



drishti

**March 2025  
(Part-I)**

**Current  
Affairs  
MCQ  
(Consolidation)**

**Drishti, 641, First Floor, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-110009**

**Inquiry: +91-87501-87501**

**Email: [care@groupdrishti.in](mailto:care@groupdrishti.in)**

## Practice Question

1. What are Ultra-Conserved Elements (UCEs), often mentioned in the news?

- A. A gene that makes plants pest-resistant
- B. A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients
- C. A sequence of Deoxyribonucleic Acid found in humans, mice, rats, chickens, and even fish.
- D. A herbicidal substance synthesised in genetically modified crops

2. With reference to the governance of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), consider the following statements:

- 1. Local governance is exclusively a Union subject, with PRIs operating under a central law.
- 2. 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 established a three-tiered Panchayat system and originally mandated 1/3<sup>rd</sup> reservation for women in PRIs.

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 the Raman Effect:

- 1. C.V. Raman received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the Raman Effect in 1930.
- 2. The Raman Effect explains the scattering of light due to molecular vibrations, leading to a shift in wavelength.
- 3. Raman Spectroscopy is used for chemical analysis and material identification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following characteristics:

- 1. Found in South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, and Mozambique
- 2. Feeds exclusively on carrion
- 3. Has creamy-buff plumage with dark flight and tail feathers

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

- A. Cape Vulture
- B. White-backed Vulture
- C. Lappet-faced Vulture
- D. Egyptian Vulture

5. MGF-Kavachh, recently in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. It is an indigenously developed bulletproof jacket for the Indian armed forces.
- B. It is a newly launched digital payment security framework by the Reserve Bank of India.
- C. It is an advanced weather forecasting model developed by the Indian Meteorological Department.
- D. It is a Securities and Exchange Board of India registered alternative investment fund.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Green Bonds:

- 1. The proceeds from Green Bonds must be exclusively allocated to renewable energy projects.
- 2. Green Bonds in India are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding Chandra Shekhar Azad:

- 1. He played a pivotal role in reorganizing the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) after the Kakori Conspiracy.
- 2. He was a key figure in the planning of the assassination of J.A. Saunders to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- 3. He was arrested and tried in the Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1929.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**8. Consider the following statements regarding Buddhism and Jainism:**

1. Buddhism follows the Middle Path, whereas Jainism emphasizes extreme asceticism.
2. Buddhism rejects the concept of soul (atman), whereas Jainism believes in an eternal soul.
3. Buddhism is non-committal about the concept of God, focusing on individual actions, while Jainism acknowledges God as the creator of the universe.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**9. Consider the following pairs of textile products and their associated regions in India:**

1. Kanjeevaram Silk- Tamil Nadu
2. Pashmina Wool- Himachal Pradesh
3. Ilkal Saree - Karnataka
4. Muga Silk- Assam

**Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

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

**10. With reference to the clemency powers in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Pardon completely absolves the convict, removing both conviction and sentence.
2. Commutation means replacing a punishment with a lesser one, such as converting a death sentence to rigorous imprisonment.
3. Respite grants a temporary delay in the execution of a sentence, particularly the death penalty.
4. Reprieve reduces the sentence considering special circumstances, like physical disability or pregnancy.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**11. Consider the following statements regarding Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs):**

1. LEDs operate on the principle of electroluminescence, where light is emitted when an electric current passes through a semiconductor.
2. LEDs are more energy-efficient than incandescent and fluorescent bulbs due to lower heat generation and higher luminous efficacy.
3. LED bulbs contain mercury, similar to fluorescent bulbs

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**12. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Lokpal has jurisdiction over the Prime Minister, except in matters like national security and international relations.
2. The Lokpal is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a selection committee that includes the Chief Justice of India or a nominated Supreme Court judge.

**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

**13. With reference to the Supreme Court Judges in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The salaries and pensions of SC judges are charged from the Consolidated Fund of India.
2. SC judges can be removed only for proven misbehavior or incapacity through a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament.
3. The conduct of SC judges cannot be discussed in Parliament except during the process of their removal.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

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**14. Consider the following statements:**

1. RBI classifies renewable energy as a priority sector lending (PSL), requiring banks to allocate up to 40% of their net credit.
2. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is the only provider of concessional loans for renewable energy projects in the country.

**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

**15. With reference to the remission in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 72 empowers the President to grant remission of punishment to any person convicted of an offense under Union law.
2. SC and High Courts have no authority to intervene in remission cases except under specific circumstances.
3. In Laxman Naskar v. Union of India (2000), the SC outlined factors for remission, ensuring a balanced approach to justice and public safety.

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

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

**16. Consider the following statements:**

1. It is the second-smallest planet in the Solar System.
2. It is the 4th planet from the Sun.
3. It is about half of Earth's size and hosts Olympus Mons (largest volcano).

**Which of the following planets best matches the above description?**

- A. Mars
- B. Venus
- C. Mercury
- D. Jupiter

**17. Consider the following statements:**

1. It is the second longest river in the United Kingdom.
2. London is situated on its bank.
3. It drains into the North Sea.

**Which of the following rivers best matches the above description?**

- A. River Severn
- B. River Thames
- C. River Trent
- D. River Mersey

**18. Consider the following statements regarding the MAITRI Platform:**

1. It is a digital trade documentation system that reduces processing time and enhances efficiency.
2. It establishes a Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC) between India and UAE.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**19. Jhumoir Dance, recently in the news, is related to which of the following?**

- A. Bhil Tribe
- B. Meitei Tribe
- C. Assam's Tea Tribes
- D. Bishnupriya Manipuri Community

**20. Consider the following statements related to Tuberculosis:**

1. The Bacille Calmette-Guérin vaccine is given to infants to prevent TB.
2. Multidrug-resistant TB is resistant to isoniazid and rifampicin.
3. HIV patients are highly vulnerable to TB.

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

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

**21. Consider the following statements:**

1. It is a climbing shrub from the Menispermaceae family.
2. It is native to India but also found in China and tropical areas of Australia and Africa.
3. It is traditionally used to treat fever, diabetes, infections, gout, jaundice, asthma, diarrhea, and skin diseases.

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Which of the following best matches the above description?

- A. Tinospora cordifolia (Giloy)
- B. Ficus benghalensis (Banyan Tree)
- C. Moringa oleifera (Drumstick Tree)
- D. Solanum nigrum (Black Nightshade)

22. Consider the following statements regarding Morarji Desai:

- 1. He served as the Finance Minister of India before resigning from the Union Cabinet under the Kamaraj Plan in 1963.
- 2. He was appointed as the Chairman of the First Administrative Reforms Commission in 1966.

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

23. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India has acquired land in Zambia for copper and cobalt exploration, led by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- 2. Zambia is the world's largest producer of copper.
- 3. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is leading India's exploration of lithium reserves in South America and Australia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements related to National Board of Wildlife:

- 1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- 2. The Prime Minister serves as its ex-officio chairperson.
- 3. It ensures that no tiger reserve is diverted to unsustainable use without its approval.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following languages of the Eight's Schedule of Indian Constitution:

- 1. Konkani
- 2. Manipuri
- 3. Nepali

How many of the above languages were included by the 71st Amendment Act, 1992?

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding the Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum:

- 1. The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum was hosted by China in 2025.
- 2. The forum promotes Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R) principles and circular economy practices in Asia-Pacific.
- 3. The forum was first launched in 2009 to promote resource efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Blue Ghost Mission 1, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A mission to the moon by a US private company.
- B. A deep-sea exploration mission to study underwater volcanoes.
- C. A covert military operation in Eastern Europe.
- D. A conservation project aimed at protecting endangered marine species.

28. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Article 41 advocates for public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disability.
- 2. Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 established a national body to address the welfare of persons with multiple disabilities.
- 3. In Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration, 2009, SC upheld the reproductive rights of a mentally retarded woman.

How many of the statements above is/are correct?

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

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**29. Consider the following statements related to Blue Box subsidies:**

1. Any support provided to farmers that would normally be in the amber box is placed in the blue box if it requires farmers to limit production.
2. There are no limits on spending on blue box subsidies.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**30. Wallace Line, recently in the news, is related to which of the following?**

- A. It is an imaginary boundary separating the distinct faunal regions of Asia and Australia.
- B. It is a longitudinal line dividing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- C. It is a geopolitical boundary between Europe and Asia
- D. It is a tectonic fault line in the Indian Ocean

**31. With reference to Dholavira, a significant archaeological site, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the fifth-largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization and lies between two seasonal streams, Mansar and Manhar.
2. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**32. Consider the following statements:**

1. India has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest textile manufacturing capacity globally.
2. India is the largest producer of jute in the world and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of man-made fibres (MMF).
3. In India, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in the textile sector under the government route to attract foreign investment.

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

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

**33. Consider the following statements regarding Starlink:**

1. Operated by SpaceX, it utilizes a network of approximately 7,000 satellites positioned in low Earth orbit (LEO), creating a "mega-constellation" to provide connectivity across various regions of the world.
2. India has granted approval to Starlink for commercial operations, allowing it to compete with domestic telecom providers.
3. The Starlink satellites carry Hall thrusters, which use electricity and krypton gas to generate an impulse.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**34. Consider the following statements related to Paris Agreement:**

1. It seeks to curb climate change and keep warming below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
2. It replaced the Montreal Protocol.
3. Under the agreement, each country is required to submit and update their NDCs every 3 years

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

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

**35. Colossal A23a, recently in news, is best described as?**

- A. A newly discovered deep-sea trench in the Southern Ocean
- B. A newly formed volcanic island in the Pacific Ocean
- C. An iceberg drifting near South Georgia Island
- D. A giant ice shelf breaking apart in the Arctic

**36. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):**

1. PMMVY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The scheme provides ₹5,000 for the first child and ₹6,000 for the second child only if it is a girl.
3. The scheme does not comply with the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**37. Consider the following statements regarding Preventive Detention in India:**

1. Under Article 22, a person cannot be held in detention for more than three months under any circumstances.
2. The National Security Act (NSA), 1980 authorizes preventive detention.

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. The term “Karakoram Anomaly” refers to which of the following phenomena?**

- A. The unusual stability or growth of glaciers in the Karakoram region despite global warming.
- B. The formation of deep crevasses in Karakoram glaciers due to tectonic activity.
- C. The rapid retreat of glaciers in the Karakoram due to rising temperatures.
- D. The frequent occurrence of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in the Karakoram.

**39. Fiscal Monitor and External Sector Report, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following organizations?**

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**40. Planetary Parade, a rare celestial event where seven planets align on one side of the sun, occurs due to?**

- A. Planets orbit the Sun along a flat, disc-shaped path called the ecliptic plane.
- B. Gravitational forces between planets periodically pull them into alignment.
- C. The Sun's magnetic field causes planets to temporarily shift their orbits.
- D. The alignment is a result of random movement of asteroids in space.

**41. Regarding cryptocurrency, consider the following statements:**

1. Cryptocurrency is a decentralised digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
2. To engage in cryptocurrency transactions, individuals or businesses must obtain a digital wallet to store their keys securely.
3. In India, it is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

**42. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Outer Space Treaty (1967) makes states responsible for all national space activities, including private ones.
2. Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (1972) imposes absolute liability for space object damage on Earth.

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. Article 14 ensures that all individuals, regardless of being citizens or foreigners, are entitled to equality before the law and equal protection of the laws in India.
2. Article 14 forbids class legislation but allows reasonable classification based on intelligible differentia.

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

**44. With reference to the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), consider the following statements:**

1. CPSEs are companies where the Central Government or other CPSEs hold at least 51% stake.
2. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) oversees CPSEs' performance, finance, and policies under various ministries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**45. Consider the following statements regarding Jan Aushadhi Diwas and the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):**

1. Jan Aushadhi Diwas was first observed in 2015 when the Jan Aushadhi Scheme was revamped as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana.
2. The PMBJP aims to provide affordable generic medicines through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs), which are operated under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**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. Consider the following statements regarding black holes:**

1. Black holes are regions where gravity is so strong that not even light can escape.
2. The event horizon of a black hole is the point of no return, beyond which nothing can escape.
3. Black holes only exist at the center of galaxies.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**47. Consider the following statements regarding disinvestment in India:**

1. Strategic disinvestment involves the sale of minority stakes in public sector enterprises.
2. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is responsible for disinvestment policy implementation 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

**48. Consider the following statements regarding diabetes:**

1. Type 1 diabetes is primarily caused by insulin resistance in the body.
2. Gestational diabetes occurs only in pregnant women and usually resolves after childbirth.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**49. Consider the following:**

1. Kwashiorkor
2. Marasmus
3. Rickets
4. Scurvy

**Which of the following conditions given above is/are primarily associated with protein deficiency?**

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

**50. Which of the following is the central teaching of the Bhakti movement that distinguished it from earlier religious practices in India?**

- A. Ritualistic worship of idols and temples
- B. The need for intermediaries like priests in religious practices
- C. Direct devotion to a personal god and rejection of caste distinctions
- D. Emphasis on asceticism and renunciation of worldly life

**51. Consider the following statements regarding solar flares:**

1. Solar flares are bursts of energy and radiation originating from the Sun's surface.
2. The occurrence of solar flares has no impact on Earth's climate or technological systems.
3. Solar flares release electromagnetic radiation only in the form of X-rays.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**52. Consider the following statements related to Taiwan:**

1. It is located in the East China Sea.
2. It manufactures 60% of the world's semiconductors.
3. It came under Chinese control during the Qing dynasty

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

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

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**53. Consider the following statements regarding the National Quantum Mission (NQM):**

1. It aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with up to 1,000 physical qubits over eight years using superconducting and photonic technologies.
2. The mission includes the development of satellite-based secure quantum communication between ground stations over a distance of 2,000 km within 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

**54. Consider the following statements:**

1. A tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that deals with the resolution of disputes pertaining to administration, taxation, environment, securities, etc.
2. Tribunals were introduced in the Constitution through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, as they were not part of the original Constitution.

**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 Man-Made Fibres (MMFs), consider the following statements?**

1. Synthetic MMFs are derived from crude oil, while cellulosic MMFs originate from wood pulp.
2. Viscose and modal are common synthetic staple fibres.

**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. Consider the following statements:**

1. They are large water birds known for their long beaks and large throat pouches used for catching fish.
2. They are carnivores, primarily eating fish but also consuming amphibians, crustaceans, insects, birds, and small mammals.
3. They inhabit all continents except Antarctica, preferring warm coastal and inland waters like lakes and rivers.

**Which of the following birds best matches the above description?**

- A. Pelican (Pelecanus)
- B. Cormorant (Phalacrocorax)
- C. Albatross (Diomedidae)
- D. Heron (Ardeidae)

**57. Regarding the Loss and Damage Fund, consider the following statements:**

1. It supports developing and small island nations facing climate-induced losses like rising sea levels, heatwaves, and extreme weather, with contributions from developed nations.
2. It is managed by a Governing Board, with the World Bank as its interim trustee.

**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

**58. Consider the following statements regarding the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), 1995:**

1. It was adopted at the 4th World Conference on Women held in New York, USA.
2. The Beijing+30 Action Agenda aims to review and appraise the implementation of BPfA after 30 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 features:**

1. It is part of the upper Vindhyan hills.
2. Nilgai, Chinkara, Chousingha are key animals found in this region.
3. Recently, it has been declared as India's 58th Tiger Reserve.

**Which of the following protected areas is best described from above features?**

- A. Madhav National Park
- B. Kuno National Park
- C. Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary

**60. Dinesh Goswami Committee and Indrajit Gupta Committee, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?**

- A. Panchayati Raj Governance
- B. Judicial Appointments
- C. Environmental Protection
- D. Electoral Reforms

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61. With reference to India's energy sector, consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest oil importer and consumer.
2. India aims to double its oil & gas exploration area by 2030.
3. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 500 lakh metric tons in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. Exercise KHANJAR-XII is conducted between which of the following pairs of countries?

- A. India-Kyrgyzstan
- B. India-Bangladesh
- C. India-Japan
- D. India-Kazakhstan

63. Regarding the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, and functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
2. Honey Mission (2017) is an initiative of KVIC that promotes beekeeping and honey production (apiculture) and integrates bee farming with agriculture for additional income.

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:

1. Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 promotes Make-I and Make-II projects to encourage private-sector participation in defence manufacturing.
2. Two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) were established in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to boost defence manufacturing.
3. Major indigenization projects led by Defence Public Sector Units (DPSUs) include INS Vikrant and LCA Tejas.

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

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

65. Which of the following statements about the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is correct?

- A. The NPT mandates all countries to eliminate their nuclear weapons within a fixed timeline.
- B. It defines Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) as those possessing nuclear weapons before 1st January, 1967.
- C. India is a signatory to the NPT.
- D. The NPT is enforced by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

66. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a colorless liquid with a bitter taste at room temperature, highly unstable, and decomposes into oxygen and water, releasing heat.
2. It is used as an antiseptic for wounds and a disinfectant in hospitals and clinics.
3. It is a strong oxidizer and may cause spontaneous ignition with combustible materials.

Which of the following compounds best matches the above description?

- A. Hydrogen peroxide
- B. Sodium hypochlorite
- C. Potassium permanganate
- D. Chlorine dioxide

67. Consider the following pairs:

Period	Tools & Technology	Key Sites
1. Lower Palaeolithic (600,000 – 150,000 BCE)	Hand axes, cleavers	Bori (Maharashtra), Son & Sohan valleys (Punjab)
2. Mesolithic Age (9000 – 4000 BCE)	Microliths	Bagor (Rajasthan), Adamgarh (MP), South of Krishna River
3. Neolithic Age (7000 – 5500 BCE)	Rectangular axes, polished stone axes	Mehrgarh (Balochistan), Senuwar (Bihar)

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

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

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**68. With reference to India's pharmaceutical industry, consider the following statements:**

1. India ranks third globally in pharmaceutical production by volume.
2. India is the largest supplier of generic medicines worldwide, meeting 20% of global demand.
3. The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) regulates the price of certain life-saving drugs in India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**69. Consider the following statements regarding Pashu Aushadhi Kendras:**

1. These kendras provide only ethnoveterinary medicines based on traditional Indian knowledge.
2. Pashu Aushadhi Kendras are launched under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, which focuses on the conservation of indigenous cattle breeds.

**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. With reference to the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a comprehensive set of macroeconomic accounts to meet the needs of government and private-sector analysts and policy-makers.
2. It was jointly prepared by India and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**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 Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA):**

1. DNA replication occurs in the nucleus of prokaryotic cells.
2. Mitochondria contain their own DNA, which is inherited maternally.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**72. With reference to the geographical location of the North Sea, consider the following statements:**

1. It is connected to the Atlantic by the Strait of Dover and the English Channel and to the Baltic Sea through the Skagerrak and Kattegat.
2. It is bordered by the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France.

**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. Which one of the following countries shares a border with Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan:**

- A. Iran
- B. Kyrgyzstan
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Turkmenistan

**74. Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship in India:**

1. The Constitution of India provides for single citizenship, similar to the United States of America.
2. Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders have the same political rights as Indian citizens.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**75. Regarding the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements:**

1. Each Member of Parliament (MP) is allocated Rs 5 crore per year under the scheme.
2. Funds are non-lapsable and carried forward if not utilised in a given year.
3. MPs must allocate a minimum of 15% and 7.5% of their funds to create assets for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), respectively.

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

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

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**76. Consider the following statements:**

1. This country gave India's Prime Minister the highest national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.'
2. Recently, India elevated its ties with this country to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership.
3. India announced its first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit to support this country in replacing its water pipelines.
4. Mahatma Gandhi also visited this country in 1901, advocating education and political empowerment for the Indian community.

**Which of the following countries best matches the above description?**

- A. Mauritius
- B. Maldives
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Seychelles

**77. With reference to the methods used to convert biomass into electric power, consider the following statements:**

1. The most common method to generate electricity from biomass is through direct combustion.
2. Pyrolysis yields bio-oil by rapidly heating the biomass in the absence of oxygen.

**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. Which of the following organizations published the World Air Quality Report in 2024?**

- A. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)

- B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C. IQAir
- D. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

**79. Consider the following statements regarding the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID:**

1. It was introduced under the National Education Policy 2020, linking student records to DigiLocker and the Academic Bank of Credits.
2. Concerns over APAAR ID include data privacy risks for minors, potential violation of the Supreme Court's ruling on Aadhaar.

**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

**80. With reference to Mycelium Bricks, consider the following statements:**

1. They are made from fungal spores, husk, and sawdust, forming a lightweight fibrous structure.
2. Mycelium bricks emit significantly more CO<sub>2</sub> than traditional fired clay bricks during production.
3. They are biodegradable, fire-resistant, and provide good thermal insulation.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

## Answers

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

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## Explanations

1. (C)

Exp:

- **Ultra-Conserved Elements** are **Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)** sequences of at least 200 base-pairs that have remained **completely unchanged** across multiple species for **80 million years or more**.
- These sequences are found in humans, mice, rats, chickens, and even fish, indicating their **critical biological importance**.
- Across the human **genome** (an entire set of DNA instructions found in a cell), there are nearly **500 UCEs**.
  - ◆ **Characteristics of UCEs:** UCEs exhibit nearly **identical DNA sequences across diverse species**, even those that are evolutionarily distant.
  - ◆ **Functions of UCEs:** They do not usually **code for proteins** but are involved in gene regulation.
- Hence, option C is correct.

2. (B)

Exp:

- Local governance falls under the jurisdiction of state governments, with PRIs operating as per respective **State Panchayati Raj Acts**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - ◆ The **Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996**, grants **Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas** special powers to **manage natural resources** and protect **tribal culture and livelihoods**.
- **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** established a **three-tiered Panchayat system** and mandated **1/3rd reservation for women**, later increased to **50% in 21 states and 2 UTs**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

3. (D)

Exp:

- **CV Raman** won the **1930 Nobel Prize in Physics** for Raman Effect, making him the **first Asian to receive a Nobel Prize in science**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ He was also honored with the **Bharat Ratna in 1954**, India's highest civilian award.
- **Raman Effect:** It refers to the phenomenon where **incoming excitation light** interacts with a sample, undergoes a **change in wavelength**, and generates **scattered light** due to interactions with molecular vibrations. This phenomenon is known as **Raman scattering**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ **Applications of Raman Effect:** It forms the basis of **Raman Spectroscopy** (analyzing molecular vibrations), widely used to study material properties.

- Its applications expanded after the advent of **lasers** in the 1960s, aiding **chemical analysis** by identifying substances without breaking them. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- It also helps **forensic science** detect drugs in sealed evidence bags and enables safe **nuclear waste analysis** using **fiber-optic probes**.

4. (A)

Exp:

- **Cape Vulture** resides **exclusively in Southern Africa** and is found in **South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, and Mozambique**.
  - ◆ It has **creamy-buff plumage with dark flight and tail feathers**, honey-colored eyes, a bluish throat, and a black bill.
- It **feeds only on carrion**, lives in groups, and is monogamous i.e., raising one chick per season.
  - ◆ It is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red list.
- Only three species are exclusive to Africa i.e., White-headed Vulture, Hooded Vulture, and Cape Vulture.

5. (D)

Exp:

- **MGF-Kavachh, India's first venture capital fund** dedicated to fostering startups engaged in indigenizing critical technologies, has successfully achieved its first close, exceeding its initial target of ₹250 crores.
- Registered as an **alternative investment fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, it has quickly gained strong investor confidence.
  - ◆ Its success highlights its potential to drive innovation and self-reliance in strategically important sectors.

6. (B)

Exp:

- **Green Bonds** are financial instruments used to raise funds for projects that have positive environmental benefits.
  - ◆ The proceeds are **not exclusively allocated to renewable energy projects**; they can **also fund initiatives like** energy efficiency, clean transportation, and sustainable agriculture. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

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- Green bonds in India are **regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, which introduced a framework for their issuance and listing in 2017. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

7. (A)

Exp:

- **Chandrasekhar Azad** was an **Indian revolutionary** who organized and led a band of **militant youth** during India's independence movement. After the **Kakori Conspiracy (1925)**, Chandra Shekhar Azad, along with **Bhagat Singh**, **reorganized the HRA into the HSRA in 1928**, emphasizing socialist principles. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Azad collaborated with **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev** in planning the assassination of **British police officer J.A. Saunders in 1928**, to **avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai**, a prominent Indian nationalist leader. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Azad **evaded arrest** throughout his life and was **never tried in the Lahore Conspiracy Case**. He **died in 1931 during a shootout** with police in Alfred Park, Allahabad. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ In the **Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1929**, **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru** were arrested and tried, **along with 21 others**, for their roles in the Saunders murder and the bomb explosion in the Central Legislative Assembly.

8. (A)

Exp:

- **Buddhism and Jainism** emerged as **important religious and philosophical movements** in ancient India during the **6<sup>th</sup> century BCE**.
  - ◆ Buddhism was founded by **Gautama Buddha (563 BCE–483 BCE)** and it emerged as a **reaction against Brahmanical rituals, caste hierarchy, and materialism** in Vedic society.
  - ◆ Jainism was founded by **Mahavira (599 BCE–527 BCE)**, the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara. Jainism's **Five Vows (Mahavratas)-Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Brahmacharya, and Aparigraha-** promote non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, celibacy, and detachment, guiding practitioners toward self-discipline and spiritual liberation.
  - ◆ **Buddhism** promotes the **Middle Path**, avoiding extreme asceticism and indulgence, while **Jainism** advocates **strict asceticism**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ **Buddhism rejects the concept of a permanent, unchanging soul (atman)** and instead proposes **"no-self" (anatta)**, while **Jainism believes in an eternal, individual soul (jiva)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ Buddhism is **non-theistic**, focusing on self-liberation through Karma and meditation, without affirming or denying God. **Jainism rejects a creator, preserver, or destroyer God**, viewing the universe as eternal and self-sustaining, while considering **Tirthankaras** as perfected beings who guide spiritual progress. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

9. (C)

Exp:

- The **Kanchipuram silk sari** is a type of silk sari made in the Kanchipuram region in Tamil Nadu. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Pashmina wool**, known for its luxurious quality, is primarily associated with the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), where the Changthangi goats, which produce this fine wool, are native. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- The **Ilkal sarees** are made in **Karnataka**. The sarees are **named after the town of Ilkal in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka**. The body of the saree is woven from cotton, while the pallu and border are woven from silk. The **Tope Teni technique** is used to **weave the sarees**. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Muga silk** is associated with the state of **Assam** in India. It's known for its golden color, durability, and glossy texture. Hence, **statement 4 is correctly matched.**
- Hence, **option C is correct.**

10. (A)

Exp:

- **Clemency power** is the constitutional authority of the **President (Article 72)** and **Governor (Article 161)** to grant relief in punishments awarded by the judiciary. It ensures justice by considering factors like humanitarian grounds, wrongful convictions, or excessive sentences. The five types of clemency powers are **Pardon, Commutation, Respite, Reprieve, and Remission**.
  - ◆ A **pardon** completely absolves the convict, removing both the conviction and the sentence. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

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- ◆ **Commutation** reduces the severity of a punishment by replacing it with a lesser one, such as converting a death sentence to rigorous imprisonment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **Respite** grants a **reduced sentence** considering special circumstances, such as physical disability or pregnancy of the convict. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Reprieve temporarily delays** the execution of a sentence, particularly the death penalty, allowing time for the convict to seek pardon or commutation. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

11. (A)

Exp:

- A **Light-Emitting Diode (LED)** is a semiconductor device that emits light when an electric current flows through it.
- LEDs operate on the **principle of electroluminescence**, where **light is emitted when an electric current passes through a semiconductor material**, causing electrons and holes to recombine and release energy in the form of photons (light). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- LEDs are **more energy-efficient** than incandescent and fluorescent bulbs because they **convert a higher percentage of electricity into light**, generating **less heat**, and have a higher luminous efficacy, meaning they produce more light per unit of energy used. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **LED bulbs are mercury-free**, unlike fluorescent bulbs that contain mercury. LEDs are a safer alternative to **fluorescent and CFL bulbs**, which contain mercury. This makes LEDs not only energy-efficient but also eco-friendly. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

12. (D)

Exp:

- The **Lokpal** is an independent, anti-corruption authority in India established under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**, tasked with investigating allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries.
- The Lokpal has **jurisdiction over the Prime Minister** but with **certain exceptions**, such as matters related to **national security, international relations, and prior cabinet decisions**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The selection committee for the Lokpal includes the **Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India (or**

**a nominated Supreme Court judge)**, and an eminent jurist. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

13. (A)

Exp:

- As per **Article 112(3)** of the Constitution, the **salaries, allowances, and pensions of Supreme Court judges** are charged from the Consolidated Fund of India. This provision ensures their financial independence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per Article 124(4) of the Constitution, a Supreme Court judge can be removed only on the grounds of **"proved misbehavior or incapacity,"**. This requires a motion to be approved by **both Houses of Parliament**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ However, **no Supreme Court judge has been removed through this process so far.**
- **Article 121** of the Indian Constitution **prohibits discussions on the conduct of Supreme Court judges in Parliament**, except when a motion for their removal is under consideration. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

14. (B)

Exp:

**Current Green Energy Financing Initiatives in India:**

- **NCEEF:** National Clean Energy and Environment Fund (NCEEF) funds clean energy ventures and research through **Clean Environment Cess on coal**.
  - ◆ **IREDA** uses part of the NCEEF fund to **lend to banks at the rate of 2%**, enabling concessional loans for renewable energy projects.
    - IREDA also sources funds from global banks e.g., the World Bank gave **USD 100 million for solar parks**.
- **Recognition of PSL:** In April 2015, RBI classified renewable energy as a **priority sector lending (PSL)**, requiring banks to allocate up to **40% of net credit**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Loans up to Rs 15 crore per borrower are given to cover solar, biomass, wind, micro-hydel, and non-conventional energy utilities.
- **Green Banks:** Green banks accelerate clean energy financing by funding **environmentally sustainable projects**.
  - ◆ In India, **IREDA, SBI** and other banks offer **concessional loans** for renewable energy projects. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- **Green Bonds:** They are market-based financial instruments for raising capital for environmentally beneficial projects. E.g., **Green Masala Bonds** by IREDA.
- **Crowdfunding:** It is a decentralized funding model using small private **investments** for renewable energy. E.g., Crowdfunding platform **Bettervest's** support for **MeraGao Power and Boond Engineering** in rural India.

15. (B)

Exp:

Remission

- **About:**
  - ◆ Remission refers to the **reduction of the duration of a prison sentence without altering the nature of the sentence.**
  - ◆ It allows a convict to be released earlier than the original term prescribed by the court, provided they **meet specific eligibility criteria.**
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - ◆ **Article 72** empowers the **President of India** to grant **pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions** of punishment, or to **suspend, remit, or commute the sentence of any person** convicted of an offense under Union law or in cases involving military courts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Article 161** grants **similar powers to the Governor** for offenses under state laws.
  - ◆ **Article 32 & 226:** Enable the SC and High Courts, respectively, to **intervene in remission cases** through writ jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Statutory Provisions:**
  - ◆ **Section 473 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023** (earlier **Section 432 of the CrPC**): Grants state governments the power to remit sentences *at any time*, with or without conditions.
    - Non-compliance with conditions can lead to cancellation of remission and re-arrest without a warrant.
  - ◆ **Section 475 of BNSS** (earlier **Section 433A of CrPC**): Life convicts sentenced for offenses punishable by death cannot be released before completing 14 years of imprisonment.
- **Supreme Court Rulings:**
  - ◆ In **Laxman Naskar v. Union of India (2000)**, the SC outlined **5 factors for remission**: societal impact, crime severity, risk of recidivism, prison conduct, and

potential for reintegration, ensuring a balanced approach to justice and public safety. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ In **Epuru Sudhakar v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2006)**, the SC ruled that **judicial review of remission orders is permissible** on grounds such as non-application of mind, mala fide intent, reliance on extraneous or irrelevant considerations, exclusion of relevant materials, or arbitrariness.
- ◆ In the **State of Haryana vs. Mahender Singh (2007)**, the SC held that while remission is not a fundamental right of a convict, the State must exercise its executive power judiciously, considering each case based on relevant factors.
- ◆ In **Mohinder Singh v. State of Punjab (2013)**, the SC reaffirmed that **courts do not have the authority to grant remission on their own**, emphasizing that remission must be initiated through a formal request.

16. (A)

Exp:

Mars:

- Mars is the **4<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun** and the **second-smallest in the Solar System** after Mercury.
- About **half Earth's size**, it hosts **Olympus Mons (largest volcano)**, and has 2 moons (Phobos and Deimos).
- Mars **completes a rotation every 24.6 hours**, making its day **nearly identical in length to Earth's (23.9 hours)**. Martian days are called **sols**.
  - ◆ A year on Mars lasts **669.6 sols**, which is the same as **687 Earth days**.
- Its axis is tilted at **25 degrees** relative to its orbit, similar to **Earth's axial tilt of 23.4 degrees**.
  - ◆ Mars experiences **seasons like Earth**, but they are **longer in duration**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

17. (B)

Exp:

River Thames:

- It is **346 km long (longest in England, second longest in the UK after River Severn)**.
- It originates from **Thames Head, Gloucestershire**, and drains into the **North Sea via the Thames Estuary**, with **Nore sandbank** at its mouth.
  - ◆ **London** is on the bank of the Thames.
- It supplies **two-thirds of London's drinking water** and has been a **vital trade route**.

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- Hence, option B is correct.

18. (C)

Exp:

- MAITRI Platform:

- Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface (MAITRI) to digitize trade documentation, reduce processing time, optimize trade flows, and contribute to sustainable development. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It enables the Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC) between India and the UAE (under IMEC) and aims to expand to BIMSTEC and ASEAN using AI and Blockchain for efficiency and security. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

19. (C)

Exp:

- Jhumoir Dance is a traditional folk dance of Assam's Adivasi tea tribes, originating from Jharkhand's Chotanagpur region.
- Belonging to the Sadan ethnolinguistic group, it is performed during harvests, weddings, and gatherings.
- Dancers, in circular formations, showcase rhythmic footwork to lively tunes of Madal, Dhol, Taal, and Flute.
- Beyond entertainment, it embodies unity, pride, and the struggles of Assam's tea garden workers, narrating tales of migration and exploitation.
- Hence, option C is correct.

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20. (C)

Exp:

- TB is a bacterial infection (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) affecting the lungs, spreading through the air.
  - ◆ About 25% of the global population is infected, but only 5–10% develop symptoms.
- The **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine is given to infants to prevent TB. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- WHO recommends rapid molecular tests (Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra). Traditional methods struggle with low bacterial loads, especially in children difficult due to their inability to produce sufficient sputum for testing.
- **Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) is resistant to isoniazid and rifampicin (medicines used to treat TB), treatable with costlier alternatives. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) patients are 16 times more vulnerable to TB, a leading cause of their deaths. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

21. (A)

Exp:

**Tinospora cordifolia (Giloy):**

- It is a **climbing shrub** from the **Menispermaceae** family.
- **Giloy (Guduchi or Amrita)** has been used in **Ayush systems** for centuries due to its **immune-boosting and adaptogenic properties**.
- It is **native to India** but also found in China and tropical areas of Australia and Africa.
- It is best grown in **warm climates** and **medium-black or red soil**.
- It is traditionally used to treat **fever, diabetes, infections, gout, jaundice, asthma, diarrhea, and skin diseases**.
- The **Covid-19 pandemic** boosted scientific interest in **natural immunity enhancers**, accelerating research efforts.
- **Clinical studies** suggest Giloy's potential in the following:
  - ◆ **Cancer therapy** (e.g., HPV-positive cervical cancer treatment).
  - ◆ **Autoimmune disease management** (e.g., Idiopathic Granulomatous Mastitis).
  - ◆ **Anti-inflammatory applications** in chronic diseases.
- Research on **Giloy (*Tinospora cordifolia*)** has surged **376.5%** in a decade (243 in 2014 to 913 in 2024), highlighting its rising medicinal interest.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

22. (C)

Exp:

**Morarji Desai:**

- **About:** He was born on **29<sup>th</sup> February 1896** and served as the **4<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister** of India (1977 to 1979) during the **6<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha**.
  - ◆ He was detained during **Individual Satyagraha (1941)** and arrested during **Quit India Movement (1942)**.
- **Post Independence:**
  - ◆ He became **Commerce and Industry Minister** in 1956, and took over the **Finance portfolio** in 1958.
  - ◆ He resigned from the **Union Cabinet** under the **Kamaraj Plan (1963)** that urged the **senior Congress leaders** holding government positions to **voluntarily resign** to focus on **grassroots strengthening**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ He was appointed **Chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)** to restructure the government administration. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ He led the **Janata Party** to a landslide victory in the **1977 Lok Sabha elections** and became **Prime Minister**. During his tenure, the **44<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, 1978** was enacted to uphold the rule of law.

23. (A)

Exp:

- India secured **9,000 sq km of land in Zambia** for **copper-cobalt exploration**, led by **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, with mining rights expected in **2-3 years**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ **Zambia ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in copper** and **14<sup>th</sup> in cobalt production** (2023) with existing investments by Canada and China. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- India is engaging with **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Rwanda** to acquire **critical mineral assets**.
- India is already active in **South America (Argentina, Chile)** and **Australia**, where **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)** is exploring **lithium and cobalt assets**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- **Critical minerals** are minerals that are vital to a country's economy and national interest.
  - ◆ India has identified **30 key minerals**, including **lithium, cobalt, graphite, nickel, and rare earth elements (REEs)**.

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24. (B)

Exp:

- National Board of Wildlife is a **statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA, 1972)**. It is the apex body on wildlife conservation and development. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The NBWL is a 47-member committee headed by the **Prime Minister, who serves as the ex-officio Chairperson**, while the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change serves as the Vice-Chairperson. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is mandated to promote conservation and development of wildlife and forest.
- It ensures that **no tiger reserve is diverted to unsustainable use without its approval**, with advice from the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

25. (C)

Exp:

**Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:**

- The **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution** lists the official languages of India, covered under **Part XVII (Articles 343-351)**.
- **Article 344** provides for a language commission, while **Article 351** promotes the spread of Hindi. There is no fixed criterion for a language's inclusion.
- Initially, **14 languages** were listed, with Sindhi added by the **21st Amendment (1967)**, **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali by the 71st Amendment (1992)**, and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali by the 92nd Amendment (2003, enforced in 2004).
  - ◆ Currently, it recognizes **22 languages**.
- Thus, **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were all added through the 71st Amendment in 1992.**
- Hence, option C is correct.

26. (B)

Exp:

- **Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum:**
  - ◆ India (Jaipur, Rajasthan) hosted the **12<sup>th</sup> Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific** emphasising on sustainable waste management and circular economy. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ It is a regional platform that promotes **3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principles** and **circular economy practices** across the **Asia-Pacific region**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It brings together **policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and partners** to advance resource efficiency strategies.

- ◆ **Historical Context: Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum was launched in 2009** to promote **3R principles** and resource efficiency. The **Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023)** set **33 voluntary goals** for a resource-efficient and circular economy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

27. (A)

Exp:

**Blue Ghost Mission 1:**

- A US company, **Firefly Aerospace**, successfully landed its **Blue Ghost Mission 1** on the Moon, marking the **2<sup>nd</sup> private lunar landing** and the **1<sup>st</sup> to land upright**.
- The mission is nicknamed "**Ghost Riders in the Sky**" and was launched in **January 2025** aboard a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket**.
- It landed (lander name: **Golden**) near **Mons Latreille**, a volcanic formation on the Moon's **northeastern near side**.
- It is part of NASA's collaboration with industry to **reduce costs and support the Artemis Program**, the mission to return **astronauts to the Moon**.
- Upcoming Lunar Missions:
  - ◆ **IM-2 mission:** Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, featuring its lander, **Athena**, will be launched in **March 2025**.
    - In February 2024, Intuitive Machines became the **first private company** to achieve a **soft lunar landing** and the first US landing since **Apollo 17 in 1972**.
  - ◆ **NASA's CLPS Program:** The US aims to establish routine private lunar missions through NASA's **USD Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS)** program.
- Hence, option A is correct.

28. (B)

Exp:

- **Constitutional Provisions for PwDs:**
  - ◆ **Fundamental Rights:** Article 14, Article 19 and Article 21.
  - ◆ **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): Article 41** (Advocates for public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disability). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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◆ **Responsibilities of Panchayats and Municipalities:**

- **11<sup>th</sup> Schedule:** Focuses on social welfare, including that of persons with disabilities (Entry 26 of Article 243-G).
- **12<sup>th</sup> Schedule:** Ensures the protection of weaker sections, including persons with disabilities (Entry 9 of Article 243-W).

● **Laws Related to Disability Rights:**

- ◆ **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016:** It aims to ensure equal opportunities, protect rights, and enable the full participation of persons with disabilities.
- ◆ **National Trust Act, 1999:** This Act established a national body to address the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities, among other matters. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Mental Health Care Act, 2017:** This Act protects the rights and dignity of persons with mental illness.

● **Landmark Cases Related to PwDs:**

- ◆ **Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration, 2009:** Supreme Court upheld the reproductive rights of a **mentally retarded woman**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ **Govt. of India v. Ravi Prakash Gupta, 2010:** The Supreme Court ruled that **predefined job criteria cannot be used to deny reservations** to visually impaired candidates, ensuring fair appointments.

29. (C)

Exp:

- The Blue Box is essentially an “Amber Box with conditions”, where subsidies that would typically fall **under the Amber Box are allowed in Blue box if they require farmers to limit production** (as specified in Paragraph 5 of Article 6 of the WTO Agriculture Agreement). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These measures aim to reduce trade and production distortions.
  - ◆ Currently, there are no spending limits on Blue Box subsidies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

30. (A)

Exp:

- The Wallace Line is an **imaginary boundary** separating the distinct **faunal regions of Asia and Australia**.

- ◆ It marks a major **biogeographical division** with stark species differences on either side of the line.
- It runs through the **Makassar Strait**, which lies between the east coast of **Borneo** and the western coast of **Sulawesi**.
- ◆ It extends between **Bali and Lombok**, separating the **Sunda and Sahul continental shelves**.

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

31. (C)

Exp:

● **Dholavira:**

- ◆ It is located in **Kutch (arid island of Khadir), Gujarat**, is a significant archaeological site inhabited from 3000 BCE to 1800 BCE.
  - It was discovered by **Jagatpati Joshi in 1968**.
- ◆ It is the **fifth-largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization** and lies between two seasonal streams, Mansar and Manhar. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Archaeological findings include **terracotta pottery, seals, ornaments**, and evidence of **metallurgy**. It was a **trade hub for copper, jewelry, and timber**, with inscriptions in Indus Valley script.
  - **No human remains** have been found at the site.
- ◆ Dholavira features a **walled city with a fortified castle, middle and lower towns**, and a **cemetery**.
  - Its **advanced water system** includes **16 reservoirs and step wells**.
- ◆ It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2021. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

32. (B)

Exp:

**India's Textile Sector:**

- **Position in Global Textile Trade:** India has the **2<sup>nd</sup> largest textile manufacturing capacity** globally and ranks as the **6<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of textiles and apparel** in 2023 (accounting for 3.9% of global trade). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of cotton in the world** (23.83% of world cotton production), with production expected to reach **7.2 million tonnes by 2030**.
- ◆ India is the **largest producer of jute in the world**, and **2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of man-made fibres (MMF)**, including polyester, viscose, nylon, and acrylic. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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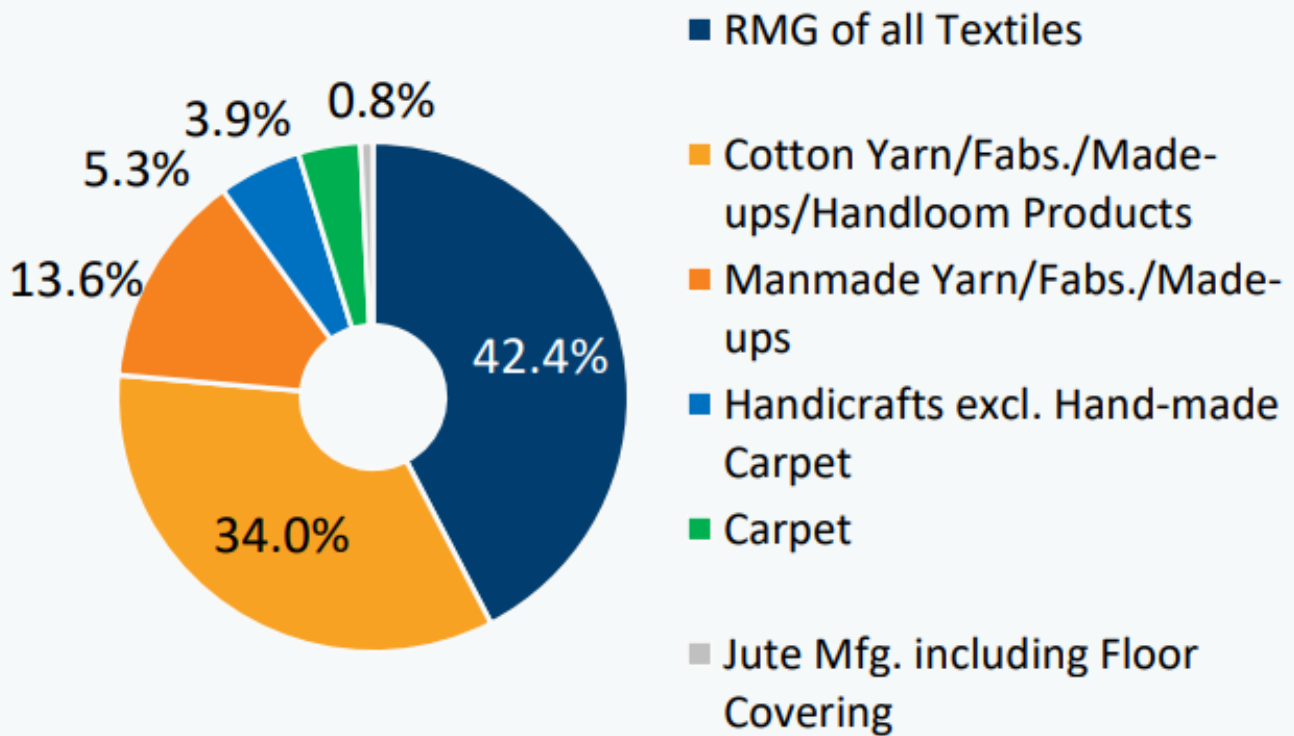


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## Share of India's textile exports FY24



- **Market Growth Projections:** India's textile and apparel market is projected to reach **USD 350 billion by 2030**.
- ◆ **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route to attract foreign investment. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

33. (B)

Exp:

Starlink:

- Starlink, **operated by SpaceX**, utilizes a network of approximately **7,000 satellites positioned in low Earth orbit (LEO)**, creating a **"mega-constellation"** that provides near-global internet access by enabling connectivity across various regions of the world. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Developed by **SpaceX**, it is a **satellite-based internet service** designed to provide **high-speed, low-latency** connectivity, especially in remote areas.
- India has **not approved Starlink** due to **security, privacy, and pricing concerns**, along with opposition from the **local telecom and satellite industry**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The Starlink satellites carry **Hall thrusters**, which use **electricity and krypton gas** to **generate an impulse**, to manoeuvre in orbit, maintain altitude and guide the spacecraft back into the atmosphere at the end of their mission. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

34. (A)

Exp:

- **The Paris Agreement on Climate Change** is a legally binding global agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was adopted in 2015. It was adopted in UNFCCC COP21.

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- It aims to **combat climate change and limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels**, with an ambition to limit warming to 1.5°C. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It replaced the **Kyoto Protocol** which was an earlier agreement to deal with climate change. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Paris Agreement sets out a framework for countries to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and provide support to developing countries in their efforts to address climate change.
- Under the Paris Agreement, **each country is required to submit and update their NDCs every 5 years**, outlining their plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

35. (C)

Exp:

- **Colossal A23a** is a **massive iceberg that broke off from the Filchner Ice Shelf in Antarctica in 1986** and remained stuck in the Weddell Sea for over 30 years before drifting north in 2020.
- Recently, it has been spotted about **70 km from South Georgia Island**. While concerns were raised about its potential ecological impact, scientists believe that nutrients released from its melting could boost marine food availability, supporting the local ecosystem.
- **South Georgia Island, a British overseas territory also claimed by Argentina**, lies in the iceberg's path, but it is expected to drift away without causing significant harm.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

36. (C)

Exp:

**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**

- The **PMMVY is Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched in 2017 under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, provides maternity benefits to eligible pregnant and lactating women. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Objectives:** PMMVY ensures maternal nutrition, promotes institutional deliveries, supports financial stability, and encourages the birth of girl children.
- **Key Features:** Provides **financial assistance** to support maternal health and nutrition.

- ◆ **First child:** Rs 5,000 is provided, and additional benefits under **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** ensure that women receive around **Rs 6,000** in total.
- ◆ **Second child (only if a girl):** Rs 6,000 is given to promote **gender equality** and discourage **female feticide**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **Concerns:**

- ◆ **Restricted Coverage:** The scheme violates the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**, which mandates universal maternity benefits, by limiting benefits to only the **first two children**, with the second child covered only if it is a **girl**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

37. (B)

Exp:

- Preventive Detention refers to detaining an individual **without trial** to prevent anticipated unlawful activities. Unlike punitive detention, which follows **due process and conviction**, preventive detention **curtails individual liberty based on suspicion**.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 22 provides protection **against arrest and detention**. The first part covers ordinary law cases involving criminal investigations, while the **second part deals with preventive detention**.
  - ◆ A person can be detained without trial for up to **three months** unless extended by an **Advisory Board** (consisting of persons qualified to be High Court judges). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The detainee must be **informed of the reasons for their detention** unless it harms public interest. They have the **right to legal representation**, although this right can be restricted in certain cases.
  - ◆ **Key Laws Related to Preventive Detention:**
    - **National Security Act, 1980:** Allows detention to prevent threats to national security and public order. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967:** Prevents activities threatening India's sovereignty, security, and integrity.

38. (A)

Exp:

- The **Karakoram Anomaly** describes the **unexpected stability or slight expansion** of glaciers in the **Karakoram range**, unlike glaciers in other parts of the Himalayas, which are retreating due to climate change.

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- This phenomenon is attributed to **unique climatic conditions**, including **winter-dominated snowfall** and **relatively stable summer temperatures**, which reduce melting.

- Hence, option A is correct.

39. (B)

Exp:

- **Fiscal Monitor Report** is a publication by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** that provides an analysis of global fiscal policies, taking stock of mitigation strategies across countries, particularly focusing on balancing climate goals, debt sustainability, and political feasibility.
- The **External Sector Report** is also published by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
  - ◆ It analyzes global external developments and provides assessments of countries' external positions, including current accounts, capital flows, and international reserves.

40. (A)

Exp:

- The **Planetary Parade** is a rare celestial event where seven planets- **Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune**, align on one side of the Sun.
  - ◆ This occurs because **planets orbit the Sun along a flat, disc-shaped path called the ecliptic plane**.
- Such planetary alignments are extremely rare, occurring only once in a few decades. The next occurrence is expected in 2040.
- Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn can be seen with the naked eye, while Uranus and Neptune require telescopes due to their distance and faintness.
- Hence, option A is correct.

41. (B)

Exp:

**Cryptocurrency:**

- Cryptocurrency is a **decentralised digital** or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ Examples include Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, and Litecoin.
- To engage in cryptocurrency transactions, individuals or businesses must first obtain a **digital wallet**, a software application that securely stores the user's public and private keys. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ These keys are essential for sending and receiving cryptocurrency, as well as for verifying transactions on the blockchain.

- Cryptocurrency in India is **unregulated** but not specifically banned. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

42. (C)

Exp:

- **Article VI** of the **Outer Space Treaty (1967)** makes states **responsible for all national space activities**, including private ones, but **lacks enforcement mechanisms**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (1972)** imposes **absolute liability** for space object damage on Earth, requiring **no proof of negligence**, but enforcement is **weak**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The UN recommends **deorbiting satellites within 25 years**, but the compliance rate is only around **30%**.

43. (D)

Exp:

**Article 14:**

- As per Article 14 (Equality Before the Law), no person, **whether a citizen or foreigner**, can be denied equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Reasonable Classification:** Article 14 forbids class legislation but allows reasonable classification based on intelligible differentia (distinguishable differences). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

44. (C)

Exp:

**Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs):**

- **About:** CPSEs are companies where the **Central Government or other CPSEs hold at least 51% stake**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ The **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** oversees CPSEs' performance, finance, and policies under various ministries. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ Post-independence, India's socialist model led to CPSEs in heavy industries, banking, oil & gas, steel, and power. The **1991 economic reforms** ushered in corporatization, heightened competition, and a sharper focus on profitability and efficiency in CPSEs.
- **Significance:** CPSEs play a crucial role in India's economic development, infrastructure creation, employment generation, and industrial growth.
- **Classification:** CPSEs are categorized into **Miniratna, Navratna, and Maharatna** based on size, financial performance, and strategic importance.

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Classification of CPSEs			
Category	Launch	Criteria	Examples
Maharatna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Maharatna Scheme</b> was introduced for CPSEs in May, 2010, in order to <b>empower mega CPSEs to expand their operations and emerge as global giants.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Having <b>Navratna status.</b></li> <li>○ Listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under <b>Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)</b> regulations.</li> <li>○ An <b>average annual turnover of more than Rs. 25,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>○ An average annual <b>net worth of more than Rs. 15,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>○ An average <b>annual net profit after tax of more than Rs. 5,000 crore</b> during the last 3 years.</li> <li>○ Should have <b>significant global presence/international operations.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Coal India Limited, GAIL (India) Limited, etc.</li> </ul>
Navratna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Navratna Scheme</b> was introduced in <b>1997</b> in order to identify CPSEs that enjoy comparative advantages in their respective sectors and <b>to support them in their drive to become global players.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <b>Miniratna Category – I</b> and Schedule ‘A’ CPSEs, <b>which have obtained ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ rating</b> under the Memorandum of Understanding system in three of the last five years, and have composite score of 60 or above in the <b>six selected performance parameters</b>, namely, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Net profit to net worth.</li> <li>○ Manpower cost to total cost of production/services.</li> <li>○ Profit before depreciation, interest and taxes to capital employed.</li> <li>○ Profit before interest and taxes to turnover.</li> <li>○ Earning per share.</li> <li>○ Inter-sectoral performance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bharat Electronics Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, etc.</li> </ul>
Miniratna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Miniratna scheme</b> was introduced in <b>1997</b> in pursuance of the policy objective <b>to make the public sector more efficient and competitive</b> and to grant enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to the profit-making public sector enterprises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Miniratna Category-I:</b> The CPSEs which have <b>made profit in the last three years continuously</b>, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.</li> <li>○ <b>Miniratna Category-II:</b> The CPSEs which have <b>made profit for the last three years continuously and have a positive net worth</b> are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-II status.</li> <li>○ Miniratna CPSEs <b>should have not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans</b> due to the Government.</li> <li>○ Miniratna CPSEs <b>shall not depend upon budgetary support or Government guarantees.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Category-I:</b> Airports Authority of India, Antrix Corporation Limited, etc.</li> <li>○ <b>Category-II:</b> Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Bharat Pumps &amp; Compressors Limited, etc.</li> </ul>

- ◆ In February 2025, **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** and **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** as the country's 25th and 26th Navratna companies respectively.

45. (D)

Exp:

- **Jan Aushadhi Diwas:** Initiated on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2019**, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). The initiative includes a week-long celebration, '**Janaushadhi Week**,' from 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March across the nation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **2025 Theme:** "**Daam Kam - Dawai Uttam**," emphasizing affordable and high-quality medicines for all.

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- **PMBJP:** The PMBJP was originally launched in 2008 as the **Jan Aushadhi Scheme** under the **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** to provide affordable medicines through outlets called **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)**.

◆ In 2015, the scheme was revamped as the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana**, and in 2016, it was renamed as the PMBJP. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**46. (A)**

**Exp:**

- A black hole is an extremely dense object whose gravity is so strong that, not even light, can escape it. It does not have a surface, like a planet or star. Instead, it is a region of space where matter has collapsed in on itself. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **event horizon of a black hole** is the **boundary** where the **escape velocity exceeds the speed of light**. It is considered the **"point of no return"** because **once something crosses this boundary, it cannot escape** due to the extreme gravitational pull, not even light. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Most large galaxies are thought to have a supermassive black hole at their center, but black holes can also be found elsewhere in the universe, including smaller ones that are not at the center of galaxies. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**47. (B)**

**Exp:**

- Strategic disinvestment refers to the sale of a substantial portion of government shares in a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), leading to the transfer of management control, not just a minority stake. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is the government department primarily responsible for **implementing the disinvestment policy in India**, through various methods like **strategic disinvestment** and **minority stake sales**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**48. (B)**

**Exp:**

- **Type 1 diabetes** is an **autoimmune disorder** where the **immune system destroys insulin-producing beta cells**, leading to **insulin deficiency**, not resistance. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Type 2 diabetes** is primarily caused by **insulin resistance in the body**, meaning the **body's cells do not respond properly to insulin**, leading to **high blood sugar levels**.

- **Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM)** is a condition that causes **high blood sugar levels during pregnancy**. It occurs when the **body can't use insulin properly**, which is a hormone that controls blood sugar. It occurs only during pregnancy and usually resolves after childbirth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**49. (A)**

**Exp:**

- **Kwashiorkor** and **Marasmus** are protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) disorders caused by **protein deficiency**, particularly in children.
- **Rickets** is caused by a **Vitamin D** deficiency, and **Scurvy** is due to a lack of Vitamin C.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

**50. (C)**

**Exp:**

- The Bhakti Movement was a **transformative spiritual, social, and literary movement** in India that flourished between the **7th and 17th centuries**.
- The movement began in Tamil Nadu, South India.
- It focused on **personal devotion (bhakti) to a deity** as the path to salvation, **bypassing traditional rituals, sacrifices, and priests**.
- The term 'bhakti' means **'devotion' or 'love'** in Sanskrit.
- It encouraged religious tolerance, social reform, and the elimination of caste-based distinctions, fostering a more egalitarian social structure.
- The **Alvars** were poet-saints devoted to Vishnu, and the **Nayanars** to Shiva. Both emphasized personal devotion and rejected caste-based rituals, significantly influencing the Bhakti Movement.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

**51. (A)**

**Exp:**

- Solar flares are **large eruptions of electromagnetic radiation from the Sun** lasting from minutes to hours. These flares appear as **bright areas on the Sun**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Solar flares can significantly impact technological systems like **radio communications and satellites** due to their disruption of the Earth's upper atmosphere, particularly during strong flares. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Solar flares release electromagnetic radiation across a wide range of the spectrum, including **X-rays, radio waves, ultraviolet light, visible light, and gamma rays**, depending on the flare's intensity. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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52. (C)

Exp:

- Taiwan is located in the East China Sea and is crucial for regional trade, with the Taiwan Strait being a key global shipping route. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Additionally, Taiwan manufactures over 60% of the world's semiconductors and around 90% of the most advanced chips, making it a critical player in the global tech supply chain. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- China follows the One China Policy, asserting that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China and must eventually reunite.
  - ◆ However, Taiwan sees itself as a self-governing democracy with its own constitution and elected leaders.
  - ◆ Taiwan came under Chinese control during the Qing dynasty but was given to Japan after China lost the first Sino-Japanese war in 1895. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

53. (C)

Exp:

**National Quantum Mission:**

- **About:** The Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 for the period from 2023-24 to 2030-31.
  - ◆ It aims to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology.
- **Key Objectives:**
  - ◆ **Development of Quantum Computers:** Create intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits over 8 years, using platforms like superconducting and photonic technologies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Secure Communications:** Satellite-based secure quantum communication between ground stations over 2000 km within India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - Long-distance secure quantum communications with other nations.
  - ◆ **Quantum Sensing and Metrology:** Development of high-sensitivity magnetometers and atomic clocks for precision timing, communications, and navigation.
  - ◆ **Establishment of Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs):** Set up 4 T-hubs in top academic and national R&D institutes in the domains of:
    - Quantum Computing
    - Quantum Communication
    - Quantum Sensing & Metrology
    - Quantum Materials & Devices

54. (D)

Exp:

**Tribunals:**

- **About:** A tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that deals with the resolution of disputes pertaining to **administration, taxation, environment, securities**, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Functions:** It performs various functions, including **adjudicating disputes, determining rights between parties**, making administrative decisions, and reviewing existing administrative rulings.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Tribunals were introduced in the Indian Constitution through the **42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, as they were **not part of the original Constitution**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Article 323-A:** Deals with Administrative Tribunals for public service matters.
  - ◆ **Article 323-B:** Provides for tribunals on various matters, including: Taxation, Foreign exchange, import and export, Industrial and labor disputes, Elections to Parliament and state legislatures, Food security.

55. (A)

Exp:

- India is the largest producer of jute in the world, and **2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of man-made fibres (MMF)**.
  - ◆ MMFs are mainly of two types: synthetic (made from crude oil) and cellulosic (made from wood pulp). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The main varieties of synthetic staple fibres are polyester, acrylic, and polypropylene, while cellulosic fibres include viscose and modal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

56. (A)

Exp:

**Pelicans (Pelecanus):**

- Pelicans (genus Pelecanus) are **large water birds** known for their **long beaks** and **large throat pouches** used for catching fish.
- Pelicans are **highly social birds**, living in colonies of hundreds.
- They are **carnivores**, primarily eating fish but also consuming **amphibians, crustaceans, insects, birds, and small mammals**.
- They inhabit **all continents except Antarctica**, preferring **warm coastal and inland waters** like lakes and rivers.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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57. (C)

Exp:

**Loss and Damage Fund (LDF):**

- The US has withdrawn from the **Loss and Damage Fund (LDF)**, furthering its disengagement from global climate commitments like the **Paris Agreement and Green Climate Fund**.
- It was created at the **UN Climate Change Conference COP 27 in Egypt**.
- The **LDF** supports **developing and small island nations** facing climate-induced losses like **rising sea levels, heatwaves, and extreme weather**, with contributions from **developed nations**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ The **LDF** is managed by a **Governing Board**, with the **World Bank** as its interim trustee. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ Nearly **USD 750 million** pledged under **LDF**, with the **US contributing USD 17.5 million** before withdrawing.
- **Implications of US Withdrawal:** Vulnerable nations, including **India (which alone faced USD 56 billion in weather-related damages (2019 - 2023))**, face growing uncertainty in climate aid, further straining North-South climate negotiations.

58. (B)

Exp:

**Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:**

- The **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)** was adopted at the **4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women**, held in **Beijing, China, in 1995**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
  - ◆ It is a key blueprint for **women's and girls' rights**, promoting legal protection, service access, youth engagement, and social change.
  - ◆ **India** is a **signatory** to **BPfA**.
- **Areas for Action:** It identified **12 key areas** for urgent action on gender equality and provided strategies for ensuring equal opportunities for all. **Prominent areas are:**

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- **Beijing+30 Action Agenda:** It marks the **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary** (1995-2025) of the BPfA to **review and appraise** its implementation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ It focuses on six key areas:



59. (A)

Exp:

- **Madhav National Park** is located in Shivpuri District, it is part of the **upper Vindhyan hills** and was historically a hunting ground for Mughal emperors and the Maharaja of Gwalior.
- ◆ It was designated a National Park in 1959.
- The park has a rich ecosystem, including lakes, dry deciduous, and dry thorn forests, and is home to species like tigers, leopards, **Nilgai, Chinkara, Chousingha**, and various deer species.
- It is part of one of India's 32 major tiger corridors, operationalized through the Tiger Conservation Plan under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Recently, it has been declared **India's 58th Tiger Reserve (9th Tiger Reserve of MP)**. The reserve currently houses 5 tigers.
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

60. (D)

Exp:

- The **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)** focused on **electoral reforms**, recommending a restructuring of election expense accounting. It also proposed proxy voting for the army, paramilitary personnel, diplomats, and overseas citizens.
- The **Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998)** was also related to electoral reforms, it proposed **state-sponsored elections to ensure fairness and support less wealthy parties**. It recommended public funding only for recognized national and state parties, along with free airtime on state media and other facilities.
- Hence, **option D is correct.**

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61. (D)

Exp:

- India, the world's 3<sup>rd</sup>-largest oil importer and consumer, relies on imports for over 85% of its crude needs. With primary energy demand set to nearly double to 1,123 million tonnes of oil equivalent by 2040 driven by a projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rise to USD 8.6 trillion, making supply stability crucial. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India aims to double its oil & gas exploration area from 0.5 million sq. km by 2025 to 1 million sq. km by 2030. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - New projects in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin and offshore exploration efforts are expected to boost output.
- Ethanol Blending Target: Advanced to 20% by 2025-26 to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, with ethanol production capacity reaching around 1,600 crore litres as of September 2024.
  - The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 544 lakh metric tons and substituted 181 lakh metric tons of crude oil. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

62. (A)

Exp:

Exercise KHANJAR-XII:

- The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII is being held in Kyrgyzstan.
- Initiated in 2011, it is an annual exercise conducted alternately in both countries.
- The Indian Army's Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Kyrgyzstan's Scorpion Brigade are participating.
- The exercise aims to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism and special operations in urban and high-altitude terrain.
- Key areas of focus include sniping, building intervention, and mountain warfare. Additionally, cultural exchanges, including Kyrgyz festival Nowruz celebrations, will strengthen bilateral ties.
- This exercise reinforces India-Kyrgyzstan defence cooperation, addressing regional security challenges like terrorism and extremism while promoting peace and stability in the region.
- Hence, option A is correct.

63. (C)

Exp:

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):

- KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, and functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It plans, promotes, and implements programs for Khadi and village industries, coordinating with rural development agencies.
- Honey Mission (2017) is an initiative of KVIC that promotes beekeeping and honey production (apiculture) and integrates bee farming with agriculture for additional income. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - Apiculture products include honey, royal jelly, beeswax, pollens that are widely used in pharmaceuticals, food, beverages, beauty, and other industries.

64. (D)

Exp:

India's Initiatives to Reduce Arms Imports:

- Budget: Rs 6.21 lakh crore allocated for defence in Budget 2024-25, with 75% of capital procurement reserved for domestic manufacturers.
  - Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN) portal launched to facilitate procurement from Indian vendors.
- Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020: Prioritizes domestic procurement over foreign purchases.
  - Introduced categories like "Buy (Indian-IDDMM)" (Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured).
  - Promotes Make-I and Make-II projects to encourage private-sector participation in defence manufacturing. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs): Two corridors were established in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to boost defence manufacturing. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Private Sector & FDI Participation: 74% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) via the Automatic Route and 100% via the Government Route in defence manufacturing.
  - 21% of India's total defence production now comes from the private sector.
- Defence Public Sector Units (DPSUs): India has 16 DPSUs, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.
  - Major indigenization projects led by DPSUs include INS Vikrant (India's first indigenous aircraft carrier), LCA Tejas (advanced fighter jet developed by HAL). Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- R&D & Innovation: iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) initiative promotes startups and MSMEs in developing cutting-edge military technology.
- Future Goals: India is aiming for Rs 1.75 lakh crore worth of defence production in 2025, with a target of Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029.

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65. (B)

Exp:

- The **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** does not mandate all countries to eliminate their nuclear weapons within a fixed timeline. It requires **Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS)** to pursue disarmament **without a deadline** while allowing **Non-Nuclear-Weapon States (NNWS)** to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.
- The **Nuclear NPT** defines **NWS** as those that had **tested and possessed nuclear weapons before 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1967**. These states include the **USA, UK, France, China, and USSR (now Russia)**.
- **India is not a signatory to the NPT** because it considers it discriminatory, as it allows only five countries to legally possess nuclear weapons.
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, not the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**, is responsible for monitoring compliance with the NPT.
- Hence, option B is correct.

66. (A)

Exp:

**Hydrogen Peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>):**

- It is a **colorless liquid** with a **bitter taste** at room temperature, highly **unstable**, and **decomposes into oxygen and water**, releasing heat.
- It is used as an **antiseptic** for wounds (diluted solutions) and a disinfectant in hospitals and clinics.
- It is a **strong oxidizer** and may cause spontaneous ignition with combustible materials.
- Recently, researchers have developed an **efficient, eco-friendly, and energy-saving** method to synthesize **hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)**.
  - ◆ Peroxide chemicals are **organic compounds** that contain a peroxide functional group (**two linked oxygen atoms**).
- Hence, option A is correct.

67. (C)

Exp:

**Stone Tools in India's Human History:**

Period	Tools & Technology	Key Sites	Options
<b>Lower Palaeolithic (600,000 – 150,000 BCE)</b>	<b>Hand axes</b> , cleavers, choppers (for cutting, chopping, skinning)	Bori (Maharashtra), <b>Son &amp; Sohan valleys (Punjab)</b> , Didwana (Rajasthan), Bhimbetka (MP).	Hence, pair 1 is correctly Matched.
<b>Middle Palaeolithic (150,000 – 35,000 BCE)</b>	<b>Flakes, blades, points</b> , borers, scrapers (from small stone pieces)	Narmada valley, <b>Belan valley (UP)</b> , Tungabhadra region (South India)	
<b>Upper Palaeolithic (35,000 – 10,000 BCE)</b>	<b>Blades, burins, scrapers</b> (more refined and diverse)	<b>Bhimbetka (MP)</b> , Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat sand dunes	
<b>Mesolithic Age (9000 – 4000 BCE)</b>	<b>Microliths</b> (tiny stone tools, often used as composite tools)	Bagor (Rajasthan), <b>Adamgarh (MP)</b> , South of Krishna River	Hence, pair 2 is correctly Matched.
<b>Neolithic Age (7000 – 5500 BCE)</b>	<b>Rectangular axes</b> , polished stone axes	<b>Mehrgarh (Balochistan)</b> , Burzahom (Kashmir), Gufkral (Kashmir), Senuwar (Bihar)	Hence, pair 3 is correctly Matched.

- Hence, option C is correct.

68. (D)

Exp:

**India's Pharmaceutical Industry**

- India **ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> globally** in pharmaceutical production by volume and **14<sup>th</sup> largest** in terms of value, supplying over **50% of global vaccine demand** and **40% of generic medicines** in the US. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ **Size:** India's pharmaceutical market for FY 2023-24 is valued at **USD 50 billion**, contributing around **1.72% to the GDP**, and is projected to reach **USD 130 billion by 2030**.

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- India's **biotechnology sector**, valued at **USD 137 billion in 2022**, aims for **USD 300 billion by 2030**.

- Key Segments:

- ◆ **Generic Medicines:** India is the world's largest supplier, meeting **20% of global demand**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ◆ **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs):** India produces over **500 APIs**, contributing **8% to the global API market**.
- ◆ **Medical Devices:** The market is projected to grow from **USD 11 billion to USD 50 billion by 2030**.

- **Pricing Pressures:** Strict price controls under **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)**, impact the profitability of pharma companies hindering innovation incentives for Industry. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

#### 69. (D)

##### Exp:

- **Pashu Aushadhi Kendras**, modeled after **Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)**, provide "generic medicines" **veterinary medicines** to improve **livestock health** and reduce **farmers' expenses**. Pashu Aushadhi Kendras will also **sell ethnoveterinary medicines**, which are based on traditional Indian knowledge and indigenous practices. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Pashu Aushadhi Kendras introduced under the **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)**, has a Rs 75 crore allocation for veterinary medicines and sales incentives. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The LHDCP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, focused on enhancing livestock health, productivity, and disease management, with a total outlay of Rs 3,880 crore from 2024-26.

#### 70. (A)

##### Exp:

- **System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008:**
  - ◆ The System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) is a comprehensive, consistent and flexible **set of macroeconomic accounts** to meet the needs of government and private-sector analysts, policy-makers, and decisions-takers. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ It was prepared **jointly by the International Monetary Fund, the European Union, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations, and the World Bank**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- ◆ These **five organizations constitute the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA)**, that has been mandated by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations to oversee international coordination in the development of national accounts.

#### 71. (B)

##### Exp:

- Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) is a molecule that carries the genetic instructions for all known organisms and is essential for the development and functioning of cells.
- DNA is made of two linked strands that wind around each other to resemble a twisted ladder, known as a double helix.
- DNA replication, the process where a cell makes an exact copy of its DNA, occurs within the **nucleus of eukaryotic cells**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Eukaryotic cells are cells which contain a nucleus enclosed within the nuclear membrane. Eg: Protozoa, fungi, plants, and animals.
- Mitochondria, often called the powerhouses of cells, contain their own DNA (mtDNA), which is inherited exclusively from the mother, passing from mother to offspring without any contribution from the father. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

#### 72. (C)

##### Exp:

##### North Sea:

- **Location:** A shallow, northeastern arm of the Atlantic Ocean between the British Isles and mainland northwestern Europe.
  - ◆ It is connected to the **Atlantic by the Strait of Dover and the English Channel** and to the **Baltic Sea** through the Skagerrak and Kattegat. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ The deepest point in the North Sea is the Norwegian Trench (725 meters).
- **Borders:** Surrounded by the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Economic Importance:** Major trade route for Europe, linking key ports in the UK, Scandinavia, and mainland Europe.
  - ◆ The **1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf** established countries' rights over adjacent shelves, enabling North Sea exploration, which is rich in oil and gas with extensive offshore drilling.

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73. (B)

Exp:

Kyrgyzstan:

- Kyrgyzstan are Central Asian nations that gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.
- Kyrgyzstan shares borders with Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, with Bishkek as its capital.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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74. (D)

Exp:

- Part II (Article 5 to 11) covers the provisions of Citizenship in the Constitution of India.
- Article 9 provides for **single citizenship in India** by denying Indian citizenship to anyone who voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country. The **United States (US ) follows a dual citizenship model (federal and state)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- An **OCI (Overseas Citizen of India)** cardholder is a foreign national of Indian origin, granted a **special status by the Indian government**, allowing them to live and work in India indefinitely, with **certain benefits and restrictions**, but **without the full rights of a citizen**.
- OCI cardholders **do not have political rights** such as voting, contesting elections, or holding constitutional posts. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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75. (C)

Exp:

**Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):**

- MPLADS is a **Central Sector Scheme** introduced in 1993 that enables the Members of Parliament (MP) to recommend **developmental work** in their constituencies with an emphasis on creating durable community assets based on locally felt needs.
- A state-level nodal department oversees MPLADS, while district authorities sanction projects, allocate funds, and ensure implementation.
- Under the scheme, each MP is allocated Rs 5 crore per year since 2011-12. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Funds are disbursed by the **Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI)** to district authorities in two installments of Rs 2.5 crore each.
- Funds are non-lapsable and carried forward if not utilised in a given year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- MPs must allocate a minimum of 15% and 7.5% of their funds to create assets for **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, respectively. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

76. (A)

Exp:

**Mauritius:**

- India's Prime Minister received the **highest national award of Mauritius**, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.
- India and Mauritius elevated their ties to an **Enhanced Strategic Partnership**, strengthening security, trade, and development while reaffirming their commitment to a **free and secure Indian Ocean**.
- India announced its **first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit** to support Mauritius in replacing its water pipelines.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** visited Mauritius in 1901, advocating education and political empowerment for the Indian community.
  - ◆ As a tribute to Gandhi, Mauritius celebrates its **National Day on 12<sup>th</sup> March**, marking the Dandi March.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

77. (C)

Exp:

**Biomass**

- Biomass is **renewable organic material** that comes from plants and animals.
  - ◆ It is used for facility heating, electric power generation, and combined heat and power.

- Biomass can be converted into electric power through **several methods**:

- ◆ Combustion of biomass material:
  - The most common is direct combustion of biomass material, such as agricultural waste or woody materials. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Gasification:
  - Gasification produces a synthesis gas with usable energy content by heating the biomass with less oxygen than needed for complete combustion.
- ◆ Pyrolysis:
  - Pyrolysis yields bio-oil by rapidly heating the biomass in the absence of oxygen. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Anaerobic digestion:
  - Anaerobic digestion produces a renewable natural gas when organic matter is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen.
    - Wastes like animal and human wastes, are converted into a medium-energy content gas in an anaerobic digester.

78. (C)

Exp:

The **World Air Quality Report 2024**, released by Swiss company IQAir, ranked **India as the 5<sup>th</sup> most polluted country** globally.

**The Key Findings of the World Air Quality Report:**

- **India:** India is the **5<sup>th</sup> most polluted country in 2024**, improving slightly from 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2023.
- ◆ **Polluted Cities:** Delhi remains the **most polluted capital** globally with a Particulate matter (PM) 2.5 concentration of **91.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup>** (micrograms per cubic metre).
  - 6 of the world's 10 most polluted cities and 13 of the top 20 are in India, with **Byrnihat** (Assam-Meghalaya border) topping the list at a **PM2.5 concentration of 128.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**.
    - Other polluted cities include **Mullanpur** (Punjab), Gurugram, **Faridabad**, Bhiwadi, and **Noida**.
- ◆ **PM2.5 Reduction:** India saw a **7% decrease** in PM2.5 levels, averaging **50.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup>** in 2024, down from **54.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup>** in 2023.
  - However, this is still **10 times higher** than the **World Health Organization (WHO's) recommended safe limit** of **5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**. **35% of Indian cities** reported PM2.5 levels exceeding this limit.

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- ◆ **Pollution Sources:** Major contributors include **vehicle emissions, industrial pollution**, and the **burning of biomass**.

- **Northern India faced extreme pollution levels** with crop stubble-burning contributing to **60% of PM2.5 levels**.

- **Global:** The most polluted countries by annual average PM2.5 levels are Chad (91.8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), Bangladesh (78  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), Pakistan (73.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), and Congo (58.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).

- ◆ The report highlights that **most of the global population** is breathing polluted air, with **only 12 countries, regions, or territories** reporting PM2.5 concentrations below the **WHO's recommended limit**.

- Hence, option C is correct.

79. (D)

Exp:

- The **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID**, aims to **standardize student records**. However, concerns over **implementation, data privacy** have sparked debates among activists.
- **APAAR ID:** Introduced under the **National Education Policy 2020** and aligned with the **National Credit Framework**, it aims to establish a **"One Nation, One Student ID"** system to streamline academic records and facilitate transitions between educational levels.
  - ◆ APAAR assigns a **12-digit ID**, linking academic records to **DigiLocker** and **Academic Bank of Credits** for storage and verification. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Schools** record data, while **Higher Education Institutions & Skill Institutes** access verified academic records for admissions and recruitment.
- **Concerns About APAAR ID:** APAAR's Aadhaar linkage is causing issues due to spelling mismatches, necessitating updates.
  - ◆ While the Education Ministry claims APAAR is voluntary, **Central Board of Secondary Education's**

**push for 100% enrolment of APAAR** raises concerns of implicit mandates, contradicting the Supreme Court ruling in *Justice (Retd.) K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2019)*, which held that Aadhaar cannot be required for basic education access.

- ◆ Thus, concerns over APAAR ID include **data privacy risks for minors, potential violation of the Supreme Court's ruling on Aadhaar**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- The **Data Protection Act, 2023** (not yet enforced) mandates that consent **must be free, informed, and unambiguous**, which activists argue is being ignored.

80. (C)

Exp:

- **Mycelium Bricks**

- ◆ In the face of **climate change**, the construction industry is seeking **low-carbon alternatives**, and **mycelium bricks** have emerged as a promising innovation.
- ◆ **Mycelium Bricks:** Created from **fungal spores**, husk, and sawdust, **mycelium bricks form a lightweight, fibrous structure** with a low environmental impact compared to traditional fired clay bricks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Unlike traditional fired clay bricks, which emit nearly 300 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, mycelium bricks have a low carbon footprint. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
  - They are **biodegradable, fire-resistant, lightweight, and good heat insulators**, making them suitable for interior panelling, filters, and electronics. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - Potential applications include interior panelling, liquid filters, sports equipment, and electronic components.

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CSAT  
Course  
2025



IAS Current  
Affairs  
Module Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App

