



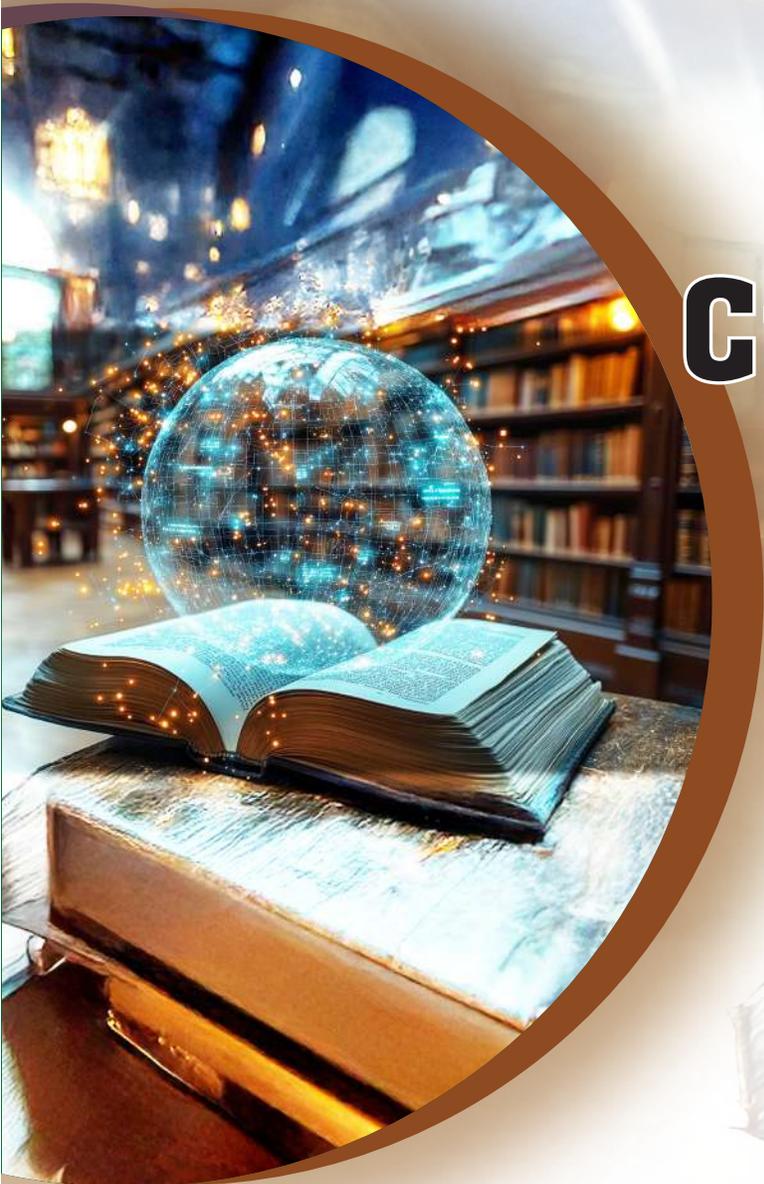
# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MCQ CONSOLIDATION

### JULY

### 2025

### PART-I



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## Practice Question

### History

1. With reference to Machilipatnam Port, consider the following statements:

1. It was a prominent trading hub during the Satavahana period.
2. The port was known as Bandar-i-Mubarak in Golconda records and became a profitable export center for chintz and other goods during the 17th century.
3. Machilipatnam had direct trade links to regions such as Pegu, Siam, and Mecca in the 17th century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. He represented Calcutta University at the Conference of the Universities of the British Empire in England.
2. He started "Bang Wani", a Bengali journal, in 1922.
3. He is known as "The Lion of Parliament" for his sharp debates on national issues.

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

- A. Chittaranjan Das
- B. Surendranath Banerjee
- C. Rabindranath Tagore
- D. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

3. With reference to the Santhal tribe of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Santhals originally inhabited regions of present-day West Bengal but later migrated to Jharkhand due to colonial policies and famine.

2. The Ol Chiki script is used to write the Santhali language, which is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
3. Their major festivals like Sohrai and Baha are linked to agricultural cycles and nature worship.

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

### Geography

4. Consider the following statements regarding miniature coronal loops:

1. Miniature coronal loops are tiny, short-lived arcs of hot plasma in the Sun's lower atmosphere, especially the chromosphere and transition region, just below the corona.
2. These loops are believed to result from magnetic reconnection processes in the solar atmosphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Which of the following sets of African countries passed through the Tropic of Cancer?

- A. Western Sahara, Niger, Algeria
- B. Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo
- C. Namibia, Botswana, South Africa
- D. Namibia, Niger, Algeria

6. Champai, Siaha and Saitual, sometimes in news, are associated with which of the following regions?

- A. Mizoram
- B. Assam
- C. Nagaland
- D. Meghalaya

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7. Magburaka, Kilim National Park and Moa River, sometimes in news is associated with which of the following regions?

- A. Liberia
- B. Ghana
- C. Sierra Leone
- D. Uganda

8. Which of the following states is best known for hosting the tribes Onge, Jarawa, Sentinelese, and Shompen?

- A. Kerala
- B. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- C. Odisha
- D. Jammu and Kashmir

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Southwest Monsoon in India:

1. The Southwest Monsoon typically sets in over the Kerala coast in early June and advances over the entire country by mid-July, bringing heavy rainfall to the western coast and the northeastern states.
2. The Southwest Monsoon winds are deflected by the Western Ghats, causing heavy rainfall on the windward side and creating a rain shadow effect on the leeward side, particularly in the Deccan Plateau region.

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

10. Consider the following features:

1. It is located at the foothills of the Haramuk Mountain.
2. The basin of the lake was formed due to tectonic activity.
3. It has a small island in its centre called the Zaina Lank.
4. Notable migratory bird species found here include the White-bellied Heron, Pink-headed Duck, and Baer's Pochard.

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

- A. Chilika Lake
- B. Wular Lake
- C. Vembanad Lake
- D. Sambhar Lake

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Brahmaputra River:

1. It originates from the Chemayungdung Glacier near Mansarovar Lake and is known as Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet.
2. Majuli, the world's largest river island, lies in the Brahmaputra River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. With reference to glaciers, consider the following statements:

1. Alpine glaciers are found in high-latitude flat regions and have dome-shaped profiles.
2. Ice sheets are found only in Greenland and Antarctica.
3. As of 2025, around 10% of Earth's land area is covered by glaciers.

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

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

13. Helgoland, a red sandstone archipelago, is located in which sea?

- A. North Sea
- B. Baltic Sea
- C. Mediterranean Sea
- D. Black Sea

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**14. Consider the following statements:**

1. The country shares its borders with three countries namely Côte d'Ivoire to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, and Togo to the east.
2. It is situated on the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean in the subregion of West Africa.
3. Lake Volta, located in the country, is one of the largest artificial lakes in the world.

**Which of the following countries correctly describes the above geographical features?**

- A. Nigeria
- B. Liberia
- C. Mali
- D. Ghana

**15. Consider the following statements regarding Teak (*Tectona grandis*):**

1. It is a moist deciduous tree highly valued for its durability and is used in shipbuilding, premium furniture, and musical instruments.
2. Indian scientists have identified teak leaf extract as a potential eco-friendly optical limiter for laser protection due to its anthocyanin content.

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

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

**16. Consider the following statements regarding Nuvvuagittuq Greenstone Belt:**

1. It is located in Canada and contains the oldest-known intact rocks on Earth, dating back to the Hadean eon.
2. The rocks in it were formed as sedimentary deposits on the seafloor and have remained chemically unaltered since their formation.

**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

**Polity & Governance****17. Consider the following statements regarding Zero Hour in Parliamentary procedures:**

1. Zero Hour is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament and begins immediately after Question Hour.
2. During Zero Hour, members can raise matters of urgent public importance without prior notice.

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

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

**18. Consider the following statements regarding Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):**

1. It is the first water-focused mission launched by the Government of India in 2015.
2. AMRUT 2.0, launched in 2021, covers only 100 smart cities selected under the Smart Cities Mission.
3. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with funding shared among States/UTs based on urban population and the number of towns.

**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

**19. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Minorities:**

1. It is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
2. Each member of the commission must be from one of the six officially recognized minority communities: Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, or Jain.
3. It possesses quasi-judicial powers, and each member serves a term of three years from the date of assuming office.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Regarding the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It was based on the recommendations of the Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee and aimed to bridge gaps in quality, equity, and access to education at all levels.
2. It recommends the use of mother tongue, local, or regional languages as the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, ideally till Grade 8 and beyond.
3. It introduces the option for students to learn foreign languages, such as Korean, Japanese, French, German, and Spanish, at the secondary level.

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

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

21. The Aadi KARMAYOGI Abhiyan, recently launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, primarily seeks to:

- A. Build a cadre-based tribal governance structure through capacity building.
- B. Provide scholarships to tribal students for overseas education.
- C. Digitally map tribal settlements for forest rights implementation.
- D. Develop tribal tourism circuits under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

22. With reference to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. It is responsible for conducting elections to Panchayats and Municipalities under the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments.

2. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) enjoys the same removal process as that of a Supreme Court judge.
3. The salary and service conditions of Election Commissioners are equivalent to those of a High Court judge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. With reference to the Preamble of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. N.A. Palkhivala referred to the Preamble as the "identity card of the Constitution."
2. The terms "socialist" and "secular" were introduced in the Preamble through the 42<sup>nd</sup> constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
3. The Supreme Court has held that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution in the Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Agriculture & Allied Sector

24. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 60:40 cost-sharing between Centre and States.
2. Only small and marginal farmers owning less than 2 hectares of land are eligible.
3. Funds are disbursed through State government treasury accounts.

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

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

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**25. Consider the following statements regarding Turmeric:**

1. In 2023, Maharashtra was the largest producer of Turmeric in India.
2. Lakadong turmeric (Meghalaya) and Erode turmeric (Tamil Nadu) are among the turmeric varieties with Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

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

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

### Environment & Ecology

**26. Consider the following statements regarding squids and octopuses:**

1. Squids are vertebrates that rely on lungs for respiration in deep-sea habitats.
2. Squids possess a pen-like internal shell for body support, while octopuses have completely lost any form of internal shell.

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

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

**27. Consider the following statements:**

1. Unlike monkeys, apes do not have tails and typically exhibit higher cognitive abilities such as tool use and complex communication.
2. While most monkeys are arboreal and rarely descend to the ground, apes are equally comfortable both on trees and on 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

**28. Consider the following statements regarding the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros :**

1. It is the largest species of rhinoceros and is characterized by a single black horn, a grey-brown hide with skin folds.

2. Over 80% of its global population is found in Assam.
3. Unlike other rhino species, it always lives in groups and in well-defined territorial areas.

**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

**29. Consider the following animals:**

1. Enviropig
2. Dolly the Sheep
3. Liger
4. Knockout Mice

**How many of the animals mentioned above are genetically modified?**

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

**30. Consider the following statements regarding the Sariska Tiger Reserve:**

1. It is located in the Aravalli hills of Rajasthan's Alwar district, and was notified as a tiger reserve in 1978 under Project Tiger.
2. The religious and historical landmarks, such as Kankarwadi Fort and Pandupole Temple, are part of the reserve.

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

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

**31. Consider the following pairs:**

Bioproducts	Examples
1. Biopolymers	Guayule
2. Bioadhesives	Shellac
3. Biopesticides	Pheromones

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

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

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**32. Consider the following features:**

1. It is arboreal, diurnal and non-migratory.
2. It inhabits tropical, subtropical evergreen and moist deciduous forests.
3. It serves as the official state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.

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

- A. Great Hornbill
- B. Indian Peafowl
- C. Malabar Trogon
- D. Indian Paradise Flycatcher

**33. Consider the following conventions:**

1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
2. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

**How many of the above mentioned conventions originated at the Rio Earth Summit 1992?**

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

**34. Regarding the Great Nicobar Island Project, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a mega infrastructure initiative to be implemented on Great Nicobar Island (GNI), located at the northern end of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. It is strategically located near the Malacca Strait, a key maritime route linking the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.
3. It is being executed by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).

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

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

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

1. It replaced the Kyoto Protocol and aims to combat climate change and limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
2. Under the agreement, each country is required to submit and update its Nationally Determined Contribution every year.

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

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

**36. Consider the following statements regarding Microplastics:**

1. These are plastic particles less than 5 mm in size, originating either from intentional production or from the degradation of larger plastic items.
2. They have been detected in various human biological systems and are linked to reproductive health issues in both men and women.

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

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

**37. *Garcinia kusumae* was recently seen in the news in the context of:**

- A. Newly discovered freshwater fish species in the Western Ghats
- B. Rare amphibian species found in the Eastern Himalayas
- C. Newly identified tree species in India's northeast region
- D. Medicinal herb found in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

**38. Consider the following statements regarding the Gulf of Mannar:**

1. It is part of the Laccadive Sea and is bordered by Rameshwaram and Mannar Island.
2. The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, established in 1982, is South Asia's first Marine Biosphere Reserve.
3. V.O. Chidambaranar Port, one of India's major ports, is located along the Gulf of Mannar.

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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

39. Which of the following organizations administers the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)?

- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B. Conservation International (CI)
- C. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- D. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

40. Consider the following statements related to the Kharai Camel:

1. It is indigenous to the Kachchh region.
2. It is known for its rare ability to swim long distances and graze on mangroves.
3. It is integral to the Saora community.

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

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

41. Consider the following pairs:

Air Pollutants	Source
1. Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	Comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas)
2. Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO <sub>x</sub> and VOC) under the action of the sun
3. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	Product of incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds
4. Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Emissions from road transport, industry, and energy production sectors

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

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

### Economy

42. Consider the following statements regarding Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):

1. ONDC is a public initiative of the Ministry of Commerce, implemented by a private not-for-profit Section 8 company to promote a decentralized, open-network model for e-commerce.
2. It aims to curb digital monopolies and empower MSMEs and small traders to participate in digital commerce.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. With reference to Geographical Indication (GI) tags in India, consider the following statements:

1. GI tag grants exclusive intellectual property rights to producers within a defined region and serves both as a certification of origin and a guarantee of specific quality.
2. The registration of GI tags in India is governed by the Copyright Act, 1957 and implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. The legal framework for GI protection in India aligns with the WTO's TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention.

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

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

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**44. Consider the following statements regarding Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme:**

1. The RDI Scheme aims to promote private sector-led research in sunrise and strategic sectors by offering concessional funding and equity support.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology, while its overall strategic direction is guided by the Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
3. The scheme provides for the creation of a Deep Tech Fund of Funds to support start-ups operating in high-risk and strategically significant technology domains.

**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

**45. Consider the following statements regarding the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme:**

1. The scheme provides wage support to first-time employees registered with EPFO, with payments made in three installments over 18 months.
2. Employers hiring additional workers with salaries up to ₹1 lakh are eligible for incentives for a maximum of two years.
3. The scheme mandates financial literacy training for employees to receive the second installment of the incentive.

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

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

**46. Consider the following statements regarding gig workers in India:**

1. Gig workers are entitled to benefits such as health insurance and maternity leave under the Code on Social Security, 2020.
2. Gig workers are currently not recognized as "employees" under Indian labour laws.

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

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

**47. With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:**

1. SEBI is a statutory body established in 1992 under the SEBI Act, 1992 and functions under the Ministry of Finance.
2. It acts as a quasi-legislative, quasi-executive and quasi-judicial body with the powers to frame regulations, conduct investigations, and impose penalties.
3. It regulates both listed companies and market intermediaries such as stockbrokers, mutual funds and merchant bankers.

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

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

**48. Regarding the Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR), consider the following statements:**

1. It allows banks to bid at variable interest rates for placing short-term deposits with the RBI.
2. It is part of the RBI's Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF).

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

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

**49. Regarding the Catastrophe Bonds (Cat Bonds), consider the following statements:**

1. They are financial instruments that transfer financial risk connected with exposure to natural disasters to capital market investors.
2. These are primarily purchased by institutional investors like pension funds and hedge funds due to their complexity and high investment thresholds.

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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. Consider the following statements related to Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme:

1. They are issued by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Government of India.
2. They have a maturity period of 15 years.
3. Sovereign Gold Bonds can be used as collateral for loans.

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

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

51. Consider the following statements regarding the Gini Index:

1. It is derived from the Lorenz curve which plots the cumulative percentage of total income received against the cumulative percentage of recipients.
2. A higher Gini coefficient indicates greater income equality, while a lower value suggests increased inequality.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

52. With reference to the cooperative societies in India, consider the following statements:

1. The First Five-Year Plan (1951–56) emphasized the promotion of cooperatives for community development.
2. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 made the formation of cooperatives a fundamental right under Article 19.
3. The Union Ministry of Cooperation was established in 2021 to implement the vision of “Sahakar se Samridhi” and promote cooperative governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. Consider the following Multilateral Development Banks?

1. Asian Development Bank
2. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
3. New Development Bank

How many of the above-mentioned Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) is India affiliated with?

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

54. With reference to coal resources in India, consider the following statements:

1. Gondwana coal fields account for the majority of coal production in India and are known for superior and metallurgical-grade coal.
2. Tertiary coal fields are older than Gondwana coal fields and are characterized by high carbon content.
3. Bituminous coal is the most abundant type of coal in India and is primarily found in Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh.

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

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

55. Consider the following statements regarding agroforestry:

1. It is the intentional integration of agriculture and forestry to develop productive, sustainable land-use systems that benefit both people and the environment.
2. It includes practices such as alley cropping, silvopasture, riparian buffers, and windbreaks.
3. India became the first nation in the world to adopt a comprehensive agroforestry policy in 2014.

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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

56. With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:

1. It is a destination-based consumption tax.
2. It was introduced by the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018.
3. Exports and supplies made to Special Economic Zones (SEZ) or SEZ developers are zero-rated under GST.

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

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

57. With reference to the Co-operative Banks in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Banking Regulation Act, 1949, is applicable to co-operative banks to regulate capital adequacy, and lending norms.
2. The administrative oversight of co-operative banks is managed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. Urban Cooperative Banks are required to allocate 65% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to Priority Sector Lending (PSL) in FY 2024–25.

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

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

### Science & Tech

58. Consider the following statements regarding LASER (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) technology:

**Statement-I:** LASER operation is based on stimulated emission, where excited atoms release photons that are identical in wavelength, direction, and phase.

**Statement-II:** LASER beams are coherent and monochromatic, which makes them suitable for focused, precise applications like surgery and communications.

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

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

59. Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle in quantum mechanics states that:

- A. Energy can neither be created nor destroyed, only transformed from one form to another.
- B. The velocity of a particle can be predicted with certainty if its position is known.
- C. It is impossible to simultaneously determine the exact position and exact momentum of a subatomic particle.
- D. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

60. Consider the following statements regarding genome editing technologies:

1. CRISPR-Cas9 enables targeted gene modification by using a guide RNA to direct a Cas9 enzyme to a specific location in the genome.
2. Gene editing techniques under Site-Directed Nuclease (SDN-1) category do not involve insertion of foreign DNA and are often indistinguishable from natural mutations.
3. In India, all forms of gene-edited crops are exempt from biosafety regulations under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

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61. Consider the following statements related to Astra Missile:

1. It is India's first beyond visual range surface-to-air missile.
2. It is capable of engaging supersonic, manoeuvrable targets beyond 100 km.
3. It uses active radar homing with a smokeless solid-fuel engine.

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

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

62. Consider the following statements regarding magnetometers:

1. Magnetometers measure variations in magnetic fields and are useful in space missions, ocean exploration, and medical imaging.
2. Raman-Driven Spin Noise Spectroscopy (RDSNS)-based magnetometers is an advanced all-optical technique for measuring magnetic fields using laser light and Rubidium atoms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. Lakshya, Nishant, and Archer, recently seen in the news, can be best described as:

- A. India's Indigenous AI-powered satellites
- B. New generation anti-tank guided missiles
- C. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) developed by DRDO
- D. Indigenous torpedoes for underwater combat operations

64. Consider the following statements regarding Dark Matter:

1. It does not interact with electromagnetic forces, making it invisible to conventional detectors and instruments.
2. Neutralinos and sterile neutrinos, both hypothetical non-baryonic particles, are considered potential components of dark matter.

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

65. Which of the following countries is NOT part of the Lithium Triangle, a region known for containing nearly half of the world's known lithium reserves?

- A. Argentina
- B. Chile
- C. Bolivia
- D. Peru

66. Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) operates all nuclear power plants in India, except the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), which is owned by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research.
2. Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) are a type of nuclear reactor that use heavy water (deuterium oxide, D<sub>2</sub>O) as both a coolant and moderator.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. With reference to Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC), consider the following statements:

1. India's first EDFC has been established in Meerut Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh, and has been recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).
2. It has been set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to control the zoonotic disease.
3. It is a scientifically managed and internationally recognized zone that guarantees horses are free from specific equine diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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68. Consider the following statements regarding the Silver Niobate Energy Storage Material:

1. It is a lanthanum-doped perovskite material that is lead-free and suitable for eco-friendly energy storage applications.
2. It improves supercapacitor performance by increasing surface area and electrical conductivity, enabling faster charge-discharge cycles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. Consider the following statements:

1. Ham radio is a licensed, non-commercial communication service used primarily for educational, experimental, and emergency communication purposes.
2. The ARISS (Amateur Radio on the ISS) is supported by India, Russia, Canada, Japan, and Europe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. The term AI Web Crawlers, recently seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. Software bots that extract internet data solely for real-time user queries
- B. Automated programs that collect internet content for real-time retrieval and training large AI models.
- C. Human moderators who review web data used in AI training
- D. Apps developed by India's MeitY to block unauthorized data scraping

71. Consider the following statements regarding Dengue:

1. Dengue is primarily transmitted by the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which also spreads chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever.
2. DengiAll, India's first indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine, aims to target all four serotypes of the dengue virus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

72. Regarding the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

1. It is developed and maintained by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates under the regulatory oversight of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It allows interoperability between banks and non-bank payment service providers through a centralized clearing mechanism.
3. It has been adopted for cross-border payments in countries like Singapore, the UAE, and France through bilateral linkages.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### International Relations & Current Affairs

73. Consider the following statements regarding the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA):

1. The BPfA was adopted in 1995 and aims to advance the rights of women and girls through strategic objectives in areas like legal protection, education, and social transformation.
2. The BPfA is a non-binding international framework, and India is a signatory to it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. Consider the following statements regarding India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) Vision:

1. It is a continuation and expansion of the SAGAR initiative with a broader emphasis on trade, development, and non-traditional security issues.
2. MAHASAGAR seeks to position India as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region, maintaining the traditional client-patron dynamic.

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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

75. Consider the following statements regarding the QUAD and its initiatives:

1. The QUAD At Sea Ship Observer Mission aims to enhance interoperability, maritime domain awareness (MDA), and operational coordination to uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.
2. The Wilmington Declaration, adopted at the QUAD Leaders' Summit in 2024 outlined the creation of the QUAD Logistics Network and Ports of the Future Partnership.
3. QUAD launched the Q-CHAMP initiative focusing on the development of new semiconductors for clean energy.

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

76. Which of the following best identifies the shared element among Santiniketan, the Moidams of Charaideo in Assam, and the Maratha Military Landscapes?

- A. UNESCO World Heritage status
- B. Connection to ancient Indian religious practices
- C. Historical military importance
- D. Associated with royal dynasties of India

77. Consider the following statements:

1. International Criminal Court (ICC) is the world's first permanent international court established to prosecute individuals for the most serious crimes of global concern.
2. The Rome Statute grants the ICC jurisdiction over 4 core international crimes- Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes, Crime of Aggression.

3. The ICC prosecutes individuals, not states, for grave international crimes and cover crimes committed after 1st July 2002.

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

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

78. *Welwitschia mirabilis*, recently seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. Newly discovered deep-sea creature
- B. Rare desert plant surviving for thousands of years
- C. Extinct dinosaur species fossilized in Africa
- D. Medicinal fungus found in the Amazon rainforest

79. Cooperative Stack, recently seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A digital platform aimed at integrating rural welfare and credit schemes.
- B. A new mobile application developed for urban financial services.
- C. A government initiative to promote e-commerce in metropolitan cities.
- D. A digital platform aimed at promoting rural entrepreneurship through cooperative societies.

80. Which of the following are initiatives of the BRICS?

1. New Development Bank
2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)
3. STI Framework Programme

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

81. Consider the following statements related to the Chemical Industry in India:

1. India ranked as the largest chemical producer globally in 2023.
2. India holds more than 10% share in global chemical value chains.
3. Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu are key chemical producers in India.

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

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

82. With reference to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral treaty banning chemical weapons and requiring their destruction within the stipulated time.
2. It came into force in 1997 and its implementation is overseen by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
3. India is an original signatory of the CWC and implements it through the National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC).

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

83. Operation MED MAX, recently in the news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. Combating illegal trade of medicines by the Central Bureau of Investigation
- B. Addressing money laundering through narcotics trade by the Enforcement Directorate

- C. Cracking down on the illegal sale of prescription drugs by the Drug Control Administration
- D. Dismantling a transnational drug cartel by the Narcotics Control Bureau

84. Consider the following statements regarding India's Refugee Policy:

1. India is a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
2. Refugees from Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka are governed under the Foreigners Act, 1946, with no specific legal protections.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

85. Consider the following statements:

1. Bihar became the first Indian state to pilot mobile phone-based e-voting in municipal elections using the E-SECBHR app developed by C-DAC.
2. The E-SECBHR app used for mobile voting incorporated blockchain technology to ensure data integrity and transparency.

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

## Answers

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

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## Explanations

### History

1.

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ Machilipatnam also known as **Masulipatnam** or **Maisolia** was a thriving port during the **Satavahana period**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✦ The Satavahanas actively promoted maritime trade, and ports like Machilipatnam were crucial for their eastern trade networks.

⚡ The port was known as **Bandar-i-Mubarak** in Golconda records, it was connected to **Hyderabad** by road and became a profitable port, exporting **chintz** and other goods across Asia, Africa, and Europe. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ In the 17th century, it was the only eastern port with direct trade links to Pegu, Siam, Bengal, Manila, Cochin, Madagascar, China, and Mecca. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

2.

Ans: D

Exp:

**Syama Prasad Mookerjee:**

⚡ **Syama Prasad Mookerjee** was a distinguished academic, political leader, and a staunch advocate for India's unity and nationalism.

⚡ He represented **Calcutta University at the Conference of the Universities of the British Empire in England** and became its youngest Vice-Chancellor at 33 in 1934.

⚡ Alongside his academic achievements, he launched influential journals like "**Bang Wani**" and "**The Nationalist**."

⚡ Politically, Mookerjee was initially part of the Indian National Congress but left over ideological differences, later joining the Hindu Mahasabha and forming a Progressive Coalition government in Bengal in 1937.

⚡ After independence, Mookerjee served as the Minister for Industry and Supply and played a vital role in establishing institutions such as the Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory and Sindri Fertilizer Corporation.

⚡ His arrest during a protest against Jammu and Kashmir's special status and his mysterious death in

1953 added to his legacy as "**The Lion of Parliament**," known for his sharp debates and unwavering stance on national issues.

⚡ Hence, option D is correct.

3.

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ Originally from **Birbhum** and **Manbhum** (now **West Bengal**), **Santhals** migrated due to the **1770 Bengal famine** and **British policies**, later settling in **Damin-i-Koh (Jharkhand)** under the **Permanent Settlement Act (1790)** for revenue farming. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ Santhali is an **Eighth Schedule language**, and **OI Chiki** is its indigenous script. Santhali was added to the Eighth Schedule via the **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

⚡ Their **major festivals** like **Sohrai** and **Baha**. **Sohrai** is a **harvest festival** (celebrated after Diwali) where **cattle are worshipped**. **Baha** (or **Baha Parab**) marks the **spring season** and involves **flower offerings**. These festivals are deeply tied to **agriculture** and **nature worship**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

### Geography

4.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ **Miniature coronal loops** are **tiny, short-lived arcs of hot plasma** found in the **lower layers of the Sun's atmosphere**, particularly in the **chromosphere and transition region**, just below the corona. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✦ The discovery was made through a combination of **international instruments**, including the **Goode Solar Telescope (BBSO)** in the USA, **NASA's IRIS**, and the **Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)**.

⚡ These tiny loops are thought to originate from **magnetic reconnection**, a physical process in which **twisted magnetic field lines break and reconnect**, releasing massive bursts of energy. This is a known mechanism for explosive solar events. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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5.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Tropic of Cancer** is an imaginary line located at **approximately 23.5° North latitude**. It marks the northernmost point where the sun can appear directly overhead.
- 💡 In the African continent, the Tropic of Cancer **passes through the northern part**, specifically through the following countries: **Western Sahara, Mauritania, Mali, Algeria, Niger, Libya & Egypt**.
  - ✦ Africa is the only continent intersected by all three major latitudes:
    - 📎 **Equator**: Crosses **Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, DR Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, and São Tomé and Príncipe**.
    - 📎 **Tropic of Capricorn**: Cuts through **Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique, and Madagascar**.
- 💡 Gabon, Congo, DR Congo lies **near or south of the Equator**, not near the Tropic of Cancer.

💡 **Namibia**, which is located in **southern Africa** and is crossed by the **Tropic of Capricorn**, not the Tropic of Cancer.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

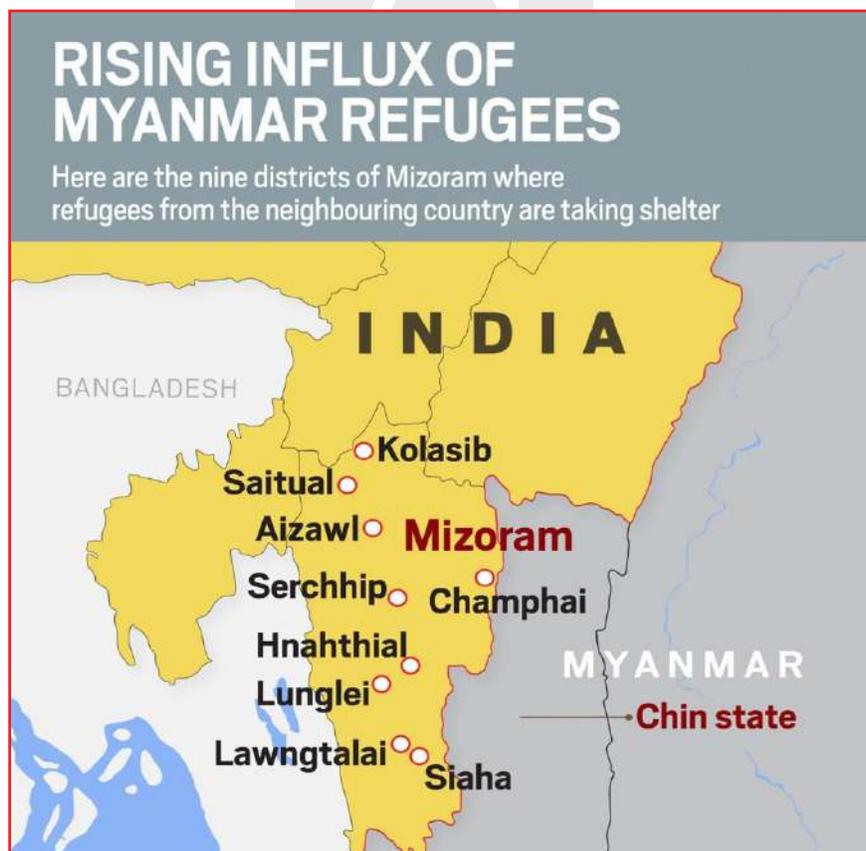
6.

Ans: A

Exp:

Mizoram

- 💡 **Champai, Siaha, and Saitual** are districts in the Indian state of **Mizoram**. **All three districts have faced or are currently facing refugee influx, primarily from Myanmar**.
- 💡 **Champai** is located in eastern Mizoram, it is a commercial hub on the Indo-Myanmar border. It's also known as the **"Rice bowl of Mizoram"** due to its agricultural landscape.
- 💡 **Siaha** is situated in southern Mizoram, it's the administrative headquarters of the Mara Autonomous District Council. It also borders Myanmar and is known for its picturesque scenery and distinct culture.
- 💡 **Saitual** is one of the newer districts, created in 2019, Saitual is located in central Mizoram. It was formed by carving out areas from Aizawl and Champhai districts.



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7.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Magburaka, Kilim National Park, and Moa River are all located in Sierra Leone**, which is a country in West Africa. These places have been in the news for various environmental, social, and developmental issues in the region.
- 💡 **Magburaka** is the capital and largest city of Tonkolili District in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone, while the **Moa River** flows into the Southern Province of Sierra Leone.
- 💡 **Kilim National Park** is an ancient geological heritage, and is home to many natural wonders such as huge areas of mangroves, multiple species of monkey
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

8.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The planned **16<sup>th</sup> Census of India (2026–27)** will include an enumeration of the six major indigenous tribes of the **Andaman and Nicobar (A & N) Islands**, namely **Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, Sentinelese, Shompen, and Nicobarese**. Except for the Nicobarese, all others are classified as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
  - ✦ **Onges** are one of India's most primitive hunter-gatherer tribes, live in Little Andaman, mainly at Dugong Creek and South Bay.
  - ✦ **The Jarawa** are a **nomadic, hunting-gathering tribe** living along the western coast of Middle and South Andaman. As per Census 2011, their population is 380.
  - ✦ **Sentinelese** are a hunting and gathering tribe, **inhabit North Sentinel Island and remain hostile to outsiders**. Though brief friendly contact was made in 1991, they largely avoid interaction. As per Census 2001, their population was 39.
  - ✦ **Shompen** have Mongoloid features, unlike the other Negroid-featured tribes (like Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, and Sentinelese).
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

9.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The Southwest Monsoon typically sets in over the Kerala coast in early June and advances over the entire country by mid-July, bringing heavy rainfall to

the western coast and the northeastern states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- 💡 The Southwest Monsoon winds are deflected by the Western Ghats, causing heavy rainfall on the windward side and creating a rain shadow effect on the leeward side, particularly in the Deccan Plateau region. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

10.

Ans: B

Exp:

Wular Lake:

- 💡 It is the **largest freshwater lake in India** and the second largest in Asia (after Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia), located between Bandipora and Sopore in Jammu & Kashmir.
  - ✦ It is located at the **foothills of the Haramuk Mountain** and is fed by the Jhelum River along with 25 other streams that feed it.
- 💡 It has a **small island in its centre called the Zaina Lank**, constructed by Zainul-Abi-Din, the 8th sultan of Kashmir.
- 💡 In 1990, it was designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.
  - ✦ The **basin of the lake was formed due to tectonic activity**. It is also believed to be a remnant of the ancient Satisar Lake.
- 💡 Wular Lake is home to 56 bird species, 39 fish species, and over 20 types of plants.
  - ✦ Notable migratory bird species found here include the **White-bellied Heron, Pink-headed Duck, Baer's Pochard**, and the Kashmir Catfish.
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Brahmaputra River** originates from the **Chemayungdung Glacier near Mansarovar Lake** and is known as **Yarlung Tsangpo** in Tibet. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ✦ It flows through the territories of three Asian countries: **China (Tibet), India, and Bangladesh.**
- 💡 **Majuli**, located in the **Brahmaputra River** in Assam, is the **world's largest river island**. In 2016, it became the **first island in India to be declared a district**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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12.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 A glacier is a **large, slow-moving mass of ice** that forms through the gradual accumulation and compaction of snow over time. As layers of snow build up, the lower layers compress into firn and eventually transform into **dense glacial ice**.
- 💡 Alpine glaciers, also known as **valley glaciers**, are rivers of ice that form in mountainous regions and flow slowly down valleys under their own weight, rather than across flat terrain. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ❌ On the other hand, ice cap glaciers are dome-shaped and typically found in high-latitude regions.
- 💡 An ice sheet is a vast mass of glacial land ice covering over 50,000 sq. km. Earth has just two ice sheets, **one**

in **Greenland** (the largest island in the world) and the other in **Antarctica**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 As of 2025, 10% of the land area on Earth is covered with glaciers. Glacierized areas cover over 15 million square kilometers (5.8 million square miles). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Helgoland (or Heligoland)**, a small 1.7 sq km **red sandstone German archipelago**, 50 km off Germany's coast in the **North Sea**, is renowned as the birthplace of **quantum mechanics**.
- 💡 **Helgoland**, initially colonized by **Frisians (ethnic group in Netherland & Germany)**, was controlled by Denmark, then Britain (1814), and finally Germany (1890).
  - ❌ Post-WWII, it was used as a British bombing range before being returned to West Germany in 1952.



- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

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14.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 📌 **Ghana (capital Accra)** is a West African country bordered by Côte d'Ivoire to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east, and the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean to the south.
- 📌 Ghana, the **first Black African country** south of the Sahara to gain independence in 1957, was named after the medieval Ghana Empire.
- ✦ It is known for its **vast gold resources**, it was called the **Gold Coast**. Cacao, introduced in the 19th century, remains a key export.

- ✦ **Since the 1990s**, Ghana has seen political stability, economic recovery, and is now cited as a model for democratic governance and reform in Africa.

- 📌 **Mountains and Lakes: Mount Afadjato, Mount Djebobo, and Mount Torogbani** are all located east of the Volta River in Ghana, near the border with Togo. These mountains are part of the **Togo-Atakora mountain range**.

- ✦ Lake Volta is one of the largest artificial lakes in the world.



- 📌 Hence, option D is correct.

15.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Teak (Tectona grandis):**

- 📌 **About: Teak (Sagwan)** is a moist deciduous tree known as the “King of Timbers” for its **durability, strength, and resistance to pests, water, and decay**, making it ideal for **shipbuilding, premium furniture, flooring, exterior construction, carving, turnings, and musical instruments**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ **India holds 35% of the world’s planted teak forests**, while **Asia accounts for 95% of global teak resources**.
- 📌 **Geographic Distribution:** It is native to **South and Southeast Asia**, including **India, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Indonesia**.

- ✦ In **India**, it grows in **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam**, and the **Northeast**, thriving in **well-drained soils and full sunlight**.

- 📌 **Laser Protection:**

- ✦ **Indian scientists** have discovered that **teak leaf extract** could be harnessed as a **natural, eco-friendly optical limiter** to protect eyes and sensitive sensors from **high-intensity laser radiation**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✦ **Teak leaves** contain **anthocyanins**, natural pigments with **nonlinear optical (NLO) properties**, making them suitable for **optical power-limiting applications** such as **laser safety goggles, optical shields, and laser-resistant coatings**.

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16.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Nuvvuagittuq Greenstone Belt:**

- ⚡ A **volcanic rock belt** in **Quebec's (Canada) Nuvvuagittuq Greenstone Belt**, dated to be **4.16 billion years old**, has been identified as the **oldest-known rock on Earth**, originating from the **Hadean eon (4.5–4.03 billion years ago)**, when **Earth itself was formed about 4.6 billion years ago**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ The rocks in it are **metamorphosed volcanic basalt (not as sedimentary deposits)** formed when **magma solidified underground**, and provide clues about **Earth's early crust, primordial oceans, and the environment where life may have begun**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ⚡ Two **radioactive dating methods (samarium-neodymium decay)** confirmed the **age**, making them the **oldest-known intact rocks**.

## Polity & Governance

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ **Zero Hour** is **not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure** of either House of Parliament. It is an **informal parliamentary innovation** introduced in the 1960s. Despite being widely used, it has **no official procedural status**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ⚡ **Zero Hour** begins **immediately after Question Hour**, i.e., usually from **12:00 PM onwards**. During this time, MPs can raise **matters of urgent public importance without prior notice** (unlike Question Hour or Calling Attention Motions). This makes it a flexible mechanism to bring immediate issues to the government's attention. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched on **25 June 2015** and is the **first water-focused mission** of the Government of India. It aims to provide tap

connections and sewerage facilities to every household and improve urban amenities like parks and public transport. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ⚡ **AMRUT 2.0**, launched on **1 October 2021**, covers all **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** across the country, not just the **100 smart cities** selected under the Smart Cities Mission. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ⚡ AMRUT is a **centrally sponsored scheme with funds shared** between the Centre and States/UTs, based on **urban population and the number of statutory towns** in a state. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

19.

Ans: D

Exp:

**National Commission for Minorities:**

- ⚡ It is a **statutory body** established under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, with the vision to **safeguard and protect the interests of minority communities**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ✦ The first statutory Commission was constituted on **17<sup>th</sup> May 1993**.
- ⚡ It consists of a **Chairperson**, a **Vice-Chairperson**, and **five Members**, all **nominated by the Central Government**.
  - ✦ Each member must belong to one of the **six notified minority communities: Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, and Jain**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ⚡ It has **quasi-judicial powers** and each member serves a **three-year term** from the date they assume office. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

20.

Ans: C

Exp:

**National Education Policy (NEP), 2020:**

- ⚡ It was based on the recommendations of the **Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee** and aimed to bridge gaps in quality, equity, and access to education at all levels. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ⚡ It recommends the use of **mother tongue, local, or regional languages** as the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, ideally till Grade 8 and beyond. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ✦ It encourages the **inclusion of classical languages**, such as Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and others, as part of the three-language formula.

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- It introduces the option for students to learn **foreign languages**, such as Korean, Japanese, French, German, and Spanish, at the secondary level. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

21.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Aadi KARMAYOGI Abhiyan**

- Aadi KARMAYOGI is a **National Mission for Responsive Governance** aimed at creating a cadre of **20 lakh tribal grassroots functionaries** to improve last-mile **delivery and inclusive development in tribal areas**.
- Aligned with **PM-JANMAN** and **DAJGUA**, it focuses on convergence, community participation, and capacity-building.
  - Through a cascading training model, starting with **State Master Trainers (SMTs)** at the **Regional Process Lab (RPL)** in Bengaluru, the mission **strengthens local leadership** and promotes community-centric governance by involving civil society and multiple ministries for integrated service delivery.

- Hence, option A is correct

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering the **Union and State election processes** in India.
  - It is **not concerned** with the elections to **panchayats and municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a **separate State Election Commission**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be **removed** from office only through a process of **removal similar to that of a SC judge** by Parliament, while **Election Commissioners (ECs)** can only be removed on the **recommendation of the CEC**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The **salary and conditions of service** of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the **Supreme Court Judge, not a High Court judge**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

23.

Ans: D

Exp:

- N A Palkhivala**, a **renowned constitutional expert and jurist**, called the Preamble the '**identity card of the Constitution**.' **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, passed during the Emergency period, added three words to the Preamble **Socialist, Secular and Integrity**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the **landmark case Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)**, the Supreme Court ruled that the **Preamble is a part of the Constitution**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - The Court also held that the basic structure doctrine could be derived from the Preamble, making it a crucial tool in constitutional interpretation.

### Agriculture & Allied Sector

24.

Ans: C

Exp:

- PM-KISAN is a Central-Sector scheme (100% funded by Government of India)** launched in December 2018. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under the scheme, income support of Rs 6,000 per year is provided in three equal installments to all landholding farmer families (i.e., husband, wife, and minor children), subject to certain exclusions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - While PM-KISAN initially targeted only small and marginal farmers, the coverage was later expanded to include all landholding farmers.
- The funds are transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). As of 2024, 11.8 crore farmers have received financial assistance under the scheme, making it one of the world's largest DBT programmes. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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25.

Ans: C

Exp:

Turmeric

- 💡 Turmeric is an **underground stem (rhizome)** of the **Curcuma longa plant**, which is part of the **ginger family (Zingiberaceae)**.
- ✦ **Curcumin**, the active compound in turmeric, gives it its **yellow color** and is known for its **anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antimicrobial benefits**.
- 💡 **Cultivation:** India cultivates **30+ turmeric varieties** across **20+ states**, with major producers being **Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.
- ✦ In **2023, Maharashtra** was the **largest producer of Turmeric** in India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ **Turmeric requires** a tropical climate with **20–30°C temperature, 1500+ mm annual rainfall, and well-drained sandy or clay loam soils** for optimal growth.
- 💡 **Global Standing:** India is the **world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter** of turmeric.
- ✦ In **2022–23**, it contributed **over 75%** of global production and held a **62% share** in global exports.
- 💡 **GI Tags:** GI-certified varieties include **Lakadong turmeric (Meghalaya), Kandhamal turmeric (Odisha), and Erode turmeric (Tamil Nadu)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

## Environment & Ecology

26.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Squids are not vertebrates**; they are **invertebrates** belonging to the **phylum Mollusca, class Cephalopoda**. They **do not have lungs**, instead, they use **gills** to extract oxygen from water, even in **deep-sea environments**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 Squids possess a **pen-like internal shell** known as the **gladius**, which provides body support and helps maintain shape. **Octopuses**, on the other hand, have **completely lost internal shell** through evolution, making them highly flexible and capable of squeezing into tight spaces. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

27.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Monkeys and apes are both primates**, a biological order that also includes humans, lemurs, and tarsiers.
- ✦ **Apes, unlike monkeys, do not have tails**. They also exhibit **higher cognitive abilities**, including the ability to **use tools, solve problems, and communicate using complex gestures and sounds**. Some apes, such as **chimpanzees and orangutans**, have even been taught **basic human sign language** and have demonstrated abstract thinking. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 **Monkeys are primarily arboreal**, meaning they **live in trees and rarely spend time on the ground**, except for a few terrestrial species like baboons.
- ✦ In contrast, **apes are both arboreal and terrestrial**. For example, gorillas and chimpanzees are often seen moving on the ground, while orangutans and gibbons spend more time in trees. This adaptability makes apes more versatile in their locomotion and habitat use. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **greater one-horned rhino (or Rhinoceros unicornis)** is the **largest rhino species**, identified by a **single 8–25 inch black horn, a grey-brown hide with skin folds**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - 💡 **Assam holds 80%** of the global one-horned rhinoceros population, with **Kaziranga National Park** alone housing **70%** of them. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - 💡 It is mostly **solitary** and has **overlapping, loosely defined territorial areas**. It is a **grazer**, feeding mainly on **grasses, along with leaves, fruits, and aquatic plants**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- 29.
- Ans: C
- Exp:
- 💡 **Enviropig(1), Dolly the Sheep (2) and Knockout Mice (4)** are examples of genetically modified organisms, while **Liger is not**.
  - 💡 **Enviropig** has been modified to produce less phosphorus in its waste, reducing environmental impact.

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- 💡 **Knockout Mice** are altered to deactivate specific genes, helping researchers study gene function and disease models.
- 💡 **Dolly the Sheep** was the first mammal cloned through somatic cell nuclear transfer, which alters an organism's genetic makeup.
  - ✦ In contrast, a **Liger (3)**, a hybrid of a lion and a tiger, is a naturally occurring crossbreed and is not genetically modified.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

30.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Sariska Tiger Reserve:**

- 💡 The Sariska Tiger Reserve, located in Rajasthan's Alwar district within the **Aravalli hills**, was declared a

**wildlife sanctuary in 1955** and became a tiger reserve in 1978 under **Project Tiger**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- 💡 Known for its rich history, it houses the **Kankarwadi Fort**, where Aurangzeb imprisoned Dara Shikoh, and the **Pandupole Hanuman temple** linked to the Pandavas. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The landscape is marked by rocky terrain, grasslands, scrub-thorn forests, and semi-deciduous woodlands. Vegetation includes **dhok, salar, kadaya, ber, gugal, and bamboo**.
- 💡 The reserve supports diverse fauna, including **Royal Bengal tigers, leopards, sambhar, nilgai, wild boars, and hyenas**.
- 💡 Sariska Tiger Reserve also surrounds sites like **Jai Samand Lake and the Siliserh Lake**.



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31.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Bioproducts** are fuels, chemicals, and materials produced from renewable biological sources such as crops, algae, agricultural waste, and trees.
  - ✦ These include a wide range of sustainable alternatives like biofuels (e.g. ethanol, biogas), bioplastics, bio-based cosmetics, and plant-derived medicines.
  - ✦ The image classifies bioproducts into key categories such as **Biopolymers, Biochemicals, Bioadhesives, Biomedicines, and Biopesticides.**
- 💡 **Some notable examples include:**
  - ✦ **Biopolymers – Guayule**, a desert shrub used to produce biorubber. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - ✦ **Bioadhesives – Shellac**, a natural resin derived from insects, used in wood finishes and adhesives. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - ✦ **Biopesticides – Pheromones**, which act as biochemical pesticides to disrupt insect mating and control pests naturally. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 Bioproducts reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and support air quality improvement, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

32.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Great Hornbill (Buceros bicornis):**

- 💡 It is a large bird from the Bucerotidae family, **characterized by a curved yellow bill** and a prominent hollow casque.
  - ✦ It is mainly **frugivorous** but also hunts small animals.
- 💡 **Native to parts of South and Southeast Asia** including India, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia.
  - ✦ In India, it is found in the Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, Northeast, and parts of Central India.
- 💡 **Inhabits tropical and subtropical evergreen and moist deciduous forests**, preferring old-growth trees with large cavities for nesting. Coastal sightings are highly unusual.

- ✦ Found at elevations of 600–2000 m, it is **arboreal, diurnal and non-migratory.**

💡 It serves as the **official State Bird of both Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.**

- ✦ The **Hornbill festival celebrated in Nagaland** is named after this, which is the most revered and admired bird for the Nagas.
- ✦ It mainly faces threats from human hunting and habitat loss due to deforestation.

💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

33.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Rio Earth Summit** (also known as the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – UNCED**) was held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992**. It led to the creation or adoption of several key international environmental agreements. The **three major conventions** that originated from the Rio Earth Summit are:
  - ✦ **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.
    - 📎 Led to later agreements like the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.
  - ✦ **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.
  - ✦ **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):** Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs.
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

34.

Ans: B

Exp:

**Great Nicobar Island Project:**

- 💡 It is a **mega infrastructure initiative** to be implemented on **Great Nicobar Island (GNI)**, located at the **southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 It includes a **transshipment terminal at Galathea Bay**, a **greenfield airport**, a **greenfield township**, and a **tourism project with a gas-powered plant.**

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It is strategically located near the **Malacca Strait**, a key maritime route linking the **Indian Ocean** to the **Pacific Ocean**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Nicobar's **strategic location** near the **Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok Straits** enables India to **monitor crucial sea routes** vital for **global trade and energy supply**, aligning with the **Act East Policy (2014)** and the **QUAD's Indo-Pacific strategy**.

It is being executed by the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

The **Paris Agreement** is a **legally binding global agreement** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was **adopted in 2015 (COP 21)**. It replaced the **Kyoto Protocol** which was an earlier agreement to deal with climate change

It aims to **combat climate change and limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels**, with an ambition to limit warming to 1.5°C. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Under the Paris Agreement, **each country is required to submit and update their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) every 5 years (not every year)**, outlining their plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

NDCs are pledges made by countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

36.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Microplastics:**

Microplastics are plastic particles **smaller than 5 mm**, formed either intentionally (primary) or through the breakdown of larger plastics (secondary). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

**Primary microplastics** include microbeads in **cosmetics and fibres from textiles**. **Secondary microplastics** result from the degradation of plastic waste due to sunlight and ocean waves.

Microplastics have been **detected in various human biological systems** and are **linked to reproductive health issues in both men and women**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

In men, they are linked to lower sperm count, motility, abnormal morphology, and hormonal imbalance.

In women, they are associated with poor egg quality, menstrual issues, miscarriage risk, **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)**, and endometriosis.

37.

Ans: C

Exp:

Researchers have discovered a new species of tree, **Garcinia kusumae**, in Assam, enriching the region's floral biodiversity.

**Garcinia kusumae** is a newly identified species in the **genus Garcinia**, locally known as **thoikora** in Assamese.

**Garcinia kusumae** is a **dioecious evergreen tree**, growing up to 18 meters, flowering from February to April, and fruiting from May to June.

Hence, **option C is correct**.

38.

Ans: D

Exp:

The **Gulf of Mannar**, an extended part of the **Laccadive Sea**, contains **21 islands** and is bordered by **Rameswaram, Ram Setu bridge, and Mannar Island**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

The **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park**, established in **1982**, is South Asia's first Marine Biosphere Reserve. It supports **corals, fishes** and endangered species like **dugongs, whale sharks, and sea turtles**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

**V.O. Chidambaranar Port**, formerly **Tuticorin Port**, is one of the 13 major ports in India that is situated along the **Gulf of Mannar**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

39.

Ans: A

Exp:

CITES, also known as the **Washington Convention**, was signed on **3<sup>rd</sup> March 1973** during the World Wildlife Conference and came into force on **1<sup>st</sup> July 1975**. It was drafted following a 1963 resolution adopted by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** to regulate wildlife trade.

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- ✦ The Convention now has 185 Parties, including India (a member since 1976) and the European Union.
- ✦ CITES is **administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Geneva, Switzerland**. It regulates international trade in over 40,000 species of wild animals and plants, including live specimens and wildlife-derived products.
- ✦ **CITES Appendices System:**
  - 📌 **Appendix I:** Species threatened with extinction. Trade is highly restricted.
  - 📌 **Appendix II:** Species not endangered but need controlled trade to avoid risk.
  - 📌 **Appendix III:** Species protected by at least one country that seeks cooperation to regulate trade.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

40.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Kharai Camel is indigenous to the Kachchh region. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ✦ The word 'Kharai' comes from 'Khar', meaning saline, pointing to the camel's ability to live in coastal saline ecosystems. It thrives in brackish water and estuarine ecosystems, not in confined pastures.
- 💡 They are known for their rare ability to swim long distances and graze on mangroves. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Kharai Camels have webbed feet for swimming and strong digestive systems to tolerate salty vegetation.
- 💡 The Kharai camel is classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- 💡 They are integral to the **Maldhari community**, traditional camel herders of Gujarat, who treat them as part of their pastoral heritage. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
  - ✦ The **Saora (also known as Sora, Savara, or Sabara)** are an indigenous community primarily residing in **Southern Odisha and parts of Andhra Pradesh in India**.

- 💡 Kharai Camel is recognised as a **genetically distinct breed** and listed as a threatened animal by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

41.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **SO<sub>2</sub>** is primarily emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, especially coal and oil, in power plants, refineries, and industrial boilers. Natural gas, however, emits very little SO<sub>2</sub> due to its low sulfur content. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
  - ✦ It is a primary pollutant and contributes to acid rain and respiratory problems.
- 💡 Ozone in the troposphere is a secondary pollutant, not emitted directly. It forms when **nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the presence of sunlight**. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
  - ✦ This process is called photochemical smog formation. Ozone at ground level is harmful to health and vegetation.
- 💡 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is emitted from road transport, industry, and energy production sectors. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
- 💡 Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a product of incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds. Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

## Economy

42.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** is a **public digital infrastructure project** launched by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
  - ✦ It is implemented by a **private not-for-profit Section 8 company** and aims to build a **decentralized, open-network framework** that allows buyers and sellers to connect across platforms, breaking the traditional platform-centric model. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- ONDC's objective is to **democratize e-commerce** by **reducing the dominance of large digital platforms** (curbing monopolies) and **empowering Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** and **local traders** to participate in the digital economy without being restricted to specific platforms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

43.

Ans: B

Exp:

- A **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** is a form of **intellectual property right** that gives **exclusive rights** to producers in a specific **geographical region**. It serves both as a **certification of origin** and a **guarantee of unique quality, reputation, or characteristics** linked to that location. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- GI tags are **not governed by the Copyright Act, 1957**. Instead, they are governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** and are administered by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India's GI regime is aligned with international agreements, including the **WTO's TRIPS Agreement** and the **Paris Convention**, which recognize GIs as a part of **intellectual property rights**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

44.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, designed to **promote private sector-led research** and innovation, particularly in **sunrise and strategic sectors** such as **biotechnology, robotics, drones, and climate change**.
  - It offers **concessional funding** (like low or zero-interest loans) and **equity support** to reduce financial risk and encourage R&D investment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** is the **implementing agency** of the RDI Scheme, handling its operational aspects. However, the **overall strategic direction and policy guidance** come from

the **Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, which is chaired by the **Prime Minister**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The scheme includes the creation of a **Deep Tech Fund of Funds** to support **start-ups in high-risk and strategic tech areas**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

45.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The scheme provides wage support to **first-time EPFO-registered employees**, the payment is made in **two installments over a total duration of 12 months**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The first installment is given after 6 months of service. The **second installment is given after 12 months**, only if the employee completes a financial literacy programme.
- Employers hiring additional workers with monthly salaries  $\leq ₹1$  lakh are eligible for an incentive of up to ₹3,000/month for 2 years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - This is part of Part B of the scheme, which supports employers to encourage job creation.
- The scheme mandates **financial literacy training for employees to receive the second installment** of the wage support. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - This is aimed at promoting financial awareness and long-term saving habits.

46.

Ans: C

Exp:

Gig Economy

- The **Gig Economy** refers to a labor market characterized by **short-term contracts, freelance work, or on-demand tasks**, often facilitated by **digital platforms**. Workers in this economy are usually **independent contractors** or **freelancers** who engage in **temporary, flexible jobs**, instead of traditional full-time employment.
- The **Code on Social Security, 2020** includes **gig and platform workers** within its ambit and allows the **Central Government to frame social security schemes** for them. These may include health insurance, maternity benefits, life and disability cover, old-age protection, and other welfare measures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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⚡ Gig workers are **not classified as “employees”** under Indian labour laws. Instead, they are treated as a **separate category** under the Code on Social Security, 2020. This distinction means they are **not entitled to benefits** such as minimum wages, provident fund, gratuity, and unionization rights available to regular employees. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

47.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

⚡ SEBI was initially established in **1988** as a **non-statutory body**, but it became a **statutory body** in **1992** through the enactment of the **SEBI Act, 1992**. It functions under the **Ministry of Finance**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ SEBI is a **quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial, and quasi-executive** authority. It can **frame regulations, conduct inquiries and investigations, and impose penalties** on market participants violating securities laws, ensuring market integrity and investor protection. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ SEBI has a broad regulatory mandate that includes **listed companies** as well as **market intermediaries** such as **stockbrokers, merchant bankers, portfolio managers, mutual funds, stock exchanges, and depositories**, making its role central to India’s capital market governance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

48.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR):**

⚡ VRRR is a **monetary policy tool** used by the **RBI** to absorb **excess liquidity** through **auctions**, where banks bid at **variable interest rates** for placing **short-term deposits** with the RBI. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ VRRR is a component of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) framework of the RBI. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ The LAF is a set of tools used by the RBI to manage short-term liquidity in the economy. It includes instruments like:

✍ Repo operations (for injecting liquidity),

✍ Reverse Repo operations (for absorbing liquidity),

✍ VRRR auctions and Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ **Catastrophe Bonds** are **insurance-linked securities** that transfer the financial risk of natural disasters (**earthquakes, cyclones, or floods**) from governments or insurers to private investors through global financial markets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ These hybrid instruments combine insurance and bond features, raising quick funds for post-disaster relief.

⚡ These bonds are primarily purchased by **institutional investors** like **pension funds** and **hedge funds** due to their **complexity and high investment thresholds**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ **Cat-bonds** are now increasingly attracting **retail investors**, especially after becoming the **best-performing hedge fund strategy in 2023**.

50.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ The **Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme** was introduced in November 2015 with the aim of decreasing the demand for physical gold and redirecting a portion of domestic savings, which would otherwise be used to buy gold, into financial savings.

⚡ The Gold Bonds are issued as Government of India Stock under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006.

✦ These bonds are **issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ The bonds are available for purchase by resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities, and charitable institutions.

⚡ **Gold bonds have a maturity period of 8 years**, with the option to exit the investment after the first five years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- 💡 The scheme offers a fixed annual interest rate of 2.5%, payable semi-annually. The interest earned on Gold Bonds is taxable according to the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- 💡 Sovereign Gold Bonds can be used as collateral for loans. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
  - ✦ Capital gains tax on redemption of SGB for individuals has been exempted.

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

The Gini Index:

- 💡 **About:** The Gini index, or Gini coefficient, was developed in **1912 by Italian statistician Corrado Gini**. It measures **income inequality within a population**.
- 💡 The index is derived from the **Lorenz curve**, which plots the cumulative percentage of **total income received against the cumulative percentage of recipients**, starting with the poorest. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Gini coefficient quantifies the area between the **Lorenz curve and the line of perfect equality (a 45-degree line)**, with values ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (maximum inequality), or **0 to 100 when expressed as a percentage** (where 0 indicates perfect equality and 100 indicates maximum inequality). A lower Gini value reflects a more equitable society. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **India's Gini Index** stands at 25.5, making it the **fourth most equal country globally**.

52.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The **First Five-Year Plan (1951-1956)** in India emphasized the **promotion of cooperatives as a key strategy for community development**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ✦ It viewed cooperatives as a crucial instrument for democratic planning and development, particularly in areas like agriculture, marketing, and cottage industries.
- 💡 The **97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011** did make the formation of cooperative societies a **fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c)** of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ✦ This amendment aimed to provide constitutional status and protection to cooperative societies in India.

- 💡 The **Union Ministry of Cooperation was established in 2021**, provides a dedicated policy framework, and empowers grassroots governance under the vision of **"Sahakar se Samridhhi"**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

53.

Ans: C

Exp:

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs):

- 💡 India plays a significant role in key major Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).
- 💡 It is a **founding member of the Asian Development Bank (1)** and holds the **fourth-largest share** in the bank.
  - ✦ Since ADB began operations in India in 1986, it has aligned its efforts with India's developmental priorities, a strategy that will continue with the upcoming country partnership strategy for 2023–2027.
- 💡 Similarly, **India is a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (2)**, where it holds the **second-highest voting share** after China.
  - ✦ Headquartered in Beijing, AIIB focuses on infrastructure development in Asia.
- 💡 **India is also a founding member of the New Development Bank (3)**, established by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in 2015.
  - ✦ India is the **second-largest recipient** of NDB's financial support, having received USD 7.5 billion in funding, following China.
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Gondwana coal** contributes **98% of India's coal reserves and 99% of its production**, providing superior and **metallurgical-grade coal**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ✦ Major deposits are in the Damodar (Jharkhand–West Bengal), Mahanadi (Chhattisgarh–Odisha), Godavari (Maharashtra), and Narmada (Madhya Pradesh) valleys.

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💡 **Gondwana coal fields**, formed around **250 million years ago**, are older and of higher grade compared to **Tertiary coal fields**, which are between **15 to 60 million years old**.

✦ Tertiary coal, found mainly in regions like **Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Jammu & Kashmir**, tends to have **lower carbon content, higher moisture, and more sulfur**, making it of inferior quality compared to Gondwana coal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Bituminous coal**, with a carbon content of **60–80%**, is the **most abundant coal type in India**, primarily found in **Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh**, and also in **West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

55.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 Agroforestry involves the **integrated cultivation of trees, crops, and/or livestock** on the same land. It is a **sustainable land-use system** aimed at improving productivity, enhancing biodiversity, conserving natural resources, and supporting rural livelihoods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Agroforestry includes a range of practices such as:

- ✦ **Alley cropping** (growing crops between rows of trees),
- ✦ **Forest farming** (cultivating high-value crops under a forest canopy),
- ✦ **Riparian buffers** (tree/shrub plantings along streams),
- ✦ **Silvopasture** (combining trees, forage, and livestock), and
- ✦ **Windbreaks** (tree rows to protect against wind and conserve moisture). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 India became the **first country in the world to adopt a National Agroforestry Policy** in **2014**. The policy aims to promote agroforestry as a farming practice to achieve food security, climate resilience, and increased farm income. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

56.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** is a **destination-based consumption tax**, meaning it is levied at the point of consumption rather than the point of origin. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016**, of the Indian Constitution introduced GST, which replaced a range of indirect taxes in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

✦ The **102<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of the Indian Constitution** granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

💡 Additionally, **exports and supplies made to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or SEZ developers are zero-rated under GST**, meaning they are not subject to GST, aiming to encourage export activities and special economic zone development. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

✦ These provisions are crucial for the seamless functioning of GST in the Indian economy.

57.

Ans: B

Exp:

**Co-operative Banks:**

💡 **Co-operative banks** are financial institutions established as Co-operative Societies, registered under the State Co-operative Societies Acts or the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, and involved in banking activities.

💡 Co-operative banks in India operate under a dual regulatory system that involves both the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS)**.

✦ The RBI regulates co-operative banks under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**. This act ensures that co-operative banks adhere to critical financial norms such as **capital adequacy, lending norms, and financial supervision**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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⚡ The administrative oversight of co-operative banks is managed by the **Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS)**, under the purview of state or central governments. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

✦ The RCS ensures that co-operative banks comply with the provisions of the **Co-operative Societies Act**, providing necessary support for the functioning and registration of these banks at the state and national levels.

⚡ Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are required to allocate **65% of their adjusted net bank credit (ANBC)** to PSL in FY 2024–25, with an aim to raise it to 75% by March 2026, benefiting sectors such as MSMEs, housing, and education. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### Science & Tech

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ **LASER (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation)** operates on the principle of **stimulated emission**, a quantum process where **excited atoms or molecules** emit photons that are **identical in wavelength, direction, and phase**. This leads to the generation of a **coherent and highly directional** beam of light. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**

⚡ LASER beams are **highly coherent** (the waves are in phase) and **monochromatic** (single wavelength), making them precise and **focused**, ideal for applications like surgery, optical communications, and industrial cutting. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

59.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ **Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle** is a **fundamental concept of quantum mechanics**, which states that it is **impossible to simultaneously determine the exact position and exact momentum** of a **subatomic particle** such as an electron.

✦ This is not due to limitations in measurement technology but is an inherent property of quantum systems.

⚡ Energy can neither be created nor destroyed, only transformed from one form to another, refers to the **First Law of Thermodynamics**.

⚡ Energy can neither be created nor destroyed, only transformed from one form to another" is a fundamental principle of physics, known as the **Law of Conservation of Energy**.

⚡ Every action has an equal and opposite reaction is **Newton's Third Law of Motion**.

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ **CRISPR-Cas9** is a genome-editing tool that uses a **guide RNA (gRNA)** to direct the **Cas9 enzyme** to a specific DNA sequence. Once there, Cas9 cuts the DNA at the targeted location, allowing **genes to be modified, deleted, or replaced** with high precision. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ **Site-Directed Nuclease-1 (SDN-1)** gene editing introduces **small changes** (e.g., point mutations or short deletions) **without inserting any foreign DNA**. The resulting mutations are often **indistinguishable from naturally occurring mutations** and are thus considered low-risk. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ In India, as per the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT) guidelines of 2022**, only **SDN-1 and SDN-2** categories of gene-edited crops are **exempt from stringent biosafety regulations** under the **Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986**. However, **SDN-3**, which involves insertion of foreign DNA, is **still regulated** like conventional GMOs. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

61.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ **Astra** is India's **first indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile**, designed to target enemy aircraft beyond line-of-sight. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

✦ It is equipped with a DRDO-developed indigenous **Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker**, which enables the missile to detect, track, and lock onto targets using radar, ensuring high accuracy in the terminal phase.

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- It is capable of **engaging supersonic, manoeuvrable targets beyond 100 km** and up to 20 km altitude. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- It uses inertial navigation, mid-course data link updates, and **active radar homing, with a smokeless solid-fuel engine for enhanced stealth.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- DRDO-developed active RF seeker enables fire-and-forget and buddy launch mode, where one aircraft launches and another guides.

62.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Magnetometers** are devices that **measure variations in magnetic fields** and have important applications in **space missions, ocean exploration, and medical imaging.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Raman-Driven Spin Noise Spectroscopy (RDSNS)** is an advanced magnetometer technology that uses an **all-optical method with laser light and Rubidium atoms to measure magnetic fields accurately.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
  - This technique allows for **compact, shield-free, and highly sensitive magnetic field measurements** even in noisy environments, making it a **significant improvement over traditional magnetometers.**

63.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Lakshya, Nishant, and Archer** are **unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** developed by India's **Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).**
  - They serve various **military purposes**, including **reconnaissance and target practice.**

Drone Name	Key Features
<b>Lakshya</b>	Target drone for <b>reconnaissance and target acquisition</b> ; rocket-launched, turbojet-powered.
<b>Nishant</b>	Multi-mission UAV; <b>day/night capable</b> ; used for <b>surveillance, target tracking, and artillery fire correction.</b>

<b>Archer</b>	<b>Weaponized short-range UAV for reconnaissance, surveillance, and low-intensity conflict.</b>
---------------	---

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

64.

Ans: C

Exp:

Dark Matter:

About:

- Dark matter is a form of matter that is **entirely invisible, emitting no light or energy, making it undetectable** by conventional sensors and detectors.
- Dark matter **doesn't interact with electromagnetic forces**, so it neither absorbs, reflects, nor emits light, making it hard to detect. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Visible matter (Baryonic matter) consists of **subatomic particles like protons, neutrons, and electrons.**

Composition of Dark Matter:

- Dark matter is thought to consist of non-baryonic **WIMPs (weakly interacting massive particles)**, 10-100 times the mass of a proton, but weakly interacts with normal matter, making detection difficult. Among WIMPs are:
  - Neutralinos and sterile neutrinos**, both hypothetical non-baryonic particles, are considered potential components of dark matter. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

65.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Lithium** is an **alkali mineral**, also called '**white gold**'.
  - It is a **soft, silvery-white metal**, the **lightest metal** of the periodic table.
  - Lithium is found naturally in various minerals, including **spodumene, petalite, and lepidolite.**
- Lithium triangle is made up of **Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia** that contain roughly half the world's known lithium reserves.
  - The top producers of lithium are **Australia, Chile, China, and Argentina.**

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⚡ Hence, option D is correct.

66.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) granted an operation licence for two indigenously developed (KAPS-3 and KAPS-4) 700 MWe (Megawatts electric) Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat.
- ⚡ NPCIL owns and operates all nuclear power plants in India, except PFBR variants (owned by The Indira

Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ⚡ PHWRs are a type of nuclear reactor that use heavy water (deuterium oxide,  $D_2O$ ) as both a coolant and moderator, while natural or slightly enriched uranium serves as fuel. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

67.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ India has set up its first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) in Meerut Cantonment, Uttar

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Pradesh, which has been officially recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It has been established under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

EDFC is a scientifically managed and internationally recognized zone that guarantees horses are free from specific equine diseases, enabling them to engage in global trade and competitions. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

68.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Lanthanum-Doped Silver Niobate Energy Storage Material:**

**About:** It is an advanced nanostructured compound made by doping silver niobate ( $\text{AgNbO}_3$ ), a lead-free and eco-friendly perovskite material, with lanthanum, a rare-earth element. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

**Significance:**

This doping has reduced nanoparticle size, increasing the surface area for energy storage, and improved electrical conductivity for faster charge-discharge cycles. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It also ensured excellent energy retention (118%) with no energy loss during use (100% coulombic efficiency).

It is also environmentally friendly, being lead-free and suitable for green energy applications.

**Applications:** Used in portable electronics, electric vehicles (EVs), and renewable energy systems, demonstrated potential by successfully powering an LCD display through a prototype supercapacitor.

69.

Ans: A

Exp:

Ham radio (amateur radio) is a licensed, non-commercial radio communication service used for education, experimentation, and emergency communication. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It was first used in space in 1983 for communication between astronauts and Earth.

In India, individuals above 12 years of age can obtain a ham radio license from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. In India, ham radio played a crucial role in facilitating emergency communications during the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004), the Uttarakhand floods (2013), and various other disasters.

The ISS features the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the ISS) system supported by the US, Russia, Canada, Japan, and Europe. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

70.

Ans: B

Exp:

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Web Crawlers** are automated software programs or bots that systematically scan and collect data from the internet. They serve two primary purposes:

**Model Training:** These crawlers extract vast amounts of text and media from websites to train Large Language Models (LLMs) like GPT. Examples include GPTBot (OpenAI), Amazonbot, and GoogleOther. This helps build the knowledge base of AI systems.

**Live Data Retrieval:** Some crawlers are designed to fetch real-time data to provide up-to-date responses in AI-powered tools such as ChatGPT (with browsing) or Microsoft Bing Chat.

Hence, option B is correct.

71.

Ans: C

Exp:

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the dengue virus (genus *Flavivirus*), primarily transmitted by the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

This mosquito also spreads chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika. There are four distinct but related dengue serotypes: DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

**Symptoms:** High fever, severe headache, eye pain, muscle and joint pain, rash, and fatigue.

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✦ **Diagnosis and Treatment:** Diagnosis is done via **blood test**. There is **no specific antiviral treatment**; care is supportive.

💡 **DengiAll**, developed by Panacea Biotec, is India's **first indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine** currently in Phase 3 trials, targeting all four dengue virus serotypes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ The vaccine is significant as **dengue currently has no specific treatment for everyone**, and severe cases can lead to life-threatening complications like internal bleeding and shock.

**Ans: D**

**Exp:**

💡 **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** was developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, which is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. **NPCI operates under the regulatory oversight of the RBI**, which ensures compliance with payment system laws and guidelines under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **UPI is designed to enable interoperability between different banks and non-bank payment service providers** (such as Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm, etc.). It uses a **centralized clearing mechanism** managed by NPCI, which facilitates real-time settlement of transactions across different platforms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ This interoperability allows users to send and receive money across different apps and banks using a Virtual Payment Address (VPA), mobile number, or QR code.

💡 UPI has been linked with payment systems in countries like **Singapore (PayNow)**, the **UAE**, and **France**, enabling cross-border remittances. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

## International Relations & Current Affairs

73.

**Ans: C**

**Exp:**

💡 The **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)** was adopted in **1995** during the **4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women** held in **Beijing, China**. It is a landmark global framework that aims to **advance the**

**rights of women and girls** by outlining **strategic objectives** across key areas such as **legal protection, education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and social transformation**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The BPfA is a **non-binding international framework**, meaning it does not impose legal obligations on countries. However, it serves as a powerful tool for **policy guidance and advocacy**.

✦ **India is a signatory** to the BPfA and actively participates in its periodic review processes, including **Beijing+25** and the upcoming **Beijing+30**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

74.

**Ans: A**

**Exp:**

**India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) Vision**

💡 The **MAHASAGAR Vision**, announced in 2025, is a **continuation and expansion** of the earlier **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** initiative launched in 2015. It broadens the scope beyond traditional maritime security to include **trade facilitation, sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief (HADR)**, and capacity-building for **non-traditional security challenges** like climate change and piracy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Unlike the older framework where India emphasized its role as a **net security provider**, the MAHASAGAR Vision repositions India as a **preferred security partner and first responder**.

✦ It consciously moves **away from the client-patron dynamic**, advocating a **mutual and cooperative approach** in the Indian Ocean Region. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

75.

**Ans: A**

**Exp:**

💡 **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD):**

✦ It is a strategic forum comprising **India, Australia, Japan, and the United States**, aimed at ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

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✎ It promotes a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based order while enhancing regional resilience and cooperation.

- ✦ The **QUAD At Sea Ship Observer Mission** is a **first-of-its-kind maritime** cooperation initiative aimed at strengthening interoperability, maritime domain awareness (MDA), and operational coordination to uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ The **Wilmington Declaration** is a joint statement adopted at the **QUAD Leaders' Summit** held in **Wilmington, USA, in September 2024** outlined the creation of the QUAD Logistics Network and Ports of the Future Partnership and expanded fellowships to 2,200+ experts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ✦ QUAD Implemented **Q-CHAMP (Quad Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Package)**, promoted Earth Observation for disaster response, and expanded Quad Fellowship for leadership in science and policy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

76.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Santiniketan (2023), Moidams of Charaideo (2024), and Maratha Military Landscapes (2024) have all been recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- ✦ India ranks **6<sup>th</sup> globally and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Asia-Pacific for the highest number of World Heritage Sites.**
- 💡 At the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC), India's official nomination for the 2024-25 cycle, the **Maratha Military Landscapes**, is inscribed on the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.**
- ✦ This makes it India's 44<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Site, following the 2024 inscription of the **Moidams of Charaideo, Assam.**
- 💡 UNESCO, through the **1972 World Heritage Convention**, helps countries identify and protect cultural and natural heritage sites. India joined the Convention in 1977 (a total of 196 countries have ratified the 1972 World Heritage Convention).

💡 Every year, each State Party may propose just one site for consideration of the World Heritage Committee for inscription to the World Heritage List.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

77.

Ans: D

Exp:

**International Criminal Court (ICC):**

💡 ICC is the **world's first permanent international court** established to **prosecute individuals** for the **most serious crimes of global concern.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- ✦ It is headquartered in **Hague, Netherlands** and governed by the **Rome Statute**, which is the **founding treaty of the ICC**, adopted on **17<sup>th</sup> July 1998** and entered into force on **1<sup>st</sup> July 2002.**

💡 **Crimes Under ICC:** The **Rome Statute** grants the ICC jurisdiction over 4 core international crimes- **Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes, Crime of Aggression.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **Jurisdiction & Mandate:** The ICC prosecutes **individuals**, not states, for grave international crimes and cover **crimes committed after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002**, the date the **Rome Statute** came into effect. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

- ✦ It acts **only when national jurisdictions are unwilling or unable** to prosecute.

- ✦ The Court has jurisdiction **in countries that are parties to the Rome Statute**, or in **non-member states if referred by the UN Security Council (UNSC).**

78.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Welwitschia mirabilis (national plant of Namibia)** is a rare, ancient plant native to the **Namib Desert in Namibia and southern Angola**, often called a "**living fossil**" due to its **remarkable longevity** and **unique features.**

- ✦ **Namibia's highest civilian award – the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis** is named after this plant.

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- Some specimens are **over 1,500 years old**, making them among the **oldest living plants**.
- Many **desert-dwelling animals**, such as **zebras, oryx, and black rhinoceros**, feed on the **leaves of Welwitschia** as a **vital source of water**.

Hence, **option B is correct**.

79.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Cooperative Stack:**

- The Government of India is developing a **comprehensive 'Cooperative Stack'**, centered around **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)**, to streamline the delivery of welfare schemes in rural India.

✦ **Cooperative Stack** is a **technological framework** designed to leverage digital platforms to provide services such as **financial inclusion, credit access, and government subsidies directly** to rural communities.

✦ It will adopt **AI-driven technologies**—e.g., **automated weather advisories**—to aid farmers and improve scheme implementation.

- PACS** are **credit societies** that are **registered** under the **Cooperative Societies Act** of the **State concerned**.

Hence, **option A is correct**.

80.

Ans: D

Exp:

**BRICS:**

- About:** The acronym '**BRIC**' was coined by British economist **Jim O'Neill** in **2001** to represent the emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.

✦ **BRIC** began functioning as a formal group during the **G-8 Outreach Summit** in **2006**, held its **first summit** in **Russia** in **2009**, and became **BRICS** with the inclusion of **South Africa** in **2010**.

✦ **BRICS** accounts for **45%** of the **world's population** and **37.3%** of **global GDP**, surpassing the **EU's 14.5%** and the **G7's 29.3%**.

- Members:** The initial **five BRICS members** were **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. In **2024**, **Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Ethiopia** joined the group while **Indonesia** joined in **2025**.

✦ **Saudi Arabia** has not yet **formalised** its **BRICS membership**, while **Argentina**, initially expected to join in **2024**, later **opted out**.

- Key Initiatives of BRICS:** **New Development Bank (2014), Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), BRICS Grain Exchange, BRICS Rapid Information Security Channel, STI Framework Programme (2015), etc.**

Hence, **option D is correct**.

81.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Chemical Industry in India:**

- As of **2023**, India ranks as the **6th largest chemical producer globally**, contributing over **7%** to the **manufacturing GDP**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

✦ **China** is the **largest chemical producer** in the world followed by the **USA** in the global chemical industry.

- India shows **over-concentration in bulk chemical production**, with **87%** of **benzene** used for **alkylbenzene, chlorobenzene, and cumene**, unlike the global trend where only **25%** is used similarly and more goes to complex derivatives.

- India holds only a **3.5% share in global chemical value chains**, with a **USD 31 billion trade deficit (2023)**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

✦ The sector remains **fragmented**, dominated by **MSMEs**, with growth concentrated in **Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- The sector is heavily **import-dependent**, sourcing over **60%** of **critical Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)** from **China**, and other feedstocks from **Gulf countries**.

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82.

Ans: D

Exp:

**Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):**

- 💡 The **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** is a **multilateral treaty** banning chemical weapons and requiring their **destruction** within the stipulated time. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It came into force in **1997** and its implementation is overseen by the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** with **193 member states.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ✖️ **OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013** for its global efforts in eliminating chemical weapons.
- 💡 **India is an original signatory** of the CWC and implements it through the **National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)**, established under the **Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

83.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **Operation MED MAX** is a major initiative by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** to dismantle a transnational drug cartel involved in illicit drug trafficking across more than 10 countries.
- 💡 This operation highlights the NCB's role in curbing illegal drug trade activities and ensuring international cooperation to tackle organized crime.

💡 The focus of the operation was on a **global network of drug traffickers**, and it is unrelated to money laundering, illegal trade of medicines or prescription drugs.

💡 Hence, **option D is correct.**

84.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 India is **not a signatory** to the **1951 UN Refugee Convention** or its **1967 Protocol** and has **no dedicated domestic refugee law.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Refugees from countries like **Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka** are governed under the **Foreigners Act, 1946**, without specific legal protections. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

85.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Bihar became the first Indian state to pilot mobile phone-based e-voting** in municipal elections using the **E-SECBHR app** developed by **C-DAC.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ✖️ The initiative aimed to **improve voting access for senior citizens, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities.**
- 💡 To ensure **security and transparency**, the system (**E-SECBHR App**) used **blockchain technology, facial recognition, biometric scanning, voter ID verification**, and **limited 2 voters per mobile number.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**



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