **highest point of a structure** to attract lightning and provide a **controlled path for its discharge**.
  - ◆ Lightning moves towards the object with the **highest electric potential**.
  - ◆ The shape of the **rod** creates a **stronger electric field**, ionising the air around it and providing a **route for the current to flow**. The rod directs lightning into the ground, where the earth safely absorbs and dissipates the charge. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **frequency and intensity of lightning strikes** are rising globally, driven by **climate change-induced** increases in **temperatures** and **atmospheric moisture**, as warm air and moisture promote cloud formation and **charge separation**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

54. (D)

Exp:

Article 142 of the Indian Constitution:

- **Article 142** of the Constitution empowers the **Supreme Court** to pass **decrees and orders** necessary for **complete justice** in any case. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Article 142(1)** allows the Court to issue **binding orders** across India, **enforceable as prescribed by law** or the **President**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Article 142(2)** grants the Court powers to secure attendance, discovery of documents, or punish contempt.
- Over time, this provision has been used to ensure **"complete justice"** and address perceived **legislative gaps**.

55. (B)

Exp:

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):**

- The OECD, founded in 1961, is an international organisation of 38 democratic countries committed to the market economy, headquartered in Paris, France.
  - ◆ It **aims to promote** prosperity, equality, opportunity, and well-being through the publication of economic reports, data, analyses, and forecasts, and by working to eliminate bribery and financial crime globally.
- The OECD collaborates with its Member countries and a range of partners on key global issues.
  - ◆ **India** has been an OECD **Key Partner** since 2007, alongside countries like Brazil, China, Indonesia, and South Africa, though it is not a member. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The OECD also maintains a **“blacklist” of uncooperative tax havens** and has working relationships with non-member economies such as India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Reports and Indices by OECD:** Government at a Glance, and **OECD Better Life Index.**

56. (C)

Exp:

**Konark Temple:**

- The **13th-century Konark Sun Temple**, near Puri in Odisha, was built by King Narasimhadeva I (1238–1264 AD). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Its grand scale and intricate design symbolize the strength and cultural values of the **Eastern Ganga Empire.**
- Konark temple was declared as **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1984. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Key Features of Temple:
  - ◆ The **vimana (principal sanctuary)** was surmounted by a high tower with a shikhara (crowning cap) also known as **Rekha deul**, which was razed in the 19th century.
  - ◆ To the east, the jahamogana (audience hall or Mandap) dominates the ruins with its pyramidal mass.

57. (D)

Exp:

**Acharya Jiwantram Bhagwandas Kripalani:**

- Recently, the **birth anniversary** of Acharya Jiwantram Bhagwandas Kripalani was observed on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- Acharya Kripalani was born in Hyderabad (Sind, now in Pakistan) on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1888 was a **prominent Gandhian**, parliamentarian, and crusader for social justice.
- He served as a **member of the Constituent Assembly** and Chairman of the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- He strongly **supported decentralised industrialization**, the development of rural areas, and employment in small and cottage industries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

58. (D)

Exp:

- **The Enforcement Directorate (ED)** is a multi-disciplinary agency responsible for investigating money laundering offenses and violations of foreign exchange laws, operating under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under the **Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021**, the **Enforcement Director's** tenure comprises an **initial appointment of 2 years** with the possibility of up to three extensions of one-year each, not exceeding a **total maximum tenure of 5 years.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

59. (A)

Exp:

- FDI is primarily governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999 and is subject to both sectoral caps and the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The capital account which is part of a country's balance of payments covers a variety of financial flows, mainly **foreign direct investment (FDI)**, portfolio flows (including investment in equities), and bank borrowing, which have in common the acquisition of assets in one country by residents of another. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

60. (B)

Exp:

- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** was a prominent freedom fighter, journalist, politician, and educationist.
- He strongly advocated for Hindu-Muslim unity and played a key role in shaping Indian nationalism.
- He started **Al-Hilal in 1912** to promote this unity and resist British colonial policies. His journal was banned by the British, but he continued his efforts through Al-Balagh.
- He was the youngest person to become **president of the Indian National Congress in 1923.** As the **first education minister of free India**, he was instrumental in shaping **India's education policy post-independence.** **Hence, option B is correct.**

61. (D)

Exp:

**Space Sector Reforms, 2020:**

- Setting up of the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** and enhancing the **role of New Space India Limited (NSIL)** are the two major areas in the reform.
  - ◆ **IN-SPACe, an autonomous agency under the Department of Space**, aims to foster industry, academia, and startups, regulate non-governmental space activities, and capture a larger share of the global space economy. Its headquarters are in **Ahmedabad.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ **NSIL, headquartered in Bengaluru**, is a wholly owned Government of India company under the **Department of Space (DOS)**, is the **commercial arm of ISRO** responsible for enabling Indian industries to undertake high technology space-related activities and promoting commercial exploitation of the Indian space programme. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Satcom (Satellite Communication) Reforms 2022

- It was introduced by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, aimed to streamline the **satellite-based communication network** application process and encourage private sector participation.
  - ◆ By reducing the processing time from **6-8 months to 6 weeks**, the reforms make it easier for service providers to establish satellite communication systems. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

62. (A)

Exp:

- **The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** includes 21 types of disability including **mental illness and hemophilia**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Person with disability** means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others.
  - ◆ **Person with benchmark** disability means a person with not less than 40%.
- **Section 31(1) of the The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, ensures that children with benchmark disabilities, aged **6 to 18**, have the right to free education in a neighborhood or special school of their choice, overriding provisions of the **Right to Education Act, 2009**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

63. (B)

Exp:

- The **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** offers free life-saving vaccines to all children against 12 diseases such as Tuberculosis, **Diphtheria, Pertussis**, Tetanus, Polio, **Hepatitis B**, Pneumonia, Meningitis, **Measles**, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE), and Rotavirus diarrhea. (Rubella, JE, and Rotavirus vaccines are provided in selected states and districts). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** is one of India's most comprehensive public health initiatives, aiming to provide life-saving vaccines to millions of newborns and pregnant women each year.
  - ◆ Initially launched in 1978 as the **Expanded Programme on Immunization**, it was rebranded as the UIP in 1985 when its coverage was extended beyond urban centres to rural areas, addressing disparities in healthcare access.
- Under **UIP**, a child is considered fully immunized after receiving all vaccinations as per the national schedule within the first year of life. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

64. (C)

Exp:

- **Avian influenza A(H5N1) or H5B1 Bird Flu** is a highly pathogenic virus that primarily circulates among birds but can infect mammals.
- It was **first identified in geese in China in 1996** and rapidly evolved into a highly pathogenic strain. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Since 2020, it has spread across **Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, South America, and even mainland Antarctica**.
- India experienced the **first H5N1 outbreak in the State of Maharashtra and Gujarat** in 2015. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Wild birds, including endangered species like **California condors**, have been severely affected by H5N1. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

65. (B)

Exp:

- **Millets** are small-seeded grasses grown in dry regions, with varieties like **Ragi, Jowar, Bajra, and Sama**.
- **De-branning** millets reduces their nutritional value by lowering protein, fibre, fat, minerals, and phytates while increasing carbohydrates and amylose, leading to higher glycemic load.
  - ◆ **De-branning makes millets softer and extends (and not reduces) shelf life**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Millets contain minerals like iron, zinc, and calcium and have bioactive flavonoids that support health. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ They are gluten-free, with a low glycemic index, beneficial for people with celiac disease or diabetes.
- India is the **largest producer and exporter of millets**, followed by Niger and China. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Global millet production stood at 28 million metric tons in 2020, with major consumption in Africa and Asia.

66. (A)

Exp:

- **About Nature Conservation Index (NCI):**
  - ◆ It is developed by the **Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change at Ben-Gurion University and BioDB.com**, a biodiversity database. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The **first NCI was launched in October 2024** to evaluate conservation efforts.
  - ◆ It assesses **four key markers**: land management, biodiversity threats, capacity and governance, and future trends.
- **Observation of the NCI:**
  - ◆ **Sustainable land use** is crucial, as 53% of land is converted for urban, industrial, and agricultural purposes.
  - ◆ The index **highlights high pesticide use and warns about soil pollution**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



- ◆ **Marine conservation** needs improvement, with only 0.2% of national waterways protected and none within India's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.
- ◆ **India ranks 176<sup>th</sup>** in the **2024 Global Nature Conservation Index**. It is **among the five lowest-ranked countries**, along with Kiribati (180), Turkey (179), Iraq (178), and Micronesia (177), out of 180 nations. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - India's low ranking is due to **inefficient land management** and increasing **biodiversity threats**.

67. (B)

Exp:

- The **Karman Line** marks the **boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space**, serving as a theoretical reference point for spacecraft and satellite operations.
- It helps aerospace engineers and pilots understand the **transition to space**, where conventional aircraft cannot operate due to reduced atmospheric density.
- Though it has **no physical features**, its **significance lies in its role in space and aeronautical activities**. **Hence, option B is correct.**

68. (C)

Exp:

- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** refers to investments made by foreign investors in the financial assets of a country without seeking control or significant influence over the companies in which they invest.
- Its asset type includes financial assets like stocks, bonds, and **Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- FPI is restricted in sectors like **Gambling and betting**, Real Estate Business, Nidhi company (Mutual Benefit Funds Company) etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Entry and exit are **easy due to liquidity and wide trading of assets**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

69. (D)

Exp:

- The **Inter-State Council (ISC)** was formalized in 1990 following the recommendations of the **Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1983–88)** (not the Rajmannar Commission), which suggested making it a permanent body. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The President** can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

70. (C)

Exp:

- **The Global Methane Pledge (GMP)**, launched at CoP26 in 2021 as part of the Glasgow climate pact, aims to reduce methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Unconditional and conditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** for 2030 are estimated to reduce global emissions by 2 % and 9% respectively. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

71. (B)

Exp:

**Measures Taken by India to Combat Human Trafficking:**

- **Constitutional and Legislative Provisions:**
  - ◆ **Article 23 (1) of the Constitution of India:** Prohibits human trafficking and forced labour.
  - ◆ **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA):** Focuses on preventing trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
  - ◆ **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013:** Addresses human trafficking for physical and sexual exploitation, **slavery**, and organ removal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** Protects children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
- **Initiatives Taken:**
  - ◆ **Anti-Trafficking Cell (ATC):** Established by the MHA to coordinate and follow up on anti-trafficking actions.
  - ◆ **Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs):** The MHA has established **AHTUs** to deal with law enforcement response on Trafficking in human beings, excluding legislative, welfare and promotional aspects, which are subject matters of the Department of Women & Child Development.
  - ◆ **Mission Vatsalya Program:** It supports **child victims of crime**, including trafficking. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **International Conventions on Trafficking:**
  - ◆ **UN Convention:** The **United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)** includes a protocol for the prevention, suppression, and punishment of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
    - India ratified the convention and implemented the **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013** in line with the protocol on trafficking in persons.
    - However, UNTOC defines an **"organised criminal group"** but **does not** provide a definition for **"organised crime."** This lack of a clear definition can hinder efforts to effectively combat organised crimes like sex trafficking. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

72. (D)

Exp:

- Slavery was abolished across the British Indian Empire during the tenure of **Lord Ellenborough** as Governor-General. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The **Charter Act of 1833** paved the way for the abolition of slavery across the British Indian Empire. Subsequently, in 1843, the **Indian Slavery Act** was passed, making slavery illegal throughout India. At the time, **Lord Ellenborough** served as Governor-General.

- **Article 23** of the **Indian Constitution** prohibits human trafficking and forced labor, safeguarding individuals from exploitation and ensuring their right to freedom and dignity. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ Traffic in human beings and beggars and other similar forms of forced labor are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offense punishable in accordance with law.

73. (A)

Exp:

- The **Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994** (the “AD Agreement”) governs the application of anti-dumping measures by Members of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** including India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Anti-Dumping(AD) duties** are enforced as a protective measure under the multilateral regime of Geneva-based **WTO** to ensure fair trade practices.
- Anti-Dumping measures are **unilateral** actions taken by a member of WTO after investigating and determining that dumped imports harm a domestic industry, in line with the AD Agreement. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

74. (C)

Exp:

- The Titan Arum, one of the world’s largest flowers, blooms once a decade in Australia, growing over **10 feet tall**.
- Its unique pale yellowish structure rises from a corm, an underground energy-storage system that supports its **10-year bloom cycle and 6-month fruiting period**.
- The flower **mimics the smell of rotting flesh to attract pollinators** like carnivorous bees and flies, a process known as **sapromyophily**.
- It blossoms on **limestone hills in the rainforests of western Sumatra**, Indonesia. It doesn’t bloom in the wild in Australia.

**Hence, option C is correct.**

75. (B)

Exp:

- **NASA-ISRO SAR Mission (NISAR)** was built in collaboration with the **United States** and India under a partnership agreement signed in 2014, and is set to launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh, India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The satellite will be launched into **Low Earth Orbit** using ISRO’s **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark II**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It will map the entire globe every 12 days, offering consistent data on ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation, sea level rise, groundwater, and natural hazards like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and landslides.
- It integrates two advanced radar systems— **NASA’s L-band radar and ISRO’s S-band radar**—marking it as the first satellite to carry both. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

76. (B)

Exp:

**Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) Program:**

- The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** has launched the **Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) Program** to enhance **research capabilities in Indian universities**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ **ANRF** acts as an **apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research** in the country as per recommendations of the NEP.
- PAIR aims to enhance university research by using a **hub-and-spoke model**, pairing **top-tier universities (hubs)** with **emerging institutions (spokes)** for mentorship and collaboration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Hub institutions, including the top 25 **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**-ranked universities and top 50 Institutions of National Importance will mentor spoken institutions (central and state public universities) with limited research infrastructure.

77. (B)

Exp:

Tea:

- India is the **world’s fourth-largest tea exporter**, with exports valued at USD 793.78 million in 2022-2023, primarily to destinations like the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Iran, the United States, and the United Kingdom. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ **China** is the world’s largest producer and exporter of tea.
- **70% of tea plantations** are near forests, resulting in frequent conflicts with wildlife, such as elephants, causing damage to crops and plantations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

78. (D)

Exp:

**UNESCO Global Geoparks (Geo Heritage Sites):**

- **About:** UNESCO Global Geoparks are unified geographical areas with internationally significant geological sites, managed with a holistic approach to protection, education, and sustainable development.
- ◆ Geo Heritage Sites are locations that have geological significance due to their **unique rock formations, fossils, mineral deposits, or landforms**.
- **Designation Process:** UNESCO Global Geoparks are designated for **four years**, after which they undergo **revalidation**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Green Card:** Awarded if the area **continues to meet** the criteria.
- ◆ **Yellow Card:** Issued if the area **no longer meets the criteria**, allowing two years for improvement.
- ◆ **Red Card:** Issued if the area **fails to meet** the criteria within two years after a yellow card, leading to loss of status.



- **Global Presence:** As of now, there are a total of **213 UNESCO Global Geoparks across 48 countries** but **India has no Global Geoparks**. E.g., **Dali-Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark in China**.
- **Diversity:** Geo heritage sites can include volcanic formations, fossil-rich areas, caves, mountain ranges, glacial features, and mineral-rich regions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

79. (C)

Exp:

- **Dicliptera polymorpha** exhibits several unique traits that contribute to its resilience and adaptability.
- Notably, it is **fire-resistant**, able to **withstand summer droughts** and adapt to grassland fires. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The species follows a dual blooming pattern, flowering once after the monsoon (November–April) and again in May–June following fires.
- Morphologically, **it stands out due to its inflorescence flower structures**, which are **rare among Indian species** but resemble those found in African counterparts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It thrives in harsh conditions, particularly on **open grassland slopes in the Western Ghats**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

80. (B)

Exp:

**Birsa Munda**

- Born on 15th November 1875 in the Chota Nagpur Plateau, **Birsa Munda was a prominent tribal leader from the Munda community.**
- Growing up amidst the struggles of tribal life, he founded the Birsait sect to resist British colonialism and missionary efforts to convert tribal people.
- In 1899, he launched the **Ulgulan (Great Tumult) movement**, using guerrilla tactics to resist British authority and promote the idea of “Birsa Raj.”
- Arrested by **British police in 1900, with his guerilla group in the Jamkopai forest**, Munda died in mysterious circumstances in Ranchi jail at the age of 25.
- His efforts led to laws protecting tribal land rights, and his legacy is honored with the **establishment of Jharkhand on his birth anniversary in 2000.**  
**Hence, option B is correct.**

drishti