



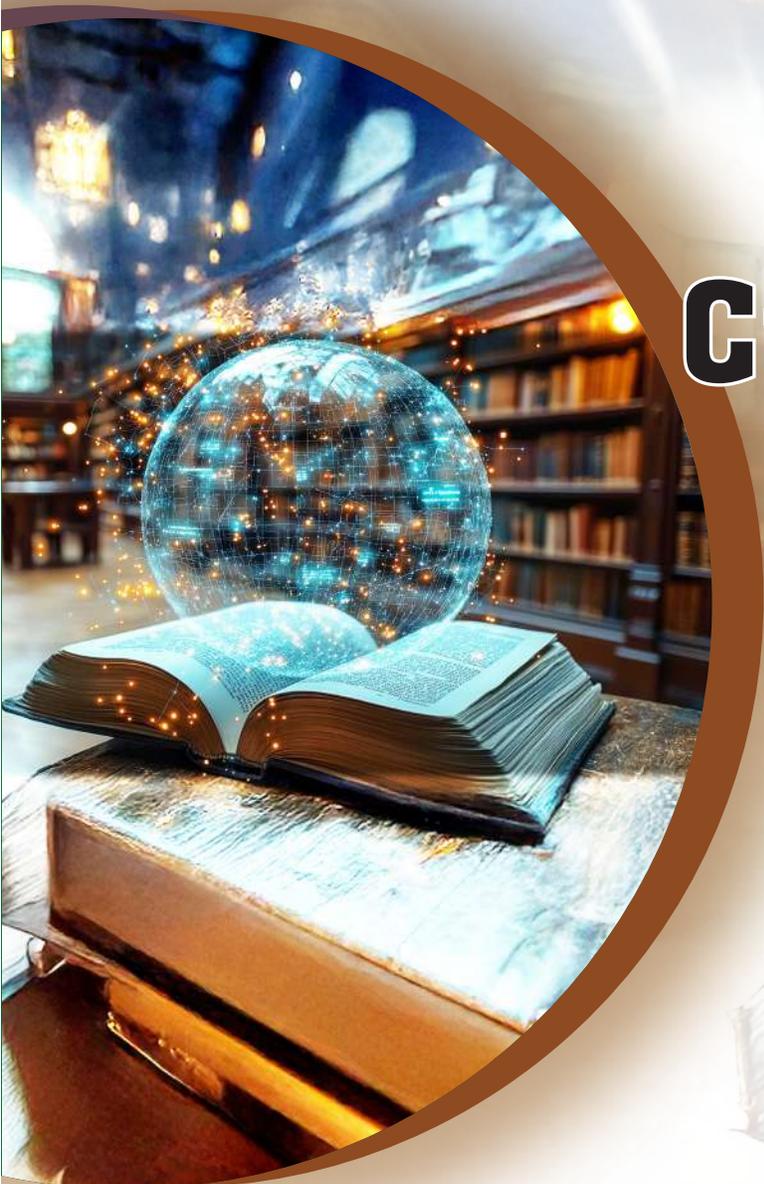
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AUGUST

2025

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Practice Question

Polity & Governance

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA):

1. It is a statutory authority established to manage funds for afforestation when forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes.
2. As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, if non-forest land is unavailable, the user agency must afforest an equivalent area of degraded forest land.

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

2. With reference to the Anti-Defection Law in India, consider the following statements:

1. It was added to the Constitution by the 91st Constitutional Amendment, 2003, as the Tenth Schedule.
2. A nominated member is disqualified if they join a political party within six months of becoming a legislator.
3. A party can merge with another without disqualification if at least one-third of its legislators support the merger.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025.
2. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency, India is the world's largest solar energy producer.
3. Wind power holds the largest share in India's renewable energy capacity.

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

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India:

1. PRIs were given constitutional status through the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993 by adding a new Part IX to the Constitution.
2. The minimum age for contesting Panchayat elections in India is 21 years.
3. Article 243 (I) of the Constitution mandates the establishment of a State Finance Commission (SFC) every 5 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding Skill Impact Bond (SIB):

1. It is India's first Development Impact Bond focused on skills training and job placement.
2. As of 2025, Telangana has the highest enrollment under the SIB.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA):

1. CARA is a statutory under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It is the nodal authority for overseas adoptions in India under the Hague Convention, 1993.
3. It monitors and regulates domestic adoptions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002:

1. Enacted under Article 253, it targets laundering linked to crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, and terror financing.
2. It allows authorities to seize and confiscate property from crime if there is a scheduled offence.
3. Under the act, proceedings can be initiated based on an ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report), without the requirement of a prior FIR.

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

8. Which of the following is/are component of the PM-KUSUM?

1. 10,000 MW of decentralized ground-mounted grid-connected renewable power plants.
2. Installation of over 10 lakh solar-powered agriculture pumps.
3. Converting agriculture pumps, already connected to the grid, into solar.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9. Consider the following commissions/committees:

1. Dhar Commission
2. JVP Committee
3. Fazl Ali Commission
4. Punchhi Commission

Which of the above were related to the reorganisation of states in India after Independence?

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

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Eco-Mark certification is mandatory for all ecologically safe products.
2. The Green Rating Project is a NITI Aayog initiative that rates industries based on their environmental performance.

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and the MPLADS fund is non-lapsable in nature.
2. Each Member of Parliament (MP) is allocated ₹5 crore per year, released in two equal installments to district authorities.
3. Nominated MPs can recommend works in any district(s) of any state or Union Territory in the country.
4. Funds cannot be converged with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) for asset creation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

12. With reference to the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the Ministry of Law & Justice and is funded through the Nirbhaya Fund to ensure the speedy trial of rape and child sexual abuse cases.

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2. Under the POCSO Act, 2012, Special Courts are required to complete trials within one year from the date of taking cognizance of the offence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding the Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the Indian Army:

1. JAG officers are commissioned combatants who provide legal advice on military law, operational matters, and disciplinary issues under the Army Act, 1950.
2. Under the Army Act, 1950, women are not eligible to join the JAG branch.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements regarding Hepatitis D Virus (HDV):

1. HDV is a defective virus that depends on Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) for infection and replication.
2. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reclassified HDV as carcinogenic.

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. The PRASHAST app, frequently mentioned in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Screening disability conditions
B. Agricultural market prices
C. Online mental health counseling
D. Water quality monitoring

Economy

16. Which of the following best describes an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)?

- A. A government-sponsored fund that exclusively finances infrastructure projects.
B. A retail mutual fund that pools money from small investors for stock market investment.
C. A privately pooled investment vehicle that collects funds from high-net-worth investors to invest as per a defined strategy.
D. A special fund maintained by the RBI to provide liquidity support to financial institutions.

17. Consider the following pairs

River	Tributary
1. Krishna	Indravati
2. Godavari	Maner
3. Mahanadi	Seonath

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

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025:

1. The threshold for determining 'substantial interest' has been revised from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 2 crore.
2. Public sector banks (PSBs) can not transfer unclaimed shares, interests, and bonds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements about Inland Waterways in India:

1. Inland waterways include navigable rivers, lakes, and canals used for transporting goods and people, excluding the sea.

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2. A waterway must support vessels with a minimum carrying capacity of 500 tonnes to be classified as an inland waterway.
3. All inland waterways, including state-managed rivers and canals, fall under the jurisdiction of the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements regarding RBI's Liquidity Management Framework (LMF)?

1. The Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) enables the RBI to manage liquidity by using repo and reverse repo operations.
2. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) are part of short-term liquidity adjustments.

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

21. Consider the following statements:

1. An increase in the value of the domestic currency relative to foreign currencies tends to make exports costlier and imports cheaper.
2. A persistent trade deficit can result in depreciation of the domestic currency.
3. A country's current account can be in surplus even if it has a trade deficit.

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

International Relation

22. Consider the following statements regarding the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025 report:

1. India has the world's highest rate of child wasting under the age of five.
2. SOFI 2025 is jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Labour Organization (ILO).
3. Africa accounted for the highest number of undernourished people followed by Asia.

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

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

23. SIMBEX-25 is the Maritime Bilateral Exercise conducted between which of the following nations?

- A. India — Sri Lanka
- B. India — Singapore
- C. India — Senegal
- D. Indonesia — Singapore

24. With reference to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), consider the following statements:

1. It facilitates cross-border cooperation in criminal investigations and evidence sharing.
2. India's Ministry of External Affairs acts as the central authority for MLATs in criminal law matters.

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

25. With reference to the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) recently signed between India and European Free Trade Association (EFTA), consider the following statements:

1. European Free Trade Association (EFTA) consists of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

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2. As part of TEPA, EFTA will invest USD 100 billion in India over 15 years.
3. India has a trade surplus with TEPA members.

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

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding global nuclear treaties:

1. India is a signatory to the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.
2. Russia and China are parties to the New START Treaty.
3. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear test explosions, whether for military or civilian purposes.

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

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

27. Consider the following statements regarding the International Energy Agency (IEA):

1. It is an autonomous intergovernmental organization within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) framework.
2. India has been a full-time member of the IEA since its establishment.
3. The World Energy Investment Report is among the key reports published by the IEA.

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

28. The 'Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity' transit corridor, recently seen in the news, is related to which conflict?

- A. Israel-Palestine conflict
- B. Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh
- C. Russia-Ukraine war
- D. India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir

29. Consider the following statements regarding India-Oman relations:

1. The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) covers trade in goods and services but excludes areas like intellectual property rights.
2. Oman is India's largest export destination among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
3. India and Oman elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in 2025.

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

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

Social Issues

30. Consider the following statements regarding the slum dwellers in India:

1. Slums can be defined as settlements of at least 20 households with inadequate sanitation and water facilities.
2. Slum rehabilitation and housing policies primarily fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments.
3. India has the second-highest number of flood-exposed slum dwellers globally.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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31. Consider the following statements about India's framework to fight against the drug menace:

1. Article 47 of the Indian Constitution directs the State to endeavour to prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health.
2. India is a signatory to the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
3. MANAS Helpline has been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Science & Technology

32. Consider the following statements regarding CAR-T Cell Therapy:

1. CAR-T cell therapy involves genetically modifying a patient's T cells to enable targeted destruction of cancer cells.
2. NexCAR19 is India's first indigenously developed and approved CAR T-cell therapy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI):

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog to evaluate the performance of Indian States and Union Territories in achieving electric mobility goals.
2. The Index is based on indicators grouped under themes such as transport electrification, charging infrastructure, and EV innovation.
3. In the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2024, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Chandigarh are identified as frontrunners.

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

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

34. Consider the following pairs:

AI Tool	Application Area
1. SUPACE	Health
2. MuleHunter AI	Financial Governance
3. Sarvam-1	Agriculture

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

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

35. Project SAMBHAV, sometimes seen in news, can be best described as:

- A. A waste-to-energy initiative for sustainable military cantonments.
- B. 5G-based secure mobile communication system of the Indian Army.
- C. A river interlinking project to address water scarcity in border areas.
- D. A cyber literacy program for armed forces personnel.

36. Consider the following statements regarding Cryogenic technology:

1. A cryogenic stage in launch vehicles uses Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Hydrogen as propellants, liquefied at extremely high temperatures.
2. Cryogenic engines are primarily used in the upper stages of launch vehicles offering high efficiency and thrust.
3. Cryogenic technology is also used in MRI machines, food preservation, and superconductors.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two

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- C. All Three
- D. None

37. The HOPE mission, recently inaugurated by ISRO at Tso Kar Valley in Ladakh, primarily aims to:

- A. Develop advanced satellite communication technologies
- B. Simulate space-like conditions to study human challenges for Moon/Mars missions
- C. Monitor climate change effects on Himalayan glaciers
- D. Develop nuclear energy reactors for power generation on the Moon.

38. Consider the following statements about the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Scheme:

1. It is a flagship initiative under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).
2. The scheme provides financial incentives to strengthen the supply side of green hydrogen production.
3. It is implemented by the Ministry of Power through the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

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

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

39. Consider the following statements regarding the LVM3 Launch Vehicle:

1. It is capable of launching payloads over 5000 kg to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
2. ISRO has set the target for the first quarter of 2027 for the inaugural flight of its LVM3 launch vehicle, equipped with a semi-cryogenic propulsion stage.

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

40. Consider the following statements regarding biofortification:

1. Consumption of biofortified crops leads to greater absorption of micronutrients compared to non-biofortified varieties.
2. Bt-Cotton is a biofortified variety of cotton.
3. Biofortified Sweet Potatoes are enriched with Vitamin A through high beta-carotene content.

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

41. The Artemis Accords primarily focus on:

- A. Establishing exclusive territorial claims on the Moon for signatory nations.
- B. Promoting international collaboration, transparency, and sustainable use of space resources.
- C. Creating a unified code of conduct for astronauts from different countries.
- D. Banning the deployment of nuclear power sources in extraterrestrial missions.

42. Which of the following is/are potential applications of Biochar?

1. Carbon Capture
2. Power Generation
3. Agriculture
4. Construction Sector
5. Wastewater Treatment

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

43. Consider the following statements regarding Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCOs):

1. The OCOs are a series of Earth observation satellites designed to provide crucial data for tracking CO₂ sources and sinks.
2. They are managed jointly by ISRO and NASA.

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- OCO-3, installed on the International Space Station orbits Earth every 90 minutes, allowing observations of the same location at multiple times of the day.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

44. With reference to the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), consider the following statements:

- It is an independent nodal agency under the Department of Space to promote and regulate private sector participation in space activities.
- It is responsible for building launch vehicles and satellites, sharing ISRO facilities, and setting up new space infrastructure for non-governmental entities (NGEs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Environment & Ecology

45. With reference to Marine Heatwaves (MHWs), consider the following statements:

- It occurs when the surface temperature of a particular region of the sea rises to 3 to 4°C above the average temperature for at least five days
- El Niño and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) both contribute to the occurrence of MHWs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

46. With reference to Asiatic lions, consider the following statements:

- Asiatic male lions have a less prominent mane than African male lions.

- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary houses Asiatic lions in India.
- Asiatic Lion is part of the Species Recovery Program under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

Biodiversity & Environment

47. The Victoria Falls Declaration, recently seen in the news, is associated with which aspect of global environmental conservation?

- Protection of coral reefs and marine ecosystems
- Preservation and restoration of wetlands
- Conservation of tropical rainforests
- Prevention of desertification in arid regions

48. Consider the following national parks:

- Bhitarkanika National Park
- Gulf of Kachchh Marine National Park
- Kaziranga National Park
- Sundarbans National Park

How many of the above national parks have significant mangrove ecosystems?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

49. Consider the following statements:

- International Tiger Day was instituted at the 2010 Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, with 13 tiger-range countries, to address the sharp decline in tiger populations.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority was established under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. With reference to the Aravalli Green Wall Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is an ambitious plan to create a 1,400 km long and 5 km wide green belt buffer around the Aravali Mountain range.
2. The project spans across the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements regarding the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):

1. It is a statutory body established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The Board is responsible for approving projects in and around protected areas and eco-sensitive zones.
3. The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chairperson of the NBWL.

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

52. Recently seen in the news, Sea buckthorn, also known as the Wonder plant can be best described as:

- A. A marine algae species used in biofuel production
- B. A coastal mangrove plant aiding in shoreline stabilization
- C. A hardy, drought-resistant shrub native to cold deserts of the Himalayas
- D. A seaweed variety cultivated for pharmaceutical uses

53. Consider the following features:

1. It is a caprine ungulate species endemic to the Western Ghats, found in the montane grasslands and shola forests.
2. It is a diurnal animal that thrives on grassy slopes and rocky cliffs.
3. It is listed as Endangered by the IUCN and protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the following animals is described by the features mentioned above?

- A. Indian Gazelle
- B. Nilgiri Tahr
- C. Ibex
- D. Barking Deer

54. The 'Rhisotope Project', recently in news, primarily aims to:

- A. Promote renewable energy adoption in wildlife conservation areas.
- B. To inject radioactive isotopes into rhino horns to make them poisonous for human consumption.
- C. Implement blockchain technology to track and verify the legality of wildlife products.
- D. Enhance community-based eco-tourism initiatives for sustainable livelihoods.

55. Consider the following statements regarding zoonotic diseases:

1. They are infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans.
2. Zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses only.
3. Rabies, Nipah, and brucellosis are zoonotic diseases.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

56. Consider the following statements with reference to elephants:

1. The gestation period of an elephant is the longest among land mammals.

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2. Elephants can communicate using seismic vibrations that they detect through their bones.
3. Elephants live in a matriarchal social structure.

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

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

History

57. Consider the following statements:

1. He was the first Indian king to lead overseas military expeditions, extending Chola influence across South and Southeast Asia.
2. He founded a new capital, Gangaikondacholapuram, to commemorate his northern conquests.
3. Under his rule, Tamil merchant guilds like Manigramam and Ayyavole thrived, fostering trade and cultural exchange with China and Southeast Asia.
4. He promoted Shaivism and patronized Chidambaram's Nataraja Temple.

Which of the following kings best matches the above description?

- A. Rajendra Chola I
- B. Vijayalaya Chola
- C. Aditya Chola I
- D. Rajaraja Chola I

58. Consider the following statements regarding Sarnath:

1. Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon in Sarnath after attaining enlightenment.
2. The octagonal Mughal tower at the Chaukhandi Stupa in Sarnath was built in 1588 by Goverdhan to mark Humayun's visit after the Battle of Chausa (1539).
3. Chinese pilgrim Hiuen-Tsang visited Sarnath in the 7th century and provided detailed accounts of the Dharmarajika Stupa and Ashoka's Lion Capital.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

- C. All three
- D. None

59. Who coined the slogans "Quit India" and "Simon Go Back" during India's freedom movement?

- A. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- B. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- C. Aruna Asaf Ali
- D. Yusuf Meherally

60. Arrange the following events related to World War II in chronological order, starting from the earliest:

1. Treaty of Versailles
2. The Soviet victory at Stalingrad
3. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor
4. The United States dropped "Little Boy" on Hiroshima and "Fat Man" on Nagasaki.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1-2-3-4
- B. 1-3-2-4
- C. 1-2-4-3
- D. 2-1-3-4

61. Consider the following statements:

1. The 1905 Carlyle Circular threatened to withdraw scholarships from protesting students, causing many to leave British institutions.
2. The National Council of Education, formed in 1906, led to the establishment of the Bengal National College and the Bengal Technical Institute.
3. The National Handloom Day, celebrated every year on 7th August, marks the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on this day in 1905.

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

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

62. With reference to the history of iron in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Iron Age is a prehistoric period that followed the Bronze Age and was characterized by the widespread use of iron.

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2. In the Rigveda, the term ayas refers to iron or its alloys.
3. Nagda, Eran, and Ahar in central India are important iron age sites.

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

Art and Culture

63. Dhirio, recently seen in news, is:

- A. A traditional bull fighting event in Goa linked to post-harvest celebrations.
- B. A traditional boat race held in Kerala during Onam festival.
- C. A dance festival in Nagaland celebrated with flamenco performances.
- D. A kite-flying competition held in Rajasthan during Makar Sankranti.

Geography

64. Consider the following pairs:

Location	Feature
1. Manikaran, Himachal Pradesh	Geysers
2. Puga Valley, Ladakh	Hot Spring
3. Yellowstone National Park, US	Geysers and Hot Springs

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

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

65. Consider the following rivers:

1. Lohit River
2. Raidak River
3. Dhanashri River
4. Jaldhaka River

How many of the above are Left Bank Tributaries of Brahmaputra River?

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

66. Consider the following pairs:

Types of Mass Movements	Description
1. Slides	Detachment of material from a steep slope, descending by free-fall or rolling
2. Flows	Movement of soil or rock along a rupture surface, either curved or planar
3. Spreads	Forward rotation and free-fall of mass from a cliff

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

67. Consider the following countries:

1. Chile
2. Japan
3. Mexico

How many of the above are located within the Pacific Ring of Fire?

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

68. Consider the following seas:

1. East China Sea
2. Yellow Sea
3. Sea of Okhotsk
4. Philippine Sea

Arrange the above seas in their correct geographical order from north to south and choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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- A. 2-4-3-1
- B. 3-4-2-1
- C. 3-2-1-4
- D. 1-3-4-2

69. Consider the following statements:

1. Ocean surface temperature generally reaches its maximum near the equator and gradually decreases towards the poles.
2. Coastal upwelling of cold water can occur when prevailing winds push warm surface waters away from the shore.

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

Agriculture and Allied Sector

70. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

1. Under PMFBY, farmers pay a capped premium of 2% for Kharif crops and 1.5% for horticultural crops.
2. The scheme is voluntary and open to all states but compulsory for farmers receiving subsidy benefits under the Kisan Credit Card scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. Regarding the Cotton Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a five-year initiative launched by the Government of India in the Union Budget 2025-26 to increase cotton productivity, especially extra-long staple varieties.
2. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal agency for implementing the mission, with the Ministry of Textiles as a key partner.

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

Defence & Security

72. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the third ship delivered under Project 17A.
2. It is a modernised version of a Leander-class frigate decommissioned in 2005.
3. It is equipped with weapons like the BrahMos and Barak 8 missiles.

Which of the following Indian Navy frigates best matches the above description?

- A. Nilgiri
- B. Talwar
- C. Himgiri
- D. Udaygiri

73. Regarding the Pralay Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a solid propellant quasi-ballistic missile jointly developed by India and Russia.
2. It is a long-range surface-to-surface missile, with a range of 1500 to 2500 km.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. Regarding the NISAR satellite, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first major Earth-observing satellite with radars of two frequencies.
2. It marks the first time ISRO is using a GSLV to place a satellite in sun-synchronous polar orbit.
3. It will measure forest biomass and carbon stock.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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75. The term “Agnishodh”, recently seen in the news, is best described as:

- A new military satellite launched by India.
- A defense technology initiative bridging academic research and military needs.
- A cybersecurity company specializing in advanced encryption.
- A specialized training program for Indian Army recruits.

76. With reference to the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), consider the following statements:

- It was formed post-Kargil war on the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on ‘Reforming the National Security System’ in 2001.
- It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
- It gives ‘in principle’ approval to capital acquisitions, monitors major project progress, and grants acceptance of necessity for acquisition proposals.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

Miscellaneous

77. Consider the following statements regarding Tuvalu:

- It is a Polynesian island country located midway between Hawaii and Australia.
- It was a part of the British colony known as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

78. Consider the following statements regarding Dardanelles Strait:

- It separates the Gallipoli Peninsula in Europe from the mainland of Asia Minor.
- It connects the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

79. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

- The scheme was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Only adult women from eligible deprived households are entitled to apply for LPG connections under the scheme.
- Ujjwala 2.0 provided for easier access of LPG connections for migrant households without requiring Proof of Address or Ration Cards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

80. Consider the following statements regarding the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR):

- The IFC-IOR, established in 2018, is a regional information-sharing center jointly managed by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
- IFC-IOR facilitates exchange of data on “white shipping” to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

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Answers

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



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Explanations

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** is a **statutory body** established under the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016**.

✦ It was created to **manage and utilize the funds collected from user agencies** whenever **forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes**. The funds are used for compensatory afforestation and other permissible forest and wildlife conservation activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 According to the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**, if suitable non-forest land is not available, the user agency is required to undertake afforestation on **twice the area of degraded forest land**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

2.

Ans: D

Exp:

The Anti-Defection Law

💡 **About:** The **Anti-Defection Law** was introduced as the **Tenth Schedule** to the Constitution through the **52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

✦ It aimed to stop political defections for personal gain. It applies to both Parliament and State Assemblies.

✦ The **91st Amendment Act (2003)** amended the anti-defection law by **scrapping the one-third split provision, allowing mergers only if two-thirds of a party's members agreed**, and disqualifying defectors from holding ministerial or paid political posts until they are re-elected.

💡 **Grounds for Disqualification:** **Voluntarily give up party membership** (can be inferred from conduct, not just resignation).

✦ Voting or abstaining from voting against the **party whip** can lead to disqualification.

✦ A legislator can further be disqualified if he is an independently elected member and joins a political party.

✦ A nominated member is disqualified if they join a political party **after** six months of becoming a legislator. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Exceptions to Disqualification:** A party can merge with another if **two-thirds** of its legislators agree, with no disqualification for those who merge or stay. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

✦ **No disqualification for Speaker/Chairman/Deputy Chairman** resigning from the party to remain neutral.

💡 **Role of the Presiding Officer:** Disqualification cases are decided by the Speaker/Chairman.

3.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025. The blend rose from just 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 As per International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Renewable Energy Statistics 2025, India ranks **4th globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity, 4th in Wind Power, and 3rd in Solar Power capacity**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 As of June 2025, **Solar power holds the largest share of India's renewable energy**, contributing **47.06%** of the total non-fossil capacity, followed by **wind power at 21.78%**. Hydropower accounts for 20.35%, while bio power contributes 4.92%. Nuclear energy makes up 3.73%, and small hydro power holds a share of 2.17%. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** (not the 74th), which came into force on **24 April 1993** granted **constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and provided for a **3-tier system**:

✦ **Gram Panchayat** (village level)

✦ **Panchayat Samiti** (intermediate/block level)

✦ **Zila Parishad** (district level)

📄 It added **Part IX (Articles 243 to 243-O)** and the **Eleventh Schedule** to the Constitution.

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✎ The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 pertains to **Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities)** and added **Part IX-A** to the Constitution. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 The minimum age for contesting Panchayat elections in India is **21 years**. As per **Article 243F(1)(a)** of the Constitution, a person shall be disqualified for being chosen as a member of a Panchayat if he/she is **less than 21 years** of age. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **Article 243I** mandates the **Governor of a State** to constitute a **State Finance Commission (SFC)** every **five years** to review the financial position of the Panchayats and recommend principles governing resource distribution. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

5.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Skill Impact Bond (SIB) is India's first **Development Impact Bond (DIB)**, launched in **2021** focused on **skills training and job placement**. It shifts focus from **enrollment to outcomes** like placement and retention. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✦ SIB aims to skill 50,000 youth, with 60% women, especially from marginalised and rural backgrounds.

💡 According to the **SIB Report 2025**, **Jharkhand** led with the highest enrollment at 27%, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

6.

Ans: B

Exp:

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

💡 The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a **statutory & autonomous body under the Ministry of Women & Child Development**. It facilitates the adoption of orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children through recognized agencies in India. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 CARA functions as the **Central Authority for inter-country adoptions** under the **Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, 1993**, which India ratified in **2003**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 CARA monitors and regulates **domestic adoptions** under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**. It ensures that adoptions within

India follow legal safeguards and ethical standards to protect the rights and welfare of orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

7.

Ans: D

Exp:

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002:

💡 **About:** PMLA, 2002 (**enforced in 2005**) was enacted to prevent money laundering and provide for the confiscation of property derived from such activities.

✦ Enacted under **Article 253**, it targets laundering linked to crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, and terror financing. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Key Provisions of PMLA:**

✦ **Attachment, Seizure & Confiscation:** It empowers authorities to attach, seize, and confiscate property from crime, provided there is a **scheduled offence** (offence against the state) and oversight by an Adjudicating Authority. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✦ **Initiation of Proceedings & ECIR:** Proceedings can be initiated based on an ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report) filed by the ED & **no FIR** is required. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

✎ The **ED derives its powers under PMLA, 2002**, from various sections to investigate, attach, seize, and prosecute offenses related to money laundering.

✦ **Recent Amendments Related to PMLA:** The 2019 amendment to PMLA introduced Rule 3A, allowing Special Courts to notify claimants for confiscated property after charges are framed.

✎ The **2023** amendment expanded disclosure obligations for NGOs and redefined Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) to include prominent foreign officials, aligning with FATF standards.

8.

Ans: D

Exp:

PM-KUSUM:

💡 PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttham Mahabhiyan) aims to enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their arid lands and to sell it to the grid.

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It also seeks to increase the income of farmers by allowing them to sell surplus solar power to the grid.

Components:

- ✦ 10,000 MW of decentralized ground-mounted grid-connected renewable power plants.
- ✦ Installation of 20 lakh solar-powered agriculture pumps
- ✦ Converting 15 lakh agriculture pumps, already connected to the grid, into solar.

Hence, option D is correct.

9.

Ans: A

Exp:

Linguistic Provinces Commission (Dhar Commission), 1948 was set up to examine the feasibility of creating states on a linguistic basis. It rejected language as the sole criterion, favouring administrative convenience instead.

JVP Committee, 1949, consisting of Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and Pattabhi Sitaramayya advised against immediate linguistic reorganisation, citing risks to national unity and security.

States Reorganisation Commission (Fazl Ali Commission), 1953, chaired by Justice Fazl Ali with H.N. Kunzru and K.M. Panikkar; in its 1955 report, it recognised language as an important criterion but opposed the “one language, one state” principle, highlighting the need to balance unity, security, and administrative, economic, and financial efficiency.

The Punchhi Commission was constituted in 2007 to examine the relationship and powers between the Union and the states. It was related to centre-state relations and not the reorganisation of states based on language.

Hence, option A is correct.

10.

Ans: D

Exp:

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) – Ecomark is a certification mark for products that are environmentally safe and meet the standards prescribed by BIS. This certification scheme is voluntary in nature. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Green Rating Project under the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), it rates industries on environmental performance. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), launched in 1993, is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) that allows Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend development works in their constituencies, focusing on durable community assets based on local needs.

This fund is non-lapsable and can be carried forward if not utilised in a given year. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Each MP is allocated Rs 5 crore per year since 2011-12, released by MoSPI to district authorities in two installments of Rs 2.5 crore. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Rajya Sabha MPs may recommend works in any district(s) of their state of election, while nominated MPs can choose any district(s) in any one state of the country. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Funds can be converged with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), MGNREGS for asset creation or linked to Khelo India for sports infrastructure. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.

12.

Ans: C

Exp:

The Fast Track Special Courts Scheme, launched in 2019, is a Centrally Sponsored initiative under the Ministry of Law & Justice.

It is funded through the Nirbhaya Fund to set up FTSCs for the speedy trial of rape and child sexual abuse cases. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 mandates Special Courts to conclude trials within one year from the date of taking cognizance of the offence. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

Judge Advocate General (JAG) is the legal arm of the Indian Army, advising on military law under the Army Act, 1950, and guiding commanders on operational, administrative, and disciplinary matters.

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✦ JAG officers are **commissioned combatants** who can be deployed in combat-support roles during wartime. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Under **Section 12** of the Army Act, 1950, **women are eligible to join JAG.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

14.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **Hepatitis D Virus (HDV)** is a **defective virus** that depends on the **Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)** for infection and replication. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has reclassified **Hepatitis D Virus (HDV)** as **carcinogenic.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✦ **HDV** causes **co-infection** or **superinfection** with **Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)**, increasing risk of **liver cirrhosis** and **hepatocellular carcinoma** (a type of liver cancer) by **2–6 times** compared to HBV alone.

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **PRASHAST Mobile App** screens **21 disabilities** mentioned under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** at the **school level**, helping **teachers** identify students needing support.

💡 It uses a **checklist** for observations, which are shared with **special educators** to enable **timely interventions** and provide necessary **resources** and **accommodations.**

💡 Hence, **option A is correct.**

Economy

16.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 An **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** is a **privately pooled investment vehicle** in India that collects funds from **sophisticated Indian or foreign investors** to invest in accordance with a **defined investment policy** for their benefit.

💡 AIFs are distinct from traditional investment vehicles like **mutual funds** and are aimed at **high-net-worth individuals or institutional investors** seeking exposure to alternative assets.

💡 They are regulated by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** under **SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012.**

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **Krishna River** does not have Indravati as its tributary; instead, its major tributaries include the **Bhima, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, and Musi rivers.**

✦ **Indravati** is a significant left-bank tributary of the **Godavari River.** Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

💡 The **Godavari** also receives other important tributaries such as the **Maner, Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Pranhita, and Sabari.** Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched.**

💡 **Mahanadi** receives major tributaries such as **Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand, and Ib.** Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched.**

💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

18.

Ans: A

Exp:

Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025

💡 **About:** The **Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025** is a legislative reform enacted to modernize and strengthen the legal, regulatory, and governance framework of the Indian banking sector.

💡 **Key Reforms:**

✦ **Revised Substantial Interest Threshold:** The threshold for determining **'substantial interest'** has been revised from **Rs 5 lakh to Rs 2 crore** (which remained unchanged since 1968), aligning with **present-day economic realities.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

📌 **'Substantial interest'** refers to a director's or officer's significant financial stake in a firm, which may cause a conflict of interest. It is determined by the paid-up share capital held by them or their relatives exceeding the specified limit.

✦ **Investor Protection & Fund Transparency:** **Public sector banks (PSBs)** can transfer **unclaimed shares, interests, and bonds** to the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

📌 It is in parity with **Companies Act, 2013** norms to enhance transparency and depositor awareness.

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19.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Inland Waterways** are stretches of water such as **navigable rivers, lakes, and canals** (excluding the sea), used for transporting goods and people. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 For a waterway to be classified as an inland waterway, it must support vessels with a **minimum carrying capacity of 50 tonnes** when fully loaded. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✦ **National Transport Policy Committee (1980)** recommended the following few criteria for declaring a national waterway:
 - ✍ **45m wide channel** and a **minimum depth of 1.5m.**
 - ✍ **Continuous stretch** of at least **50 km**, with exceptions for urban or intra-port areas.
- 💡 Only **National Waterways** are under the jurisdiction of the **Central Government**; others fall under **State Government** jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

20.

Ans: B

Exp:

RBI's Liquidity Management Framework (LMF)

- 💡 **About:** The LMF is essentially the toolkit the RBI uses to manage the **amount of cash in the banking system**, helping steer short-term interest rates and ensuring smooth monetary policy transmission.
- 💡 **Core Mechanism:** At LMF core, it relies on the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** that is the **repo and reverse repo mechanism** through which RBI injects or absorbs liquidity as needed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✦ This framework typically operates with a "corridor system," where the policy repo rate sits in the middle. The overnight Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) serves as the key operating target for monetary policy.
- 💡 **Other Tools in LMF:** The LMF also includes other tools like **Open Market Operations (OMO)**, **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)**, and **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)** for **longer-term** and structural liquidity adjustments.
 - ✦ **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

21.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 When the **domestic currency appreciates**, **exports become more expensive** for foreign buyers and **imports become cheaper** for domestic consumers, often **reducing export competitiveness** and increasing imports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 A **persistent trade deficit** means **more foreign currency is demanded to pay for imports** than is earned from exports. This can **create downward pressure on the domestic currency**, leading to depreciation, though the pace depends on factors like capital inflows and reserves. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The **current account** includes the **trade balance, net income from abroad, and net current transfers**. Even with a trade deficit, large inflows from remittances or investment income can result in a current account surplus (e.g., countries with strong overseas worker remittances). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

International Relation

22.

Ans: A

Exp:

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025

- 💡 The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025 report**, shows global hunger dipped to 673 million, but **India still has the highest number of wasted children under five.**
 - ✦ **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 SOFI is jointly produced by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**, the **UN World Food Programme (WFP)**, and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
 - ✦ **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Food Insecurity:** Globally, 2.3 billion people are moderately or severely food insecure, representing a significant portion of the world's population.
- 💡 **Regional Breakdown:** **Asia accounted for the highest number of undernourished people at 323 million, followed by Africa (307 million) and Latin America and the Caribbean (34 million).**
 - ✦ **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

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23.

Ans: B

Exp:

Indian Naval Ship Satpura at SIMBEX-25

- 💡 Indian Naval Ship **Satpura** has arrived at Singapore to participate in the **32nd edition** of the **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-25)**.
- 💡 SIMBEX (formerly Exercise **Lion King**), is an **annual maritime exercise** conducted by the **Indian Navy** and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and is one of **India's longest (started in 1994)** uninterrupted maritime drills.
 - ✦ The exercise aligns with **India's Vision MAHASAGAR** and the **Act East Policy**, emphasizing strategic engagements with neighboring countries.

💡 Hence, option **B** is correct.

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** is a bilateral or multilateral treaty aimed at enhancing cross-border cooperation in criminal investigations, evidence sharing, and law enforcement. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✦ It enables faster and more structured cooperation to counter transnational crimes such as terrorism, trafficking, smuggling, cybercrime, and financial fraud.
- 💡 The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is the **nodal Ministry and the Central authority** for MLATs in criminal law matters. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 MLAT is legally binding for participating countries, ensuring reciprocity in cooperation, while it remains discretionary for non-MLAT countries.

25.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** between **India** and the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** nations will come into **force on 1st October 2025**.
- 💡 **EFTA** consists of **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland** and they are **not members of the European Union**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The agreement seeks to **boost trade, attract investment, and create employment** by reducing

tariff and non-tariff barriers. E.g., EFTA will invest **USD 100 billion** in India over **15 years** to create **1 million jobs**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- 💡 In **2024-25**, India exported goods worth **USD 1.96 billion** to **EFTA nations** and imported goods worth **USD 22.45 billion**, resulting in a significant **trade deficit**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

26.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**, signed by the US and the Soviet Union, banned all ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with a range of **500-5,500 km**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ✦ It aimed to reduce the nuclear threat and promote global arms control. However, with the exit of the US and Russia from the treaty, its relevance had already weakened.

- 💡 The **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)**, 2010, is a bilateral arms control agreement between the US and Russia. It **places verifiable limits** on deployed strategic nuclear warheads and their delivery systems for both countries. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- 💡 The **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** bans all nuclear explosions, whether for military or peaceful purposes, by everyone, everywhere—whether above ground, underwater, or underground. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

27

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **IEA** is an autonomous intergovernmental organization within the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** framework. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The **IEA**, founded in 1974 in Paris in response to the **1973-1974 oil crisis**, addresses oil supply disruptions.
 - ✦ It focuses on energy security, economic development, environmental awareness, and global engagement.
- 💡 The **IEA** has 32 member countries and 13 association countries. **India joined as an Associate member in 2017**.
 - ✦ The **IEA has invited India** to become a full-time member, recognizing its growing influence in global energy trends. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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⚡ The IEA conducts energy policy analyses and publishes reports like the World Energy Outlook, and World Energy Investment Report. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

28.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ A peace agreement brokered by the United States has been signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan, marking a significant step toward resolving the longstanding conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

⚡ The agreement includes mutual relinquishment of territorial claims, a ban on the use of force, and adherence to international law.

⚡ The US secured exclusive rights to build the 'Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity', a transit corridor through Armenia connecting Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan, an Azerbaijani enclave bordering Türkiye.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

29

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ India and Oman concluded the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to boost trade and investment, covering goods, services, and broader economic cooperation including intellectual property rights (IPR) and trade facilitation. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

⚡ Oman is the third-largest export destination among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for India, following UAE and Saudi Arabia. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⚡ Diplomatic relations were established in 1955 which was upgraded to strategic partnership in 2008. However, India-Oman CEPA is concluded in 2025. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Social Issues

30.

Ans: B

Exp:

The Status of Slums in India:

⚡ **Defining Slums:** The Pranab Sen Committee (2010) defined slums as a compact settlement of at least 20 households, characterized by poorly built tenements,

often of temporary nature, crowded together with inadequate sanitation and drinking water facilities, and typically in unhygienic conditions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✦ **UN-HABITAT** defines slums as settlements lacking one or more of these conditions: durable housing, sufficient living area, access to clean water, access to proper sanitation and secure tenure.

⚡ **Slums in India:** As per Census 2011, about 17% of India's urban population lived in 1.39 crore slum households.

⚡ **Regulation:** 'Land' and 'Colonisation' are State subjects, so housing and slum rehabilitation are led by State/UT governments. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

✦ The Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956 aims to improve and clear slum areas in select Union Territories and protect tenants in these areas from eviction.

⚡ **Flood-exposed Slum Dwellers:** A global study, published in *Nature Cities*, has revealed that India has the world's highest number of slum clusters located in flood-prone areas. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

✦ India tops the global list, with over 158 million slum dwellers living in flood-prone areas, particularly in the Ganga River delta, which is naturally flood-prone.

31.

Ans: B

Exp:

India's Framework to Fight Against the Drug Menace

⚡ **Article 47 of the Indian Constitution:** It directs the State to endeavour to prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and harmful drugs, except for medicinal purposes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ **International Conventions:** India is a signatory to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (amended by the 1972 Protocol), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ **MANAS Helpline:** Madak-Padarth Nished Asoochna Kendra (MANAS) is a secure, anonymous platform for citizens to report drug-related crimes under the

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NDPS Act and seek support for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug abuse.

- ✦ It is an initiative of the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Science & Technology

32

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 CAR-T cell therapy is a type of **immunotherapy** where a **patient's T cells are genetically modified** to express **special receptors (CARs)** that help them identify and **destroy cancer cells**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ **T cells**, a type of white blood cell, are collected from a patient's blood using a process called **apheresis**, which **separates T cells from other blood components** and returns the remaining parts to the patient.
- 💡 **NexCAR19 (actalycabtagene autoleucel)** is India's **first indigenously developed and approved CAR T-cell therapy**, manufactured by **ImmunoACT**, a company incubated at **IIT Bombay**. It marks a significant advancement in affordable cancer immunotherapy in India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

33.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI)** is an initiative of **NITI Aayog** to **track and evaluate the progress** of Indian States and Union territories (UTs) in achieving their **electric mobility goals**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The IEMI uses **16 indicators** under the **three themes** to assess performance.
 - ✦ **Transport Electrification Progress**: Measures the **adoption of electric vehicles** and demand-side factors.
 - ✦ **Charging Infrastructure Readiness**: Assesses the development and availability of **EV charging stations** and related infrastructure.
 - ✦ **EV Research and Innovation Status**: Tracks **R&D efforts, patents, and innovation in the EV sector**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **IEMI 2024:**

- ✦ **Frontrunners (Score: 65-99)**: Delhi, Maharashtra, Chandigarh. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- ✦ **Performers (Score: 50-64)**: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana.
- ✦ **Aspirants (Score: 0-49)**: States and UTs like Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Ladakh, Andhra Pradesh, and others are lagging in their e-mobility initiatives and require targeted interventions.

34.

Ans: A

- 💡 SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency) is an AI-based portal that aids judges in legal research by collecting relevant facts and laws. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched**.
- 💡 MuleHunter.ai, developed by **Reserve Bank of India**, detects mule accounts used in financial scams. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.
- 💡 Sarvam-1 is a large language model designed for **Indian languages**, with applications in language translation, text summarization, and content generation. Hence, **pair 3 is not correctly matched**.

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Launched under the **Indian Army's 2024 Year of Technology Absorption**, Project SAMBHAV is a secure, **5G-based, network-agnostic mobile system**.
 - ✦ It enables instant and **encrypted communication** on the move, even in remote or high-risk operational areas.
- 💡 SAMBHAV is designed to **boost battlefield communication**, making it faster, more secure, and reliable.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

36.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 A **cryogenic stage** uses **Liquid Oxygen (LOX)** and **Liquid Hydrogen (LH2)** as propellants, liquefied at **-183°C** and **-253°C** respectively i.e., **extremely low temperatures**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 Cryogenic engines are used in the **upper stage** of launch vehicles like **GSLV**, offering **high efficiency and thrust**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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❖ **Cryogenic technology** is also used in **MRI machines** (using **liquid helium** for cooling), **food storage and preservation**, **special effects** (artificial fog), **recycling** (material separation), **biomedical preservation** (freezing **blood and tissue samples**), and in **cooling superconductors** for scientific and industrial use. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

37.

Ans: B

Exp:

❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has inaugurated the **Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (HOPE) space analog mission** at **Tso Kar Valley (Ladakh)** to simulate and study challenges linked to **long-duration space missions.**

❖ It is part of **ISRO's Indian Human Spaceflight Programme**, aimed at **simulating space-like conditions** to test technologies and human health protocols for future **interplanetary missions**, particularly those involving the **Moon and Mars.**

❖ Its **objective** is to study critical **physiological, psychological, and operational challenges** and improve **mission planning and preparedness** for **human space exploration** in human spaceflight.

❖ Hence, **option B is correct.**

38.

Ans: B

Exp:

❖ The **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT)** scheme is a flagship initiative under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

❖ It aimed at **strengthening the supply side of green hydrogen production** through **financial incentives to manufacturers.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

❖ It is implemented by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** through **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).** Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

39.

Ans: B

Exp:

LVM3 Launch Vehicle:

❖ **About:** LVM3 is **ISRO's most powerful, heavy-lift, 3-stage launch vehicle.**

❖ It was formerly known as the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV Mk III).**

❖ It had its first experimental flight in December 2014 and is capable of launching payloads **up to 4000 kg** to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

❖ **3 Stages:**

❖ **First Stage:** Two S200 solid strap-on boosters attached to the sides of the core, using hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) as the solid propellant.

❖ **Second Stage (Core Stage):** The L110 liquid stage powered by twin Vikas engines, which burn a combination of unsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine (UDMH) and nitrogen tetroxide (N₂O₄).

❖ **Third Stage (Upper Stage):** The C25 cryogenic stage powered by the CE20 engine, using liquid hydrogen (LH₂) and liquid oxygen (LOX) as propellants.

❖ Recently, ISRO has set the **target for the first quarter of 2027** for the inaugural flight of its LVM3 launch vehicle equipped with a semi-cryogenic propulsion stage. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

40.

Ans: C

Exp:

❖ Biofortified crops, when consumed, provide **higher micronutrient absorption** compared to non-biofortified crops, assuming similar bioavailability and retention after processing. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

❖ Bt-Cotton is a **genetically modified (GM)** crop developed for pest resistance and is **not a biofortified** crop. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

❖ **Biofortified sweet potatoes** are enriched with **Vitamin A** due to their high **beta-carotene content.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

41.

Ans: B

Exp:

Artemis Accords

❖ The **Artemis Accords** are a **set of principles** established by the **US in 2020** along with other nations to **guide the peaceful and cooperative exploration of the Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies.**

❖ They promote **international collaboration, transparency** in space activities, and the **sustainable and responsible use of space resources.**

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- 💡 These accords build upon the **1967 Outer Space Treaty**, which **prohibits national appropriation and emphasizes space as a global commons**.
- 💡 **India** became the **27th country** to sign the nonbinding Artemis Accords.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

42.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **Biochar** is a **carbon-rich charcoal** produced through **pyrolysis of agricultural residue and organic municipal waste**.
- 💡 **Potential Applications of Biochar:**
 - ✦ **Carbon Capture:** Acts as a **long-term carbon sink**, improves **soil health**, and can **absorb CO₂** from **industrial gases**.
 - ✦ **Power Generation:** Produces **syngas** and **bio-oil** during **pyrolysis**, used for **energy** and **fuel substitution**.
 - ✦ **Agriculture:** Improves **water retention** in **poor soils** and reduces **greenhouse gas emissions**.
 - ✦ **Construction:** Enhances **concrete strength**, **heat resistance**, and contributes to **CO₂ capture**.
 - ✦ **Wastewater Treatment:** Provides an **affordable** and **effective** method for **cleaning polluted water**

43.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The OCOs are Earth observation satellites specifically designed to track atmospheric CO₂, its sources and sinks, and their effects on the global climate system. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 OCO missions are **entirely managed by NASA**, ISRO is not involved in their management. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 OCO-3 was installed on the International Space Station (ISS) in 2019 and completes an orbit around Earth every 90 minutes, enabling multiple observations of the same location at different times of the day, complementing OCO-2 data. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

44.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)** is a **single-window, independent,**

nodal agency under the **Department of Space** that enables and regulates private sector participation in satellites, launch vehicles, and space services. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- 💡 **IN-SPACE** is responsible for **promoting, authorising, and supervising** space activities by **non-governmental entities (NGEs)**, including **building launch vehicles and satellites, providing space-based services, sharing DOS/ISRO facilities, and setting up new space infrastructure**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Environment & Ecology

45.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **A Marine Heatwaves (MHWs)** is an **extreme weather event** marked by **sea surface temperatures** rising **3 to 4°C above average** in a specific region for **at least five days**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 **Rising CO₂ levels** trap heat, warming the **ocean surface and depths**, while oceans absorb **90% of excess heat**, increasing the risk of **MHWs**.
- 💡 **El Nino** warms **upper ocean layers**, weakening **upwelling** and trapping **surface heat**, while the **Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)** amplifies **marine heatwaves** by shifting **Pacific temperature patterns**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ✦ PDO is often described as a **long-lived El Nino-like pattern** of Pacific climate variability.

46.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) is slightly smaller than the African lion. Unlike African males, Asiatic males have a less prominent mane (the long hair around the neck), leaving their ears always visible. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 According to the **16th Lion Census (2025)**, **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** is emerging as a **second home for Asiatic lions after Gir National Park**. Following the natural migration of lions to the area in 2023, the population has grown to 17. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change supports the Asiatic lion conservation under the **Species Recovery Programme**, with financial aid

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through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- ✦ The scheme focuses on habitat improvement, scientific interventions, disease control, veterinary care, and eco-development for fringe populations to maintain a stable and viable lion population in India.

Biodiversity & Environment

47.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Delegates from 172 countries have convened in Victoria Falls, a resort city in Zimbabwe, for the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- 💡 A major outcome of COP15 is the adoption of the Victoria Falls Declaration, a landmark framework designed to mobilise global action for preservation and restoration of wetlands.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

48.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Bhitarkanika National Park (Odisha): Located along the coast of Odisha, it hosts the second-largest mangrove ecosystem in India after the Sundarbans. It is known for its salt-tolerant trees and estuarine crocodiles.
- 💡 Gulf of Kachchh Marine National Park (Gujarat): This is India's first marine national park, located in the intertidal zone of the Arabian Sea. It includes coral reefs, mudflats, and mangrove forests, especially around the islands.
- 💡 Kaziranga National Park (Assam): It is a floodplain ecosystem known for grasslands and wetlands, particularly famous for the one-horned rhinoceros.
 - ✦ However, it does not support a mangrove ecosystem, as it is inland and not a coastal area.
- 💡 Sundarbans National Park (West Bengal): This is the largest mangrove forest in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger and features a highly dense mangrove ecosystem.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 International Tiger Day 2025: International Tiger Day (also known as Global Tiger Day) on 29th July raises awareness about tiger (*Panthera tigris*) conservation.
- 💡 History of International Tiger Day: Global Tiger Day was instituted at the 2010 Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, Russia where 13 tiger-range countries, including India, Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, and Bangladesh came together in response to the sharp decline in tiger populations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Key Steps Taken for Tiger Conservation: Establishment of tiger reserves with a core-buffer strategy to protect habitats in core zones while allowing sustainable human activities in buffer zones.
 - ✦ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) set up under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, oversees Project Tiger and conducts the national tiger census every four years (last census done in 2022). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

50.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Aravalli Green Wall is an ambitious plan to create a 1,400 km long and 5 km wide green belt along the Aravali range to combat land degradation and curb the eastward spread of the Thar Desert. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The project spans Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi, aiming to restore degraded land from Porbandar to Panipat. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory body constituted in 2003 under Section 5A of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, replacing the Indian Board for Wildlife (1952) as an apex advisory body on wildlife conservation and forest development. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 NBWL approves projects in and around protected areas (PAs) and eco-sensitive zones (within 10 km). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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💡 The NBWL is a 47-member statutory board, chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as the Vice Chairperson. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides L.*), also called the "Wonder plant" or "Ladakh gold," is a hardy, drought-resistant shrub distributed across Europe and Asia, especially in the cold deserts of the Himalayas.

💡 It tolerates extreme temperatures (-43°C to $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$), fixes atmospheric nitrogen, and helps prevent soil erosion and prevents desertification.

💡 Traditionally, all parts of the plant (fruit, leaves, roots, thorns) are used for medicine, nutrition, fuel, and fencing.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

Nilgiri Tahr:

💡 **About:** Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) is also known as Varayaadu or Nilgiri Ibex, it is a caprine ungulate endemic to the Western Ghats, specifically in Tamil Nadu (where it is the state animal) and Kerala.

✦ It inhabits montane grasslands and shola forests at 1,200–2,600 m elevation, thriving on grassy slopes and rocky cliffs of the Western Ghats.

💡 **Behaviour & Life Cycle:** A diurnal species, with average lifespan of around 3–3.5 years, although the species can live up to 9 years in ideal conditions.

💡 **Ecological Significance:** Key prey for tiger and leopard, coexists with endemic species like the Nilgiri langur and lion-tailed macaque; an indicator of montane grassland health.

💡 **Conservation Status:**

✦ **IUCN Status:** Endangered

✦ **WPA, 1972:** Schedule-I

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The Rhisotope Project involves a non-invasive procedure where measured low doses of

radioisotopes are injected into the horns of live rhinoceroses.

✦ This makes the horn useless and toxic for human consumption, while the procedure is safe for rhinoceroses.

💡 Radioactive markers make horns dangerous to smugglers and less marketable in illegal trade, discouraging poaching.

💡 Radioisotopes are radioactive isotopes with unstable atomic nuclei that emit ionizing radiation (alpha, beta, or gamma) to achieve a more stable nuclear configuration.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Zoonotic diseases (zoonoses) are infectious diseases transmitted between animals and humans. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 They can be caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi, ranging from mild to life-threatening. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 Rabies, anthrax, influenza (H1N1 and H5N1), Nipah, Covid-19, brucellosis, tuberculosis, Ebola and SARS are examples of zoonotic diseases. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

56.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 Elephants have the longest gestation period of any living mammal. African elephants have a gestation period of about 22 months, while for Asian elephants it ranges from 18 to 22 months. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✦ Elephants can live up to 65 years. Females reach puberty at 11, and stay fertile into their late 40s.

💡 Elephants communicate in a variety of ways - including sounds like trumpet calls, body language, touch and scent. They can also communicate through seismic signals (sounds that create vibrations in the ground) which they detect through their bones. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 In elephant society, the oldest female, the matriarch, leads the herd as protector, teacher, and keeper of ancestral wisdom. Elephant families are matrilineal and female-led, with calves raised collectively by females in a behavior called allomothering. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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History

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

Rajendra Chola I (1014 to 1044 AD):

- 💡 **Rajendra Chola I (1014 to 1044 AD)**, son of Rajaraja Chola I, was one of the greatest rulers of the **Chola Empire**.
- 💡 He was the **first Indian king to lead overseas military expeditions**, extending Chola influence across **South and Southeast Asia**.
- 💡 He founded a new capital, **Gangaikondacholapuram**, to commemorate his northern conquests.
 - ✦ Built the **Brihadisvara Temple (Gangaikondacholeeswaram)** and **Chola Gangam Lake (Ponneri)** in present-day **Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu**.
- 💡 Under his rule, **Tamil merchant guilds** like *Manigramam* and *Ayyavole* thrived, fostering **trade and cultural exchange** with China and Southeast Asia.
- 💡 He promoted **Shaivism**, patronized **Chidambaram's Nataraja Temple**, yet maintained religious **tolerance** toward **Vaishnavism** and **Buddhism**.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

58.

Ans: C

Exp:

Sarnath

- 💡 Sarnath is the place where **Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon** (Dhammachakkappavattana Sutta) after attaining enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya. This marks the **beginning of the Buddhist Sangha** and makes Sarnath one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The **Chaukhandi Stupa**, originally built to mark the site where Buddha met his first disciples, was later topped with an **octagonal Mughal tower** in **1588 CE** by **Goverdhan**, son of **Raja Todarmal**, to commemorate **Emperor Humayun's visit** after the **Battle of Chausa (1539)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The **Chinese pilgrim Hiuen-Tsang (602–664 CE)** visited Sarnath in the **7th century CE**. During his travels, he observed several important Buddhist monuments. He left detailed descriptions of the **Dharmarajika Stupa** and **Ashoka's Lion Pillar**. His accounts provide valuable historical insights into

Sarnath's significance during that period. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

59.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **Quit India Movement** Launched by **Mahatma Gandhi** on **8th August 1942** during the **All-India Congress Committee session** in Bombay. It demanded the immediate end of British rule following the failure of the **Cripps Mission**.
- 💡 The slogan "**Quit India**" was coined by **Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist from Bombay, who had also created the earlier slogan "**Simon Go Back**."
- 💡 During the movement, **Aruna Asaf Ali** became a prominent figure, famously hoisting the Indian flag at the **Gowalia Tank maidan** as a symbol of defiance.
- 💡 Hence, option D is correct.

60.

Ans: B

Exp:

Key Events around World War II

- 💡 **Treaty of Versailles (1919):** The treaty imposed **harsh terms on Germany after WWI**, including **war guilt, heavy reparations, territorial losses and strict military restrictions**. These terms **humiliated Germany, fostered resentment, and fueled ultra-nationalism and revanchism**.
- 💡 **Start of WWII & Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939):** **Germany invaded Poland on 1st September 1939** after making a secret agreement with the **Soviet Union** to divide the **country**, which led **Britain and France to declare war, officially starting World War II**.
- 💡 **Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor (1941):** Japan's imperial ambitions led to the attack on **Pearl Harbour**, drawing the **US** into the war and expanding WWII into a **global conflict**.
- 💡 The **Soviet victory at Stalingrad (February 1943):** It marked Germany's first major defeat. **Allied forces won in North Africa** and began **pushing Axis forces back in Europe**.
- 💡 **US atomic bombing:** On **6th and 9th August 1945**, the US dropped "**Little Boy**" on **Hiroshima** and "**Fat Man**" on **Nagasaki**, **killing thousands instantly, causing massive destruction and long-term radiation effects**,

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and leading to Japan's surrender in World War (WW)-II.

🔦 Hence, option B is correct.

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

Swadeshi Movement:

🔦 The **1905 Carlyle Circular** threatened to withdraw scholarships from protesting students, causing many to leave British institutions. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The **National Council of Education**, formed in 1906, led to the establishment of the Bengal National College and the Bengal Technical Institute. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 The **National Handloom Day**, celebrated every year on 7th August, marks the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on this day in 1905. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

62.

Ans: C

Exp:

🔦 The Iron Age is a **prehistoric period** that followed the **Bronze Age** & it was characterized by the **widespread use of iron for tools, weapons, and other implements.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The **Rigveda** mentioned **ayas** which referred to **copper/alloys & iron is not mentioned** in this period. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

🔦 Iron Age Sites:

✦ **Central India (Malwa):** Important sites include Nagda, Eran, and Ahar dating between 750–500 BCE. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

✦ **Middle and Lower Ganga Valley:** Post-Chalcolithic pre-NBPW sites such as Pandu Rajar Dhibi, Mahisdal, Chirand, and Sonpur date to around 750–700 BCE.

Art and Culture

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 **Dhirio or Dhiri bull fighting** is a **traditional bull fighting event in Goa** from the **Portuguese era** in which **2 specially bred and trained bulls** engage in a **contest of strength.**

✦ It differs from **Spanish bullfighting** as it involves **no matadors or ritual killing.**

🔦 It is held in **paddy fields or football grounds** during **village feasts or post-harvest celebrations.**

🔦 It was **banned by Bombay High Court in 1997** under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.** The HC decision was upheld by the **Supreme Court (SC) in 1997.**

🔦 Hence, option A is correct.

Geography

64.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 Manikaran in Himachal Pradesh is one of the well-known **hot spring destinations** in India. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched.**

✦ **Hot springs** are geothermal features where **heated groundwater surfaces in tectonically active areas.** In a **hot spring** the heated water flows out continuously without any eruptive activity.

🔦 Puga Valley in Ladakh is a **hot spring region** with **sulphur springs, mud pools, and strong geothermal activity.** Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched.**

🔦 Yellowstone National Park, US preserves the most extraordinary collection of **hot springs, geysers, mudpots, and fumaroles on Earth.** Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched.**

✦ Geysers are volcanic geothermal features that erupt hot water and steam when groundwater is superheated by magma in underground cavities.

✦ In a geyser, hot water and steam are thrown out at intervals in the form of a fountain.

65.

Ans: B

Exp:

🔦 The **Brahmaputra River** is a major transboundary river in the Himalayan drainage system which flows through Southwestern China, Northeastern India, and Bangladesh.

✦ It supports a vast network of tributaries that join from both left and right banks, shaping the geography and ecology of the northeastern region of the Indian subcontinent.

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⚡ **Lohit River(1) and Dhanashri River(3) are left bank tributaries**, joining the Brahmaputra from the north or northeast.

✦ In contrast, the **Raidak(2) and Jaldhaka River(4) are right bank tributaries**, flowing in from the south.

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

66.

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ **Slides** involve the movement of soil or rock along a rupture surface, which may be curved (rotational slides) or planar (translational slides). **Free-fall or rolling is not a characteristic of slides (that is a feature of Fall)**. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

⚡ **Flows** are mass movements where **water-saturated soil or debris behaves like a fluid**. These include mudflows, debris flows, and earth flows. They **do not involve movement along a rupture surface (that is a feature of Slide)**. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

⚡ **Spreads** are characterized by **lateral extension and ground cracking**, often triggered by liquefaction or

plastic deformation of the underlying material. **Forward rotation and free-fall are not features of spreads. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

✦ Instead, topples involve forward rotation and free-fall of the mass from a vertical or near-vertical cliff or slope.

67.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The **Pacific Ring of Fire** is a geologically active belt around the Pacific Ocean, characterized by a **string of volcanoes and sites of seismic activity**, or earthquakes, around the edges of the Pacific Ocean.

✦ Roughly 90% of all earthquakes occur along the Ring of Fire, and the ring is dotted with 75% of all active volcanoes on Earth.

⚡ The Ring of Fire surrounds several tectonic plates including the vast Pacific Plate and the smaller Philippine, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, and Nazca plates.

⚡ It runs through countries like **Chile(1)**, USA, Indonesia, **Mexico(3)**, **Japan(2)**, Canada, Guatemala, Russia, Peru, and the Philippines.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.



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68.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 📌 The **Sea of Okhotsk** is located in the northwest Pacific Ocean, bordered by Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, Kuril Islands, and Sakhalin Island, it is the northernmost among the given seas.
- 📌 The **Yellow Sea** lies between mainland China and the Korean Peninsula, south of the Sea of Okhotsk.
- 📌 The **East China Sea** is situated between China, Japan, and Taiwan, south of the Yellow Sea.
- 📌 The **Philippine Sea** lies to the east of the Philippines and southeast of Japan, making it the southernmost of the four.



- 📌 Hence, option C is correct.

69.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 📌 The Ocean surface temperature is **highest at the equator** due to **direct and consistent solar radiation** throughout the year. At the **poles**, the **angle of solar incidence decreases**, and heat is spread over a larger area, causing a **gradual drop in temperature**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- Prevailing winds, such as the **trade winds** off the west coasts of continents, can **push warm surface water away from the shore**. This causes **deeper, colder, nutrient-rich water to rise to the surface**, a process known as **upwelling** (e.g., along the Peru and California coasts). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Agriculture and Allied Sector

70.

Ans: D

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- About:** The PMFBY is a government-sponsored **crop insurance** scheme launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
 - It aims to provide financial support to farmers in the event of crop loss due to natural calamities, pests, or diseases and to stabilize their income.
- Premium:** Farmers pay a capped premium of 2% (Kharif), 1.5% (Rabi), and 5% (commercial/horticultural crops). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The remaining premium is shared between the **Centre and States in a 50:50 ratio, and 90:10 for North-Eastern States from Kharif 2020.**
 - Premium rates depend on crop risk, insured area, and notified crops.
- Farmer Coverage:** The scheme is **voluntary** and open to all States, Union Territories (UTs), and farmers. For every **Rs 100 of premium paid** by the farmers, they have received **nearly Rs 500 as claims**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Earlier, PMFBY was **compulsory for "loanee" farmers** (those availing crop loans/KCC for the notified crop and area). However, **since Kharif 2020, the scheme has been made voluntary for all farmers** (including those with Kisan Credit Cards).

71.

Ans: A

Exp:

Cotton Mission:

- It is a **five-year initiative** launched by the Government of India in the Union Budget 2025-26 to increase cotton productivity, especially extra-long staple varieties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE)** is the **nodal agency** for implementing the mission, with the Ministry of Textiles as a key partner. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- It will provide scientific and technological support to cotton farmers, aligning with the Government's 5F vision- **Farm to fibre, fibre to factory, factory to fashion, fashion to foreign** for the textile sector.
- It seeks to increase farmers' incomes while ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality cotton, vital for revitalizing India's traditional textile industry.

Defence & Security

72.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Himgiri (Yard 3022)**, the 3rd ship of the **Nilgiri Class (Project 17A)**, built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. Earlier, INS Nilgiri and INS Udaygiri were launched under Project 17A.
- Himgiri is a modernized version of the former **INS Himgiri**, a Leander-class frigate, which was decommissioned in 2005 after 30 years of service.
- Himgiri is equipped with **BrahMos anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles**, along with **Barak 8 anti-aircraft missiles**, representing a major leap in naval strike and defensive capabilities.
- Project 17A (P17A)** frigates are **multi-mission platforms** designed to address **current and future maritime challenges**.
 - P17A ships feature advanced weapons and sensors over the P17 (Shivalik) class, including **supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, and rapid-fire Close-in Weapon Systems.**

73.

Ans: D

Exp:

Pralay Missile:

- Pralay** is an **indigenously developed solid propellant quasi-ballistic missile** with advanced **guidance and navigation systems** for pinpoint accuracy. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Pralay is a **short-range surface-to-surface missile** with a payload capacity of **500 to 1,000 kg** and has a

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range of 150 to 500 km. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- 💡 The missile can carry **multiple types of warheads** and strike **varied targets**, enhancing flexibility and deterrence.
- 💡 Pralay was developed by Research Centre Imarat (Hyderabad) with major support from Pune-based DRDO labs.
- 💡 Quasi-ballistic missiles differ from **traditional ballistic missiles** by flying at **lower altitudes** and performing **in-flight maneuvers**, making them **harder to intercept**.

74.

Ans: D

Exp:

NISAR Satellite:

- 💡 **About:** **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite**, jointly developed by ISRO and NASA, is the **first satellite mission to use dual-frequency radar** (L-band and S-band) from a single platform, with advanced **microwave imaging capabilities** including polarimetric and interferometric data. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 **Launch Vehicle:** The NISAR mission marks the **first time ISRO is using a GSLV to place a satellite in sun-synchronous polar orbit**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ✦ **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II) (specifically the GSLV-F16 variant)**, India's largest rocket, is an expendable three-stage launch vehicle.
- 💡 **Mission Objectives and Coverage:** The NISAR mission will provide **high-resolution data every 12 days** to monitor land changes across Earth.
 - ✦ It will track ground deformation caused by **earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic activity**.
 - ✦ It monitors agricultural patterns such as crop extent and growth cycles, and assesses changes in wetlands driven by seasonal and climatic variations.
 - ✦ Study cryosphere dynamics, including glacier and sea ice melt in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

- ✦ It measures forest biomass and carbon stock by observing woody vegetation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

75.

Ans: B

Exp:

Agnishodh

- 💡 Agnishodh serves as a bridge between **academic research and military needs, converting lab-scale innovations** into field-ready defence technologies.
 - ✦ It is aligned with the **Indian Army Five Pillars of Transformation** encompassing technology absorption, structural changes, human resource development and increasing cohesion between the three services.
- 💡 Agnishodh focuses on areas like **Artificial Intelligence, Quantum computing, cybersecurity**, wireless communication, and unmanned systems.
 - ✦ It also aims to upskill military personnel in these emerging domains, building a tech-savvy defence workforce.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

76.

Ans: B

Exp:

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):

- 💡 It was formed after recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on **'Reforming the National Security System'** in 2001, post-Kargil war. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 It is chaired by the **Union Minister of Defense**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 It gives **'in principle' approval** to capital acquisitions, monitors major project progress, and grants acceptance of necessity for acquisition proposals. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Miscellaneous

77.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Tuvalu formerly known as the **Ellice Islands**, Tuvalu is a **Polynesian island country** located midway between **Hawaii and Australia** in the South Pacific Ocean. It comprises **nine islands** (four reef islands and five coral atolls). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- Tuvalu was part of the British Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony. Tuvalu, with Funafuti as its capital, gained independence from the United Kingdom in October 1978. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

78.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Dardanelles Strait is a **vital narrow waterway** in northwestern Turkey. It separates the **Gallipoli Peninsula in Europe** from the mainland of Asia Minor. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It connects the **Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara**, allowing for passage to the **Black Sea via the Bosphorus Strait**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The major ports located on the Dardanelles Strait are **Gallipoli, Eceabat, and Çanakkale**, all situated within Turkey.



79.

Ans: B

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in 2016 by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** to provide **clean cooking fuel (and removing traditional firewood & coal)**, specifically **LPG**, to **rural and economically disadvantaged households**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Only **adult women (aged 18+)** from eligible deprived households, such as **SC/ST, AAY, PM Awas Gramin beneficiaries, tribal groups, SECC-listed households**, and other poor families, are entitled to apply for LPG connections under the scheme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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- Under **Ujjwala 2.0**, special provisions allow **migrant families to obtain LPG connections** through self-declaration, without requiring Proof of Address or Ration Cards. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

80.

Ans: C

Exp:

Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)

- The IFC-IOR is a **24/7 regional information-sharing centre**, established by the **Government of India in 2018**. It is hosted by the **Indian Navy at Gurugram** and is **jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard**, especially through the **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC)** platform. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - To facilitate better coordination and quicker information flow, the IFC-IOR hosts **International Liaison Officers (ILOs)** from **partner nations**. These officers help streamline maritime data sharing and enhance real-time maritime situational awareness.
- One of the core objectives of IFC-IOR is to facilitate **“white shipping” information exchange**, i.e., data on **commercial, non-military merchant vessels** with regional and extra-regional countries. This improves **maritime domain awareness (MDA)** across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**



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